

COSPLAY MATERIALS 101

An Introduction to Cosplay Materials

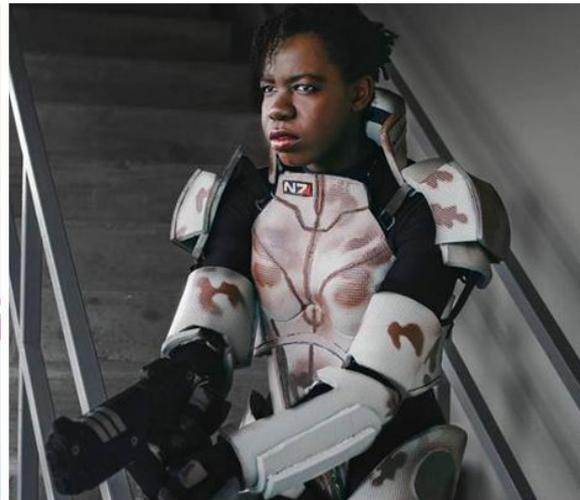
WHO WE ARE



COOL BY PROXY PRODUCTIONS



**RUBY COMMANDO
COSTUMES**



JAY JUSTICE

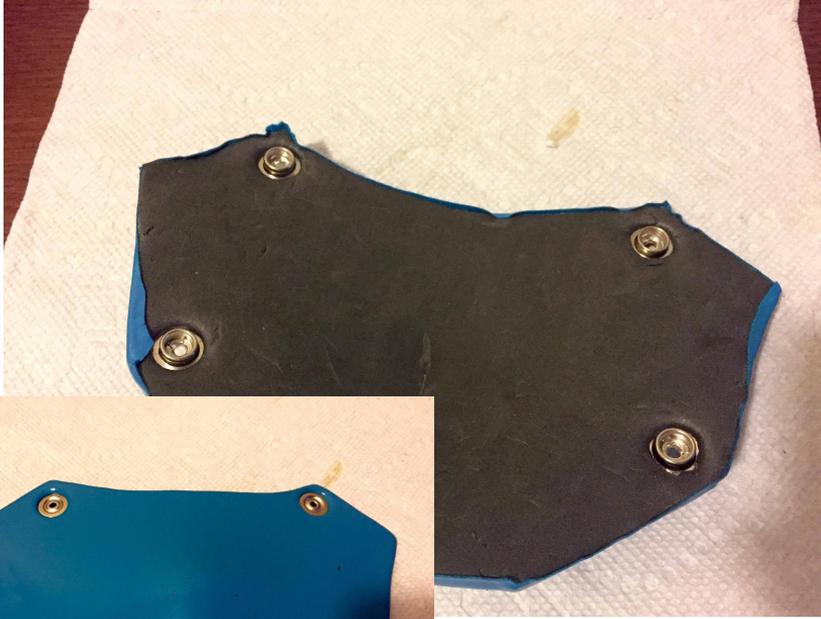
THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN STARTING OUT

- Fiction vs reality: compromise impossible designs w/reality and comfort
 - Add joints and seams
 - Magnets and straps
- Alter the design to fit *your* body
- Focus on key pieces





- Added joints & straps for flexibility/movement
- Magnets to simulate “floating weapons”



- Use of snaps to hide attachments

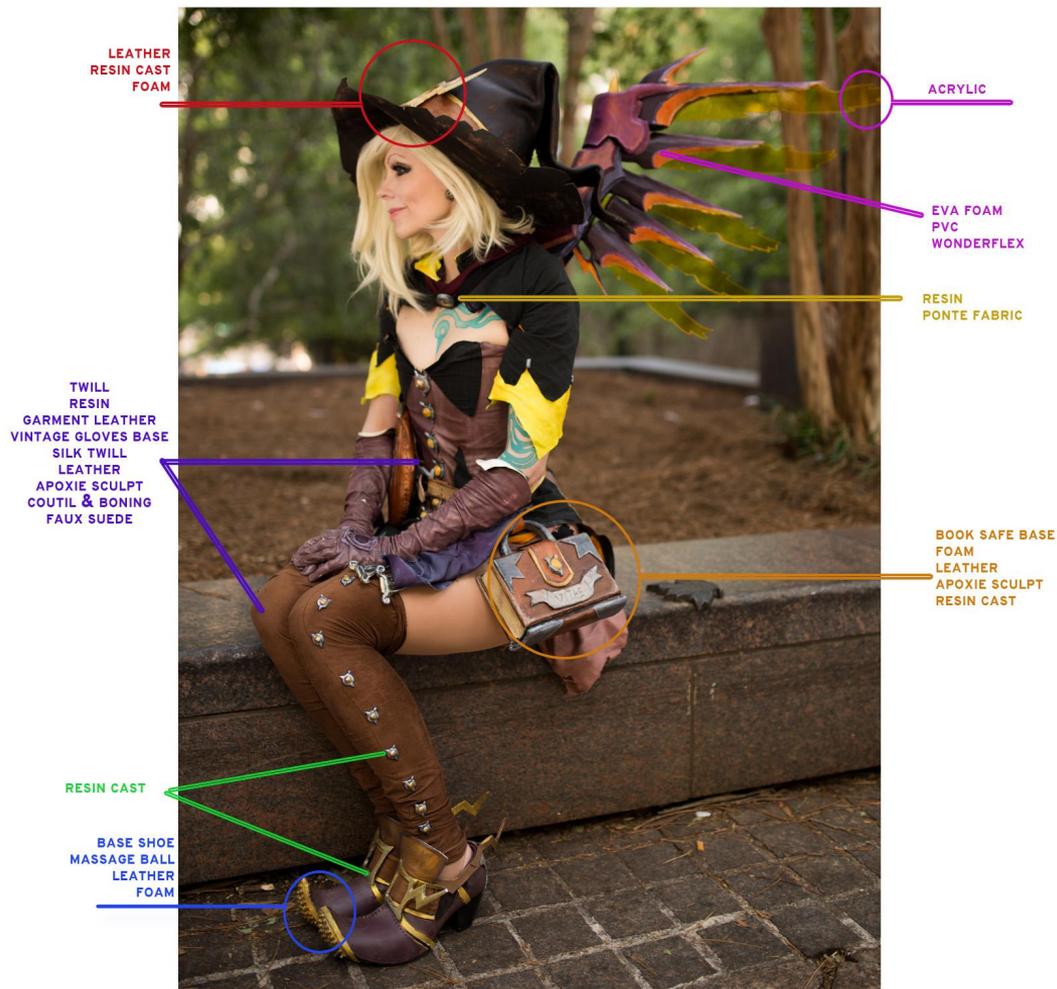
THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN STARTING OUT

- Comfort & durability: what is this costume for?
- Photoshoot v Day at Con have different considerations (comfort/complexity)
 - Can I walk/sit down/eat in this?
 - Consider the weather (will i overheat/freeze getting to & from the con?)



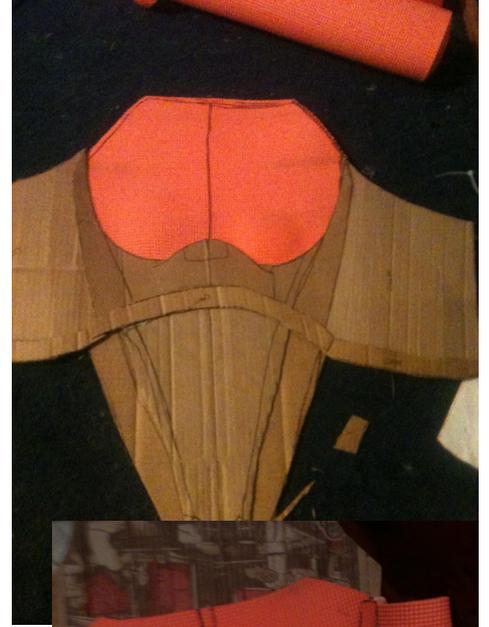
THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN STARTING OUT

- Mixed media:
Costumes not made of one material,
mix and match



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN STARTING OUT

- Comfort with the materials v. time
- Plan ahead! Make patterns/mockups out of cheap material first!
 - Cardboard
 - Paper
 - Muslin
 - Cheap foam



DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL - START W/A
BASE TO MOD/BUILD ON TOP OF



FOAM

Types:

- Closed cell
 - EVA foam
 - L200
 - Insulation Foam
- Open cell
 - Upholstery foam
 - Styrofoam











GeekyLens

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FOAM

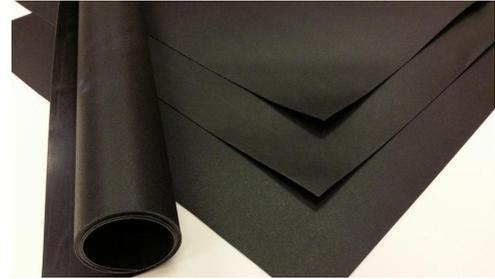
- Tools/Materials Needed

- Rotary tool (AKA Dremel)
- Box cutter or saw (depending on thickness)
- Glues (barge, e6000, etc)
- Heat gun (depending on the foam)
- Gap filler (dynaflex)
- Sandpaper
- Respirator & safety goggles/eye protection



THERMOPLASTICS

- What are thermoplastics?
- Pros/Cons
- Types
 - Worbla (regular, black, transpar, etc)
 - Wonderflex
 - Fosshape
 - Friendly Plastic
 - Kobracast
 - So many more!









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THERMOPLASTICS

- How to use them!
 - Trace pattern to thermoplastics (allowance if using sandwich method)
 - Heat evenly w/heat gun until pliable
 - Form, reheating as needed
 - Keep your scraps!
- With what!
 - Heat gun (or high quality hair dryer)
 - Scissors or box cutter
 - Craft foam (optional)
 - Heat proof surface it won't stick to (table, cutting board, cardboard)
 - Wax or vaseline & something to form to (optional)



PLASTICS & WOOD

- Plastics
 - PVC - Both pipes and sheeting
 - Acrylic sheeting
 - PETG and vacuum forming
- Wood
 - Lumber
 - MDF





PAINTING & PRIMING

- Types of primer (pros/cons for each)
 - Acrylic gesso
 - Plastidip
 - Wood glue
- Types of paint
 - Acrylic
 - Rattle can
- Types of sealant
 - Acrylic varnish
 - Rattle can
- Other ways to finish your work
 - Cover in fabric



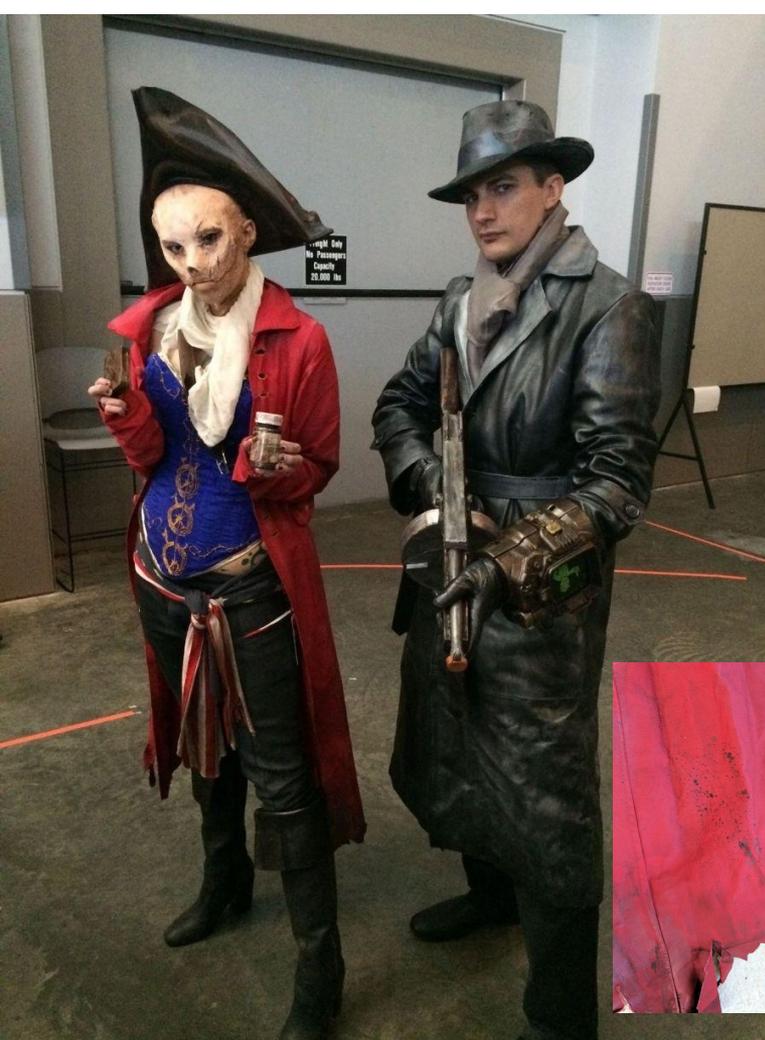




FABRICS

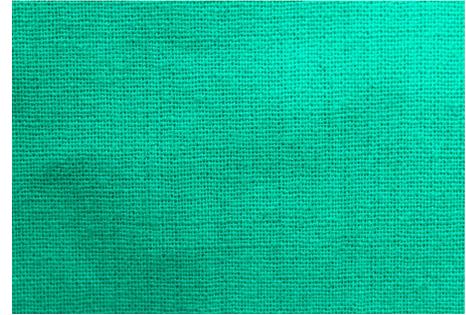
- Modifying existing garments (painting/weathering)
 - Types of fabric paint/dyes
 - Jacquard fabric paint
 - Airbrush paint
 - dye-na -flow (silk paint)
 - Leather paints
 - dyes
 - Priming the surface for vinyl/faux leather
 - Treat with acetone
 - Reseal after painting (unless heat set)





FABRICS

- Types of Fabric
 - Natural v. synthetic
 - How they take dyes/paint
 - breathability
 - Knit v. woven
 - Understanding pattern differences
- Sewing with different types of fabric
 - Hand sewing
 - Machine Sewing (Do I need a serger?)
 - Needle types & thread



Knit vs Woven

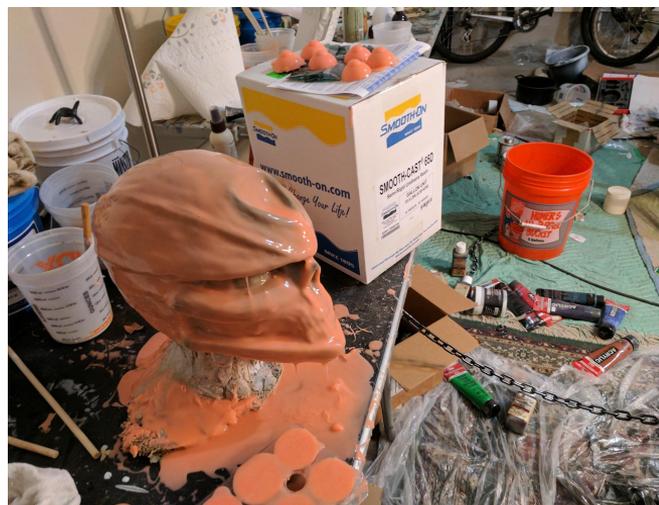


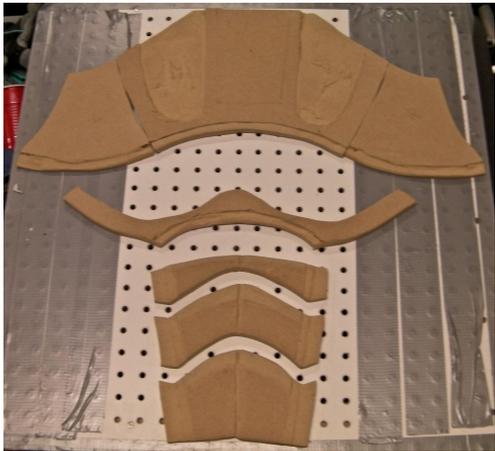
Synthetic fabrics vs. Natural



COSPLAY MATERIALS 201

- Metal
- Sculpting & Casting
- Electronics
- Leatherworking
- Vacuum Form
- 3D Printing







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FURTHER RESOURCES

- Where to find us on the web
 - Cool By Proxy Productions
 - Jay Justice
 - Ruby Commando Costumes
- Recommended Reading:
 - Foamsmith books by Punished Props
 - Kamui Cosplay Books
 - Patternmaking for Fashion Design by Helen J Armstrong
 - Evil Ted Smith FX youtube channel
- More Info: www.coolbyproxy.com/materials.php