

Costume, Propmaking, and Design: Notes n' Stuff

- Muslin – great cheap fabric for making patterns before you go buy the nice fabric
- Cotton is warm to walk around in, but often available in the most colors
- Costume satin looks pretty and is less fun to work with
- More panels = better fitted and harder to fit
- Use a dust mask when working with pink insulation foam!
- Remember to coat pink foam in something (non-spray paint, gesso) before spraying or other things that might make it melt
 - hot glue, spray paint, and sharpie (to an extent) are among the things that will melt it
- Wood filler, plumber's putty, other “fillers” great to have on hand for spot fixes
- Styrene exists but can only be bent into simple curves without a vacuum former
 - simple curve: in essence, anything you can make with a single sheet of paper
 - example: a cylinder is made of simple curves, a sphere is not
- Foam core can also only be bent into simple curves but is a fast prototyping tool
- Wood is awesome and comes in lots of types
 - MDF is quick and works well but can get “fluffy” on edges
 - Pine is super soft, like you can dent it with a fingernail
 - Have heard ridiculously good things about hickory, but really any Home Depot stock will do if you are determined
- Instamorph/Thermomorph is also awesome because it can hold a decent amount of detail and is quick
 - downside that it droops while it cools so hold it in place
 - reusable if you mess up
- Weathering makes things pretty but is no substitute for putting effort into the base piece
- Check the weapons policy of any con you go to!

Useful Links

- volpinprops.com is an insanely talented guy's website, his builds are well documented and stunning. I recommend looking at them for inspiration on how to go about things, and especially the [Mass Effect M8 Avenger Assault Rifle](#) build because [there is a time-lapse video of how he weathers his props.](#)
- Shameless plug for myself:
 - if you want to reach me, aniketosen@gmail.com
 - also aniketosen.tumblr.com, same handle for [deviantart](#).