

# Foam Armor Pauldron with Rivets

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## Materials needed:

- Two sheets of 2 mm EVA foam that are 24" x 24" such as Hero Foam by Sew Much Cosplay™
- Contact cement
- Heat Gun
- Craft paint
- Template for Armor pieces
- 2 Strips of fabric about 20 inches long and 4 inches wide
- Matching thread
- Scissors
- Dritz Double-Cap Rivets in Brushed Brass
- Dritz Double-Cap Rivet Setting Tool
- Dritz Adjustable Slide Buckles in antique brass
- Sewing machine with ¼ inch patchwork foot attached
- Hard surface on which to pound in your rivets, preferably covered with a cutting mat
- Rubber mallet

## Creating the foam armor:

1. Trace the templates onto the foam and cut out all of your pieces. Using the contact cement, glue your trim pieces to the body pieces and let dry. Contact cement needs to dry slightly before pressing it to the opposite surface, and once it sticks, it's stuck, so be careful.
2. On the top shoulder piece, fold over the dart and glue together to form the curve for the shoulder. Once dry, you could sand (or Dremel) the seam so it's less apparent.
3. Using the heat gun, and holding it about 8 inches away from the foam, gently heat the pieces and form a soft curve so the pieces are not flat.
4. Once cooled, your armor may be painted. I used a copper spray paint, and black craft paint inside the trim to make it stand out.
5. Once your paint is dry, you can poke a hole in the corners (see pattern pieces for placement), so that you can insert your rivet. GENTLY tap the rivet into place with the tool, but in this case we do not want to close the rivet fully, so the armor can move freely.

## Creating the strap:

1. Fold each strip of fabric in half, wrong sides together, and then fold each side in toward the middle, forming a strip about 1 inch wide.
2. At your sewing machine, sew along the length of the strip along the open end. Once at the bottom, sew down the other side, so you have nice even seams on both sides, and your strap doesn't poof up.
3. Fold one end over the adjustable slide buckle's center bar on one of the straps, and stitch to enclose the buckle. You do not need to do this to the other end.

4. Using only the strap that doesn't have the buckle, using the cutter in the Rivet setting toolkit, and on a hard and protected surface (this will mar your table), cut a hole in the center of the strap about every inch or so. Leave about 3 inches at one end without holes. After you have cut your holes, insert your rivets. Choose one side of the strap to be the "right" side. The male end should be on the right side and match up the female ends on the wrong side of the fabric. Using the setter, pound in your rivets using your rubber mallet.
5. Determine which side of the armor you want to face forward by determining which shoulder you will place it on. The side facing forward is the side that gets the riveted strap. Cut a hole in the strap on top of the end that was left without rivets and match it up with the strap hole on the armor piece (See pattern for placement). GENTLY tap the rivet into place with the tool, but in this case we do not want to close the rivet fully, so the armor can move freely. Do the same with the buckle strap, which should be on the backside of the armor.

To wear, place the armor on the shoulder, and gently pull the buckle end towards the front of the body under the armpit. Insert the front strap and adjust over the rivets until it's fit. The excess front strap can be tucked into the back strap, and eventually trimmed after adjusting to wearing it.

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