

CODENAME

OPERATION CHEWIE

♦ Build Manual ♦

▶ EDITION	PUBLIC RELEASE · FREE TO SHARE
▶ SUBJECT	Fur suit + bandolier + bowcaster
▶ BUDGET	€250-600+
▶ BUILD TIME	50-100 hrs
▶ TIMELINE	8 weeks

**A LONG TIME AGO, IN A WORKSHOP FAR, FAR
AWAY....**

FROM ZERO TO CHEWIE

The roster's first FUR build – a head-to-toe Wookiee fursuit, not an armour shell. This is a sewing-and-fur-grooming project: a brown shag bodysuit, a separate animatronic-optional head, one diagonal leather bandolier of silver ammo boxes, and the bowcaster. Advanced, hot to wear, and worth every hour.

May the Force be with all who walk this path.



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READING ORDER · IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE

Start here: **Mission Brief** — it tells you what you are signing up for.

Before the event: **Game Day** — the chapter that matters at hour two.

Everything in between is your build, in order. Take it one section at a time.



READ ME FIRST

This is a field manual, not a novel — you are not meant to read it front to back. Jump to the station you need:

RIGHT NOW Mission Brief + The Fur Is the Costume.

BEFORE BUYING The Complete Parts List — order everything in one batch; shipping is the bottleneck.

WHILE BUILDING Work the build chapters in order; each one is a station, not a lecture.

BEFORE THE EVENT Game Day — the only chapter that matters at hour two.

RUNNING LATE? Open the companion WEEK-BY-WEEK calendar and jump to your current week.

■ ONE SITTING RULE

Read Mission Brief + The Fur Is the Costume today. Everything else waits until its week.



PICK YOUR BAR

*The line's first FUR build — three ways up the mountain, from a soft costume-shop Wookiee to a club-card fursuit you'll wear for a decade. The same build can be finished to three different bars — pick yours **now**, because builders who polish for the wrong one burn weeks.*

LEAN · €250-400

Costume-Shop

Reads as Chewbacca at 5m in a crowd — a bought or rental-grade brown fur suit and mask, a single quick bandolier of silver-painted boxes, and a toy bowcaster. Skip the sculpted muzzle and stilts; brush all the fur downward and lean on the bandolier and the roar to sell it.

EFFORT · ~40 hrs

MID · €400-600

Convention

Reads as Chewbacca at conversation distance — a custom-sewn long-pile fur suit in blended browns, a proper built head with a foam muzzle and set eyes, functional furred hands, a riveted leather bandolier and a weathered bowcaster. The all-day, photo-clean version most builders aim for.

EFFORT · ~70 hrs

REBEL LEGION · €700+

Approved

Reads as Chewbacca under inspection — screen-matched fur colour and length, an animatronic-optional head with accurate muzzle and brow, claws, height stilts to push toward 2.3m, correct left-shoulder bandolier and a screen-accurate bowcaster. The lifetime piece that passes Rebel Legion costume judging.

EFFORT · ~100 hrs



THE FALLBACK PLAN

*A first-time build of this suit is **50–100 hrs** of hands-on work across **8 weeks**. Life happens — so decide right now what gets cut when the clock wins. Finished beats perfect.*

BEHIND EARLY Drop first: No Armour, No Cape. Nobody will notice at 5m.

BEHIND LATE Simplify next: Hip & Seat Fur, Reference & Fit (Rebel Legion), Furred Feet / Paws — buy instead of make, or borrow.

EMERGENCY Every printed part has a buy option. Switching one part to bought can save a whole week.

ALWAYS The final week is for wearing it, not building it — dress rehearsal beats one more coat of paint.

🕒 THE HONEST RULE

If a piece is not started two weeks before the event, it is not in this year's costume. Build it for the next one.



THE COUNTDOWN

The whole plan on one page — tick the boxes as the weeks fall. The full week-by-week calendar is a separate companion PDF.

- Week 8 ☐ Plan + measure. Order fur (mixed brown/grey-brown long pile), backing fabric, base layer, leather strap and silver ammo-box stock, bowcaster STL or toy donor
- Week 7 ☐ Pattern the bodysuit on a duct-tape dummy or old coveralls; do a calico/cheap-fabric mockup before cutting the real fur
- Week 6 ☐ Cut and sew the fur torso, arms and legs — pile pointing down, seams hidden. Test fit and check range of motion
- Week 5 ☐ Build the head: muzzle armature, set the eyes and leather nose, install teeth, fur the crown sweeping back
- Week 4 ☐ Hands, claws and furred feet. Make sure you can grip the bowcaster and walk all day in the feet
- Week 3 ☐ Build the bandolier — rivet silver ammo boxes evenly along the leather strap (left shoulder to right hip). Finish and weather the bowcaster
- Week 2 ☐ Grooming pass: brush, blend and trim ALL fur downward; hide every seam; test height add-on (platforms/stilts) safely
- Week 1 ☐ Full dress rehearsal with cooling packs and water. Practise the walk and the roar. Game day



MISSION BRIEF

*This builds **Chewbacca** — the Wookiee co-pilot of the Millennium Falcon and Han Solo's partner. It is the roster's first **FUR** build, and that changes everything.*

You are not printing an armour shell here. You are sewing and grooming a head-to-toe fursuit: a long brown shag bodysuit, a separate furred head with a sculpted muzzle, furred hands and feet, one diagonal leather bandolier of silver ammo boxes, and the bowcaster. Chewie stands about **2.3m tall**, so height is part of the costume too.

■ WHY THIS IS ADVANCED

Fursuit fabrication is its own craft — patterning fur, hiding seams, building a head, and managing heat. Take your time, mock things up in cheap fabric first, and you'll be fine. This is a marathon, not a print job.



THE FUR IS THE COSTUME

Get the fur right and Chewie reads from across the room. Get it wrong and you're a brown bear.

Chewbacca's fur is **long, layered, and a mix of browns and grey-browns** — never one flat solid colour. Buy long-pile (shag) faux fur, not the short cheap stuff. Blend two or three close shades if you can.

The two iron rules of fur

- ▶ **Pile points DOWN.** Brush every panel so the fur falls like rain off a dog — head, shoulders, arms, everything flows toward the floor.
- ▶ **Hide every seam.** Sew with the fur tucked inward, then brush the pile back over the join so the seam disappears into the flow.

MOCK IT UP FIRST

Never cut your good fur first. Pattern the suit on a duct-tape dummy or an old set of coveralls, sew a cheap-fabric test version, fix the fit, THEN cut the real fur. Fur is expensive and unforgiving.



BUILDING THE HEAD

The face is what makes it Chewbacca and not a generic creature.

The head is a separate piece — a furred hood over a balaclava or a lightweight foam/buckram base. The key features are a **sculpted muzzle**, deep-set glass eyes under a heavy brow, a **black leather nose**, and a hint of teeth in the mouth.

| Seeing out

You look out through the fur shadow under the brow, not through the fake eyes. Position your real eyeline in the dark gap beneath the sculpted brow so the costume eyes stay screen-accurate and you can still walk safely.

| MUZZLE THAT HOLDS SHAPE

Build the muzzle on a foam or buckram armature so it keeps its form all day. Long fur sweeps back over the crown; the muzzle fur is shorter and groomed. That length contrast sells the face.



THE BANDOLIER & BOWCASTER

Two props, and they're both non-negotiable. After the fur, these are what people point at.

The bandolier

A single diagonal leather strap, worn over the **LEFT shoulder crossing to the right hip**, studded with evenly-spaced rectangular silver ammunition boxes. The boxes are simple — wood, foam or 3D-printed blocks painted silver and riveted along the strap.

The bowcaster

Chewie's signature crossbow-style weapon: a stocked body, a curved limb assembly, and a string/energy element. 3D print it, or kitbash from a toy crossbow. Weather the metal and wood and add a worn-leather grip wrap.

CHECK PROP RULES

Many conventions have weapon and prop-length rules. Check your event's policy before you build, and never bring anything that looks like a real firearm to a public space.



HANDS, FEET & HEIGHT

Your hands are in every single photo. Don't skimp on them.

Build furred gloves with shorter groomed fur on the back, a leathery-look palm, and sculpted dark claws — but keep the fingertips **functional** so you can hold the bowcaster and shake hands. The feet are furred paw-covers over sturdy trainers so the fur runs unbroken to the floor with no human shoe showing.

Reaching for 2.3m

- ▶ **Easy win:** thick platform soles plus an extended head crown adds height cheaply and safely.
- ▶ **Advanced:** short stilts get you closer to true Wookiee height — but only if you've practised walking in them.

SAFETY FIRST ON STILTS

Stilts are an advanced add-on. If you've never used them, skip them this year. A stable costume you can wear all day beats a tall one you can't walk in.



SURVIVING THE SUIT

The fursuit is hot, heavy and limits your senses. Respect that and you'll have a great day.

This is the part new fursuit builders underestimate. A full fur suit traps heat fast, so **heat management is a real part of the build**, not an afterthought.

Your survival kit

- ▶ **Base layer:** moisture-wicking compression top and leggings under the fur.
- ▶ **Cooling:** frozen ice packs in a cooling vest, a damp cooling towel, and lots of water.
- ▶ **A spotter:** a friend out of costume to guide you, since your vision and hearing are reduced.
- ▶ **Cool-down breaks:** a quiet, shaded place to take the head off every hour.

THE BUDDY RULE

Never wear a full suit alone in a crowd. Your peripheral vision is gone and stairs are dangerous. A handler makes the whole day safer and more fun.



GAME DAY

Full dress rehearsal before the event, then let the Wookiee win.

Do a complete dress run a few days early — suit, head, bandolier, hands, feet and bowcaster all together. Walk around, sit down, pick the bowcaster up, and check nothing rides up or pinches.

Final checklist

- ▶ Fur brushed and blended, all seams hidden, everything flowing down.
- ▶ Bandolier on the left shoulder, boxes even, bowcaster weathered.
- ▶ Cooling packs frozen, water bottle filled, handler briefed.
- ▶ Practise the **roar** — Chewie doesn't speak Basic, he growls and roars.

STAY IN CHARACTER

Chewbacca never talks — just warm Wookiee growls, a big head tilt, and gentle bear hugs. Lean into it. Let the Wookiee win.

● ● MORE GAME DAY LINES

- ▶ “The happy growl that answers Han's "Chewie, we're home." (The Force Awakens)” — *soft, rumibly, pure joy*
- ▶ “The Tarzan yell while swinging onto an AT-ST at the Battle of Endor (Return of the Jedi)” — *full volume, arms wide*
- ▶ “The grumpy holochess growl that makes C-3PO say "Let the Wookiee win." (A New Hope)” — *low warning rumble, then look very smug*

😄 FOR LAUGHS — KID EDITION

- ▶ RRAAARGH. (Wookiee for "that was MY sandwich.")
- ▶ Hhrrmmm-rrgh. (Translation: "let the Wookiee win the board game.")
- ▶ AARRWGH! (That's Wookiee for "free hugs, galaxy-wide.")

COMPLETE PARTS LIST

Every piece referenced in this manual, grouped by where you get it. Shop in batches — fewer trips, fewer forgotten items.

PRINT THESE PARTS

Your 3D-printing queue. Test-print one piece before committing the whole suit.

- **Bowcaster** — Print the body and curved limbs, or kitbash from a toy crossbow donor.
- **Bandolier ammo boxes** — Print rectangular silver boxes to rivet along the strap (or use wood/foam blocks).
- **Claws & teeth** — Print or sculpt dark claws for the gloves and teeth for the muzzle.
- **Eye blanks** — Print or buy follow-me doll/taxidermy eyes for the head.

BUY THESE

Order all at once — shipping is the bottleneck.

- **Long-pile faux fur** — Several metres in mixed brown / grey-brown; long shag, not flat.
- **Stretch backing fabric** — For elbows, knees and armpits so the suit moves.
- **Moisture-wicking base layer** — Compression top + leggings + sweatband — heat management.
- **Leather strap** — Wide brown leather/pleather for the single diagonal bandolier.
- **Cooling packs & water** — Ice packs, a cooling towel and bottled water for the day.
- **Sturdy shoes for paws** — Comfortable trainers to build the furred feet over (plus optional platforms/stilts).
- **Fur grooming kit** — Slicker brush, sharp shears and a comb for blending seams and trimming the muzzle.

3D FILES & SOURCES

Where to find the printable files and reference standards. Nothing copyrighted is hosted here — these point to community designers and costume-club resources. Always check a model's licence before printing.

Bowcaster 3D model (search)

Cults3D community

► cults3d.com

Wookiee / Chewbacca fur reference (search)

Rebel Legion reference

► [google.com](https://www.google.com)

Long-pile fur fabric for fursuits (search)

Etsy sellers

► [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com)



THE REPAIR KIT

Everything breaks at hour two. A sandwich bag with these seven things turns a costume emergency into a two-minute pit stop.

SUPER GLUE GELReattaches snapped prints and popped seams in 60 seconds. Gel doesn't run.

BLACK GAFFER TAPEInvisible on dark builds — holds a cracked plate through a whole event.

SAFETY PINS + VELCROInstant strap repair, hem fix, cape re-hang.

ZIP TIES (BLACK)Broken buckle, loose greeble, sagging belt box — tie it and move on.

PAINT PEN (BLACK + SILVER)Covers scratches and scuffed edges between photos.

SPARE BATTERIESFor LEDs and soundboards. The saber always dies at the door.

MICROFIBRE CLOTHHelmet fingerprints, lens fog, dusty boots.

PACK IT THE NIGHT BEFORE

One bag, one pocket (or a helper's backpack). If you have to go looking for glue, it is already too late.



QUICK JUMP

Mid-build with painty fingers? This is the inside back cover index — every station and its page.

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MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

"RRRRRGH-GHHHHHRRRR-AAARRRWHHGGWWW. (Wookiee for "let's go.")"

— ALWAYS —

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