

CODENAME

OPERATION LEIA

♦ Build Manual ♦

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| ▶ EDITION | PUBLIC RELEASE · FREE TO SHARE |
| ▶ SUBJECT | Cloth + buns |
| ▶ BUDGET | €55-200 |
| ▶ BUILD TIME | 10-20 hrs |
| ▶ TIMELINE | 4 weeks |

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

FROM ZERO TO LEIA

The Princess, three looks: the classic A New Hope white gown, the Hoth snowsuit, and the Endor camo poncho. The two side buns are the icon.

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 Lines — 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 + Pick Your Look.

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 Lines — 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 + Pick Your Look today. Everything else waits until its week.



PICK YOUR BAR

*Same Princess, three passes — from a thrown-together gown to a screen-matched icon. The same build can be finished to three different bars — pick yours **now**, because builders who polish for the wrong one burn weeks.*

LEAN · €55-90

Casual

Reads as Leia at 5m on the dance floor — a simple white maxi dress or robe, hair in two store-bought bun clips, skip the belt detail entirely. Good enough for a party photo; nobody clocks the seams.

EFFORT · ~8 hrs

MID · €110-150

Convention

Reads as Leia at conversation distance — a properly cut hooded white gown, your own hair braided over a bun form, and a chained silver disc belt that catches the light. Where most builders land for a con floor.

EFFORT · ~14 hrs

REBEL LEGION · €170-200+

Approved

Reads as Leia under inspection — correct collarless cowl-neck cut, hidden side closure, the exact cast metal disc belt, and buns sized and pinned to reference. Screen-accuracy means the gown drapes right and the hair is all yours, no shortcuts.

EFFORT · ~20 hrs



THE FALLBACK PLAN

*A first-time build of this suit is **10–20 hrs** of hands-on work across **4 weeks**. Life happens — so decide right now what gets cut when the clock wins. Finished beats perfect.*

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

BEHIND LATE Simplify next: Hoth Vest / Endor Poncho, Reference & Fit, Trousers / Skirt — 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 4 ☐ Plan + order gown/vest, belt, boots, wig (if needed)

Week 3 ☐ Fit + hem; sew the disc belt; practice the bun style

Week 2 ☐ Add the era extras (Hoth vest or Endor poncho)

Week 1 ☐ Dress rehearsal + game day



MISSION BRIEF

*This builds **Princess Leia** three ways: ANH white gown, Hoth snowsuit, Endor camo.*

All cloth. The hair is the showpiece.

SHE'S A LEADER, NOT A PRIZE

Leia is a princess, a senator, a spy, a rebel leader, and later a general — iconic in every one of those roles. Build her as what she is: brave, sharp, in command. Play her with that confidence and the costume comes alive. Stand tall, chin level, shoulders back — Leia faced down Darth Vader without blinking.



PICK YOUR LOOK

- ▶ **ANH** — white floor-length gown + the two side buns + silver disc belt.
- ▶ **Hoth** — white quilted jumpsuit + puffy-collared vest + braided crown.
- ▶ **Endor** — khaki + green poncho + single long braid.

QUICK START

First Leia? The Senator look is the most iconic, but the side-bun hair takes practice. If you want easy-and-recognisable fast, the Endor look (poncho + single braid) is the simplest and still clearly Leia.



THE BUNS

The single most recognisable hairstyle in cinema.

■ TWO BUNS

Two large buns over the ears for ANH. Roll, pin, and add a hairnet to hold them.

SHORT HAIR? NO PROBLEM

Wigs are completely fair game and often look better in photos. A pre-styled Leia wig is one of the best small investments you can make for this build — it nails the buns instantly and saves an hour of pinning.



THE GOWN

Flowing white, floor-length, slightly hooded collar.

The silver disc belt sits on the hips. The white gown is matte — never shiny costume satin.



HOTH & ENDOR

Two era swaps from the same base.

Hoth = puffy-collared white vest + boots. Endor = green poncho over khakis.



BUILDER TIPS

- ▶ Buns are everything.
- ▶ Matte white fabric.
- ▶ Carry a small blaster — she's a soldier.

Someone has to save our skins.



GAME DAY LINES

*The costume gets you noticed — the **lines** make it unforgettable. Say them in character, time the pauses, and let the laughs land.*

● ● MORE GAME DAY LINES

- ▶ “Aren't you a little short for a stormtrooper?” — *deadpan* — *perfect whenever a trooper cosplayer walks by*
- ▶ “Why, you stuck-up, half-witted, scruffy-looking nerf herder!” — *rapid-fire, chin up, zero apology*
- ▶ “Somebody has to save our skins. Into the garbage chute, flyboy!” — *take charge* — *you're the one with the plan*
- ▶ “The more you tighten your grip, Tarkin, the more star systems will slip through your fingers.” — *cool and defiant, even when surrounded*

😄 FOR LAUGHS — KID EDITION

- ▶ Aren't you a little short for a fifth grader?
- ▶ Help me, cafeteria crew. You're my only hope — I forgot my lunch.
- ▶ I'm a princess AND a general. Yes, you have to call me both.

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.

- **Disc belt buckle (optional)** — Or buy a replica.
- **Defender blaster (optional)** — Small holstered blaster.

BUY THESE

Order all at once — shipping is the bottleneck.

- **White floor-length gown** — ANH matte white, slightly hooded collar.
- **Hoth quilted jumpsuit + vest** — For the Hoth look.
- **Green poncho + khaki** — For the Endor look.
- **White slipper boots / brown lace-up** — Match the era.
- **Wig or hair clips for buns** — Two side buns (ANH).
- **Silver disc belt** — Sits on the hips.
- **Hairnet + pins** — Hold the buns.

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.

Leia disc belt STL

Thingiverse

► [thingiverse.com](https://www.thingiverse.com/thing/3114441)

Leia Defender blaster STL

Thingiverse

► [thingiverse.com](https://www.thingiverse.com/thing/3114441)

Full Leia costume

AliExpress / eBay

► [ebay.com](https://www.ebay.com)

Rebel Legion standards

Rebel Legion

► rebellegion.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

"Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope."

— ALWAYS —

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