

BUILDERS · MAKERS · COSPLAYERS
€80-200 (LEAN) → €300-500 (MID) → €1500+ (501ST)
BUILT BY A KID · FREE FOR EVERYONE

IMPERIAL ARCHIVE

BUILD CALENDAR

FREE TO SHARE

CODENAME

OPERATION VADER

♦ Week by Week ♦

- ▶ EDITION FREE TO SHARE · WEEK BY WEEK
- ▶ SUBJECT 12 components
- ▶ SCHEDULE 16 weeks plan
- ▶ BUILD TIME 80-150 hrs
- ▶ FORMAT Do this, then that

THE CALENDAR COMPANION TO THE FIELD MANUAL

FREE TO SHARE

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

16 WEEKS WEEK BY WEEK

From zero to Sith Lord in 16 weeks. A community-built guide to constructing a full Darth Vader cosplay – helmet, armor, saber, the works.

Steady wins. May the Force be with you.



16 WEEKS TO VADER

Weeks 16-13	Procure + start helmet print	.
Weeks 12-9	Print armor + schematics	.
Weeks 8-5	Sand + filler + paint	.
Weeks 4-3	Strap + LED wiring	.
Week 2	Dress rehearsal · suit up	.
Week 1	Buffer · fixes · game day	.
APPENDIX	Quick reference & game day	.

🕒 YOUR FIRST WEEKS — WHERE MOST BUILDS DIE

Nearly every abandoned build dies in the first quarter: parts not ordered, printer not tested, nothing started. Win the first weeks — order everything, print one test piece — and the rest is downhill.



PICK YOUR BAR

*Same suit, three different finish lines. Pick yours now — builders polish for the wrong one and burn weeks. The same build can be finished to three different bars — pick yours **now**, because builders who polish for the wrong one burn weeks.*

LEAN · €80-200

Casual

Reads as Vader at 5m, glance distance. Spray-paint smoothness OK. Skip codpiece, chain, fine-detail panel paint.

EFFORT · ~80 hrs

MID · €300-500

Convention

Reads as Vader at 1m, casual scrutiny. Three filler-primer + wet-sand cycles. Most builders land here.

EFFORT · ~150 hrs

501ST · €1500+

Approved

Reads as Vader under inspection. Screen-accurate proportions. Every weathering pass justified. The lifetime piece.

EFFORT · 300+ hrs



THE FALLBACK PLAN

*A first-time build of this suit is **80–150 hrs** of hands-on work across **16 weeks**. Life happens — so decide right now what gets cut when the clock wins. Finished beats perfect.*

BEHIND EARLY Drop first: Codpiece. Nobody will notice at 5m.

BEHIND LATE Simplify next: Belt + Boxes + Buckle, Chain, Shin Guards (×2) — 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.



PROCURE + START HELMET PRINT

WEEKS 16-13

Procure + start helmet print.

PARTS IN PLAY THIS WEEK

CRITICAL**Helmet** — ⌚ 40h · €50

Jace1969 22865 is the only free near-complete free bundle — but DOES NOT include the chest control panel. Source that separately from TheMaker77 (Thingiverse 3889513) or BrettProjectGuy (Printables 832807).

PROGRESS · PHASE 1 OF 6 · 17% THROUGH THE PLAN



PRINT ARMOR + SCHEMATICS

WEEKS 12-9

Print armor + schematics.

PARTS IN PLAY THIS WEEK

HIGHShoulder Armor (x2) — ⌚ 16h · €8

Roman Z Véšek bundles shoulders with chest plate — print together for matching surface texture.

PROGRESS · PHASE 2 OF 6 · 33% THROUGH THE PLAN



SAND + FILLER + PAINT

WEEKS 8-5

Sand + filler + paint.



PROGRESS · PHASE 3 OF 6 · 50% THROUGH THE PLAN



STRAP + LED WIRING

WEEKS 4 - 3

Strap + LED wiring.



PROGRESS · PHASE 4 OF 6 · 67% THROUGH THE PLAN



DRESS REHEARSAL · SUIT UP

WEEK 2

Dress rehearsal · suit up.



PROGRESS · PHASE 5 OF 6 · 83% THROUGH THE PLAN



BUFFER · FIXES · GAME DAY

WEEK 1

Buffer · fixes · game day.



PROGRESS · PHASE 6 OF 6 · 100% THROUGH THE PLAN



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

"I am your father."

— ALWAYS —

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