

CODENAME

OPERATION NIHILUS

♦ Build Manual ♦

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|--------------|--------------------------------|
| ▶ EDITION | PUBLIC RELEASE · FREE TO SHARE |
| ▶ SUBJECT | Death mask + tattered robes |
| ▶ BUDGET | €80-250 |
| ▶ BUILD TIME | 20-40 hrs |
| ▶ TIMELINE | 5 weeks |

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

FROM ZERO TO NIHILUS

Darth Nihilus – the Lord of Hunger from Knights of the Old Republic II. The white death mask, the tattered black robes, the red lightsaber. One of the most distinctive Sith looks in any era.

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 + The Mask.

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 + The Mask today. Everything else waits until its week.



PICK YOUR BAR

*One mask, three deaths — pick how loud the Lord of Hunger screams. The same build can be finished to three different bars — pick yours **now**, because builders who polish for the wrong one burn weeks.*

LEAN · €80-130

Casual

Reads as Nihilus at 5m: a craft-foam or resin-cast white mask, hood up, and any pile of layered black thrift robes does the silhouette. Skip custom dye, the inner tunic detail, and edge-distressing — the void-face mask under shadow carries the whole read.

EFFORT · ~20 hrs

MID · €130-200

Convention

Reads as Nihilus at conversation distance: most builders land here with a clean cast mask, painted bone-cracks and red striations, and properly layered tattered robes — frayed hems, a real sash, and torn shoulder wraps that move. A flicker-LED red saber seals it on the hall floor.

EFFORT · ~30 hrs

SCREEN-ACCURATE · €200+

Approved

Reads as Nihilus under inspection: a screen-faithful mask with crisp incised glyphs, subtle gloss-and-matte paint, and a hollow void behind the eyes. Robes are custom-cut in graded blacks with hand-shredded, individually-sealed tatters, weighted hems for drift, and a hidden harness — the lifetime KOTOR II piece (no costuming club governs Old Republic, so accuracy is your only judge).

EFFORT · ~40 hrs



THE FALLBACK PLAN

*A first-time build of this suit is **20–40 hrs** of hands-on work across **5 weeks**. Life happens — so decide right now what gets cut when the clock wins. Finished beats perfect.*

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

BEHIND LATE Simplify next: Belt / Sash, Lower Robes, Reference & Fit, Trousers — 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 1 ☐ Plan + order fabric (tatter quality), mask filament, red saber

Week 2 ☐ Print + finish the mask — bone-white, runes, brown wash

Week 3 ☐ Sew the tattered cloak + layered tunic

Week 4 ☐ Test wear; tatter where it falls; refine hood placement

Week 5 ☐ Dress rehearsal + game day



MISSION BRIEF

*This builds **Darth Nihilus** — the Lord of Hunger from KOTOR II.*

Bone-white death mask, tattered black robes, red blade. One of the most distinctive Sith looks in any era.



THE MASK

THE signature.

■ BONE WHITE + AGED

Smooth print, sand glass-smooth, prime, paint bone-white, brown wash for age, then thin red runes across the brow and cheeks.

Seeing & Breathing

The eye hollows are deep shadow and your view-port — back them with dark mesh that hides your real eyes while letting you see out. Make sure you can breathe and see clearly before you finish painting. Comfort first.



THE TATTERED ROBES

Layered, raw-cut, ancient.

Base robe + over-tunic + cloak — all dark. Cut the edges raw after wearing them so the cuts fall naturally.

Fray It on Purpose

Lightweight, flowing fabric drifts as you move — which makes the empty figure feel alive and wrong in the best way. Gently fray the ragged hems so the figure looks like it's dissolving at the edges.



THE SILHOUETTE

Hood up, mask out, only black gloves visible.

The entrance shot: only the mask and the hands show. The Force-aura is implied by the way you stand still.

Move Like the Hunger

Slow, gliding movement — he should seem to float in those robes. Total silence; let the blank mask do the talking. Tilt the head slowly, as if studying you with eyes that aren't there. Pairs beautifully with a Revan — the two Old Republic Sith make a stunning duo.



SABER

Red blade, plain hilt.

The mask carries the costume — don't overcomplicate the saber.



BUILDER TIPS

- ▶ Mask + tatter + hood. Three things.
- ▶ Stand still. Nihilus is silent.
- ▶ The Lord of Hunger does not speak.



SABER CRAFT

*The blade is half the costume — fight like the character. **Old Republic style**, wielded single.*

STYLE · OLD REPUBLIC STYLE

No numbered form on record — the Force does the fighting and the blade merely finishes what the hunger started. What swordwork he shows reads closest to Form VI Niman: a plain, balanced frame wrapped around overwhelming dark-side power. A wound in the Force does not need technique — the mask, the silence, and the drain do the duelling for him.

BLADE	● Red — plain dark Old Republic hilt
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WIELD	single
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Drill it

Practice stillness: hold one low guard for a slow count of ten, deliver a single heavy diagonal cut, then freeze again. For Nihilus, the pause IS the technique — move like the room owes you its life.

△ DUEL SAFELY

Duel-grade polycarbonate blades only, never thin display tubes. Agree intensity before you start, no strikes to head or hands, and staff or dual spins need a full 3m of clear space.



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

- ▶ “(He never speaks a single translatable word in KOTOR II — only a deep, warped drone from behind the mask. That IS the line.)” — *hum low in your throat, stand perfectly still — silence does the work*
- ▶ “(The slow head-turn and hollow groan aboard the Ravager when Visas kneels and pledges 'My life for yours' — he answers with sound, not speech.)” — *tilt the mask very slowly toward whoever spoke, then hold*

😄 FOR LAUGHS — KID EDITION

- ▶ Mrrhhnnnn. (Translation: someone ate my lunch. It was me. I am the hunger.)
- ▶ I don't talk. I snack — on planets. Your granola bar is safe. Probably.
- ▶ Teacher: 'Any questions?' Me: one long, spooky drone.

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.

- **Death mask** — Bone-white, brown wash, red runes.
- **Saber hilt (optional)** — Plain dark.

BUY THESE

Order all at once — shipping is the bottleneck.

- **Dark robes (base + over-layer)** — Tatter the over-layer.
- **Tattered hooded cloak** — Hood up for the entrance.
- **Black trousers + boots** — Hidden under the robe.
- **Black gloves** — Both hands.
- **Bone-white + brown wash paint** — For the mask.
- **Red lightsaber** — Plain hilt.

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.

Nihilus mask STL

Thingiverse

► [thingiverse.com](https://www.thingiverse.com/thing/1014444)

Sith hilt STL (any plain)

Thingiverse

► [thingiverse.com](https://www.thingiverse.com/thing/1014444)

Full Nihilus cosplay reference

RPF forums

► therpf.com

501st standards

501st.com

► [501st.com](https://www.501st.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

"(speaks no words – only hunger)"

— ALWAYS —

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