

CODENAME

OPERATION PALPATINE

♦ Build Manual ♦

- ▶ EDITION PUBLIC RELEASE · FREE TO SHARE
- ▶ SUBJECT Cloth (the easiest build)
- ▶ BUDGET €40-150
- ▶ BUILD TIME 6-12 hrs
- ▶ TIMELINE 3 weeks

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

FROM ZERO TO PALPATINE

The Emperor himself – the Sith Master pulling every string. The easiest build in the line: a deep black hooded robe + makeup + Sith lightning hands.

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 Robe.

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 Robe today. Everything else waits until its week.



PICK YOUR BAR

*One robe, three Emperors — from a thrift-shop cloak to a Senate-floor tyrant. The same build can be finished to three different bars — pick yours **now**, because builders who polish for the wrong one burn weeks.*

LEAN · €40-70

Casual

Reads as Palpatine at 5m under low light — a single deep-black hooded robe, gaunt eyeshadow, hands curled like he's mid-lightning. Skip the screen-accurate inner layers and weathering; the hood does ninety percent of the work.

EFFORT · ~5 hrs

MID · €80-130

Convention

Reads as Palpatine at conversation distance — most builders land here with a heavyweight layered robe in true matte black, full aged-face makeup with sunken sockets and yellowed Sith eyes, and a belt with saber clip. The wrinkle prosthetics and rotten teeth are what sell the cackle.

EFFORT · ~9 hrs

501ST · €150+

Approved

Reads as Palpatine under inspection — 501st-grade accuracy demands the correct multi-piece robe with the textured outer cloak and visible inner garment, sculpted age prosthetics blended seamlessly, and contact lenses for the milky Sith stare. Every fold and the exact off-black dye are scrutinized at handler check-in.

EFFORT · ~14 hrs



THE FALLBACK PLAN

*A first-time build of this suit is **6–12 hrs** of hands-on work across **3 weeks**. Life happens — so decide right now what gets cut when the clock wins. Finished beats perfect.*

BEHIND EARLY Drop first: No Shoulders, No Armour, No Panel, Belt + Saber Clip. Nobody will notice at 5m.

BEHIND LATE Simplify next: Reference & Fit — 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 3 ☐ Plan + order robe, makeup, optional saber

Week 2 ☐ Fit + hem; practice the hood depth in a mirror

Week 1.5 ☐ Practice the makeup (pale + golden Sith eyes if desired)

Week 1 ☐ Dress rehearsal + game day



MISSION BRIEF

The *easiest build in the line.*

A black hooded robe + makeup + the hidden face = instantly Palpatine. No printing, no armour.

WHY THIS IS THE SMART FIRST BUILD

You'll learn the three skills every costume needs — fit, fabric, and presence — without spending a single hour at a 3D printer. Master the Emperor and every cloth-based build after this (Dooku, Nihilus, Revan, the Inquisitors) gets easier. Done right, a good Emperor can stand perfectly still in a doorway and make a whole room go quiet.



THE ROBE

Deep hood matters more than fabric.

HOOD DEPTH

Test your robe in front of a mirror with overhead light. If your face shows, the hood isn't deep enough. Add lining or reshape.

MATTE, NEVER SHINY — AND THE SLEEVES MATTER

Look for heavy, matte fabric — wool-blend or a thick synthetic. Cheap costume-shop shine reads as 'wizard,' not 'Sith Lord.' The hem should just kiss the floor so you glide rather than walk. Palpatine's sleeves are wide and long — they hide the hands until he wants them seen, and give you somewhere to conceal a saber or your lightning props for a dramatic reveal.



THE FACE

Or, the no-face.

Easiest: keep hood deep, face in shadow. Harder: pale yellow makeup with deep wrinkles + golden Sith eye contacts.



THE HANDS

Bare, gnarled, pale.

Pale makeup on hands sells the age. For photos, the Force-lightning FX in post or with prop wires steals every shot.



BUILDER TIPS

- ▶ Hood up, face dark.
- ▶ Hands pale.
- ▶ Cackle on command.
- ▶ Power. Unlimited POWER!

HOW TO MOVE LIKE SIDIOUS

- ▶ Slow down. The Emperor is never in a hurry — the galaxy waits for him.
- ▶ Hunch slightly, as if hiding great age and greater power.
- ▶ Speak low and quiet, so people lean in.
- ▶ Save the big moment — the hood-back reveal, the lightning pose — for cameras. Stillness is power: the scariest Emperor barely moves.



SABER CRAFT

*The blade is half the costume — fight like the character. **Unorthodox — no single form**, wielded single.*

STYLE · UNORTHODOX — NO SINGLE FORM

Canon never pins him to one number — Legends calls him a master of every form, and on screen he simply erupts. His frenzy against Windu and Yoda reads closest to Form VII Juyo: raw dark-side speed, and even then the saber is only the warm-up act for the lightning. The saber is a stage prop for a man whose real weapons are lightning and patience — he only draws once the audience is already doomed.

BLADE

● Red — slim gilded hilt, kept hidden up the sleeve

WIELD

single

Drill it

Rehearse the sleeve draw: saber flat along the forearm, then one motion — snap to ignition height, single strike, and return to perfect stillness. Ten slow repetitions before you are ever allowed to do it fast.

△ 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

- ▶ “Execute Order 66.” — *quiet and calm — the stillness is what makes it chilling*
- ▶ “I am the Senate.” — *slow and offended, eyebrows up*
- ▶ “Do it.” — *almost a whisper — lean in*
- ▶ “So be it... Jedi.” — *spit the last word*

😄 FOR LAUGHS — KID EDITION

- ▶ I am the Senate. Also the line leader. Also the snack committee.
- ▶ Somehow, my homework returned.
- ▶ Execute Order 66: everyone gets dessert first.

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.

- **Red saber hilt (optional)** — Concealed up the sleeve.

BUY THESE

Order all at once — shipping is the bottleneck.

- **Deep-hooded black robe** — Floor-length, wide sleeves.
- **Pale theatrical makeup** — Yellow-grey skin tone.
- **Golden Sith eye contacts (optional)** — Costume contacts only.
- **Plain black boots** — Hidden under robe.
- **Optional red saber** — Concealed.

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.

Force lightning FX

YouTube tutorials

[▶ youtube.com](#)

Sith robe pattern

Etsy

[▶ etsy.com](#)

Full Palpatine costume

eBay

[▶ ebay.com](#)

501st standards

501st.com

[▶ 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.



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

"Unlimited POWER!"

— ALWAYS —

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