

# Thank You and Welcome!



First and foremost, thank you for your purchase.

Here at The Foamory, it is our mission to bring you the best quality of high density EVA Foam.

Now that the long process of selecting the finest of EVA Foam Monsters, tanning their foam hides and packaging them up is done, your foam is on its way to your front door. So let's take a little bit of time and go over some important tips so you are ready for delivery...and most importantly, getting creative with your foam!

**The Foamory's** Officially  
Unofficial Getting Started Instructional  
PDF Guide!



## Getting Started

### 1.) First Things First

Grab a blade of your choice  
**BUT BE CAREFUL WHEN CUTTING**  
**OPEN THE BOX**  
as to not cut too deep and slice into  
the foam before you even get to start  
having fun with it.



### High Density EVA Foam

- @ 85 KG/M<sup>3</sup> OUR FOAM IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR COSPLAY, COSTUMING & CRAFTING
- OUR HIGH DENSITY FOAM IS EASIER AND FASTER TO WORK WITH
- EASIER TO CUT, SAND, DREMEL, HEAT SHAPE AND HOLDS ITS SHAPE THE BEST!
- ULTIMATELY DESIGNED TO SAVE YOU TIME  
....AND TO HELP BRING YOUR CREATIVITY TO LIFE!



### 2.) Next Let's Take It Out Of The Packaging

As it is a large cut, it comes rolled up and needs to flatten out. Simply remove the plastic packaging and unroll it. You can place books on the corners and let it sit for a day; this will allow some of the EVA Foam smell to dissipate as well.



**PRO (FOAM) TIP:** Place near a sunny window or add a little heat to help speed up the flattening process or if you need a special shape to prep for working with it.

If you can read this, then congratulations, your eye sight is impeccable!

As with all small print, there is nothing here to really read, but thank you for being thorough.

You may continue to the next page...no seriously, go check it out. Good day. I said good day!

# Tools Of The Trade

\*As recommended by your trusty advisors at



## 1.) Cutting tools and Self-Healing Cutting Board

There are a few preferred cutting tools for slicing your foam: an EXACTO KNIFE, FABRIC SCISSORS or UTILITY KNIFE; each having their strengths depending on the type of cut you are performing. (It may be good to have all of them and play around.)

And a SELF-HEALING CUTTING BOARD is pretty obvious, but serves as a good surface to make your cuts upon. \*Note\* that the larger the cutting board the larger you can make your cuts in a single pass....foam for thought.



## 2.) Sandpaper and/or Dremel

SANDPAPER is great for smoothing out those rough surfaces, especially on a cut edge before adhering your seam. We don't recommend a Course sandpaper as it tends to tear chunks out; try using a Medium or Fine selection.

**PRO (FOAM) TIP:** Get some flat paint mixing sticks and glue your sand paper to them, labeling each with the grade number (as seen in the photo).

A DREMEL is a wonderful tool, fantastic for foamsmiths. You can use it to sand down foam and etch in details. There is a bit of a learning curve, but once practiced, the possibilities are endless.



## 3.) Adhesives

ADHESIVE is pretty self-evident. It's used for layering the foam to itself, adhering other objects to the foam and when making a seam.

There are many options for the different types of adhesives that one could use, however the tried and preferred ones are SUPERGLUE, HOT GLUE and (our favorite) CONTACT CEMENT. All of them have their place but contact cement is by far the most reliable.



## 4.) Heat Gun

Some people say you can use a hairdryer to shape your foam ...POPPYCOCK!! We don't say this. Please, do yourself the huge favor and purchase thyself a HEAT GUN. You can get one for relatively cheap. Tis the only way to go for heat shaping, heat sealing and heat repairing. It will save you so much time and headache comparatively. So seriously, go buy yourself one if you haven't done so already. Do it!



## 5.) From Prep To Presentable

Here are the final tools you will need to finish off your awesome Cosplay build.

### Sealing



Before you paint, sealing is a must. MODPODGE and PLASTIDIP are the most used and easiest to apply. LATEX RUBBER SPRAY and EPOXY RESIN are just as good, if not better, but more complex in application.

### Priming



Before painting, priming is a must. Most any primer spray paint from your local hardware store will do. \*Note that it comes in different colors but also in a clear option if you so require.

### Painting



Before paint...oops, got ahead of myself there...Now it's time to paint! Many options here. Spray painting and Air-brushing are some of the most common methods. SPRAY PAINT is great for coloring large sections of foam where the AIRBRUSH shines with detail work. And of course there are many other types of paint you can utilize with different methods.



# The Completely Incomplete Step-By-Step Beginner's Guide For Your EVA Foam Cosplay Build

## 1.) You have the Tools, you have the Talent!

Assuming you have gathered the tools you need and done some research on techniques and tips on working with EVA Foam, let's keep moving! If not, go to YouTube immediately and start watching videos on such. The knowledge is within your fingertips reach. \*see the end of this section for suggestions

## 2.) Ready, Set, Draw!

A SILVER SHARPIE MARKER works best on our black foam. Now sketch/trace away! Remember that going slightly bigger with your design is always better than going too small. You can always trim and sand down to size.

## 3.) Cutting through the Thick of Things

Now that you have selected your blade of choice, be it an EXACTO KNIFE or SCISSORS, make sure they are sharp and ready to cut. A sharp blade will cut through our High Density EVA Foam with precision and accuracy.

**\*\*NOTE:** *That when your cutting instrument is starting to drag or pull at the foam, this is an indicator that the blade is dull and simply needs to be sharpened or replaced...and do so post haste.*

### + Safety First, Last and Somewhere in the Middle

Whenever SANDING, DREMELING, HEAT SHAPING the EVA Foam or using any material that produces fumes, *please* make sure to wear a RESPIRATOR and work in a well ventilated area. Safety is no joking matter...for one cannot laugh when dead.

## 4.) A Little Heat and Voila

So now that you have your pieces cut out, it's time to add some shape to them! Break out that HEAT GUN and...start out by applying a little heat at first, not too much. The high density eva foam will react to even a small amount of heat. Apply heat to the front and back of your cut foam, start shaping, apply more heat as need be, shape more, rinse and repeat.

**\*\*NOTE:** *The heat gun is called such for good reason. Be careful not to burn your hands, especially when holding onto something and using the heat gun on that something that is in your hand.*

*Also be careful not to apply too much heat in a concentrated area on the foam, warping can occur.*

## 5.) The Sticky Stuff

Whichever adhesive you end up using, make sure you read the instructions on it for application tips. SUPERGLUE is great for attaching detail pieces. HOT GLUE is also good for attaching detail and other small pieces, a little dab will do ya! For the brunt of the work CONTACT CEMENT is our weapon of choice. Apply a consistent but thin layer to both surfaces that you are connecting, allow them to dry a bit, about 5 minutes, and get somewhat tacky before joining them together. As soon as you join the two ends the bond will form, so no need to hold in place...allowing you to precisely align edges and seams!

**PRO (FOAM) TIP:** To make the process faster and smoother, 1.) Apply a little heat from the HEAT GUN to the foam 2.) Apply your CONTACT CEMENT to the two ends you wish to join 3.) Apply more heat to both the foam and the ends and then shape the foam and join the ends. This should make the CONTACT CEMENT dry and get tacky faster!

## 6.) The Key is in The Details

It's time to clean up your edges and round off some angles. SANDPAPER can easily do this trick and having varying grit numbers on hand is always a good idea: for smoothing surfaces and removing small imperfections, choose 80 to 120-grit (medium). For finishing surfaces smoothly, use a super fine sandpaper with 360 to 600 grit. That said, a DREMEL can accomplish this and so much more! It does take a little practice, but with all the different bits and attachments that are available, this one tool can also do: *etchings, engravings, those cool circular rivets with the drum bit, and probably many more things not mentioned here.*

### \*Other Expert Resources

If you are new to Cosplay, then this is only the beginning. **CONGRATULATIONS!** Enjoy the journey down the rabbit hole. There are many other resources and experts on the internets. To name a few:

- *Bill Doran* - has some great books on foamsmithing and a Youtube channel called **PUNISHED PROPS**
- *Evil Ted* - is a great resource for all things Cosplay on Youtube
- *Facebook* has many helpful Cosplay groups, join ours @ **EVA Foamsmith Guild**



## 7.) Sealing, Priming, Painting and Be Proud!

**HEAT SEALING:** is a great prep procedure before you seal and paint. Using the HEAT GUN, lightly go over your foam pieces; this will smooth out the foam, getting rid of any fingerprints or imperfections and ready if for sealants and paint.

**SEALING:** is next; it will make your foam more durable, so choose the one you would like to work with and coat your foam. We prefer MOD PODGE and PLASTIDIP.

**PRIMING:** time! Spray the foam with your can of PRIMER PAINT. This will create a nice even canvas for you to paint.

**PAINTING:** pick your poison and go to town with your preferred paint. Many different options and techniques here so if you aren't sure, do yourself a favor and do some internet research with the above mentioned resources.

Now beam with pride over your creation! Remember that this is just a humble overview of how to work with EVA Foam and that there are many more techniques out there to be learned, so do your due diligence.

**Go Big with your Creativity, Go Big with The Foamory®**