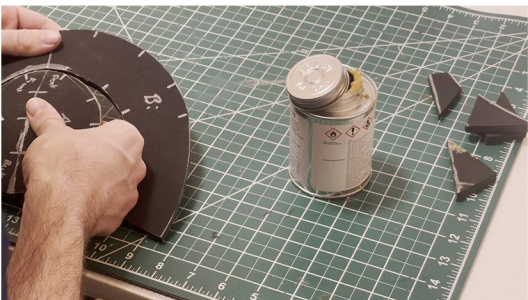


CHEWBACCA MASK

BUILDING A CHARACTER MASK is no small task. Makers face a choice between two very different approaches: the lifelike realism of silicone or the comfort and accessibility of EVA foam. Both demand dozens of hours of work, patience with hair application, and careful styling to bring the galaxy’s most famous Wookiee to life. These pages explore the strengths, challenges, and techniques behind both methods and shows why the final decision often comes down to comfort versus authenticity.



EVA foam masks are usually glued together with contact cement. Make sure to wear proper PPE when working with this glue.

EVA FOAM BUILDS

EVA foam masks begin with a purchased pattern and affordable materials. Foam is light, inexpensive, and easier to wear for long troops. Construction involves cutting foam, gluing it together, painting teeth and nose, pre-cutting the hair to length, and then attaching it. The result is durable, light, and comfortable.



Acrylic paint

Foam clay



Paper pattern and instructions



SCULPTING, PAINTING AND SEALING

Care must be taken when constructing the visible foam parts of the mask. The nose and lips were sculpted out of foam clay. Using an airbrush for a brush free finish, acrylics were used to paint the mask. The entire mask was sealed with three layers of a clear varnish so the paint wouldn’t run when exposed to water.



EVA foam mask

Five minute epoxy



SILICONE MASKS

Silicone kits pair a fiberglass underskull with a flexible silicone skin that stretches as the jaw moves. The realism is unmatched, but the cost is steep, the build heavy, and the work is challenging. Attaching hair requires special silicone glue (like Sil-Poxy from Smooth-On) or painstaking hair punching, and repairs can be difficult.



Hair punch



HAIR PUNCHING

Hair punching is a techniques used for inserting hair into silicone. It creates natural transitions. A hair punch can be easily made by cutting the eye of a needle at an angle, and sticking the point in an X-ACTO knife holder.

Silicone mask

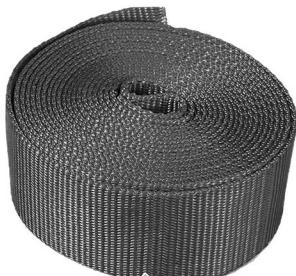


STYLING THE MASK

Both mask types come alive only after cutting and styling. Steamers, curling irons (on their lowest settings), and hairspray shape and lock-in Chewbacca’s layered mane. A mannequin head padded out to your measurements and an adjustable stand are essential for steady styling work.



Hairspray



Synthetic webbing used for straps

Steamer



Adjustable mannequin stand



DATA FILE

- > Silicone: ~\$400+ kit, 4 lbs 3 oz
- > Foam: <\$150 in materials, ~1 lb
- > Build Time: 48-60 hours (both)
- > Durability: Silicone sturdy but tears at mouth; foam vulnerable to heat but easy to repair
- > Realism: Silicone stretches with jaw; foam won’t
- > Comfort: Foam favored for long troops



Airbrush



Clear varnish



Mannequin head

