

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

JULY 2021



RETURN TO TROOPING

DESIGN BASICS

BESKAR SPEARS

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Greetings Vode,

First let me say that it is a breath of fresh air to see clans getting back to the business of trooping in the areas where they can. Let's not fool ourselves, though, COVID19 is always going to be around moving forward. In response to that knowledge I received my second vaccination shot on April 7th, and hopefully you also get vaccinated when it's offered in your area.

It is with a very heavy heart that I must announce the untimely passing of Isaac Hubenthal/ Arkturus, an Official Member in Cerar Clan. Issac was a Warrant Officer 2nd Class in the Air National Guard, flying Blackhawk helicopters was something he'd always wanted to do since he was a kid. Isaac was known to his clan as someone who always wanted to make others laugh, spread joy, and was always looking for ways to give back to people. Our helmets are off and our hearts go with Isaac's family, and Cerar Clan. Ni su'cuyi, gar kyr'adyc, ni partayli, gar darasuum.

MercsCon2 is right around the corner. If you've reserved a room/ticket, don't forget to get your payments in! The MC2 team has really done an awesome job putting together a bang-up schedule of panels and events. We're even going to have a special guest who worked directly on the Bo-Katan costume from season 2 of The Mandalorian! The stops have been pulled and I'm looking forward to spending time with members I've either never met or haven't seen in a really long time. See you soon in New Orleans!

This is our way,

Tom Hutchens
Mandalore the Uniter

RETURN TO TROOPING

-ARTICLE BY: PARJII SAVIIN

NOTE: This article does not represent the Mandalorian Mercs Costuming Club or club guidelines concerning COVID-19.

It has been over a year since our passion of trooping, attending conventions and armor parties were put on a stand still. The pandemic that struck the entire world put many of us in positions where we were trapped in our homes and lacking motivation to work on projects that may have been needed to be done. The new innovation of virtual troops and zoom armor parties were a means to seeing and interacting with clan members due to the state guidelines of essential travel; however, it lacked the in person interactions that makes trooping special.

However, with COVID-19 restrictions that are currently being lowered within the United States and conventions starting to open their doors again, the Mandalorian clans are capable of uniting under the same roof once again. For as Bo-Katan said, "Mandalorians are stronger when they are united." Therefore, it is time to check the gauntlets, update the heads up display, and make any needed adjustments to your kit.

Since it has been a year since trooping or events, the "trooping muscles" have not worked out for a bit, so just like getting back into gym season or working out, trooping again will take some getting used to. Nevertheless, it will be like riding a speederbike; once you hit speed, it will be smooth sailing from there.

To prepare for conventions, running a test trial with the kit is imperative to comfort and to making any minor adjustments. A good test fitting prior to that first troop in your kit, allows you to find any spots that are uncomfortable and needing adjustment, in order to make the troop enjoyable. Additionally, hydration is crucial to the safety of your health prior and during any type of convention, so pack your water bottles and snack bags with your favorite treats.

As masks have been mandatory to our everyday outfits for the last year, trooping will be a chance to see everyone's bright smiling faces behind our buckets. However, according to the CDC, it is advisable to continue to wear masks so long as troopers are non-vaccinated. But we can not wait to see your smiling faces again and be able to give everyone a warm heartfelt Mandalorian greeting.

Make sure to stay safe and protect yourself first if you are in need to. Your safety is our first priority so keep trucking and let make our first troop an amazing one! OYA!

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DESIGN BASICS

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

Summer is upon us, and that means it's prime armor crafting season! With so many new recruits looking to join the ranks, I thought I'd take this month and the next to provide a brief primer for the basics of design and planning to help you flesh out your ideas and get started on bringing your creative vision to life.

This month I'll present an overview of the basics of color theory, design essentials, and a handy to-do list for creating your Mandalorian armor concept. Next month I hope to zoom in a bit and do a deep dive on that "secret Star Wars sauce," answering the very important question for any Mandalorian builder - what makes Star Wars look like Star Wars?

But for now, let's look at the big picture and talk about the basics.

THE MANDALORIAN RECIPE

What is a Mando made of? What parts go into a set of Mandalorian armor? Before you start building - or even planning for that matter - you need to know what you need! A basic list of required pieces can be found on the MMCC forums, under costume requirements, [here](#). But to summarize briefly, I'll include a list here of the most important components for making a custom, non-canon Mando:

1. HELMET.
2. FLIGHT SUIT OR UNDER SUIT (ONE OR TWO PIECES, AS LONG AS THE TWO PIECES MATCH MATERIAL AND COLOR SO THAT THEY LOOK LIKE THEY COULD BE ONE PIECE).
3. FLAK VEST (THIS IS WHAT YOU MOUNT YOUR CHEST AND BACK PLATES TO).
4. GIRTH BELT.
5. UTILITY/GUN BELT.
6. GAUNTLETS AND GLOVES.
7. KNEE PLATES, OR "SHINNEES" (COMBINED SHIN AND KNEE PLATES).
8. BOOTS.
9. ARMOR PLATES (CHEST, BELLY, COLLAR, DIAMOND).
10. BACK (EITHER ARMOR PLATING OR A CAPE).
11. WEAPONS.

In addition to the items on this list, you may choose to add other things to your kit, including things like additional plates (thigh, bicep, boot, to name a few), or a jetpack or backpack.

IDEATION

So we know what we need. Now we begin the brainstorming and design phase! Every builder is different, and when it comes to beginning your kit, some people like to spend a lot of time up front in planning and ideation, pinning down exactly what they want the final product to look like - picking out fabrics, colors, and documenting every detail from start to finish.

Others start with little more than a color scheme and a lot of excitement, and start building right away, discovering their vision as they work. There's no right or wrong way to do it, but it is generally helpful to have a finish line in view so you have a direction for your build. With that in mind, there are many ways to go about getting some kind of basic design put together.

Websites like Pinterest are a great resource for collecting ideas and concepts, and a good old fashioned Google Image Search is always good for finding pictures of other Mandos to use as inspiration for your own build.

Figure out what you like, what you don't, and try to decide on a general design concept. Another great way to start to visualize your ideas is to use an online tool like [MandoMaker](#) or [MandoCreator](#) to quickly test color combinations and various design options on a premade template in your web browser. Compare color choices, and various basic armor and accessory configurations until you have an idea of where you want to take your build.



COLORS

But how do you choose colors? How do we know how many colors to use and where to use them? How much is too much? Sometimes it's easy to know what looks good and what doesn't, but why do some colors look better together than others do? How can we improve color choice and placement to get the most out of our design?

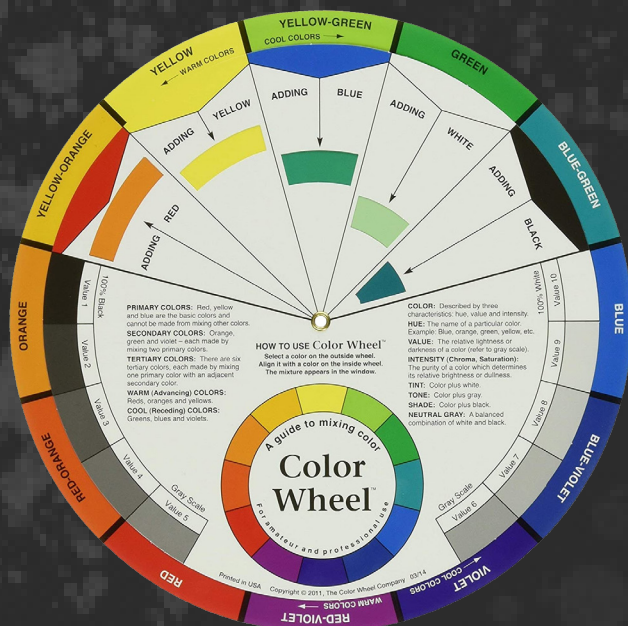
This is where color theory comes in, and while we could spend a whole textbook talking about the ins and outs, let's try to boil it down to the most important core concepts.

First, simplicity and limitation. Like a lot of things in life, the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid) will serve you well in your design endeavors. While using 10 colors on your kit might make you stand out in a crowd, it might not be in a good way. It's very difficult to achieve any sort of visual balance when you use too many colors, so try to keep your design limited to 3 or 4 colors at most, using one or two main colors as your focus, with one or two accent colors sprinkled in to add contrast and visual interest.

Secondly, make sure your two or three colors compliment one another. A good way to know what colors go well together is with a color wheel. The color wheel includes primary colors (red, yellow, blue), secondary colors (a mixture of primary colors; orange, green, and purple), and tertiary colors (colors created by mixing a primary color and a secondary color; citron, russet, buff).

There are several main color schemes recognized by color theorists (complimentary, monochromatic, analogous, etc) and these can provide a helpful set of examples.

The second thing to think about when choosing a set of colors is the tone and temperature. This is Star Wars after all, and bright, primary colors don't really fit. Whatever colors you choose, mute them a bit, desaturate and age them. The Star Wars universe has a "used" look to it, and your colors should reflect that. (We'll dive a little deeper into this next month when we talk about that not-so-secret Star Wars sauce.)



Monochromatic



Monochromatic schemes use a single color, but with variations of tints, shades, and tones of the color.

Analogous



Analogous color schemes use a few related colors—one color is the dominant color, while others support it.

Complementary



In their most basic form, complementary schemes consist of only two contrasting colors (for example, a dominant green color and an accent red color).

COLOR PART II - SYMBOLISM

A final note on color: some Mandalorians choose their armor colors simple as a matter of preference for how the colors look. But others may use color to reflect their personalities, or something from their past or family background.

Non-canonically, there have been a few main colors put forward to represent various virtues that the warrior who chooses that color wishes to exemplify, though there's nothing in official canon so far which would confirm or deny this.

1. Gray - Mourning a Lost Love
2. Red - Honoring a Parent
3. Black - Justice
4. Gold - Vengeance
5. Green - Duty
6. Blue - Reliability
7. Orange - A Lust for Life
8. White - A New Start

Beyond the in-universe color meanings, it's well documented that various colors are commonly associated with various emotions or virtues. These may vary from culture to culture, but just to give a few examples from my own experience, people often think of Red as Anger, passion, love, or heat. Blue is reminiscent of water, or metal - cold, resilient, strong. Yellow can be seen as a bright and joyful color, or as a warning. White is often associated with purity, or newness, while Green is earthy, loyal, and often signifies growth.

Whether you choose your colors for looks, meaning, or both, hopefully this quick rundown has been helpful!

Next month we'll jump into design basics part II and take a look at the Star Wars universe and what we can learn from the movies and shows about what makes something feel like Star Wars. Then we'll discuss how to apply that secret sauce to our own builds, and make sure that our Mandos believably fit the universe they live in. Until next time, happy crafting!



**FAMILY
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MANDALORIANMERCS.ORG

MEET THE BRIGADES MARSHAL

-ARTICLE BY: BRYN CIN'PRUDII & RU'STOR RAWR

And now for an interview with our own Field Operations Division Marshal, S'Keara Charev!

BATTLECRY: tell us a little about yourself, what brought you to the Mercs?

S'Keara Charev: I think the thing that brought me to the Mercs was truly, how nice everybody was... I went to the convention met all the other groups and while they were lovely, the Mercs were so friendly, so welcoming and at the time I was orthodox in my religion and the acceptance was really a big thing for me. That and the fact I had always loved Mandalorians so that was also a huge draw.

BATTLECRY: How did you learn about the Mercs and When did you become OM ?

S'Keara Charev: I learned about the Mercs March 2017, and was an OM by June 30 of 2017. I became a Brigade Member (acquisition operative) in the beginning of October 2017, and Division Captain of Striker January 1, 2018. I upgraded my kit to have Hazardous Environment specialist, I believe in fall of 2018 and became Marshall that year as well. (I believe)

BATTLECRY: The Brigades team member is a pretty sought after appointment, How did get involved with the Brigades ?

S'Keara Charev: From the moment that I found out about the Mercs, I saw the Brigade section and knew I wanted to upgrade for that. At the time I thought I wanted to go the Assassin route, but after becoming official I fell in love with acquisitions. I had worked hand-in-hand with the Marshall, really had developed a great relationship and the moment the captain position became available... I applied ! I was thinking that it would be an amazing thing and I was more right than I knew...,as being on the Brigade Team has been one of the most amazing things ever!

BATTLECRY: The job of Brigade Marshall is not an easy one, with all the professions you have and the WIPS currently active, how do you balance your time?

S'Keara Charev: It's actually pretty hard I have a very labour-intensive job, and that takes up about 12 hours on average per day so I typically get up early around 4 am, review the boards around five and then encourage people to send me a PM if they have any pressing questions that need to be answered on the fly.

BATTLECRY: What is the one piece of advice that you find yourself always giving future Brigade members?



S'Keara Charev: Read the Brls completely and ask as many questions as possible! We try to write them as best as we can but I always encourage people to ask questions! It's never a bother, it's never a burden that's what we're here to do... We are here to serve the potential members and current members by helping thNlem with whatever questions they have.

BATTLECRY: do you have a favorite build that you have seen come through in Field ops? (no names needed)

S'Keara Charev: Well, that is a really hard question there is some really awesome ones that have come through and it just seems like the game is being stepped up with every applicant... I find that so many people are coming up with amazing new things, great designs, beautiful work.... So I've seen some truly stunning ones and it would be really hard to pick a favourite because I can think of at least ten That have really blown me away. But that being said I think the big thing that I love is seeing people be creative, I love when people are faced with a question or something that their thinking might be an obstacle and they overcome it and do beautiful work! It's amazing to see that in an honour to be part of the process.

BATTLECRY: What is your favorite thing about the Star Wars community ?

S'Keara Charev: I think my favourite thing would have to be the diversity. There are so many different types of people, different cultures, different religions, different mindsets so I think it's amazing that we all come from such different walks of life and have a Star Wars as a unifying force.

BATTLECRY: What are your future plans within the Mercs, any new builds planned, or positions you would like to pursue ?

S'Keara Charev: As far as positions, right now I'm a Tribunal Magister and also Brigade Marshall. And for now I don't have any more time to seek other positions as I want to make sure I can devote the attention I need to my current positions...

I am working with a group in a particular region to help get a stronghold started. Truly they are doing all the work I'm just offering a little advice here and there but I would really love to see that stronghold get up and running! It would be a dream come true!

As far as the new build, I am in the middle of building a Canon character and hoping to have it finished and approved by middle of June 2021. It has definitely been a challenge, as it is not easy to do a Canon character nor has this character been done before, so it's a process. But I am so very excited to see the light at the end of the tunnel!!



BESKAR SPEARS

-ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

I have to be honest. When I was watching Season two of the mandalorian, and Morgan Elsbeth busted out that beskar spear and then took on Ahsoka Tano like something out of a Kurosawa film. I was astounded. Then, Din Djarin took on Moff Gideon with that same spear. That was the coolest thing that I'd seen in quite some time. Not to mention, that the spear looked really cool slung alongside Din's jet pack. Yeah, I wanted a beskar spear for my kit. And I wanted one really bad. Since the end of season two, there have been several internet shops that are offering "beskar" spears made from aluminum. Cool, Right? Yep, Very cool.

A couple of things to consider before sending your hard earned cash into the internet void, however.

First of all, "beskar" spears made from aluminum (or any other metal for that matter) are not approvable for trooping.

App Team - "On aluminum Beskar Spears. Safety, of not only our members but the public, is always a concern. In the past, we have prohibited metal bladed weapons from being approvable. We do this because even blunt, a metal blade is a knife. It's a real weapon. With that precedent set, an aluminum spear is also a real weapon, and will not be approvable."

No matter how cool the spear is, you just can't troop with a metal spear.

Secondly, most (if not all) conventions do not allow metal weapons on the convention floor. So, you wouldn't be able to even troop with a metal spear in an unofficial capacity either.

So, in conclusion, if you want an aluminum "beskar" spear to hang on your wall and to look awesome, go ahead and order one. But, if you want to troop with a spear, figure out how to build it out of plastic.



(IMAGE CREDIT: LUCASFILM LTD)

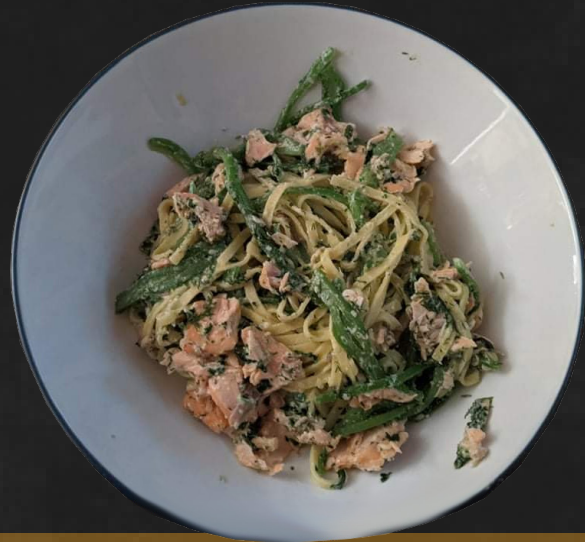
THE BESKAR CHEF

SALMON, RUNNER BEAN & HERB LINGUINE

INGREDIENTS

(SERVES 4)

2 Salmon fillets
2 Garlic Cloves, crushed
25g Dill, finely chopped
25g flat leaf parsley, finely chopped
200g runner beans, sliced diagonally
500g fresh linguine
3tbsp crème fraiche
25g parmesan, grated
Zest of 1 lemon
Olive oil
Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Place the salmon in a roasting dish and bake for 15 minutes
2. Remove the salmon from the oven and take off the skin, set aside
3. Bring a large pan of water to the boil, add a pinch of salt and the linguine. Cook for 3 minutes and then add the sliced runner beans to the pan and cook for a further 2 minutes
4. Drain the linguine and beans and transfer back to the pan. Coat with a generous serving of olive oil
5. In a frying pan, place a glug of olive oil, crushed garlic and lemon zest, cook on a low heat for 2 minutes, making sure not to burn the garlic. Add this to the linguine
6. Flake the cooked salmon into the pasta and add the herbs, crème fraiche and parmesan. Season to taste and mix well

Thanks to Tak'ur of Vok'chi Clan for this excellent recipe!

GOT A RECIPE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? SEND IT TO PR@MANDALORIANMERCSCOM

MANDO CROSSWORD



Across

2. What container was used to store Din's Beskar payment?
5. What ancestral weapon confers/legitimizes leadership of the Mandalorian people?
9. What was found inside of the Krayt dragon that Din defeated?
10. A frigid planet of snow and ice that is inhabited by Wampa and Tauntaun?
12. A Mandalorian's favorite way to secure his prisoner for transport?
14. How old is Grogu?
15. What holographic proof did Boba Fett provide to Din Djarin, to validate his claim to his armor?
17. Who is quoted for saying "I Have Spoken."?
18. Alloy used by the Mandalorian people and coveted for its strength and resistance to lightsabers?
19. What is the head of a local MMCC clan called?

Down

1. What tracking device do bounty hunters use to track their bounties with?
3. What city location was the MMCC's first Star Wars Celebration appearance in August 2010?
4. What is the title of the recognized leader of all Mandalorians?
6. Who is the oldest clone?
7. A gesture of Mandalorian endearment.
8. What healing ointment is used to treat wounds very quickly?
11. What is the Mando'a word for bucket or helmet?
13. First clan of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club founded in April 2007?
16. The Bounty Hunter Guild in the Mandalorian is based off which planet?
18. What creature does Din Djarin learn to ride on Arvala-7?

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