

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

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DIZ GETAL - RAYNOS - HOLIDAYS AS A MANDO - CERRAR - TOOLS OF THE TRADE

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**BATTLECRY IS THE MERCS
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
WHICH IS RELEASED
MONTHLY TO THE WORLD
EXCLUSIVELY ON THE
MERCS HOLONET.**

**ARMOR TIPS, INTERVIEWS,
FEATURES ON MEMBERS,
CONVENTIONS, AND SO
MUCH MORE!**

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Hello vode of the MMCC! I'm Diz Ge'tal, and I'm one of the editors here at BattleCry. With 2023 just over the horizon, I thought that I would take this opportunity to introduce you to a new feature that we would like to try in the coming year. A feature that I like to call "Under the Bucket."

As a part of this feature, we invite you, the Official Members of the MMCC to tell us your stories from "Under the Bucket." Those experiences that have made all of the time and effort to build your kits and to get them approved worth it. What troops are special to you and why? What are those experiences that will always stick with you?

I have an experience that has stayed with me for several years.

We have a troop that is pretty popular with the Star Wars groups. Our local Zoo does an event every summer that they call "Zoo Nights." On that night, the Zoo opens up, after hours, for the families of children with special needs. As a part of this event, they invite the local cosplay groups to help make the night extra special for the kids and their families.

At the end of the night, the Zoo allows us to make our way down the hill to the carousel, where the kids can ride with the Star Wars cosplayers. They do ask us to remove our buckets when we go down there so that we don't cause the animals any additional stress.

Well, this was my first troop at Zoo Nights and after riding the carousel, I was making my way back up the hill to head home. I was bone tired and was looking forward to kitting down.

Well, as I was walking, I felt a tug on my kama and when I turned around, I found that I was facing a little guy who was probably around 8-years-old and who was sporting a huge grin.

I was quickly told, by his mom, that he was non-verbal, but that he wanted to show me his shoes. I knelt down, as best I could, and he showed me his Boba Fett sneakers.

I have to admit, those shoes were pretty cool and he was so excited to show them to a "real" mando.

Well, I put my Bucket on and told him all about what it was like to be a mando, and his smile only grew as we talked, me with my voice and him, with his face. Then we took some pictures, and I gave him one of my newly printed trading cards.

After saying goodbye to the little guy and to his parents, I completed my walk up the hill with my bucket on, so that no one would see my tears.

Now it's your turn. If you have an experience while Under the Bucket that you would like to share with the rest of the club, PM me your stories at forum name mporter, and I'll get them out to the club.



Diz Ge'tal

GETTING TO KNOW APP TEAM COMMS DIRECTOR: **RAYNOS**

-ARTICLE BY: RU'STOR RAWR

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

RAYNOS: I met the Clan Murraan of the MMCC at a Texas Rangers Baseball Star Wars night in 2016, I started building shortly after and was approved shortly before Celebration Orlando 2017.

BATTLECRY: Tell us a little about yourself, What defines you outside of the Mercs?

RAYNOS: Outside of the mercs, I am an average guy. I work for a family business so integrity and trustworthiness are important to keeping customers happy. Integrity, honesty, and strength of character define me. Ultimately, I think my biggest strength is learning from my failures and mistakes to improve a process.

BATTLECRY: The job of Approval Team Comms Director is something not many know existed within the club. Tell us about your role. WHAT IS IT YOU DO HERE?

RAYNOS: As The Communication Director, I help train, and oversee members of the app team that are responsible for sending out the approvals, and fix lists for applicants, as a director I serve under the PERSO and alongside the CRL, Voting, QnA, Ruusol Directors, the Brigade Marshal, and the App Team XO. As a coordinated and united front, we clearly communicate what is expected from the app team in regard to fixes, and procedure that the app team is expected to operate under when we judge applicants against the CRL's

BATTLECRY: Can you let us behind the curtain for a minute and tell us how the App team works?

RAYNOS: The App team consists of subteams working together under the guidance of the Perso and the App team leads. There is a system of checks and balances internally that every kit undergoes to ensure there is no personal bias or misunderstanding of CRL interpretations. (or as few as can be possible, no one is perfect) The average app usually gets submitted without proper image links, Imgur needs .jpg at the end of most of the direct links to work. From there they get assigned by the voting director or me to one of the subteams.

All in all the entire system works very smoothly barring the occasional email hiccup, looking at you Hotmail.

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

RAYNOS: Ask questions, ask questions, ASK QUESTIONS. You are better to ask questions when you do not understand something, rather than assuming and spending time, money, and resources making something, and it be wrong or misunderstood.

Please for the love of Mandalore... ask your ruus and your clan and the club questions when you are building

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

RAYNOS: The community has a way of coming together when it is time for the rubber to meet the road. I have found people who are willing to go out of their way to make sure members of this community do not go without in times of need.

BATTLECRY: What are your future plans within the Mercs, any new builds planned, or projects you want to pursue (Any secret things you can share with our readers)?

RAYNOS: I have aspirations to one day serve as Regional Commander for the South Central Region of the MMCC, if that goes well, maybe one day the ICC if the club feels like I would be a good fit, as for projects, I have a PI build that I have been working on, and a personal helmet I designed that I got approved during the covid years that I need to make a physical reality. The only secret I can share, be on the lookout, as the future of star wars expands, so to does the sandbox we play in here in the MMCC with the CRLs. Lastly, I plan to get a Darth Revan approved for joining the Dark Empire and maybe work with my local Saber Guild to work out a way to use that costume there as well.

BATTLECRY: Blaster or Melee Weapon?

RAYNOS: Solid blaster, I have a personal favorite a custom mod of the E-22, I made it into a short barrel config and it works well with my frame and movement needs

BATTLECRY: Favorite Ship?

RAYNOS: Venator Class Republic Attack Frigate. I based my personal sigil around that design and the accent plates on my current chest armor were loosely based around that ship.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Character?

RAYNOS: Outside of Boba Fett, probably Scorch from Republic Commando also my dual legion-approved costume for the 501st and the Rebel Legion.



HOLIDAYS AS A MANDO

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

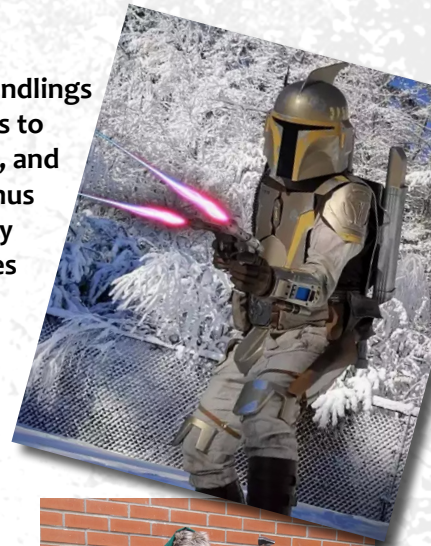
Throughout the year, holidays come and go. However, there are certain holidays that draw more attention than others to the Mando Mercs. One such holiday is Halloween. As people dress up in costumes with varying levels of success, members of the MMCC can often be found trooping more so in October. Of course, with the opportunity for more troops, comes the inevitable question: “Whoa! Cool armor! Where did you get it? How can I make some?”

Now, members of the MMCC have sourced their kits from all different places. Whether it’s something they’ve built from Sintra themselves or ordered from a reputable vendor, it allows members to share about the MMCC and why we do what we do. A common source of involvement in our communities is an event called “Boo at the Zoo”. Clans such as Naast Clan and Beskar Gett’s Clan participate in such events, helping their local community to have the most fun they possibly can.

Members will interact with children of all ages and hand out candy to the foundlings (who we might add, have excellent disguises). Additionally, it allows official members to interact with adults who may have an undying love for Star Wars or the Mandalorian, and get them in touch with the correct resources to get them starting on their own kit, thus helping answer the question of “how can I make my own armor?” Although not every Clan may have a “Boo at the Zoo” event to attend, there are likely other opportunities within the local community that would be able to benefit from a Mando invasion. Sometimes, celebrating the holiday can even be as simple as lighting the bucket-o-lanterns for Halloween night. Those who are able to carve Mando helmets into pumpkins truly have a gift for the creative!

Past Halloween, there are still plenty of options for the holidays. No matter what you celebrate, there are bound to be events filled with cheer! Bright lights and holiday hats adorned the kits of Taakure Clan, who have gotten the chance to participate in things like a parade to support a children’s home. Official members of Naast Clan had the chance to participate in the Children’s Health Care of Atlanta Christmas parade.

No matter what you celebrate around the holidays, there are always chances within your very own community to help others and truly “costume for a cause”. In this season of generosity and charitable acts, members of the MMCC have truly the best gift of all: their time. We are able to help out and make this the most memorable holiday season yet. Til next time!



A stylized illustration of a person's head and shoulders in profile, facing right. The person has dark skin and is wearing a white garment. The background is dark with a pattern of yellow and orange dots, resembling a starry night sky or a textured surface.



**JOIN
TODAY!**

CLAN SPOTLIGHT: CERAR CLAN

-ARTICLE BY: PARJII SAVIIN

This month's Clan Spotlight is staring none other than the 29th Chapter: Cerar Clan of Colorado! Upon Interviewing a former Alor'ad and Ver'alor, and the current Regional Commander of the North Central Region, Desago, was able to provide insight and a snapshot of the clan and its rich history. Cerar Clan was established as a stronghold in early 2009 then later achieved clan status on August 29th, 2010 with five Clan members. In that time, only five members were needed to establish clan status. Cerar was originally named by the local 501st and Rebel Legion community in give homage to the Mountain Garrison and Mountain Base as Cerar is Mando'a for "mountain." The newest clan logo was voted on by the entire clan to replace its former sigil: a Mythosaur skull with ram horns to a profile view of the Mythosaur Skull with tusks.



As of October 2022, Cerar clan has roughly 45 members on their roster with 47 approved kits, including members from Colorado and Wyoming. Despite the two states not being in the same region due to regional restructuring, the clan has continued to cover the two states and bonded the two areas forming one larger family. In the earlier days of the Club, Cerar Clan was originally a part of the Central Region, but as the club started to expand, they were later placed within the North Central Region, only be be relocated to the South Central Region with the restructuring, where all original Central Region clans reside. Despite the shifting of the regions, the clan stayed strong and continues to thrive within the region.

As Cerar Clan is a larger clan, you can expect to see Cerar Clan representation at several events each month where they co-troop with their fellow 501st and Rebel Legion brothers. One can say that the three clubs in Colorado and Wyoming have a phenomenal trooping relationship where they bring smiles to the faces of children and adults alike.

Cerar Clan continues to be very busy with troops and in helping out their community.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE: HELMETS

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

Buy'ce (pronounced "BOO-chay" or "BOO-shay") - Mando'a word for helmet.

Nothing makes a Mandalorian more instantly recognizable than that iconic T-visored helmet. There's something imposing about that dark T, and there's certainly a sense of mystery and invulnerability that comes with wearing one.

It's no wonder so many first time armor crafters begin their build with the "bucket", and why it's so often the focal point of a kit's design.

With the helmet being such a central piece of any kit, let's take a minute this month and talk about that.

CONSTRUCTION METHODS

In the early days of Star Wars costuming, build method and material options were pretty limited, but these days we have decades of combined experience and knowledge we can pull from, and that means there are far more and better options available to us when it comes to armor crafting.

Of course, more options available sometimes means a harder choice!

Speaking of helmets specifically, there are three main options open to armor crafters looking to build a kit: scratch built, resin cast, and 3D printed.

Scratch built buckets are just what they sound like - built from scratch! I built my first three helmets using Pepakura (paper craft) templates strengthened with automotive body filler, resin, and fiberglass. While probably the most time consuming, this method can also be one of the most cost effective. I got all the necessary materials for my most recent build from Walmart for under \$80.

Resin cast helmet pulls can be purchased from a variety of places online, and are usually sold in various levels of finish and quality. For example, a "b-pull" refers to a slightly lower quality cast than the maker is happy with. A b-pull will have some imperfections or slight warping and will require a little more love to get it ready to be painted and worn. Similarly, some vendors offer their helmets as raw pulls (straight out of the mold), or in a slightly cleaner "ready for paint" state, with all basic trimming done and the rough edges smoothed and sanded.

Resin cast helmets are considerably more affordable than they used to be, and are often a great option for beginners.

Lastly (and perhaps one of the most popular options right now) is 3D printing.

3D printed helmets are often printed in sections and assembled, and can be rather brittle if not properly strengthened with resin and fiberglass, or some similar method.

3D prints also require quite a bit of filling and sanding to remove all the print lines and be smoothed to a good finish (check the Tools of the Trade section from the May 2021 issue of Battlecry for a 3D print finishing guide!).



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

So you've got your helmet - scratch built, resin cast, or 3d printed - but it's just a shell. Now, we make it functional.

Padding is a good first step and the place I always start. Once it's all padded and you've ensured a comfortable and solid fit, then you know how much room you have for other accessories.

You can buy helmet pads online, and there are many types available. My go-to is usually a set of assorted airsoft helmet pads from amazon. Since these come in various shapes and sizes, they allow me to place and reposition the different kinds of pads in my helmet however I want until I find the right fit.

Once you know how many and where your padding goes, you can see how much space you have inside your helmet for other things, like fans, hearing aids, microphones, etc.

Personally, I have a bluetooth microphone mounted in my bucket which connects wirelessly to the voice amp I carry on my belt, and a small hearing amplification device mounted in my opposite earcap. These allow me better awareness and communication, and make it easier for me to interact with others while wearing my bucket.

A lot of troopers find that helmet fans are a must have, especially anyone trooping outdoors in warmer climates during the summer months. Small CPU fans and the needed wiring and small battery packs can be found on Amazon and are very simple to wire up and install. Alternatively, check out Etsy and the MMCC Trading Post section of the forums for vendors who sell helmet fan kits pre-wired and ready to install.

Most troopers I know who employ fans recommend using two or three if possible, with at least one pointed towards the visor to prevent your breath fogging it up and blinding you.

THERE ARE MANY LIKE IT, BUT THIS ONE IS MINE

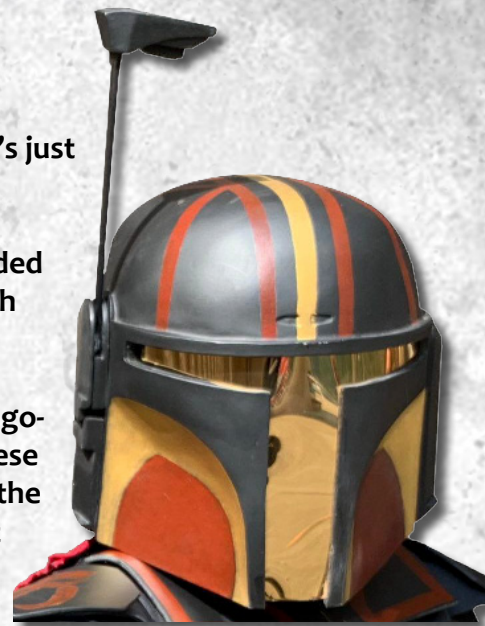
So you have your shell, you have your padding and interior accessories. Now it's time to take a look at the outside and really make this generic t-visor your own.

While all Mandalorian helmets have some basic characteristics (t-visor, deep inset cheeks, angled jawline, earcaps, etc) there are so many ways to make yours unique.

But first - a disclaimer. As with every aspect of the design and build process, don't forget to work with your local clan or stronghold (Ruus'alor and Ruus'sol especially!) and consult the CRLs often to make sure that your kit will be the best it can be and will meet club costume standards. Your officers are here to help, and if you have any questions or doubts about your ideas being approvable, don't hesitate to reach out!

That aside, the first and most obvious way I can think of to make your helmet your own is through your paint job. A unique paint scheme and pattern can turn the most generic bucket into something wonderfully different and completely yours.

If you'd like a brief look at design tips and tricks, check out the July and August 2021 issues of Battlecry for a rundown of the basics and a look at how to make sure your design feels like it fits in the Star Wars universe.





But let's look beyond the paint job. Another very simple way to make your helmet unique is by changing your visor. While the basic shape will always be the same, there are ways to change things up a bit, especially if you scratch build your bucket. Of course keeping the CRLs in mind always, consider changing the angle of your vertical and horizontal portions of the visor, drawing it in slightly towards the bottom, or narrowing the outer ends.

Perhaps change your visor tint from the standard black to a color that compliments your paint scheme.

Check out the Tools of the Trade section of the November 2021 issue of Battlecry for a rundown of all the visor basics.

What else do we have to work with when it comes to helmet customization? Ear caps are another area that are an easy place to add something unique to your helmet.

The range finder is sort of the standard when we look at Boba and Jango Fett, and Din Djarin's ears are very simple caps. But there are so many more options to consider. While there's nothing wrong with a rangefinder, or just a simple cap, let's think outside the box for a moment.

On my own helmet, I've chosen to keep one side very simple, and on the other, I've created some communications equipment. Antennas, wires, and a "tuning dial" sort of greeble give the illusion of some kind of radio system.

On another helmet I built for a recruit, again I left one side very simple, and on the other I added a box and some small LEDs to simulate some kind of life support or weapons system indicator.

Some of my favorite ideas have come from just sticking random bits of junk on the side of a helmet in different configurations and positions until I find something that feels like it fits.

Perhaps you should consider adding some small weapons system, or a light. Try some little rockets, or a small penlight mounted to one of the ears. The options are truly endless.

Another element I added to my own bucket is a recon style visor that sits over my eyes, kind of inspired by Commander Cody and helmets similar to his.

This was a very simple 10 minute addition to my scratch build and is nothing more than a few pieces of sintra and some bondo glued on to my otherwise very standard bucket. It breaks up the basic Boba helmet silhouette a bit and does double duty by providing some extra shielding for my eyes from the sun during outdoor troops.

Personally, I think the buy'ce is one of the most fun parts of any build, and I always look forward to seeing what creative ways others have found to personalize and customize their helmets.

I'm sure there are a million other ways to change things up and make your helmet unique to you and recognizable as your own, but hopefully this has given you some ideas and places to begin. Whether you're a first time crafter, or thinking about starting your 3rd or 4th kit, there's always room for another bucket in the halls of Mandalore's great hall.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, HAPPY CRAFTING!

