

VADER'S VAULT



ACOLYTE KIT



MYNOCK'S DEN

Acolyte Armor Kit Assembly Guide



Thank you for purchasing the *Mynock's Den Collection Acolyte Armor Kit* by Vader's Vault. This guide will help you assemble your new kit, so be sure to keep it close at hand while you work.

There are lots of components in this kit, so take the time familiarize yourself with the "Acolyte Armor Kit Parts List" below. Please note however, that if it's not listed or shown in the parts list, it's not included. Mounting hardware, consumables, and soft costume components such as shirt, pants, robe, gloves, shoes, balaclava, neck seal etc. are available from other retailers, and are not included with this kit.

Helmet is not included, but can be purchased separately from Mynock's Den.

The "Recommended Tools and Materials" section specifies which tools, materials and consumables we feel would be most useful to you in completing this kit, however these items are not included; they can be easily sourced online or at your local hardware retailer.

Note that this guide does not include painting instructions. Paint types, colours and techniques are left to the discretion of the buyer.

Lastly, please keep in mind that this guide shows you one of many possible ways to assemble this type of armor. It is by no means the only way! If you have another way of doing something, feel free to do what works best for you!

And on that note, the galaxy anxiously awaits its new warrior. So, get building! :)

Acolyte Armor Kit Parts List (64 pieces)



Pauldrons



Upper Bracers



Chest Plate



Upper Bracer Rockets



Elbow Plates



Upper Bracer (2)/
Thigh (2)
Dummy Clasps



Lower Bracers



Hand Plates



Hand Griebles



Foam Claws



Knuckle Plates



Thumb Plates



Belt



Belt Pouches



Belt Canister



Cod Plate



Thigh Plates (Front)



Front Thigh Griebles



Thigh Plates (Rear)



Shin Plates



Shin Plate Dummy Claps (2L, 2R)



Calf Plates



Complete Foot Set

Recommended Tools and Materials



Utility knife



Heavy duty leather shears



Belt sander



Rotary tool



Hot glue gun with glue sticks



Scissors



10 or 15 lb capacity industrial strength, sticky back velcro



Sew-on velcro



1" Elastic strap



Quick-setting superglue



Bonding Cement designed for ABS plastic



Webbing belt with a quick release buckle



220 grit
sandpaper

Trimming the Plastic Parts

The ABS plastic parts of your Acolyte kit come untrimmed, and you will need to cut them out. Most parts will be outlined with a trim line as shown below.



For best results, cut the part out roughly using shears or a utility knife.



Tackle the remaining flashing using a belt sander and/or a rotary tool. Clean up the edges using 220 grit sandpaper.

You can also use the tip of the utility knife to mark “break lines” on the plastic; these lines will make it easy to snap excess plastic off without needing to actually cut through it. Be very careful doing this, however, as the knife can slip and damage the part beyond the area you wanted to mark!

Pauldrons

Cut the pauldrons out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander and sand paper. Cut a 4" piece of the fuzzy side ("loop" side) of industrial sticky-back velcro, and stick them to the inside of the pauldrons. You will need to sew a piece of hook-side fabric velcro of similar size to the shoulders of a shirt of your choice, which will allow the pauldrons to sit on top of your shoulders without sliding off.

Note: When attaching velcro to the inner pieces of armor, always use the soft, loop side facing the clothing. Using the coarse side runs the risk of snagging and damaging the clothing underneath.



Chest Plate

Cut the chest plate out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander, rotary tool, and sand paper. Cut two 4" pieces of industrial sticky-back velcro loop, and stick them to the inside of the chest plate at the bottom. This part will be making contact with the COD plate, securing it in place. Attach two pieces of velcro in the collarbone area at the top. You will need to sew two pieces of hook-side fabric velcro of similar size to the chest of a shirt of your choice, which will secure the chest plate in place and prevent it from sliding around while wearing. The ABS chest plate is very light so no additional strapping should be necessary to keep it in place. However, there is an indentation on each side (circled in red) where you may choose to cut openings for an elastic strap (not included) should you choose to install one.



Elbow Plates



Cut each elbow plate out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander and sand paper.

Glue an elastic strap (not included) down to the inside with superglue.



Affix a strip of sticky-back industrial velcro loop over the joint. This will help secure the elastic band in place. You may choose to eliminate the strap entirely and use only velcro; this will require you to sew a corresponding patch of hook velcro to the elbows of your shirt.

Bracers

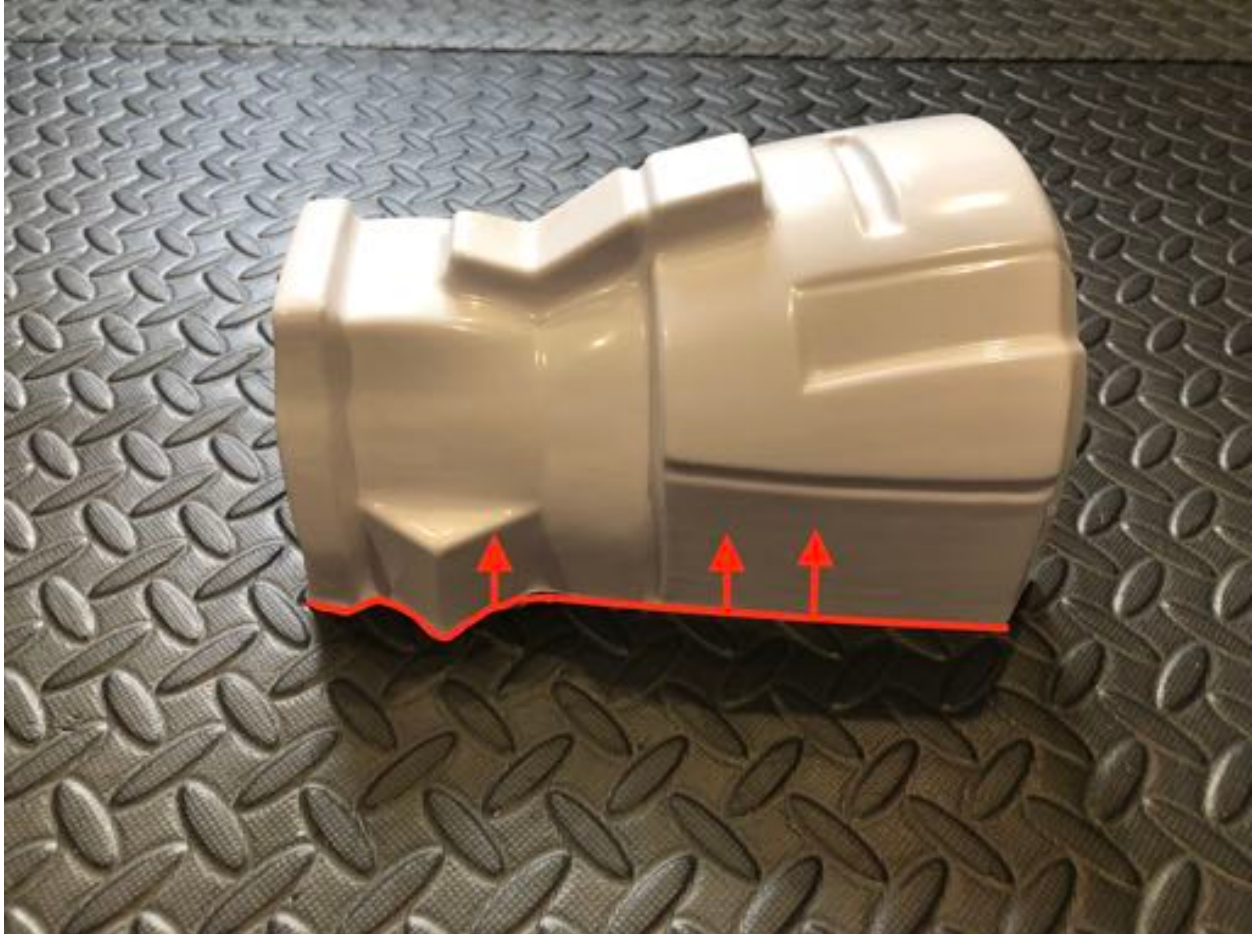
Cut the upper bracers out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander, rotary tool and sand paper.



The lower bracers do not have a bottom trim line; trim the flashing off just above the point where the plastic begins to curve outward (along the red line shown), so that the trimmed piece can sit flat on the table.



Depending on the size of your forearms, you may need to trim the sides of the lower bracers further to make them fit. You will know whether you need to do this once you've assembled the two halves and test fit them to yourself. If the bracers are too loose, move the trim line up as shown below.



Trim the front and back of the lower bracers as shown below.



Superglue the 3D printed rocket and resin dummy clasp onto the upper bracer as shown below. Superglue bonds resin to ABS plastic really well, so you shouldn't need to do anything else. However, if you choose you can drill a few pilot holes into both pieces and add some small screws for extra support from the inside (not shown).



Attach a few strips of velcro to both halves as shown below, using hook on one half and loop on the other.



Connect both halves for a finished bracer assembly. Repeat this process to complete the second bracer.

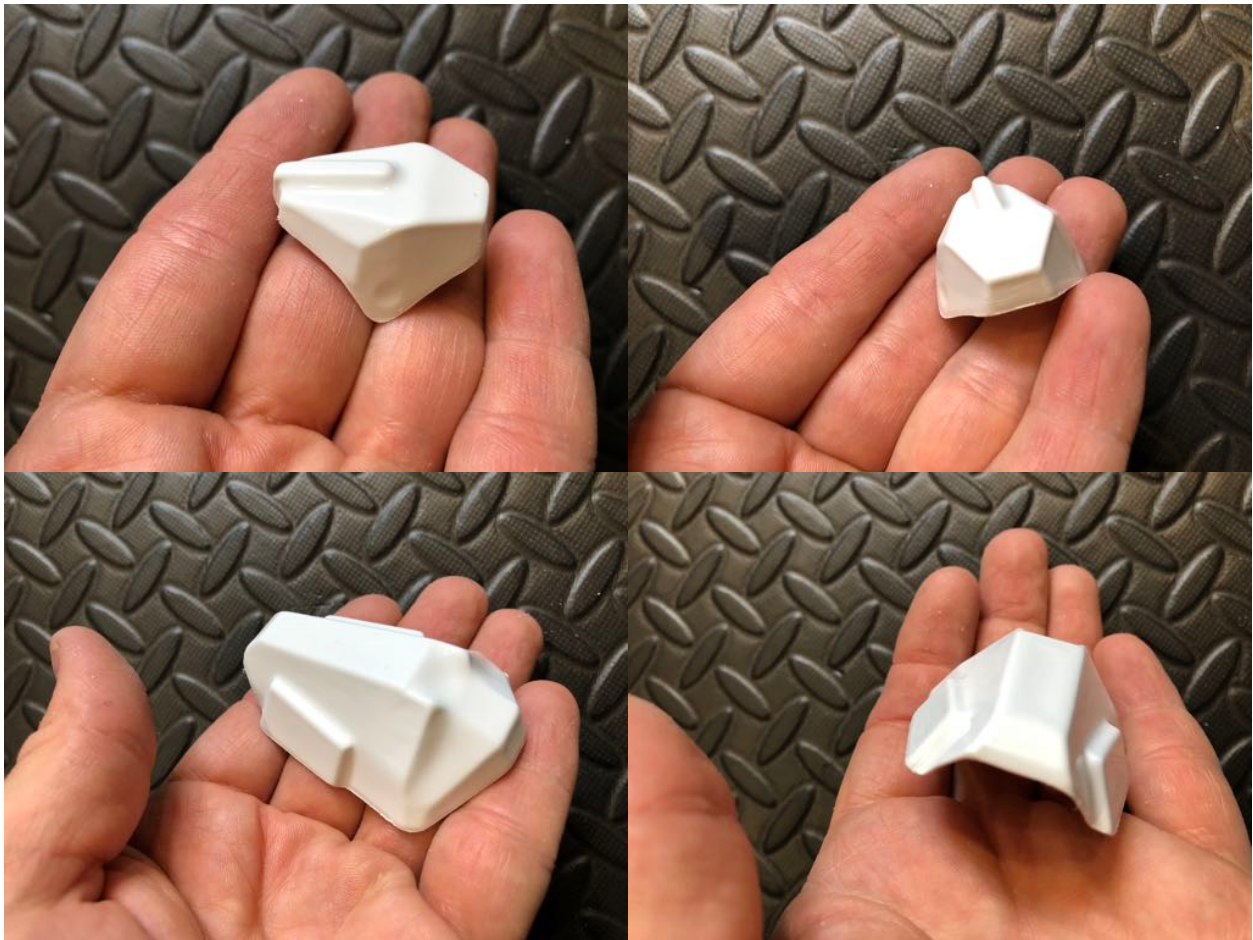


Hand Plates

Cut each hand plate out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander and sand paper. Superglue the resin hand plate greeblie and the foam claws to the ABS plate as shown below.



Using a rotary tool, trim the knuckle and thumb plates as shown below.



Hot glue the hand plate, knuckles and thumb plate to gloves of your choosing to complete the hand assembly.

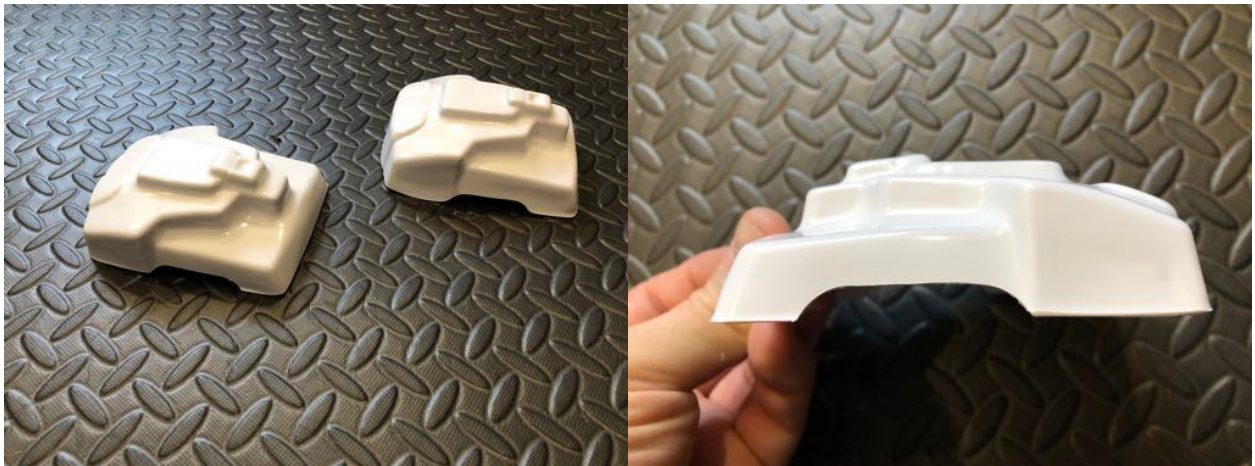


Belt and Pouches

Given the relatively short height of the mold and the resulting shallowness of the part, there is no trim line around the belt. Trim the sides of the belt until it is thin enough to bend. This is best done by laying it flat on a belt sander.



There is also no trim line around the belt pouches; trim the flashing along the edge until there is no outward curling of plastic. Using a rotary tool, cut into the sides of the pouch like shown below until the opening is wide enough to fit over the plastic belt.

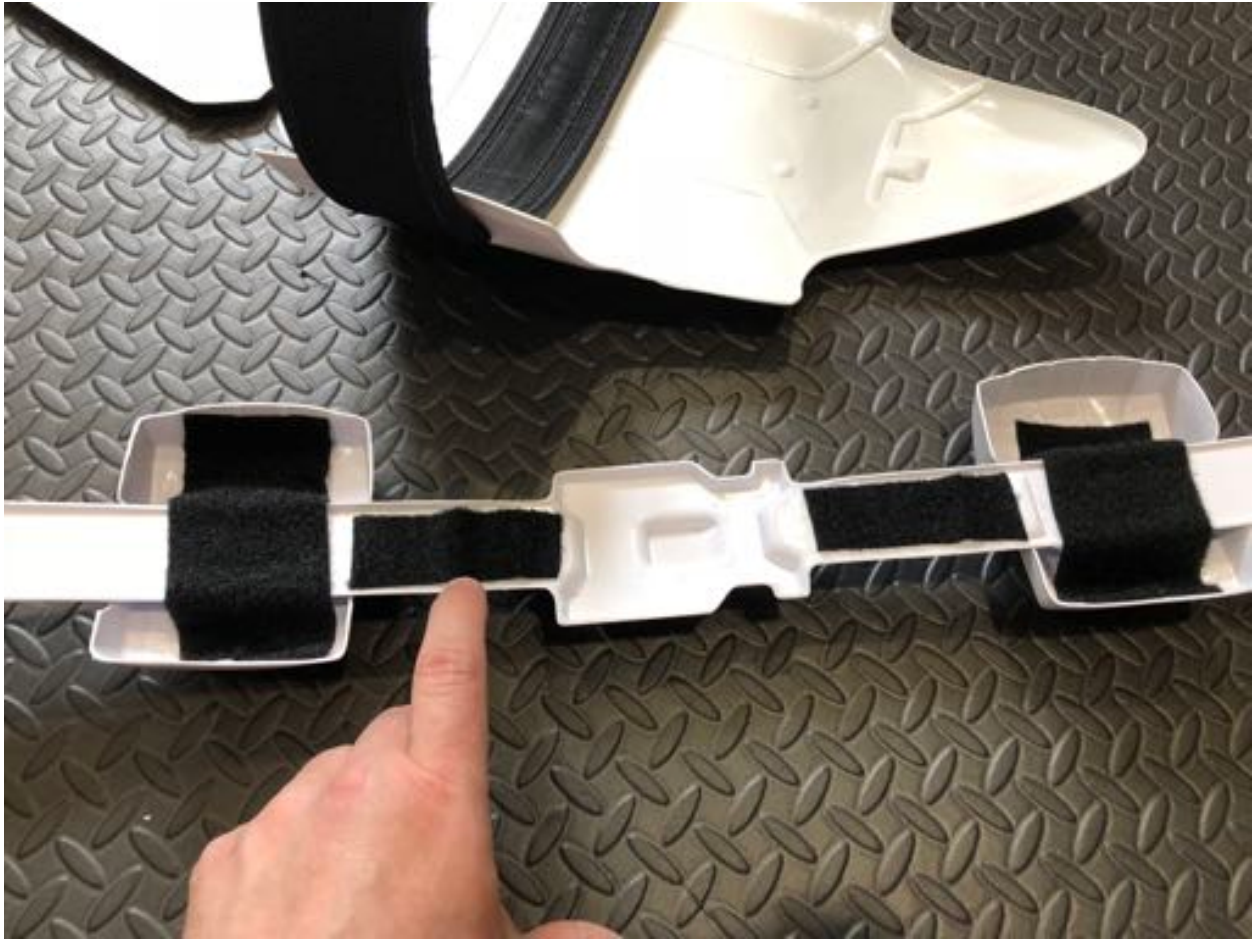




Secure the pouch to the belt by “taping” it down with a strip of sticky-back industrial velcro.



Apply two loop-side strips of sticky-back velcro inside the belt on either side of the buckle. These will be the contact points where the belt will connect to the COD plate.



COD Plate



Cut the COD plate out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander, rotary tool and sand paper.

Cut out the belt slits as shown below with a rotary tool, and smooth the edges with sand paper.



Fit a web-belt (not included) through the slits so that the buckle is facing towards the wearer's back.





Attach two pieces of hook velcro to the front of the COD plate in spots corresponding to those on the plastic belt.

Press the plastic belt against the COD plate firmly so that the velcro strips lock together.



At this point the ends of the plastic white belt will stick out a bit. Cut a strip of loop sticky-back velcro, and wrap it around both the plastic and web belt, which will effectively “tape” them together.





Attach the 3D printed canister to the end of the white plastic belt using velcro. If you received a heavier resin canister with your kit, you might need to screw the canister to the white belt for added security.





Refer to the placement of velcro patches inside the chest plate from a previous step, and affix appropriate velcro strips in corresponding locations on the COD plate.

This will keep the COD and chest pieces aligned and prevent them from sliding as you move around.



Thigh Plates

Cut the front thigh plates out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander, rotary tool sand paper.



Glue the front thigh griebliies in place as shown in the photos below using ABS contact cement. You may also use superglue, however you first need to rough up the contact surfaces of both pieces with sandpaper to improve adhesion.



Superglue the resin dummy clasp onto the front thigh plate as shown below. If you choose you may secure this with a short screw from the inside for extra support.



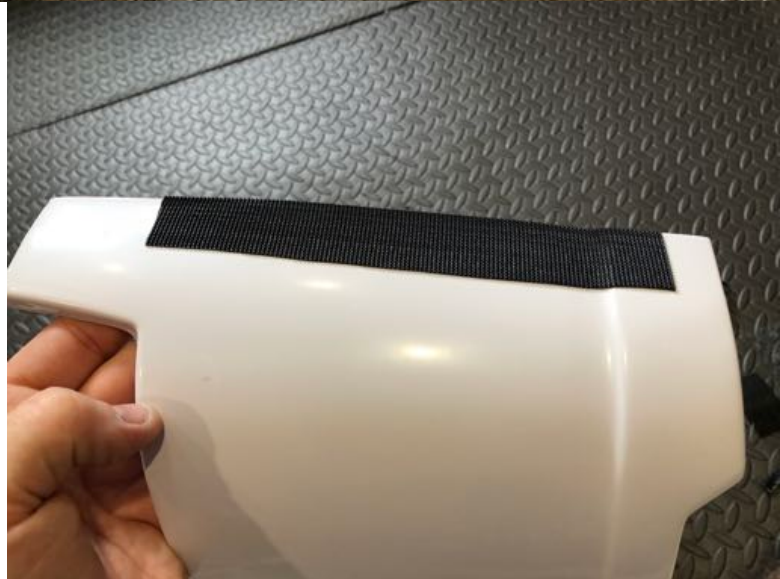
Apply a strip of loop sticky-back velcro to the inside of the front thigh plate along the longer outer edge as shown below. Apply another strip of loop sticky-back velcro along the shorter side, but offset it so that half the strip is exposed as shown below. This exposed sticky side will be attached to the back thigh plate, and will act like a soft hinge for the completed thigh assembly. What we're essentially doing here is taping the two halves together along one side, but instead of using tape we're using velcro, which has an incredibly strong adhesive backing. Repeat this process for the second thigh plate.



Cut the rear thigh plates out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander, rotary tool and sand paper.



Apply a strip of hook sticky-back velcro along the longer outer edge of the rear thigh plate.



Connect the exposed sticky velcro strip of the front thigh plate to the inside of the rear thigh plate along the shorter edge. Close the two halves together so that the two opposing velcro strips engage. Apply a strip of loop sticky-back velcro to the inside of the front thigh plates, and sew hook strips of sew-on velcro to the front thigh of your costume pants. Repeat the process for the second thigh assembly.

Note: The ABS thigh plates are light enough that no additional strapping should be necessary to keep them in place.



Greaves

Cut the shin and calf plates out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander and sand paper.



Apply several strips of loop sticky-back velcro along one of the inner sides of the calf plate, but offset them so that half the strips are exposed and facing out, just like we did with the front thigh plates. The exposed sticky strips will be attached to the inside of the shin plate, and will act like a soft hinge for the completed greaves. (What we're essentially doing here is taping the two halves together along one side, but instead of using tape we're using velcro).



Next we are going to create some velcro flaps to use as clasps for the greaves.



Cut two pieces of velcro of equal length.

Cut one of the pieces into two equal halves.



Peel the protective backing off the larger piece.

Peel the protective backing off one of the smaller pieces. You can set the second smaller piece aside for now.



Stick the adhesive back of the smaller piece to the adhesive back of the larger piece. You will not be able to separate the two again, so make sure you do it correctly the first time!



You should now have a velcro flap that is half loop and half exposed adhesive on one side, and full loop on the other. Create two more such flaps before proceeding to the next step.

Affix the adhesive back of the velcro flaps we just created to the inside of the calf piece so that the loop side of the flap is sticking out past the plastic like in the photo below.



Affix the three hook strips of sticky-back velcro to the corresponding positions on the inside of the shin plate. The two hinged halves can now be opened and closed, making the greaves easy to pull on and off.



To complete the greaves, superglue the shin plate dummy clasps into place as shown below. Note that each greave has two of these pieces (which are chiral), so you'll need to make sure you attach them in the correct orientation.



For greater screen accuracy, you may choose to add a strap between the two halves of the greave like in the following photo.



Your ABS kit contains indentations where you may choose to cut openings for the elastic straps (not included) should you choose to install them.





Foot Plates

Cut the foot plates out along the trim line, and soften the edges using a belt sander, rotary tool and sand paper.





The side pieces are mirror images of each other, so when attaching them to the footwear of your choice, be sure that you consult the photo below to see which pieces go on which foot.



The method for attaching the foot plates to your shoes will vary greatly depend on the type of footwear you choose for your costume. Ultimately, you may use rivets, hot glue, velcro, or a combination of all these methods.

Completed Armor

If you have followed this guide, your final assembled armor should look very similar to the following photos. For more information on the armor, general assembly techniques and completion ideas, head over to <http://mynocksden.com>. Thank you!











