

# ROSE MASK

Masks and Armor Class: Spring 2016



I turned this artistic rendering of a flower into a mask (1). A maquette was constructed of Fosshape 300 to find the general shapes (2). Starting with a dolly head encased in foil and Fosshape 600 I constructed a skull cap. To activate the Fosshape I used a combination of steam and mini irons. Using the steam first in shaping gave me more flexibility and once it was in a shape I liked the mini irons to smooth and finalize the shape. To sides of the skull cap I added a strip and then a swirl for the center of the rose. Both of these additional pieces were stitched in place before final activation of the Fosshape (3). The skull cap had to be shortened along the sides and front so that it would slide on and off the head without requiring an additional opening (4).



Mocked up a base that anchored the cap to the head by a strap under chin and went down to the neck in order to hide the wearer's hair (5). The real strap was constructed from fabric which was also used to fabric mâché the Fosshape for color and then stitched to the cap.

The exterior rows of petals were constructed from Fosshape that was formed around metal bowls (6). The interior is a solid bowl shape that looks like 3 petals. Solid construction provided stability around the neck and worked to support the outer 4 petals which were shaped separately before being attached. A fabric mâché technique was used to replicate the painted look of the research image. I used Sculpt or Coat to mâché 3 different fabrics to the mask (7). Using different shades and types of fabric allowed for a variation in color to provide depth to the flower (8). There are two layers of mâché on the rose. The first layer is a dark red in areas of that would be in shadow and a lighter red along the edges. The second layer is red chiffon to mull everything (9).



The front 3 exterior petals are attached to the the interior bowl at the base which just slides around the neck (10). With all the layers combined I did one final thick coat of Sculpt or Coat over everything to smooth. The back petal was attached last. It is extra long at the base so it rests against the neck and shoulders providing support to the mask. The mask is worn on a slight forward slant in order to provide a better visual and to limit impairment of speech. To allow access into the petals the back hinges on the right side and attached to the other with elastic hooks to keep the tension. Start to finish this project took 40 hours.

