

DON'T PANIC

Make-up for a wounded character (or a zombie)

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PREFACE

The goal of this presentation is to explain how to create realistic-looking wounds, without requiring too much time or equipment. It's intended for players wanting to create realistic "war wounds" for their characters, as well as for organizers having to produce a few hundred zombies.

The tutorials contained in this document only use "generic" materials: latex, cream make-up, etc. They don't require expensive latex prosthetics, and thus are particularly adapted when it comes to making a large number of people up on a budget.

Craft latex VS make-up latex ?

A lot of larpers are familiar with the use of latex (to create harmless weapons and various stuff). It is important to point out that this kind of latex is NOT make-up latex. It's basically the same thing (it's latex...), except for the fact that make-up latex contains much less ammonia (which is used to keep the latex liquid). Thus, avoid using craft latex to make someone up.

Latex and safety

A small but significant portion of the population is allergic to latex. Nowadays most adults know whether they are subject to such allergies or not, but when in doubt I'd advise performing a small test beforehand.

For such a test, apply a small quantity of latex to the inner side of the forearm. In case of allergic reactions in the following minutes (breathing troubles, itching, etc.) take the latex off quickly and seek medical help.



BRUISES

MATERIALS

- Aquacolor or Supracolor
- Make-up brush and/or sponge
- Optional :
 - Transparent powder

METHODS

A bruise is realized by mixing a few different colours unevenly, directly on the skin. Its colour will vary during its lifetime (the speed will depend of the seriousness of the wound).



At first, the bruise will be **reddish**

- Put some red make-up on the skin
- Using a sponge, blend it to produce a smooth transition with the skin
- Optionally, you can use transparent powder to fix the make-up to your skin. This will avoid smudging make-up onto everything you touch, and will mattify the colour for a more realistic look.



Next, the colour switches to **red** and **blue** (separated), and can even go to dark violet.

- It's made in the same fashion as before, except that you have to apply a bit of red and a bit of blue before doing the blending.



The wound then takes a **brownish** colour, while keeping a **reddish** background and a few **blue** spots here and there.



The skin then takes a **yellowish-greenish** colour, and can still present a few **blueish** dots.



Finally, the bruise takes a **yellow** colour before disappearing completely.

VARIANTS

A bruise can display a large palette of colours and forms, depending on its seriousness. Don't hesitate to look for references beforehand (e.g. medical books, Internet) in order to find a « form » corresponding to your project.

If the wound is still fresh, you can use a stipple sponge to add a bit of brown and black colours, or even a small quantity of fake blood. If the wound is due to a fall, use the stipple sponge to add « streaks » of blood going from the point of impact.



Aquacolor or Supracolor ?

Despite having the same goal (colouring your make-up), it's a good thing to understand their differences to choose a product adapted to your needs :

- Aquacolor is close to **water-based paint**. You need water to apply it, it's easy to use and to clean. Due to its nature it can be mixed easily, and you can create gradients using a simple sponge.

- Supracolor is close to **oil-based paint**. It's used dry, has a strong covering power, and can easily create solid colours. Fixing it with transparent powder is almost mandatory, or it will bleed everywhere. Once fixed it's really resilient against external threats (rain, perspiration, etc.)



SCARS

MATERIAL

- Collodion
- Optional :
 - Make-up brush
 - Aquacolor or Supracolor (light red, dark red, black)
 - skin-coloured foundation



Warning !

Collodion is a **highly inflammable product**, and is **toxic**. Don't put it near your eyes or inhale its fumes, as it may cause lesions!

While larping, beware of open flames like candles!

COLLODION

Sold as a liquid product, in a flask usually containing a small brush, collodion has a number of applications (e.g. photography, medicine, pyrotechnics). The one we are looking for is its ability to leave a flexible and transparent film on the skin once its solvent has evaporated. This film will shrink once dry, leading to a scar-like wrinkles on the skin.

This effect has much more impact on really soft parts of the body, for example the cheeks. As explained above this product is toxic and based on the evaporation of some solvent. Thus if you apply it on someone's face, it is advisable for that person to close their eyes until the product dries out (about 1 minute).

To remove collodion make-up, peel it gently with your nail.





To create a **simple scar**, you just need to trace a « line » of collodion wherever you want, and wait for it to dry out (~1 min). Do this multiple times until achieving the desired effect.

The picture to the left was done using **5 layers** of collodion (and nothing else).



Creating a deeper scar is a bit more complex :

- Mix light red, dark red, and black make-up. Add a bit of foundation, and use this mix to trace the desired scar on the skin.
- Add **10 layers** of collodion. Remember to wait ~1 min between each layer to account for drying time.
- Every couple layers, powder the scar using transparent powder (use a large brush to remove the exceeding powder). This will help the scar blend in with the skin.

WE TOLD YOU IT WAS INFLAMMABLE...

To realize how inflammable collodion is, don't throw your scar away after removing it. Instead put it in an empty ashtray, and light it with a match (try not to burn your fingers!). The whole scar should consume nearly instantly. **Thus, in a larp, beware of candles !**



OPEN WOUNDS

MATERIAL

- Make-up latex
- White toilet paper
- Aquacolor or Supracolor (light red, dark red, black, skin-coloured)
- Fake blood
- Transparent powder

METHODS



Separate the « layers » of a piece of toilet paper, to get a couple very thin pieces of paper.



Rip a piece of paper, and roll it on itself.



Using make-up latex, glue some rolls of paper on the skin to create the borders of the wound.
Try to avoid adding too much latex at once, as it will increase the drying time dramatically. Instead do multiple, very thin layers of latex (if needed, you can use an air dryer to speed things up).



Use some Aquacolor or Supracolor with a colour close to your skin's to smoothen the transition between the latex and the body.
In case of doubt, use a colour slightly darker than the skin's, and blend it gently while going away from the wound.
To get a solid and opaque colour, use a brush rather than a sponge.

Fill the bottom of the wound with light red. If the wound is on a protruding part of the body (chin, elbow) you can use white instead to make it look like bone is showing.
Use dark red on the inside wall of the wound, along the border, to give an illusion of depth.



Finally, fill the wound with fake blood and let it run naturally.



To remove the prosthetic, scrape a border of the latex and pull gently.

If you plan to keep the prosthetic for future use, it's important to powder the side that was close to the skin with transparent powder or talc. Failure to do so will lead to the latex sticking to itself, rendering the wound unusable in the process.



Variants

The same method can be used to create third-degree burns:

- Use latex and toilet paper to create a border along a large zone, and color it using red, yellow and orange.
- Replace the fake blood by glycerine or vaseline (available in drug stores) to get a « wet » effect.
- You can also use vaseline (which is thicker than glycerine) to simulate pus along the border.

SEVERE BURNS

MATERIALS

- Derma Wax
- Make-up latex
- White toilet paper
- Aquacolor or Supracolor (light red, dark red, dark brown, yellow, black)
- Fake blood
- Transparent powder
- Optional :
 - Spirit gum
 - Sealer

METHODS



Separate the « layers » of a piece of toilet paper, to get a couple very thin pieces of paper.

A note about Derma wax removal

Don't try to remove Derma Wax using water, it's water-repellent. Simply scrape it using a spatula (or a toothpick).





Create a few little balls of Derma wax, and apply them to the skin to make blisters. Try to work quickly, as Derma wax becomes stickier the longer you knead it. Try not to press on those balls too much, their top should stay round. If the make-up subject will have to move a lot, you can glue the Derma wax using Spirit gum (make-up glue), and cover it with sealer to help it stay in place. Around the blisters, add a small layer of light-red make-up.



Around the blisters, add a thin layer of latex. Before it's dry, cover the latex with small bits of paper grossly torn. Crumple the paper a little.



Slightly latex the pieces of paper.



Colour the latexed paper using black, red, brown and yellow. Using a toothbrush, add a few « holes » in the paper (be gentle, you don't want to hurt your subject). Colour the bottom of the « holes » with dark red/brown, and the exterior of the holes using light red. On the exterior of the wound, fade gently the colour to the skin using red and yellow.



Fix the make-up using transparent powder.



Add some fake blood and/or vaseline to the burn, to give it a « wet » appearance.

WHERE TO FIND MAKE-UP PRODUCTS IN WESTERN SWITZERLAND ?

BEAUTY-FLORE, GENEVA

Rue de la Rôtisserie 13
1204 Genève
022 / 311 27 11

The reference around here. You'll find everything that was used in this course, and much more. Pay attention to the opening hours (closed on Monday mornings).

AMAVITA ST-LAURENT DRUG STORE, LAUSANNE

Rue Haldimand 14
Case postale 7200
1000 Lausanne 2

A relatively limited choice, but useful for people from Lausanne which don't want to go as far as Geneva to get just a few things. Once inside the drug store, use the stairway at the bottom left to find the « make-up » section.

LE PIED, LAUSANNE

Rue de la Louve 12
1003 Lausanne
021 / 311 97 18

A store selling gadgets and gifts, with small « masquerade » shelves (selling wigs and stuff like that). You won't find very specialized products, but may come across basic things like cream make-up.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

TROLLCALIBUR

You'll find a copy of this course on Trollcalibur (<http://www.trollcalibur.com>). If you want to read more about the topic, you can also check the list of reference books on the media center of this website.

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