

The Function of the Masquerade Repair Table

The Repair Table in the Green Room is primarily to help to REPAIR costumes which come apart or fail. The repair table staff will be glad to assist you under these circumstances, but may not be able to give you extensive undivided attention if other costumers present also need repair table assistance. After all, the repair table person is here to help all of the costumers present. The repair table materials are the property of the repair table person, who is making them available for your benefit. Please do not "adopt," or neglect to return promptly, borrowed tools or excess (unused) supplies from the repair table; they may be needed by others here, or at the next con.

The **limited** makeup supplies available are also for REPAIR; it would be inconsiderate to monopolize these materials to create a makeup job from scratch. The repair table minimal makeup kit does not include items such as mascara and lipstick for sanitary/health reasons. Neither does it include false fingernails or similar items; anticipating all possible needs of this sort would require doubling (at least) the size of the repair kit.

The following supplies will probably be available at the Repair Table in the Green Room:

Tools:

- Hot glue guns: large cordless, small high temp and low temp, & glue sticks
- Silicone hot pad for underneath
- Cordless soldering iron/resin core solder
- Stapler/staples
- Hole punch, awl
- Pliers & wire cutters
- Screwdrivers - regular & miniature
- Craft knives, single edge razor blades
- Scissors - 2 sizes
- Hacksaw (small)
- Metal file
- Hand drill (for major events)

Adhesives, fasteners & connectors:

- Wire - various types/gauges
- Plastic cable ties
- String & braided heavy cord
- Rubber bands
- Monofilament fishing line (maybe)
- Safety pins - 5 sizes, lots
- Bobby pins & hair pins - various sizes & colors; ponytail elastic bands

Tapes:

- Masking (incl. colored tape)
- Duct - silver & black
- Carpet (double-sided)
- Plastic (electricians - black and colored)
- Surgical tape
- Toupee tape & alcohol wipes to cleanse skin 1st

Adhesives:

- 5 minute epoxy
- Super glue (gel) (& super glue remover)
- 527 cement
- Sobo
- Spirit gum (& remover)
- Fray check & clear nail polish

Sewing materials:

Singer hand-held sewing machine (small, light duty) (for major events)
Needles
Straight pins
Safety pins (as above, under fasteners).
Thread - several primary and neutral colors
Thread - invisible

Makeup: (Materials only unless a makeup repair person is available). This is for makeup **REPAIRS** only; do not plan on using this for "from-scratch" makeup jobs.

Lighted makeup mirror (3 intensity), unlighted double sided mirror
Basic (very) stage makeup kit, pancake & cream
Makeup applicators, cotton balls & QTips
Hairbrush, comb
Hair spray
Nail polish remover
Makeup remover, cold cream, baby powder, moist towelettes

Medical emergencies:

Band-aids, surgical tape
Contact lens saline solution, empty c.l. case (not sterile).
Acetaminophen, coated aspirin, ibuprofen, antacid tablets, cough drops
Salt/Potassium tablets (for heat shock) in summer
Glucose tablets

Miscellaneous:

Steam iron & small ironing board (for major events, if there is a big enough green room for this)
Measuring tape(s)
Batteries - not all sizes, limited supply - for emergencies **ONLY** (expensive - return after use)
Magnifying glass
Static Guard
Flashlight
Paper clips
Extension cord(s)
Emery board
Shoe horn (this went missing – I need to get another)
Clothes brush; lint roller
Drinking straws (bendy), in case the con has not provided any for the drinks table
Yard bag(s) for trash

Note: The above is my old repair table write-up. I have added some commercial makeup supplies (lipstick, mascara (with disposable mascara applicators), eye shadow, etc.). People can use these with disposable makeup applicators (for sanitary reasons). I also now include bright red and black nail polish. I have been considering adding gold, silver & white nail polish, not for nails but to help people touch up finishes/chips on costume accessories.

Sally's Beauty Supply stores, which have locations around the country, are a good source for things like the disposable mascara brushes, not to mention bulk supplies of things like bobby pins. Makeup kits (the kind that are sold around Mother's Day and Christmas, with dozens of different eye shadows, lipsticks etc.) are a good way to stock up on makeup cheaply, especially when they are deeply discounted right after the event. "Dollar" stores can be good also.

I don't know if you noticed or not – I use segmented fishing tackle boxes for bobby pins and safety pins, with different sizes/colors in each section. This saves a lot of hassle digging through a baggy of them to find the one that is wanted. I've been using the same boxes for over 20 years. I think they are Plano brand, but it's been ages since I got them.

At this year's CC I was asked for both gold and white paint for touch-ups, which is why I am considering adding the metallic nail polishes to the kit. I have on other occasions been asked for other oddities, such as two yards of black fabric, a fabric steamer, and a black t-shirt. Not to mention specific colors of beads, sequins, etc. My feeling is that anyone who has their costume trimmed with sequins, beads, etc. should bring along a small quantity for emergency touch-ups; there's no possible way that a repair table could stock a supply, given the wide range of colors & sizes that may be used. (And if they are going to do a costume with major facial or body makeup, they should also bring that, for the same reason.)

The repair table normally can't provide a full length mirror for people to check their costumes, but the con should be asked to provide one, if possible.