

Tasukigirl Cosplay
James Kidd, Assassin's Creed 4
References



Higher Resolution images
posted to [Tumblr](#).

Costume Build:

A. Accessories:



1. Wig

My approach for this was a little unusual even for me. I have dark hair already, but it's wavy and incredibly difficult to straighten. I took a short boys wig that was heavily layered and I used that on top of my normal hair. My actual hair was pulled up into a ponytail with the longer strands of the wig. To add beads, I braided the wig and clipped the ends to thin it out to help get the bead on. Since the beads I used were heavy, I hot glued them in place. Kidd does also have a few longer strands that hang and those were created with extensions. Those clip into my hair independently of the wig. Kidd's beads are black but they don't photograph well so I used lighter colors.

2. Head Band

I used a patterned cotton and added some light interfacing to keep it's shape. Since it doesn't crinkle in any way, the folds of the head band are ironed in place. It's also sewn into a band that fits my head and the knotted segments that hang are separate pieces that were sewn in.

3. Hidden Blade

I have the official toy version and slapped some velcro on the bottom. That's how it attached to my jacket. The leather bands on my jacket are sewn down and also help hold the hidden blade in place. If you are in the U.S., Think Geek still has them in stock.

4. Belt

I mocked up a belt pattern in heavy paper first until I found the right shape/length. It attaches with velcro underneath the non-functional buckle around my waist. The loop to hold weapons is sewn in and the front part that hangs is sewn in place. It's not functional at all. The belt buckle was made from sculpy and painted with acrylic.

5. Sash

The sash is all one piece. I started with a band that went around my waist made from the same material as my head scarf. It was rushed so this one closes with a piece of vecro. The light fabric was bunched and it's loosely stitched to the band underneath. The knot is sewn in place with enough space for the end of the sash to slide through. To summarize,

the cotton sash connects just under the belt buckle and the top sash is loosely closed on the right side by sliding the end of the fabric through the knotted loop.



B. Clothing:



1. Shirt

The material is from some unwanted IKEA curtains. It's an off-white with flecks of brown that I liked for this piece. It's made like a V-neck with a flap hanging down one side. The part that folds up are two separate pieces that were fitted to fold up and down and inserted just behind the neckline. To get them to stay up, I gave it some light interfacing. There is also a row of fake stitches down the front that was achieved with Ecu embroidery floss. As a note, I left mine sleeveless since I live in a warmer climate and the costume can be quite warm.

2. Vest

The fabric is a dark red/rusty colored set of curtains I picked up from Ross. I used a pretty basic vest pattern and folded the edges back. They are shaped to get the rounded edge look. A few stitches hold them down in place. There are darts on the middle of both sides to get the edges to sit like an X and closes with a snap in the middle.



All the embroidery is on two panels that were sewn in like lining. Since there is so much of it I approached it this way: For something as ornate as this I like to cheat. I drew the pattern on the back of my fabric and then back stitched the general outline. Once this part is done, it's easier to fill in the details. I used a variety of stitches so it's difficult to pin down directly, but there is a little bit of satin stitching and mostly split and stem. I also like to split my embroidery floss into thinner pieces to get variations on thickness.



If you are brand new to embroidery, this guide on stitches is very helpful:
<http://sublimestitching.com/pages/tutorials>

If you are better at embroidery with machine, this will be easier for you. I am not so great at that so the whole thing is done by hand.

3. Pants

Spoiler: I can't make pants. So I bought a pair of tan slacks and altered them. The red stripes are drawn in with color pencil and the whole garment is weathered with black spray paint to darken the color.

4. Boots



I found a vinyl fabric I liked and I made boot covers. My roommate was tossing out old boots she didn't want so I took them and pretty much destroyed them by cutting them off at the ankle. I hot glued my fabric over the shoe part and the boot cover actually starts at the ankle strap and goes up to my knees. Do work on your pattern first to make sure it fits your leg properly. I recommend a stiff fabric. Mine was much more suited for a slouch boot and I had to add some heavy duty interfacing. The pattern itself wasn't too

complicated. There are four separate pieces. Each strap is it's on piece, the leg part and then the flap on top was made separately and sewn on.

5. Jacket

Fabrics: tan, stretch denim, and black leather, custom printed cotton

Patterns: I made what is essentially an altered blazer out of the denim to create the base of the jacket. Here are some notes on the alterations:

- The width in front is shorter so that it doesn't actually close
- The cuff sleeves that fold back are wide and flare out a little. I made these

separate pieces and sewed them onto my normal unfinished sleeve.

- The collar was also modified to create one large flap.
- The leather pieces were patterned separately and sewn onto the jacket directly.
All together, I had 15 pieces: 2 front panels, 2 side panels, 2 back panels, 1 back shoulder piece, 2 front shoulder pieces, 2 side shoulder pieces (over sleeves), 2 arm bands, 2 embroidered patches on sleeve.
- The collar and cuffs are lined with a custom printed fabric



Jacket sans leather pieces



Back and side panels



Front panel, all shoulder panels, Arm band and embroidered patch

Jacket Base: This part wasn't too complicated. If you have a pattern to work from, it goes pretty smoothly. If you haven't made a jacket before, do a mockup before using your good fabric. Since Kidd dresses as a boy, the jacket doesn't have to be fitted so there was no need for the usual challenges of fitting a jacket to hips and chest areas. It's very straight up and down.

Sleeve cuffs: I started out by making the jacket sleeves normal length. The cuffs are separate pieces that were sewn to the edges and folded back. It's lined with my custom print fabric so I had to be very careful with measurements. My cuff specifically is a 4.5 inches wide. The cuff doesn't close and I positioned it to open at my wrist to make room for the hidden blade.

Leather Patterns: The easiest way to make these is to start with the jacket pattern for that

section and to alter it for the leather. If you have never sewn leather before, you can do so by hand or machine, but you will need a leather needle. Vinyl should be a little easier to work with. The hardest piece is the embroidered segment over the sleeve. If you make it too fitted it will limit some of your mobility. I didn't sew it all the way down to give myself some freedom to move.

Patches: These are pieces of leather with satin stitching with light gray embroidery floss. I went over the floss with silver marker to darken it.



Shoulder Piece: I backstitched the pattern for this one, mostly because I was running out of time. I used some copper marker to fill in the lines and make it stand out more.

Custom Fabric Printing:

This was the biggest question that I got. The fabric for the cuffs and collar were ordered through www.spoonflower.com. You will need to create an account, upload your image file and choose your settings. I created a sample from a high resolution image. The biggest challenge for this is getting the repeating pattern to line up when you set it to repeat. You will also want to pay close

attention to the ruler when it shows your preview. I set mine to repeat every 4 inches.



*Some people have requested my Spoonflower image, but I am not comfortable sharing it. Spoonflower allows you to sell your own fabric and I would be unable to stop anyone from taking my image file and selling it. For these reasons, I am happy to give you tips and suggestions, but I will not post my image file. Thank you for understanding.

Please note that this costume is not finished and I still have a lot of details to add to the front. I'll continue to post progress photos of my Facebook page. This write up will be amended to add any additional work once it's done. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to reach me at:

- www.tasukigirl.deviantart.com
- www.tasukigirl.tumblr.com
- www.facebook.com/TasukigirlCosplay

Happy Costuming!