

Psycho Mask Assembly Instructions

Congratulations on your purchase of an unpainted Psycho mask, we hope you enjoy wearing it as much as we enjoyed making it! These instructions cover painting and assembling the mask, plus a few other tips thrown in along the way. If you have any further questions, or something isn't quite clear, please don't hesitate to contact us at HauntedKnoll.etsy@gmail.com.

Note: The instructions are the same for all Regular, and Tiny Tina, Psycho masks. The Midget version is slightly different, as it does not have the same fan pieces, or leather stitching, and does not come with straps or slide adjusters.

Things you'll need:

- Psycho mask kit
- Glue (Super Glue, hot melt glue, epoxy glue, or other reliable bonding material)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paint and related supplies

Optional:

- Heat gun, or hair dryer
- Toothpick, or Bead Reamer
- Tweezers

When you're all done, it will look something like this (with optional LEDs):



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Basic Assembly

Basic assembly of the Psycho mask is pretty straightforward, and doesn't take much time, once the mask is painted. The most time-consuming part is threading in the leather lacing, but the time spent is well worth it, because the final effect is awesome.

Be sure to paint the mask first, and give at least 24 hours to dry, before beginning final assembly.

Fan Accessory Piece (non-midget masks)

The mask comes with an optional accessory piece for the front of the fan. This makes the look of the fan more complete, but is not necessary, if you don't want it. We recommend using some form of Super Glue, but epoxy, or hot glue will also work. Be sure to glue it with the proper side facing up!



Top



Bottom (glue this side)



Added Comfort Option

PRIOR TO PAINTING—If the mask is a little small for you, side to side, it can be heated up, and **slightly bent**.

Using a hair dryer, or preferably a heat gun, you can heat up the side of the mask, and bend it out a little, to give more internal space. Hold it in place until it cools back down enough to stay in place.

DO NOT OVERHEAT THE PLASTIC.

Just warm it up enough to make it a little pliable and give it a bend outwards. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BEND IT VERY FAR, IT CAN, AND LIKELY WILL, BREAK.**

Lacing (non-midget masks)

One of the best parts of these masks is the real lacing. It adds an extra bit of realism you just can't quite get with "painted" lacing. This is the most time-consuming part of assembly, but is well worth the effort. It's really quite simple, just takes a little patience.

Before you begin, make sure all of the lacing holes are clear of paint. This can be done with a toothpick, or bead reamer (available from Amazon, or most craft stores). The bead reamer is also helpful for any holes which may be difficult to get lacing through, as they can make the hole just a little wider.

There are 3 different lengths of lacing: 4x9", 4x14" and 1x15". Some of them will be a bit too long, but can be trimmed when all done. If you need extra somewhere, these trimmings can help.

- The 15" piece is for the curved part in the middle
- The 14" pieces are for lacing the lower half of the mask
- The 9" pieces are for the four shorter runs on the upper half

Due to manufacturing inconsistencies of the lacing, one end may be easier to thread through the holes than the other. So if you're having difficulty starting one, try turning it around, or using a different piece in that location.

The lacing can be a bit finicky; it sometimes helps to cut the very end of the lace with an angle to it, giving more of a point to thread through. Tweezers can also help, if you can't quite get the lace all the way through a particular hole.

For longer lacing runs, you may need to cut the tip off multiple times, to keep a crisp end for threading. Just don't cut off more than you need to, so you don't run out of length!

To help keep each piece in place as you go, pull through, but keep a small tail piece when you first thread the lace through, and then as you work your way up, run the lace over that tail piece, to hold it secure (Figure 1). Pull the lacing tight as you go, just don't overdo it, and risk snapping the cord!

TIP

Due to the shape of the mask, and location of the lacing holes, occasionally a lacing hole may end up blocked, due to crisscrossing internally. If this happens, it is easiest to snip off a single "stitch-sized" piece of lacing, and carefully glue either end into the holes from the front of the mask.



Bead Reamer



Figure 1 – Lace over the starting tail

Once all of the lacing is done, secure the start and end with a bit of hot glue (Figure 2), and then trim off any excess bits of lacing.



Figure 2 – Glue the ends

When you're all done, it'll look something like Figure 3:



Figure 3 – Lacing completed

Covering the Eyes

There are various options for covering the eyes, but included with the kit is a length of black tulle (mesh), which does a decent job of obscuring your eyes, while still making it easy to see.

First lay out the tulle, and fold it in half, then in half again, to give the proper amount of opacity.



Figure 4



Figure 5 – Fold in half



Figure 6 – Fold in half, again

Lay the folded tulle over the eyes, and use small dots of hot glue to hold it in place. Take your time with this to ensure that it looks right when you're done. You want to start in one spot, and slowly work your way around, stretching the tulle tight after each dot cools. This will ensure that the look from the outside is even, and flat, with no wrinkles. Once you've gone around both eyes, and the glue has completely cooled, use an X-Acto knife to *carefully* cut away the excess.



Figure 7 – Align over eyes

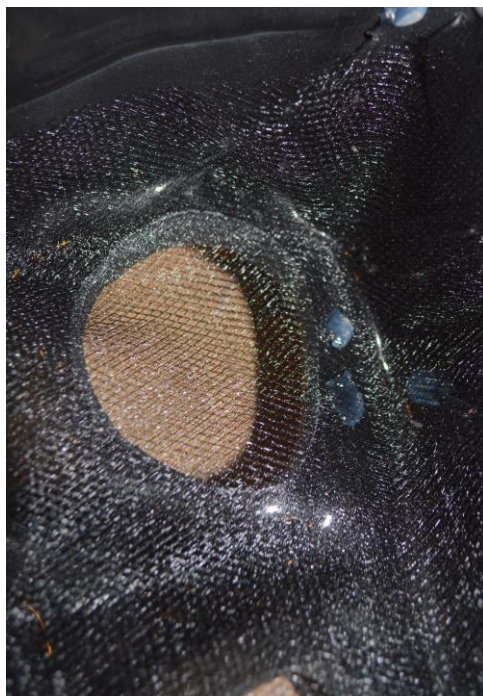


Figure 8 – Secure with hot glue



Figure 9 – Work all the way around both eyes



Figure 10 – Trim excess material



Figure 11 – Excess material, trimmed



Figure 12 – Eyes covered

Securing Strap Attach Points

When preparing to attach the straps, it goes a little easier if you have a helper, to help mark the proper locations to attach them.

The Psycho Midget kit DOES NOT include straps, or slide adjusters. We recommend using ¾" or 1" non-roll elastic, and appropriately-sized strap slide adjusters. Continue following the instructions below, when adding your own.

The kit includes 3 x 1" sawtooth picture hangers (to use for attaching straps to the mask), 2 x 1" wide, lengths of elastic strap, as well as 4 x 1" strap adjusters, and 1 custom-made leather strap joiner. The strap joiner is designed to hold the straps properly, in the back. One of the straps is longer than the other, and is the one which should be used for running ear-to-ear. The shorter strap goes over the top.

To determine where to attach the straps, hold the mask up to your face, and place the longer elastic strap where it feels most comfortable; typically just above the ears. Using a small piece of tape, mark the center location of the strap (Figure 13).



Figure 13 – Mark with tape

Once you've marked both sides, you're ready to attach the picture hanger brackets (Figure 14).



Figure 14

The point of the picture hangers is to give a “loop” for the straps to go through, without having to drill through the mask.

Using a coarse piece of sandpaper, **it is advisable to scuff up the area inside the mask where you will be attaching the hangers.** This helps the glue adhere better to the inside of the mask, thus reducing the chances that they will pull off.

Using the locations you marked earlier, center the hangers, and put a small piece of tape on them, to hold them in place while you glue them (Figure 15).



Figure 15 – Hold in place with tape

To secure the hangers, use hot glue, epoxy, or other very strong bonding method (Super Glue alone, is not a great choice here). So long as you don't put too much stress on the joints, they should hold in place well. Give each side a good coating of glue (Figures 16 and 17), being careful not to block off the loop part, as they are just big enough to accommodate the straps.



Figure 16 – Glue, and remove tape when cool

Once all three hangers are in place, you are all set to attach the straps to the mask.



Figure 17

Using Strap Slide Adjusters

There are 4 strap slide adjusters, included with the kit (except Midget), which are used for attaching the straps to the mask, and strap joiner. They're easy enough to use, but here are a few pictures of the process (these pictures are borrowed from our Kreig mask how-to, but the idea is the same).

First pass a strap through a slide adjuster (Figure 18), going up through the bottom, and back down through the top, leaving a large loop at the top.



Figure 18

Next, take one end of the strap, and loop it through a strap holder slot, as seen in Figure 19.



Figure 19

Finally, run the strap back through the strap adjuster, underneath the loop you made to start, and tighten (Figures 20 and 21).



Figure 20



Figure 21

Attaching the Straps

Using the process above, attach the straps to the mask. The strap which goes over the top of your head will have an adjuster at the mask, and at the leather strap joiner (Figure 22). The longer strap, which runs from ear to ear, will only have an adjuster on either side of the mask; it just runs through the strap joiner (Figures 26 and 27). **You may wish to stain/paint/burnish the strap joiner; contact us if you have questions on doing that.**



Figure 22 – Strap joiner



Figure 23 – Attach left side



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26 – Run strap through strap joiner



Figure 27 – Back view



Figure 28 – Attach right side



Figure 29 – All straps attached



Figure 30

When all the straps are in place, try on the mask, and adjust the straps for the best fit. It doesn't have to be perfect just yet, additional adjustments will likely be necessary after you add padding to the inside of the mask. Once final adjustments are done, you will probably need to trim off some excess strap length.

Padding

Now that everything else is in place, it is time to add a little padding to the inside of the mask, which will make it much more comfortable to wear for extended periods, as well as hold it away from your face, making it a lot easier to breathe! The mask kit includes a piece of foam, which can be cut smaller (Figure 31), depending on where you wish to place them inside the mask. There isn't really an exact science on size, and where they should go, but we find them most comfortable above, and below the eyes. You may find you want more at other points as well.



Figure 31

We recommend attaching the foam to the inside of the mask with hot glue. So long as you don't apply too much, it shouldn't melt the foam. Other adhesives can also be used, but take care when using any material which has strong noxious odors (e.g. contact cement); the fumes stay in the padding for quite some time, making it hazardous to try and get just the right fit.

Congratulations, your Psycho mask is now ready to impress everyone around you!

Painting

Paint Brushes

Someone probably once said, “The best paint brush is the one which works,” and they were definitely correct. Use what works best for you, but here are some ideas for ones that work well.

For most parts, a small Filbert brush works just fine. However, you might want something a bit larger, if you are painting the entire mask black first (or just spray it).



For tighter spots, most hobby stores sell “microbrushes” which are fairly inexpensive, and work wonderfully.



For applying weathering washes, an oval wash brush is great.



Before You Start

When painting masks, we use mostly acrylic paints and Rub 'n Buff. Most pieces can be painted directly, though feel free to spray them with a coat of primer first. If you do wish to apply primer, we typically recommend Rust-Oleum Ultra Cover, Flat White Primer, or Rust-Oleum Automotive Self Etching Primer. Rust-Oleum used to make a specialty plastic primer, but we haven't seen it for a while. The Ultra Cover bonds to plastic, and works just as well.

How you paint the mask is absolutely up to you, but the following are some suggestions that we found to work well, if you don't feel like hunting down all the various parts yourself. Take it as a mini-guide, if you like.

If you do spray a primer coat, be sure to let it dry overnight before doing any additional painting.

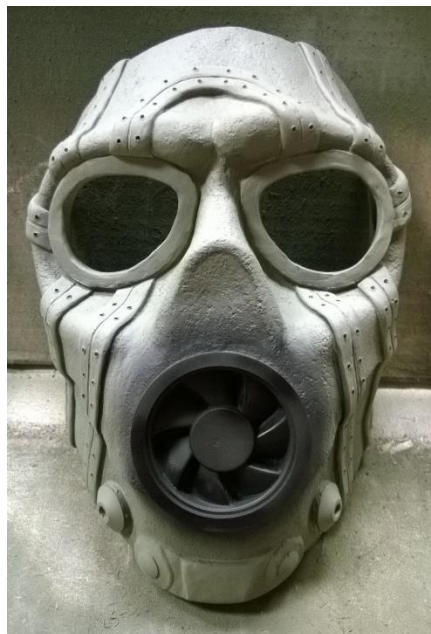




Primer Applied

Base Color

We recommend starting with painting at least the area around the mouth fan painted black. You can do other areas as well, or even just paint the entire thing black. This ensures that all of the dark/shadow areas are black, from the get-go. If using an airbrush, any black will do. Otherwise, acrylic Mars Black does nicely.



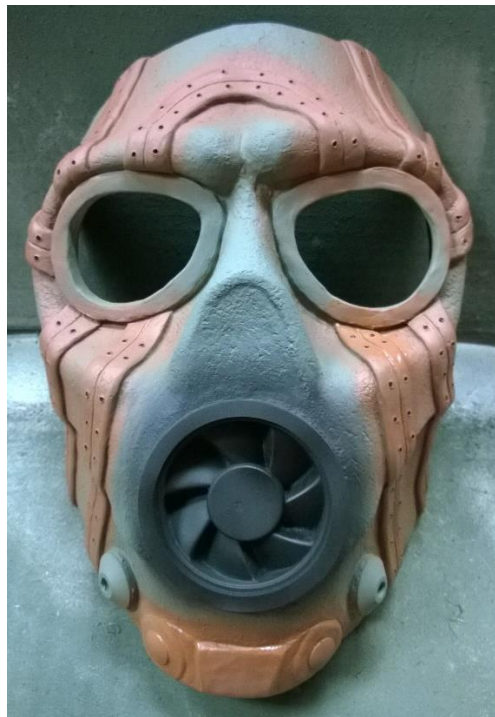
Leather Face Pieces

The next step is to paint the leather strips on the mask face. The easiest way of doing this is with an airbrush, but if you don't have one of those lying around, it can be done just as well with a regular paint brush. You'll want to paint all of the strap lines, and the chin piece as well. Don't worry about covering up all of the black, as it helps add depth if you don't. Plus, you'll be going over it more later anyway.

Recommended color: Model Master - Leather



This can typically be done with one coat.



Primary Mask

The mask itself is painted an off-white color. This will likely require two coats. Take care not to get the white color on the parts you just painted Leather. Recommended color: Light Ivory



Clear Coat

Once the light color is dry, give the entire mask a coat of Clear. Again, easiest to apply with an airbrush, but can be done without. The clear will help prevent messing up the colors so far, when you apply wash coats a little later. This can be done with flat or semi-gloss. You'll be applying washes, and dry brushing over it, so it really doesn't make a difference. You can also wait to do this until you've painted the metal parts, to dull them as well.

IMPORTANT: The model master Acryl can lift some colors, so if applying with a brush, you need to be careful. This is not an issue with airbrushing. You may wish to use a different clear acrylic, if using a regular brush.



Metallic Parts

The first thing to start with is, the sides of the eyes, fan housing, and the vent thingies, on either side of the chin strap. Recommended color: Black Pearl Metallic



Use this color to paint the inside, and outside of the eye pieces, as well as the outside of the fan housing, and the vent things.



IMPORTANT: If you plan to attach the middle fan piece, leave a small area on top of the fan, unpainted.

For the forward facing parts of the eyes, fan, fan housing, and the rivets, “Steel” paint works well. The rivets look good painted normally with the steel color, whereas the rest looks better using a dry brush technique over the black pearl metallic.



If you're not familiar with dry brushing, it is a great technique for highlighting high spots, and giving great depth of color. Dip your brush in the highlight paint (steel, here), and then brush it back and forth on a towel, until most of the paint is wiped off. Then lightly use the brush to go over the area you wish to highlight, working across the grain, where you can.

Slowly, by lightly going areas, they'll take on a great highlighted look.



Vent, which has been dry brushed with steel

For the fan blades, just paint the tops, with black pearl, and leave everything else inside black. If you happen to get some paint where you don't want it, or don't think the edges of the fan blades are quite crisp enough, go back over with pure Black, and a small liner brush, after the pearl is dry. Once that has set, dry brush with steel again.



Black Pearl Metallic (note fan piece has been glued in place)

Add the Extra Fan Piece (if you wish)

There is an extra piece included, which you can attach to the center of the fan. It's not entirely necessary, but does complete the look well. Be sure to glue it on with the proper side up. Various methods of gluing work just fine, but we recommend some form of Super Glue.



Once the glue has dried, go ahead dry brush it all with steel.



Dry brushed with steel

Black Lines

There is a ridge which runs up either side of the mask. The bottom of this ridge can be painted black, if you wish. Do this with thin black paint, and a small liner brush.



Weathering

Weathering really helps bring the mask to life. Using a combination of washes, and dry brushing, you can achieve a great look, fairly easily.

There are endless ways to go with the washes, but two good ways of doing it is using a Sepia wash, for a more aged look, or make a thin mixture of leather and black, for a more dirty look.



Mixture of leather and black, thinned considerably with water

Using the oval wash brush, or similar, get it nice and saturated with water first, and then dip it in the wash color. Brush the color over one section, and let it sit for a few seconds. Then, using a towel, dab off most of the color. **Don't wipe it off, just blot it lightly**, leaving the color in the recesses, especially where the main mask meets other parts (leather straps, eye pieces, etc.). This will help smooth out the transition of all those areas, as well as give the mask an overall weathered look. If it's not quite dark enough for your liking, apply another coat, and blot it again. Once you're happy, move on to the next section. There's no good rhyme or reason on how to do this, just brush the color on somewhat haphazardly, while trying to get an even color over the entire mask.



Brush on



Dab off



Work your way around the entire mask, one section at a time

Leather Pieces

For the leather stripes, and chin piece, there are several different ways of weathering. One option is to take the original leather color, and mix it with white, or come up with your own lighter color, by mixing some other colors. The goal is to have something similar in color, but much lighter. This will then be **dry brushed** over the original leather color.

This example uses a mixture of yellow, black and orange, for a weird mustard color.



Again, to do the dry brushing, dip your brush in the color, wipe almost all of it off on a towel, and then brush across the grain on the leather pieces. This will give them a subtle highlight.



If you wish, you can also achieve a different look, by washing over the leather with a dark mixture of leather and black, trying to keep most of the color in the seam which runs down the middle.



Final Clear Coat

Using the same clear (flat looks the best) from earlier, you may wish to give everything one final coat, to help set and protect the colors. This is optional, depending on the final look you're going for.

Finally

When you're all done, you should have something similar to this!



Send us a picture of your final result!