

BUDGET COSTUMING: A CHEAPER COSPLAY

Beverly Warner

Charmedseed
Studios

Denver Comic
Con 2014



Doing Cheaper Cosplay

...A Warning



CAVEAT EMPTOR

The phrase caveat emptor arises from the fact that buyers often have less information about the good or service they are purchasing, while the seller has more information. Defects in the good or service may be hidden from the buyer, and only known to the seller. Thus, the buyer should beware.

AMAZON: THE \$70 TUX



The image shows a screenshot of an Amazon product listing for a boys' tuxedo. On the left is a large image of the tuxedo, with two smaller thumbnail images above it. Below the main image is the text "Roll over image to zoom in" and a button that says "+ Add to Collection". To the right of the image is the product title "Sweet Kids Boys 3 Button Dinner Jacket Tuxedo with Vest" by the brand "sweet kids". Below the title are five stars and "2 customer reviews". The price is listed as "\$69.49" with a Prime logo and "Free Returns". The list price is "\$156.99" and the savings is "\$87.50 (56%)". The size is set to "14" and the color is "Black". There are three small color swatch images. Below that, it says "Only 1 left in stock" and "Sold by TheScoop and Fulfilled". A bulleted list of features includes: "Three Button Dinner Jacket", "Long Sleeve Front Tucked B", "Bow Tie & Vest", "Slacks with Satin Stripe Pan", and "Suit 100% Polyester; Shirt 6".

sweet kids
Sweet Kids Boys 3 Button Dinner Jacket Tuxedo with Vest
★★★★★ 2 customer reviews
Price: \$69.49 Prime & Free Returns Details
List Price: \$156.99
You Save: \$87.50 (56%)
Size: 14 Sizing info
Color: Black
Only 1 left in stock
Sold by TheScoop and Fulfilled
• Three Button Dinner Jacket
• Long Sleeve Front Tucked B
• Bow Tie & Vest
• Slacks with Satin Stripe Pan
• Suit 100% Polyester; Shirt 6



WHERE TO SHOP

AMAZON & EBAY

\$8.99!

Kamo Short Straight Bob Sexy Stylish Heat Resistant Synthetic Hair Wig Creamy White Blonde
by Kamo
★★★★★ 6 customer reviews

Price: **\$8.99** Free shipping for Prime members when buying this Add-on Item. [Details](#)

Only 12 left in stock.

Sold by Kellen&Chelsea and Fulfilled by Amazon. Gift-wrap available.

- Fashion Short bob wig.
- Japanese Kanekalon fiber.
- Wigs for women.
- It is both natural looking and soft touch.
- It's fit for your Parties, Cosplay & Daily Use.

Add-on Item

This item is available because of the Add-on program
The Add-on program allows Amazon to offer thousands of low-priced items that would be cost-prohibitive to ship on their own. These items ship with qualifying orders over \$25. [Details](#)

7 new from \$7.60

Click to open expanded view

Check the reviews!

Prime?

Be aware of return policies, shipping locations, and “copycats.” Oops.

WHERE TO SHOP: BUY IN BULK!

- Createforless.com
- FactoryDirectCraft.com
- Oriental Trading, good old standby.



Paint inside plastic holiday bulbs to make giant gems! No need for heavy, expensive resin!

HARDWARE & HOME IMPROVEMENT STORES

- Wire? Bulk, especially if it's going inside something and it won't be showing.
- Foam & plastics.
- Electronics.
- Paint/primer/spray adhesive/clear coat? Higher quality and better prices.
 - Especially on textury, metallic, even sparkly!
- Look in all the aisles. Things come in weird shapes.

Resin! 1-qt. Gloss Super Glaze Finish and Preservative, only \$28! Compare to just 1 oz at \$10 (with 32 ounces to a quart, in bulk you only pay .88 per oz)! You only need to mix the amount you need when you need it!



FABRIC

- **Fashion Fabrics Club | fashionfabricsclub.com**
 - Sometimes bizarre selection, but HUGE and great prices. Search carefully.
- **Fabric.com**
 - Great selection and prices; excellent clearance and sales.
- **Dharma Trading | dharma trading.com**
 - Selection of VERY inexpensive natural fibers, all white; dyeing supplies.
 - Dye your own silk for only \$11 a yard (compared to more than twice that!)
- **Wesco Fabrics (Local Denver) | wescofabrics.com**
 - Follow their FB page for the annual warehouse sale; prices as low as \$4 a yard!
- **Hoard your Joanns, Hobby Lobby, & Hancock Fabrics coupons!**

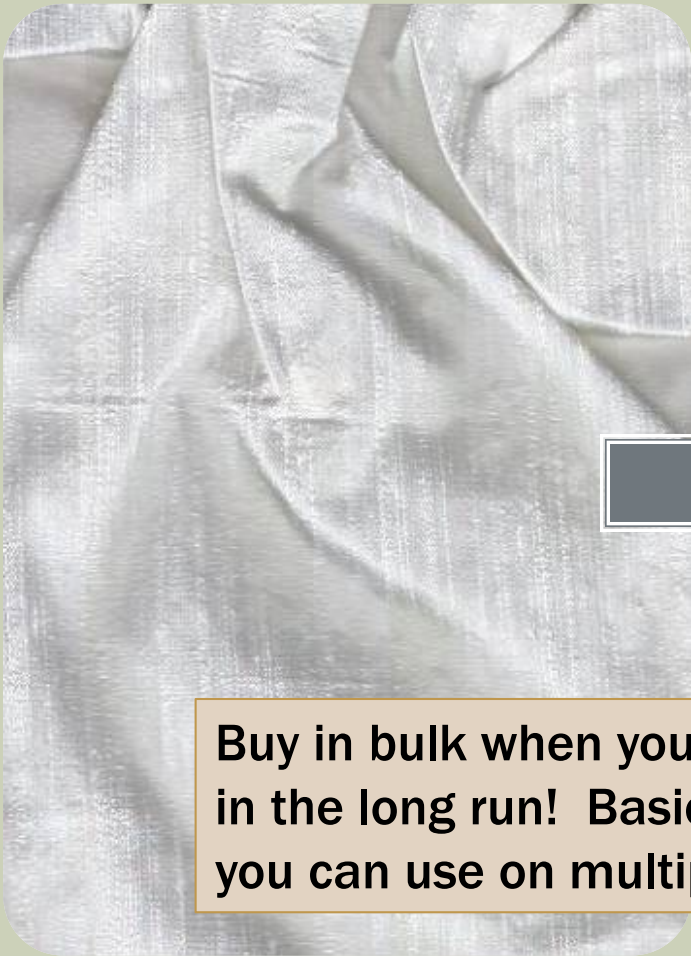
REUSE, REDUCE, AND RECYCLE



Don't buy these, make them:

- **Chalkboards:** chalkboard paint & hardboard/fiberboard (even cardboard in a pinch)
- **Pouches:** Pleather plays nicely with super glue.
- **Patches:** Use heat-n-bond to make your own iron-on patches
- **Corollary:** Then again, more often than not buying a patch made by another cosplayer is supporting them – usually a great price and way to contribute to the community!

DYEING YOUR OWN FABRIC



Buy in bulk when you can – saves in the long run! Basic fabrics that you can use on multiple costumes.



MACKLEMORE WAS RIGHT: THRIFT SHOPPING



- Take your smartphone/tablet with you and compare prices with items on Amazon & Ebay if you're not in a time crunch.
- Stock up on old sheets & curtains for scrap & patterning fabric.
- OMG SHOES. Then you don't feel bad when you have to destroy them for a costume.
- Buy many costume basics and those for editing.

THANKS! GO OUT
AND SAVE SOME
MONEY!

Please email me for notes or more
details! beverly@charmedseed.net

