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Darth Vader: ANH



Model **SL-1020**, Photo by **Jessica Tampa**



Description: Darth Vader: ANH

Prefix: SL

Detachment: [Sith Lord Detachment](#)

Context: Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope

See also: [ROTS Vader](#), [ESB Vader](#), [ROTJ Vader](#)

The 501st approval requirements are listed in black.

The Sith Lord Detachment defines additional, optional levels of costuming excellence. In the page below, items listed under "For level two certification" are recommended features that will greatly improve the quality of the costume. **These items are not required for 501st membership, but are highly**

recommended. Items listed under "For level three certification" are some of the highest level accuracy features for those who strive to be screen accurate. **These items are also not required for 501st membership.**

Also note that these two additional "certification levels" **DO NOT** correspond to the Advanced Standards program of the Sith Lord Detachment, and you are encouraged to visit the [Sith Lord Detachment Forum](#) for more information.

For 501st membership, only the requirements in black need to be met.

- **Please note:**

- Visit the [Frequently asked questions page](#) for information on the Rubies Supreme Vader costume.
 - All uses of the term silver in this document imply a machined aluminum look.
 - Weathered or used aspects referred to in text, may not necessarily be depicted in photos.
 - Click pictures to enlarge and view details; the text only highlights the key aspects of each component.
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This Visual Guide has been reviewed by the detachment staff and the LMO team and is certified for use as a minimum approval guideline for GMLs. GMLs are free to approve this costume type.

- Any uncertainties or questionable aspects of the submitted costume should be brought to the appropriate DL/GML peer review section of the legion forum.

Required Costume Components

The following costume components are present and appear as described below.

This document is a Work In Progress being used to restructure the SLD CRL. It should not be used for approval purposes.



Dome

For 501st approval:

- The dome is a black, but does not have an overall dull (satin) or high gloss appearance.
- There is a "Y" shaped indentation in the center of the dome brow above where it comes to a sharp point between the eyes of the mask. **View**
- **Version comparison and details.**

[For Advanced Status certification \(mandatory upgrade\):](#)

- The black paint used on the dome should match that used on the face mask and the chest armor.
- The dome should be painted such that it has a non-uniform semi-gloss look. **View**
- The brow of the dome should sit very close to the mask essentially covering the brows of the mask. **View**

- The brow of the dome should also sit such that the sharp point on the dome brow is even with or slightly below the top notch on the bridge of the mask's nose. **View**
- The thickness of the dome (at least the exposed edges) should be approximately three-eighths of an inch. **View**
- The **contour** of the front edge of the dome should increase gradually.
- When viewed from the front, the horizontal distance from each bottom edge of the dome to each tusk should be less than the distance from tusk to tusk. **View**
- When viewed from the side, the bottom of the dome should slope downward to the back in order to hide a majority of the back edge of the neck of the face mask (the back edge may show more on one side due to the asymmetrical nature of the mask and the dome being mounted so far forward on the mask). **View**
- When the wearer looks up such that the lower tubes on the sides of the mask are horizontal or slightly pointing upward, the very back of the dome should almost be touching or flush with the cape.



Face Mask

For 501st approval:

- The face mask is painted in an alternating pattern of black and non-gloss gunmetal grey. The black sections do not have an overall dull (satin) or high gloss appearance.
- The face mask is asymmetrical.
- The lenses are slightly bubbled and tinted amber/dark grey (eyes are not visible behind lenses).
- The lower mouth vent is triangular with sharp corners, and is roughly half the size of the upper mouth vent. **View**
- Large, grey (or raw metal colored), diamond-shaped mesh is inset in both vents; additional screen backing may be used to conceal the wearer's face further.
- The **tusks** are silver, and have rounded (hemispherical) tips.
- There is not a substantial gap between the neck of the face mask and the top of the chest armor. **View**
- No skin is visible from any angle (under or through the mask).
- No neck brace is worn with the face mask.
- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- The lenses should be tinted amber with a reddish hue.
- The black and grey paints used on the face mask should match that used on the dome and the chest armor.
- The face mask should be painted such that it has a non-uniform semi-gloss look on the black sections. **View**
- All features of the face mask (corners, edges, etc.) should have a sharp, crisp, and non-rounded look to them. **View**
- The tusk on the wearer's right should be substantially weathered black. **View**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The paint scheme should match the provided **schematic**.
- Brush strokes should be slightly noticeable in the grey sections on the face mask to partially show the black underneath. **View**
- The wearer's right side of the mask is higher than the left side due to the asymmetrical nature of the mask.
- The shape of the tusks should closely resemble the ones in the supplemental photo linked above.

- The neck of the face mask should either barely hit the top part of the chest armor or barely miss hitting it all together when the wearer looks downward.
- *Additional Note: The tusks used in the film were metal.*



Balaclava
For 501st approval:

- A balaclava is a black head sock/hood that is worn under the helmet and is used primarily to hide the following features: the wearer's mouth which could be seen through the mouth and chin vents, the wearer's neck which could be seen under and around the neck of the mask (especially during movement of the head), and the back of the wearer's neck/head which could be seen from the back at a low angle underneath the dome.
- While the balaclava is labeled as "required" merely because it is the simplest way to ensure that none of the features listed above are visible when the wearer is in full costume as well as to keep the wearer's head cool, **any other items or methods that achieve the same result may be used instead of an actual balaclava.**



Cape
For 501st approval:

- The cape is made of black **wool** (or wool-like material), floor length, and lined with black satin.
- The cape **collar** is black leather (or leather-like material), and is one inch to one and a quarter inches in width.
- The cape is held closed with a cape chain (see subsequent component for details).
- The front of the cape collar is pulled under the neck of the mask so that the cape chain is not visible.

The cape is constructed large enough to ensure that its sides drape over a majority of each shoulder bell. **View**

- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The cape should be made of wool and the cape collar should be made of leather.
- The cape collar should not be visible in full costume when viewing the wearer from behind.
- The edges of the cape should barely drape over the front corners of the chest armor. Depending on the position of the wearer's arms, the shoulder bells may or may not be partially visible. **View**



Cape Chain
For 501st approval:

- In lieu of an actual cape chain, **the cape can be fastened/positioned to give the same effect as being held closed with a chain** since it is barely visible in the film.

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- A cape chain that is plastic, has rectangular/oblong links, and is dark grey in color should be used to hold the cape closed.
- It should be fastened to the underside of the collar (in the vertical middle and not at the very end).
- **Version comparison and placement details.**



Chest Armor
For 501st approval:

- The chest armor is painted in satin black and non-gloss gunmetal grey.
- The two raised sections that are adjacent to the centermost raised section are black. The rest of the chest armor (including the centermost raised section) is grey.
- The **shoulder bells** are gunmetal grey with black raised sections, and are each **attached** to the chest armor via a strap(s).
- There is no visible cape hook.
- **Version comparison and details.**
- *Allowed (but not recommended): The two raised sections towards each side of the chest armor may be painted black.*

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- The black and grey paints used on the chest armor should match that used on the dome and the face mask.
- The chest armor should be weathered to achieve the non-uniform semi-gloss look on the black parts and give it a heavily worn/used look all over.
- The armor should be fitted with **padding** if necessary to ensure 1) the bottom of the armor does not rise up substantially off the chest, 2) the back of the chest armor does not stick out substantially through the cape, and 3) that the shoulder bells rest on and move with the arms (the sides of the armor will consequently show prominently through the cape). **View**
- The armor should sit more vertical on the chest and consequently lower from the base of the wearer's neck when compared to the other versions of Vader due to the inner robe position. As a result, when viewed from the front, the angle of the top of the armor (from the neck to the shoulders) should be a lot steeper and more drastic thus giving the wearer a narrow shoulder look as opposed to the broad shoulder look seen in ESB and ROTJ. **View**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- Brush strokes should be slightly noticeable in the grey sections of the chest armor to partially show the black underneath.



Inner Robe
For 501st approval:

- The inner robe is made of the same material as the outside of the cape.
- It is ankle length, and worn over the chest armor and codpiece, but under the belt.
- The inner robe is positioned such that the front edges are vertical from the belt to the chest armor, and almost (or barely) touch the sides of the chestbox. The edges approximately line up with the middle or inside quarter of the belt boxes at belt level. **View**
- The side seams are open from the belt down. **View**
- There are no pleats/darts on the sides of the inner robe.
- **Version comparison and details.**

- Optional: The side seams may be sewn from the belt down.

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The inner robe should be secured firmly by the belt so that the area between the belt and chest armor stays close to the wearer and is pulled taut. **View**
- Though there are no actual pleats or darts, the inner robe should not lay flat and be faux-pleated (gathered or bunched up) under the belt in the areas behind both belt boxes. This should result in haphazard folds running up the inner robe. **View**



Chestbox

For 501st approval:

- The chestbox is square, semi-gloss black, and **worn** right below the chest armor.
 - The black leather (or leather-like material) one inch wide straps are worn over the bodysuit, but under the chest armor and inner robe, and attach at the top and sides of the chestbox as shown.
 - The face of the chestbox (flat surface on which all of the accessories are mounted) consists of:
 - ◆ Two silver **rods** on each side.
 - ◆ Three vertically stacked gray/silver **coin slots** on the wearer's right.
 - ◆ A faded/translucent green colored panel (upper) and a red colored panel (lower) are on the wearer's left. **View**
 - ◆ Along the bottom are four **rocker switches** (from wearer's right to left, white and three grey) which are mounted individually.
 - ◆ There are no brackets at the top and bottom of the rods, nor any raised black sections around the colored panels or the rocker switches, nor any small silver switches. No text of any kind appears anywhere on the chestbox either.
 - There are no lighting effects.
 - **Version comparison and details.**
- Optional: There may be a silver rivet no more than one-half inch from the chestbox on each strap.

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- In terms of width, the chestbox should extend just past the center-most black sections of the chest armor. **View**
- The straps should be made of leather.
- The center of each coin slot should have square corners, and should be hollow. **View**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- There should be a lip (flange) at the base of each coin slot. The lip should not be painted black, but should either be recessed to be flush with the face of the chestbox, or, if not recessed, be no more than one sixteenth of an inch in thickness. **View**
- The two center-most rocker switches should be mounted slightly higher than the outer two (no more than one eighth of an inch). **View**
- *Additional Notes: In the film, the chestbox was weathered, the straps were slightly aged, the two silver rods were metal, the gray/silver coin slots were not metal, and the rocker switches were made from wood.*



Bodysuit

For 501st approval:

- The body suit is made of black **leather** (or leather-like material), fitted to the wearer, and quilted in lines spaced approximately one inch apart down the torso, arms, and legs.
- A one, two, or three piece suit is acceptable.
- An **open mesh back** is also acceptable for comfort and heat dispersal.

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- The body suit should be made of leather.
- It should have a wrinkled/worn **appearance**.
- *Additional Note: The body suit in the film was constructed in three pieces: a top with only the sleeves quilted, a vest, and pants.*



Gloves

For 501st approval:

- The gloves are black leather (or leather-like material) and mid-forearm **length**.
- The upper surface is quilted in lines spaced approximately one inch apart which run perpendicular to the arm which starts just behind the knuckles.
- The palm side has no quilted lines.
- There is no **gusset** adjoining the upper and lower sides of each glove.
- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- The gloves should be made of leather (more specifically, it should match the leather of the body suit).
- The sides of each glove should slightly get wider from the wrist to the end opening. This widening should be gradual and not be significant (as opposed to any other version). **View**
- There should be approximately twelve to thirteen sections created by the quilted lines on the upper surface. These sections should not necessarily be of uniform width.

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The upper surface where the quilted lines are located should be **padded**.
- The **stitching** on the gloves, with the exception of the quilted lines, should be external.
- Each glove should be constructed with three **fourchettes**-one between each set of fingers.



Belt

For 501st approval:

- The belt is made of black leather (or leather-like material) and is approximately two and a quarter inches wide.
- The belt is worn such that the bottom sides of the belt buckle and belt boxes sit flush with the top of the codpiece. The belt itself does not touch the codpiece. **View**
- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The belt should be made of leather.
- The belt should have **incised lines** one eighth of an inch from the top and bottom.
- The belt should have two metallic **studs/bolts** visible under the wearer's left of the belt buckle when viewed from the wearer's left side (not as prominent or as large as the stud/bolt seen on the ROTJ belt). The lower stud/bolt may be partially visible when viewing the buckle from the front.
- The belt (and consequently the codpiece as well) should be positioned high enough on the wearer's body such that there is very little distance between the top of the belt buckle and the bottom of the chestbox. **View**
- *Additional Notes: The belt used in the film was aged and looked worn; it was also secured in the front as the buckle was functional.*



Belt Buckle

For 501st approval:

- The base layer of the buckle is black and rectangular.
- The second layer is silver and in the shape of a "D."
- There are five thin progressively smaller squared edge cutouts (the **smallest** is a circle) in a triangular formation on the wearer's right.
- The top layer of the buckle consists of a silver circle located on the center of the arc of the "D."
- **Version comparison and details.**
- *Allowed (but not recommended): The thin cutouts on the second layer of the buckle may have rounded edges. The smallest cutout may be a circle. **View***

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- The base layer of the buckle should not be gloss black.
- The cutouts should not be of uniform width, nor should they be spaced uniformly from each other.

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The second layer (the "D") is mounted askew - the wearer's left side is lower than the wearer's right.
- *Additional Note: The buckle in the film was metal and weathered.*



Belt Boxes

For 501st approval:

- The belt boxes are black and centered vertically on the belt approximately one-half to one inch from the buckle, and mirror image one another.
- In terms of **height**, the belt boxes are slightly smaller than the belt buckle.
- The front side of each box is removable - it is a lid that fits over the box and is secured by a silver screw on each side. **View**
- From the center outwards each box has:
 - ◆ two square **green light panels** above a rectangular cutout containing silver rectangular-shaped metal **screen**,
 - ◆ a domed **red pilot light** set in a chrome ring (**bezel**),
 - ◆ and six silver **posts** with smooth sides (in two vertical columns of three) set atop of **red washers**.
 - ◆ All lights are constantly lit.

- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The green light panels should be faceted and should not be bordered by a raised black section. **View**
- The domed red pilot light should be opaque.
- *Additional Notes: The boxes in the film were metal and substantially weathered.*



Lightsaber Hook
For 501st approval:

- The lightsaber hook is silver and held to the backside of the belt by two silver **rivets** (which are located towards the bottom of the belt).
- It is **mounted** slightly forward of the wearer's left hip.

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- The lightsaber hook should not have a mirrored finished and should resemble the design shown.
- *Additional Note: The lightsaber hook in the film was metal.*



Lightsaber
For 501st approval:

- The lightsaber resembles the one pictured (a Master Replicas is most accurate but a custom built one based on the MPP Microflash or the Heiland Synchronar 3-Cell flash handle to match the hilt used in the film is also acceptable).
- The metal has a chrome appearance.
- The **grips** (or "T"-tracks) do not extend all the way to the middle section.
- A **lever** is present on the box on the middle section.
- **Version comparison and details.**
- The lightsaber should only be required as long as it's in compliance with the applicant's local laws.

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The lightsaber should be capable of being belt worn with the emitter facing upwards (detachable blade or no blade).
- The lightsaber should be of 1:1 scale to the lightsaber used in the film as pictured.
- *Additional Note: The lightsaber in the film was weathered.*



Codpiece
For 501st approval:

- The codpiece is a padded-construction and faced in black leather (or leather-like material).
- It is worn over the bodysuit, directly below the belt assembly, and under the inner robe. **View**
- It covers the front of the groin area and extends to the hips.
- In its center, there is a slight rectangular inset with rounded corners that is edged with rolled piping. **View**
- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The codpiece should be made of leather, have a wrinkled/worn appearance, and not be thicker than one inch.
- The area of the codpiece under the belt boxes should be no taller than one-third of the area under the belt buckle. **View**
- There should be no additional piece of leather overlapping the very bottom of the codpiece. **View**



Shin Guards

For 501st approval:

- The shin guards are gloss black.
- Each shin guard covers the leg from the ankle to the knee, and at least one half the leg when viewed from the side.
- The **knee** is shaped like a cut diamond.
- Below the knee are six small square **protrusions** in a horizontal line (three on each side).
- On each side of the raised center section, long "U" shaped **cutout's** start at mid-armor height, and gradually increases in depth.
- The shin guards are **attached** by at least two straps that go around the boot.
- **Version comparison and details.**

For Advanced Status certification (mandatory upgrade):

- Both shin guards should slightly contour to each leg (right and left specific).
- The right shin guard is taller than the left.
- On both shin guards, the "U" shaped cutout on the wearer's left is longer.



Boots

For 501st approval:

- The boots are made of black leather (or leather-like material) with a medium gloss shine, lace-less, and free of any visible adornments.
- They come to just below knee height, have a rounded toe, and a smooth textured appearance.
- There is no noticeable zipper in full costume.
- The sole in the front does not exceed 0.75 inches in thickness and the heel does not exceed two inches in thickness.
- Note: The strap/buckle at the top is not required; this area is covered in full costume and may or may not be there based on the style of boot.

For Advanced Status certification (optional upgrade):

- The boots should be made of leather.
- The sole in the front should not exceed 0.5 inches and the heel should not exceed 1.5 inches.
- Internal lifts (if used) should not be noticeable.

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- [This CRL is available as a PDF](http://www.501st.com/databank/Costuming:SL_anh_vader_wip) at www.501st.com/databank/Costuming:SL_anh_vader_wip

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