



# Cactus Needles

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## Robin Delivers the Dominos

At the May, 2013 SWCG meeting, Robin demonstrated a method for making a filigree-like domino mask using tulle, gimp trim and thick plastic-like fabric paint. The result is very sheer and can even be worn under eyeglasses.



## From the Mailbox

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild **Finery** 11.3, May-June 2013. Regency Accessories: What Your Need Beyond the Dress by Virginia Soloman. Catherine Scholar reviews “Embellishments” by Astrida Schaeffer. Calendar of upcoming events from GBACG and allied organizations. *Finery will convert to electronic publication next issue. Contact Membership Coordinator Kathe Gust about subscriptions via [membership@gbacg.org](mailto:membership@gbacg.org).*

Peruse the hard-copy newsletters at the next monthly SWCG get-together.

## Randwulf's Bookmark Display Stand

By Randall Whitlock

For many years now, SWCG has given out bookmarks with our logo and contact information as a recruiting and promotional tool. They're functional and appealing to our bibliophilic potential members. Unfortunately, there are a bazillion other flyers and business cards sitting on the freebie table at a typical convention or craft show, all of them just as colorful as ours. It's a real challenge to make our bookmark flyers stand out.

While volunteering at the CROFT village at the Arizona Renaissance Festival a few years ago, Lyn had the idea of making an attractive display stand for our bookmarks. She commissioned a leather crafter to make it. The results are impressive, as seen in the photo.



The leather display works great when a guildster is sitting the table at a meet the clubs event, but it's way too nice to leave unattended. I decided to create a quick and easy stand out of throw-away materials so it can be left out on the freebie table, with no worries about whether we get it back or not.

Start off with an 8 ½ by 11-inch sheet of cardboard. The backing from a writing tablet works fine. I go through those cheap yellow note pads by the dozen at work, so I always have some around. You'll also need a pencil, a ruler, a craft knife and some sturdy adhesive tape.

1. Draw two lines along the length of the cardboard, dividing it into three equal rectangles 2.83 inches wide. These will be fold lines. Lightly score them with a craft knife and straightedge so they fold neatly.
2. Draw a rectangle 9 inches long and 2.5 inches wide with one edge running along one of the two fold lines described above and the rest of the rectangle running toward the middle of the cardboard.
3. Cut along three sides of the smaller rectangle, all the way through the cardboard, forming a hinged tab.
4. Fold along the two fold lines to form a triangular prism. Close the prism with a bit of tape.
5. Fold the tab down to the inside of the prism.

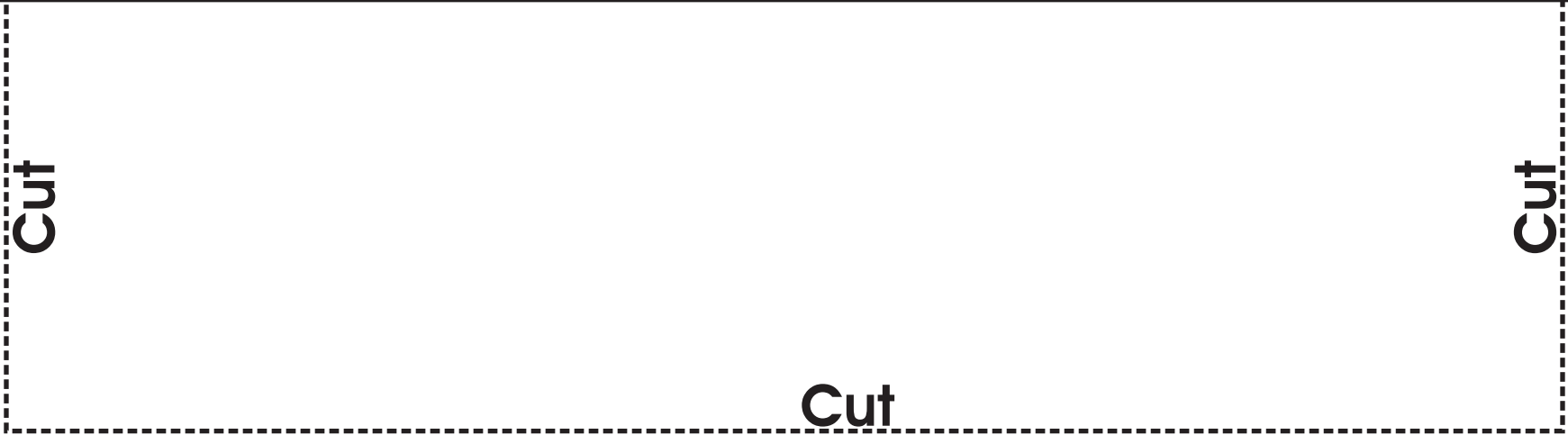
You now have a triangular stand for the bookmarks. If you don't like to make measurements, just use the full-scale pattern on the following page. Mess with the sizes a bit and this pattern will work for a business card stand too.



**Tape**

Randwulf's Bookmark Display Stand  
2013 by Randall Whitlock

**Fold**



**Fold**



**Tape**

## On the Web

A new issue of **Virtual Costumer** is online. This issue explores how costumers organize their workspaces, projects and materials. <http://www.SiWCostumers.org> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 11 issue 1. Enjoy! -- Phil Gust, Editor

JoAnn Abbott's pictures from **Costume-Con 31** are on display at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/calliopeva/> Enjoy!

**Ultimate Guide of How to Remove Stains From Clothes** - <http://www.gift4him.com/ultimate-guide-of-how-to-remove-stains-from-clothes.html> . As seamstress and tailor, I was putting together some references for my customers. They always seem to have questions about fabric care, so I thought I would help them out. I wrote this piece, all about stain removal. - Jessica Ebberts

### Costume-Con 31

Reviewed by Elaine Mami

It was a loooong drive to Denver - and boring! - but at the end it was challenging to actually get TO the hotel. Construction everywhere. The hotel was a nice Red Lion - which was to become a Radisson in 2 weeks. The joys of lame duck staff. Things beyond the control of the concom.

Costume-Con 31 had its stuff together for the most part. Since I was the only attendee from the SWCG, I got to/had to represent us at the ICG Annual Meeting. Not a problem, except that Phillip Gust, the President, asked each chapter several questions about the chapters that I didn't have many answers to, since I've been AWOL this year. Anyway, the only thing voted on this year was election of ICG officers. Since the entire Board was sitting for re-election without any challengers, it was an easy vote. Thanks, Randall, for sending your proxy.

Please go to the ICG website for details about the meeting and things the BOD has planned for the year. One thing will be a committee working on getting more "bang for your membership buck." Please start thinking of things that might work for that.

The Future Fashion Show had less than 10 entries. The Single Pattern had a few more. The SF/F and Historical each had almost 30 entries, and they knocked your socks off! The Historical had more variety this year than I've seen in a long time, representing several different ethnicities and eras. Even the Doll Show was large and interesting. Sadly, they chose to use one MC for all of the shows. He's a professional comedian who has MC'd at small local cons, and he totally alienated everyone on Friday night when he put down the costumes & costumers. So much so that at least 2 entries in the SF/F pulled out! Sue Kulinyi & others set him straight about costumers & Costume-Con masquerades so that he did a 180 for the rest of the con. He apologized publicly & profusely.

I was asked to compare CCs 30 & 31. I don't know their final numbers, but the crowd didn't feel quite as large as ours. I could be wrong. They had much less programming, but the panels were well attended. As with almost all CCs, the costumes were eye-popping all weekend long. The consuite was what you would expect from most cons, with various groups sponsoring lunches and parties. Sadly, their hotel would not allow the kind of food service we had - most don't! And

if you weren't at the doors when they opened, you didn't have much chance of getting any of the donated treats.

Despite any faults - and I challenge any con to be without faults! - everyone had a good time. The one thing that affected many people was the altitude. Lots of us were uber-tired and breathing hard. Nothing anyone could control, of course. Carl & I had a great time with many old friends - several of whom we hadn't seen in years! Lots of chances to catch up & schmooze.

Every Costume-Con is different, yet they are also the same. I look forward to Toronto, Charleston, SC and Madison, WI. There are rumors that San Diego will be after Madison. I hope that PCC won't be so close next time, because I'd love to NOT be the only one there from the SWCG in the future.



### **Rebooting Randall**

A Review of Funtasma Captain's Mid-Calf Boot

By Randall Whitlock

While I was helping judge the TusCon masquerade last year, one of the contestants turned up in a pair of remarkable boots. He referred me to [www.steampunkemporium.com](http://www.steampunkemporium.com), which also operates under the names "Gentleman's Emporium" and "Ladies' Emporium."

These are Funtasma brand Captain's Mid-Calf Boots. Available in brown or black, they are nearly knee-length on me and have the classic lines of a European officer boot from the WWI era, commonly called "jack boots" when worn by the more dictator-ish militaries. They are nearly identical in appearance to a pair of East

German officer boots I purchased right after the Berlin Wall came down.

The boots are made from a polyurethane-based synthetic with a fabric lining and side zipper. The workmanship is good with well-finished seams, a molded rubber traction sole and one-inch heel. It's a good basic look for SF heroes (or villains) from Flash Gordon through Grand Moff Tarkin and Captain Mal.

There are limits to the wearability. The synthetic outer material does not breathe, so they run hot and you will want substantial cotton or wool socks for wicking. The sole is good and solid, but I'd suggest a well-fitted after-market insole for better support. I transplanted the insoles from an old pair of Rockport walking shoes into mine. The synthetic material is a bit softer than real leather and will be vulnerable to nicks, cuts and cat claws, but it's much suppler than vinyl.

The sizes run large. I take an 11½ or 12 in most shoe brands, but the Medium size (10-11) fits me better than the Large. I learned this the hard way by buying two pairs. If you know a swashbuckling sasquatch, he may be able to barter for my spare boots.

The list price at Steampunk Emporium is \$44.95 with about \$6.95 for standard shipping, so they are affordable compared to real leather boots. My boots arrived in less than a week, so I give Steampunk Emporium full points for customer service. There are many other shoe brands and styles on their site, including some genuine leather Victorian ankle boots I may have to try later.

The site also features suits, vests, watches, dresses, hats, men's Victorian swimsuits and the odd false mustache – well worth a casual surf.

A quick Google search shows that Funtasma manufactures a wide variety of costume boots and shoes which are available from Amazon.com and other online shoe dealers. I expect you could also order them through Easley, Mardi Gras or other local costume shops.

### **CASFS Book Social for Second Half 2013**

Your editor also coordinates the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society's monthly "Book Social." We get together at 7PM on the third Tuesday of every month at Samurai Comics (1051 East Camelback Road, Phoenix) to socialize and discuss a pre-selected book, with the books chosen several months in advance. Here are the book selections for the second half of 2013. This time around we're doing some graphic novels along with the prose novels.

June 18, 2013 - Redshirts by John Scalzi

July 16, 2013 - Maus I and Maus II by Art Spiegelman

August 11, 2013 - Haze by L. E. Modesitt, Jr. (To be held at CopperCon Revolution [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org))

August 20, 2013 - Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff by Christopher Moore

September 17, 2013 - Daredevil: The Man Without Fear, Daredevil: Born Again by Frank Miller

October 15, 2013 - Sabriel by Garth Nix

November 19, 2013 - Sandman: Preludes & Nocturnes, Sandman: Doll's House, Marvel 1602 by Neil Gaiman

December 17, 2013 - World War Z by Max Brooks

### **Calendar**

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk\*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.*

March 2 – July 14, 2013 – **Digital Print Fashion** in the Ellman Fashion Design Gallery at the Phoenix Art Museum. (See David's review in the April, 2013 Cactus Needles.)

June 9-16, 2013 – **Highlands War** in the Apache National Forest, near Alpine, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul's annual get-together in the cool pines. <http://highlandswar.org/>

June 22, 2013 - There will be a **Celebration of Life for Julie Douglas aka Julie of Blackwater**. Julie was a fixture at all the old SciFi conventions as well as and member of the SCA back in the early years before her health kept her from playing. We will be getting together to share memories and stories (the more embarrassing the better) of Mama Julie. We will be making Stone Soup with the original stone, so make sure you bring something for the pot. There will also be BBQ meat from Honey Bears BBQ. And by special request there will be Atholl brose, also known as God's oatmeal, as well as soda and Bheer. For the rest, we are doing potluck, based on the last name. Please bring enough to feed 8-10 people. Last name starts with: A-E Desserts, F-H Potatoes, rice or Pasta, I-L Breads and spreads, M-P Salad, Q-T vegetables, U-Z appetizers. The party will start at 5:00 pm and continue on until everyone goes home. The location is Dan Smith's house. 5422 W Bryce Lane Glendale, AZ 85301. For more information, you can contact Dan as (623) 847-1235.

June 23, 2013, 1PM – **The MIM\*** SWCG field trip to the Musical Instrument Museum at 4725 East Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix. This museum features not only musical instruments from all over the world, but the costumes worn by the musicians who play them. <http://mim.org/> Museum admission is \$18 for adults.

June 29-30, 2013 – **Costumers Lost Weekend** at the Crowne Plaza Addison hotel in Addison, Texas. Presented by the Dallas-Fort Worth Costumers Guild. <http://www.dfwcg.org>

August 1, 2013, 7PM - **CopperCon Revolution Presents 2001 A Space Odyssey w/ Plan 9 From Outer Space** at Pollack Tempe Cinemas, 1825 E Elliot, Tempe AZ. 2001 will start at 7PM with Plan 9 From Outer Space starting at 9:30 PM. You wanted the best science fiction films of all time and were giving them to you in one sitting. Tickets for the showing are \$10 to the general public and \$5 with a membership to CopperCon: Revolution which will happen August 8th-11th 2013. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at <http://casfs.org/cucon/2013/02/special-screening-2001-a-space-odyssey-wplan-9-from-outer-space/>

August 8-11, 2013 – **CopperCon 33 Revolution** at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.coppercon.org> . Guests include author L.E. Modessit and artist Mike Grell. *Believe it or not, your editor is Fan Guest of Honor.*

August 17, 2012 – **Can't Stop the Serenity - Tucson** Annual charity screening of Joss Whedon's "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog at the Fox Theater, 17 West Congress, Tucson, Arizona. <http://azbrowncoats.org/>

September 28 & 29, 2013 – **Keen Halloween** at Sano Fitness Studio at Metrocenter Mall, 9617 North Metro Parkway West, Suite 2004, Phoenix AZ. This is a kind of makers' faire for Halloween crafters. <http://www.keenhalloween.com/>

October 4-6, 2013 – **Browncoat Ball** – at the Coastal Phoenix Sky Harbor Hotel, 4300 E. Washington Street in Phoenix. The Arizona Browncoats will host the Browncoat Ball, an annual gala in celebration of Firefly, Serenity and the other works of Joss Whedon. <http://www.browncoatball.com>

October 11- November 3, 2013 – **Arizona State Fair** at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and McDowell in Phoenix. Rumor hath it that the traveling Star Trek display, including the original series bridge set, will be at this year's fair. I wonder if they ever got my nose-prints off the costume display cases? <https://azstatefair.com/>

October 18-20, 2013 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Helldorado-Days-84th-Annual>

November 2, 2013 – **Run For Your Lives Zombie 5K** at Wellington Ranch, Sacaton AZ. <http://www.runforyourlives.com/locations/arizona/>

January 16-19, 2014 – **DarkCon 2014**. Location TBA. <http://www.darkcon.org>

March, 2014 (exact dates not yet set) – **Hollywood Costume** exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum, Central Avenue & McDowell Road. Bringing together more than 100 of the most

iconic movie costumes from across a century of film-making, this will be a rare opportunity to see the clothes worn by unforgettable characters from films such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, *Superman*, *Titanic*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*. **Hollywood Costume** will explore the central role costume design plays in cinema storytelling. The exhibition contains costumes that have never left private and archival collections in California, and most have never been publicly displayed or seen beyond the secure walls of studio archives.

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