

	<h1 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h1> <p style="text-align: center;">25.02 February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild 2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
<p>President Paula Lary Vice President Randall Whitlock Secretary Randall Whitlock Webmaster Randall Whitlock Treasurer, Editor Tasha Cady</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">southwestcostumers@gmail.com</p>

Recent Events

The Guild participated in Tempe FanCon. Welcome to all of you who showed interest! Hope to see you again soon.

Here is the feedback from the con

Hello FanCon Exhibitors,
Thank you for your participation in the 2025 Tempe FanCon! We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did. The weather couldn't have been better, and the crowds came out for the fun. I will be sending information for the 2026 event in June or July 2025 so keep an eye out for it.
Take care and hope to see you next year!
Regards,
Jill

Here is the link to the New Times page of cosplay pictures from last Saturday's Tempe FanCon:

[The amazing costumes and cosplayers of Tempe FanCon 2025](#)

Benjamin Leatherman

There was no shortage of colorful characters at Tempe Public Library's annual geek event.



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

One Way to Make a Rolled Hem Look Good

By Mahala Sweebe

First of all, I have to confess I cannot make a rolled hem. I have several rolled hem attachments from several different sewing machines and I have never mastered any of them. If you can make a perfect rolled hem, read no farther. I've tried and the best I can do is an indifferent compromise between me and the machine. The hems pucker, they wrinkle, they're uneven and come unrolled and ravel. Aargh!

I found this roll of 1/4" double-sided sticky tape that washes out and thought this tape might help me. And so far, it has. I forget where I found it, either JoAnn's or Walmart. The brand is Dritz Quilting, WashAway Wonder Tape. Double-Sided, Disappears When Washed. 1/4" x 25 yd. Here's what I've done with it.

Like buying a new sports car, you take it out for a test drive and put it through its paces. I wanted to make a costume in a good fabric that will probably ravel, and also want to work with a lot of chiffon which will definitely ravel. I decided to make a practice top in plain cotton material and turn over all of the edges and sew them flat so there would be no raw edges.

I cut out a rather tricky practice top, with positive and negative curves as well as straight seams. When you unroll the tape, there is a sticky side and the other side has a layer of slick paper. It is narrow so it's flexible. You can curve it gently for a hem, or for more so for armholes, or other tricky curves like a paisley shape.

First, I put the ¼" tape, sticky side down, on the top side of the raw cut fabric edge, not the underside. I started with one corner of a straight seam. I rolled out the tape onto the outer edge of the fabric, pressing it lightly with my finger to adhere it to the fabric as I went. When I had the fabric's straight edge outlined from one corner to another, then I cut the tape. It is so narrow that you can tear it with your fingers. Loosen and reposition any tape if it is needed. Run your finger over the tape again more firmly to make sure the sticky side adheres to the fabric. Then I did the same thing to the curved edges.

Next, turn the fabric upside down so that the top side of the fabric is facing down. Gently fold under the fabric at the inner edge of the ¼" tape so the slick paper side faces up. Re-position as needed, then run your finger over the tape. This will make a crease by "finger pressing" the fabric. You don't need to press it with a real iron because it would melt and make a mess of your iron. Next, remove the paper, then fold it over a second time so the sticky tape touches the underside of the fabric. The raw edge should now be covered. You can reposition it as needed. Now you are ready to sew.

One big advantage to this tape is that you don't have to pin it in place. No pins. Yeah! The tape does dry out a little over time so keep the paper on until you are ready to use it. If you start a project and don't finish it for months, the tape may not still stick to the fabric everywhere. It's a simple matter to tape over it with fresh tape in spots, or replace it with new tape. Once you know the technique and have folded the edges, it goes faster the second time.

I did this, and although it took a little more work and time, I had nice smooth seams when I was done. And again, no pins.

A new Community Issue of *The Virtual Costumer* is online!

""Mid-Century Retro Futuristic Space Babe" - Covers an award-winning sci-fi space suit, keeping costumes cool, an augmented reality costume exhibit and much more.



To read the issue go to:

https://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html

Select the Community Issue on the lower half of the page and answer the confirmation question.

Want to read the current member's issue? Join Silicon Web Costumers Guild now at:

<https://www.siwcostumers.org/join.html>

Enjoy!

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Philip Gust

Editor, "The Virtual Costumer"

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Costuming Magazine

<https://www.siwcostumers.org/vc>

Recent ICG International Customer Posts

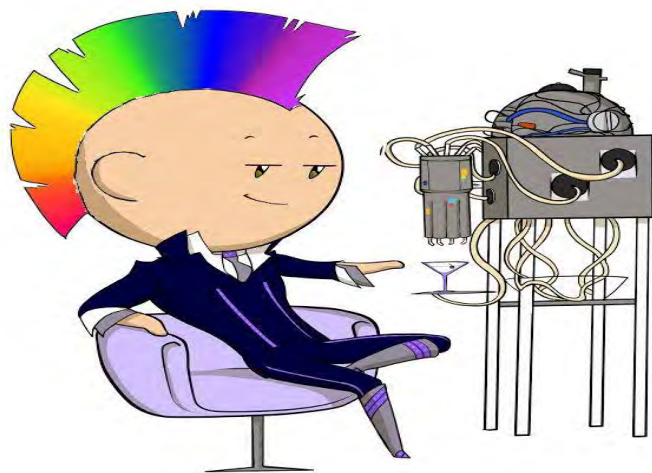


[Introducing the International Costumers' Guild Press](#)

by [Philip Gust](#) | Feb 3, 2025

The International Costumers' Guild Press is the publication arm of the International Costumers' Guild (ICG). Its mission is to publish long-form content including books and monographs on topics related to costumes and costuming. I'm pleased to announce that the first two titles were just published at the end of January 2025. Read this post for more about the ICG Press and these new titles.

[read more](#)



[From the President's Desk — February 2025](#)

by [Kevin Roche](#) | Feb 1, 2025

This winter we've been to PawCon and Furcon, and I'm currently in Boston as the Hal Clement Science Speaker (science GoH) at Boskone 61. Next weekend I will be in Los Angeles for Gallifrey One, and have been building a Tron:Legacy-inspired hall costume for that. My Rocky the Flying Squirrel got a very effective minor makeover in time for Furcon.

[read more](#)

Minutes

Did not have a business meeting last month, so here is a minute of humor

Why did the Clydesdale give the pony a glass of water? Because he was a little horse.

Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts!

What do you call fake spaghetti? An impasta!

Why did the bicycle fall over? It was two-tired!

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.*

Feb 11-17 – War of the Phoenix (SCA) (\$95 for the week, \$85 for the weekend, 17 and under free

Location Phoenix International Raceway 7602 Jimmie Johnson Dr, Avondale, AZ 85323

Saturday & Sunday, February 22-23, 2025 -- Arizona Matsuri Festival, Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, AZ, Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Parade begins at 9:30 a.m. both days. Free admission.

The festival features many attractions, including taiko, martial arts, traditional Japanese dance, traditional Japanese tea ceremony demonstrations, and Japanese exhibits. There will be merchandise vendors, food and a Cosplay Contest. For complete contest rules and guidelines (which are quite extensive), go to <https://azmatsuri.org/entertainment/cosplay-contest>. No pre-registration is necessary to participate in the Cosplay Contest. Check in between 10 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. both days. This is not an event for general cosplay, so they strongly discourage attendees from wearing costumes, cosplays of **non**-Japanese origin (video game, manga, anime, etc.). They encourage all festival attendees to keep your costumes Japanese related.

February 24th – March 2nd, 2025 End of Trail (<https://endoftrail.org/> _ --

Ben Avery Shooting Range (4044 W Black Canyon Blvd)

Hosted by Arizona Territorial Company of Rough Riders – Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Cowboy Action and Wild Bunch Shooting Competition. There will be a mercantile Row.

(Not much info on the website – in previous years the vent has been free but there has been a minimal parking fee)

March. 9, 2025 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET - Inside the International Costumers' Guild Press" with Philip Gust

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild is pleased to announce the fifth "Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents" webinar of the 2024-2025 season. There is no charge for this webinar but capacity is limited, so please register soon.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rsiPu8aPSXyQtyjPNRpqSg>

The International Costumers' Guild Press is the publication arm of the International Costumers' Guild. Its mission is to publish long-form content, including books and monographs, on topics related to costumes and costuming. ICG Press Editor in Chief Philip Gust will discuss the ICG Press, its purpose, how it operates, and its recently published and upcoming books. This is your chance to find out what goes on behind the scenes to develop and publish new books, in furthering the educational mission of the ICG.

March 15 – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Monster Mud! (Arizona Haunters event) \$20

HeatSync Labs 108 W Main St, Mesa AZ 85201

We've wanted to do a monster mud build for a while. This versatile stuff is used to great effect on busts, reapers, trombones and more!

We'll do a one day build of a bust using Monster Mud on Saturday, March 15.

Check it out [HERE](#) Registration ends March 10

March 20-23, Tucson Wild West Steampunk Convention (<https://www.wildwestcon.com/>) -

The convention begins Thursday evening and runs through Sunday at Casino Del Sol in Tucson, Arizona!

Step into the shadows of Steampunk and Halloween at our grand event! Explore a Vendor Hall and Artist Alley teeming with mysterious treasures. Absorb the esoteric knowledge in Panels and Workshops, then lose yourself in the allure of the Drag & Burlesque Show. For thrill-seekers, the NERF dueling grounds offer glory from the misty darkness! Indulge in the elegance of Tea Duelling, where strategy and poise combine. Marvel at the creativity of our Makers & Experts in action. Unwind in the Free Con Suite, a sanctuary of refreshments and relaxation! ...*and so much more!*

We offer discounted passes for kids, 8-14 years old! (Kids 7 and below get in free!)

So you can bring your entire group – and we have exciting kid-friendly events, games, N.E.R.F. Duelling, and more!

(Standard - \$85 +\$5 fee) , kids (\$10 +\$3 fee) – special events extra

Most of our panels and events are kid-friendly — *18+ events are clearly labeled* on the website and program guide as well as generally being scheduled at night.

Online sales end Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 8pm

April 22nd - Intro to Pneumatics (Arizona Haunters event – azhaunters.com)

So many people are interested in making their stuff move. (more info as we get it)

May 17th Learn Face Painting (Arizona Haunters event – azhaunters.com)

More info as we get it.

Phoenix Fan Fusion (<https://www.phoenixfanfusion.com/>)- June 6-8 2025 – Phoenix Convention Center

Memberships are only sold online, starting Jan 6th (\$89 early bird)

July 11-13 Phoenix Mad Monster Horror con –(<https://madmonster.com/az25/>) Err on the side of creepy -

Renaissance Phoenix hotel, Glendale 9495 W. Entertainment Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85305

\$80 for 3 days

FRI 6PM-11PM

SAT 11AM-7PM

SUN 11AM-5PM

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>.

Better yet, send us some content for the next issue. We're always open to costuming news, how to and other feature articles, reviews of events, books, film, television and web, and calendar items of interest to Arizona costumers. Send your submissions to southwestcostumers@gmail.com