

Build the detail that tells the story

A Dallas maker's mechanical arms, Madrid's stage and judging rules, a Detroit qualifier clarification and sewable light. Five grounded findings for your next costume.

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5 min read · CosplayGrid editorial

[01 / CRAFT](#)[SEPTEMBER 12 REPORTING · EVENT RECAP](#)

Doctor Octopus starts with a recognizable shape

The Dallas Morning News reports that Kase Williams built Doctor Octopus arms using a wooden board, wire, pool noodles and dryer vent tubing for Fan Expo Dallas at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center on September 12.

The maker described choosing characters with a recognizable feature and challenging himself with a more ambitious build. Unlike a photograph-only materials guess, this is a reported construction account. It gives yesterday's silhouette-study theme a concrete example: the character-defining detail can guide the material search. [\[1\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Choose one feature that makes your character legible, then prototype its size and movement before finishing it. For a back-mounted build, test balance, clearance and how you take it off; the article is inspiration, not a complete rigging tutorial.



Madrid puts several contests on one Sunday

Japan Weekend Madrid runs September 26–27 at Riyadh Air Metropolitano, with cosplay performances and the craftsmanship-focused runway on Sunday, September 27. The same day includes Spain's Cosplay Central Crown

Championships and Yamato Cosplay Cup selections; the organizer lists their finals in London and Argentina respectively in 2027. This is an existing program, not a new announcement. The page still says applications are open but gives July 21 at 23:59 as the closing date. That listed deadline has passed; no reopening is verified, and the linked form did not provide readable confirmation of current acceptance. [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Treat this as a viewing or already-selected-participant plan, not an open call. The listed 16:30 contest and 19:30 awards times remain provisional; selected entrants should use the organizer's confirmation email for their actual review and backstage times.



Judge the costume, not the wearer's resemblance

Madrid's published rules explicitly separate costume fidelity from the participant's body, face, age, gender and physical features. They also say a simple costume with clean finishes can score better than a large, complex one with poor finishes. For the individual dossier, the rules require 4–12 printed color sheets, allow both sides, require a character-reference cover and specify stapling. Teaching and advice are allowed when the entrant makes the piece; external help must be disclosed. These are this organizer's standards, not universal competition rules. [\[2\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Build a concise evidence trail around pattern choices, clean finishes and your own contribution. Ask a peer to review the costume against its reference without evaluating your body against the character. Check the separate group-dossier rules if entering with others.



Youmacon is not selecting an ICL team this year

Youmacon's dedicated International Cosplay League page explicitly says there will be no ICL Team USA selections in 2026. It states that the team chosen in 2025 will compete in fall 2027 and that Youmacon 2027 will host the preliminary for ICL 2028. The page still contains older rulebook and September 2026 Madrid text below that notice; those leftovers should not override the explicit cancellation of this year's preliminary. This is a status clarification, not a newly dated cancellation report and not a cancellation of Youmacon itself. [4]

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Track each international competition by its full name and qualifying year. The notice separately says Cosplay World Masters and Pop Culture Hiroshima preliminaries remain planned for 2026; it does not establish that either is currently accepting entries. Do not reuse ICL instructions for another contest.



A needle can be an electronics tool

Adafruit's Sewable Circuits guide explains how conductive thread can connect sewable LED Sequins, which include built-in resistors, to a suitable battery holder. Polarity and resistance still matter: changing from wire to thread does not change the circuit's principles. The metallic thread is uninsulated, so the guide recommends outerwear rather than skin contact and warns against crossing conductive paths. This expands our recent structural-material coverage into textile electronics; it is an established technique, not a newly released product or a measured cosplay trend. [5] [6]

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Start with the guide's small sample circuit before stitching a costume. Plan battery access and separated conductive paths. For cleaning, remove batteries, check both garment and component requirements, and dry completely before reconnecting power. Adafruit specifically excludes water-trapping parts such as microphones from submersion; not all electronics are washable.

MAKE A PLAN

Event radar

Dates as listed at publication. Follow the organizer for changes.

Sep 26

through Sep 27, 2026

Japan Weekend Madrid ↗

Riyadh Air Metropolitano · Madrid, Spain

Cosplay contest Sunday September 27. Stage times provisional; listed July application deadline has passed and no reopening is verified.

FANDOM → TECHNIQUE

On the floor

Scope: one reported Dallas event feature and Adafruit's established technical guidance. No global popularity ranking or participation estimates; build prompts are editorial interpretation. [\[1\]](#) [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#)

Spider-Man villains → material-led silhouettes

The Dallas Morning News documents one Doctor Octopus build using everyday materials. This is one maker's approach, not evidence of a fandom-wide popularity rise.

Mario reinterpretations → coordinated costume pairs

The same Dallas report interviews friends dressed as Bowsette and a princess-inspired Shy Guy. Their matching-costume interest suggests a group-design exercise, not a count of attendance or demand.

Needlework → light-up textiles

Adafruit's technical guide offers a bridge from sewing to simple circuits. The transferable skill is a documented craft connection, not an observed surge in electronic costumes.

TRY THIS

Make the invitation specific.

Invite another maker to a ten-minute prototype review. Show only the character reference and one unfinished feature. Ask what reads immediately, what gets in the way of movement and what needs clearer documentation.

Sources

1. The Dallas Morning News · reported Fan Expo maker recap ↗
Published / updated Sep 12, 2026 · Checked Sep 16, 2026
2. Japan Weekend Madrid · official cosplay and international qualifier rules ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 16, 2026
3. Japan Weekend Madrid · official dates and venue ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 16, 2026
4. Youmacon · explicit 2026 ICL preliminary notice ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 16, 2026
5. Adafruit · Sewable Circuits technical guide ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 16, 2026
6. Adafruit · Washing Wearable Electronics ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 16, 2026
7. CosplayGrid · September 15 edition ↗
Published / updated Sep 15, 2026 · Checked Sep 16, 2026

Checked September 16, 2026. Five findings across four independent external domains: one September 12 recap, existing Spanish competition guidance, an existing qualifier notice and a technical primer—not five overnight announcements. All five available editions in the prior seven-day window were reviewed. Today’s improvement is primary-source Spanish judging context plus component-specific care guidance for textile electronics. Source publication dates remain unset where not reliably tied to the cited guidance. No sponsored placements or reproduced event photography.
