

Plan the stage. Lighten the build.

Manila's weekend preview, Cork's accessible parade and online reuse talk, a Detroit competition clarification, and a documented approach to lighter fantasy armor.

Craft

Community

Events

Performance

6 min read · CosplayGrid editorial

01 / EVENTS

PUBLISHED TODAY · UPCOMING-EVENT PREVIEW



Manila's preview separates the floor from the concert

Anime Corner's September 30 preview places Cosplay Mania at Halls 1–4 of SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, Philippines, on October 2–4. It announces a photography area, returning cosplay contests and guests

including YingTze, Thames and Prestonles; the organizer's own site confirms those guests and the venue. The article identifies its source as a press release and discloses a media partnership, so this is organizer-led advance coverage, not independent reporting from the floor. Its opening contains a stray "2025" reference; the headline, explicit event dates and linked official site identify the 2026 edition. [1] [2]

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Match the pass to the activity before planning a costume change: the preview distinguishes Silver admission without the JAM concert from Gold and VIP concert-inclusive tiers. Check the organizer's current mechanics for photography, meet-and-greets and contests. A listed competition or purchase link does not establish open contestant registration or remaining ticket inventory. Merchandise references to Genshin Impact and Hatsune Miku are not evidence of which costumes will be most common.



Cork's parade makes the route part of the invitation

Octocon runs October 3–4 at Clayton Hotel Cork City, on Lapp's Quay in Cork, Ireland, and online. Its cosplay programme schedules Saturday's parade for 14:30 in Pegasus 1, welcoming all ages and skill levels and both

commissioned and homemade costumes. The organizer says there is no stage, so the parade involves no stage ramps or steps; it asks participants to flag needs such as accessible seating. These are specific published arrangements, not a guarantee about every route through the hotel. [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

For this parade, sign up at the information desk before 14:00 and arrive at Pegasus 1 by 14:15. Those are separate steps, not three versions of the start time. Discuss access requirements with staff and check the current programme before attending. A separate Cosplayers Unite discussion is scheduled for 13:00 in Pegasus 2&3 with no sign-up required; joining that conversation does not register you for the parade.



A reuse conversation can happen away from the hall

The same Octocon programme schedules Kat Dodd's Sustainable Cosplay talk for Sunday at 14:30 on Zoom. Its announced subjects are thrifting, material upcycling and reducing workshop waste. The talk is pre-recorded,

with questions answered on Discord; it is not described as a live hands-on workshop. Octocon lists online-only memberships, so remote participation is part of the event's published format, not an assumed free public stream. [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#) [\[8\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Check the membership and platform instructions before the session. Bring one concrete reuse question: for example, whether a thrifted garment can provide enough usable fabric after seams and worn areas are removed. This extends September 27's Auckland swap theme from preparing materials for exchange to planning what to make from them. The programme establishes the intended discussion, not measured waste savings or proof that a particular technique works for every fabric.



NO ICL

2026 PRELIMINARY
ORGANIZER NOTICE

Detroit's specific ICL notice overrides its generic promotion

Youmacon's cosplay department explicitly says there will be no International Cosplay League Team USA preliminary in 2026. It attributes this to a Japan Weekend date issue and a world-championship postponement, and says its

2025 Team USA selections will compete in fall 2027. The same notice says Cosplay World Masters and Pop Culture Hiroshima preliminaries will still be held in 2026. The page's generic promotional section still names ICL; that broader wording does not cancel the specific notice. Youmacon is October 29–November 1 at Huntington Place in Detroit. [\[5\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

This clarifies the competition landscape behind our September 24 preview; it is not a cancellation of all cosplay programming. Accepted skit entrants should also check their acceptance instructions now: the performance rules list September 30 for screening video and final audio/video submissions, without a cutoff hour or timezone in that passage. That delivery date is not a new application window. No remaining contest places or late-entry exception are asserted.



FOLD

ONE OUTER SKIN ·
EXPOSED INNER FOAM

Armor does not need the same shell on every piece

Sayakat Cosplay's Drow Elf tutorial documents different material choices within one costume. The maker uses a Worbla fold-over method on shoulder and arm pieces: cover the outside and fold the edges inward, leaving most

inner foam exposed, rather than sandwiching it between two full sheets. The account identifies conserving material and keeping weight down as reasons. Its leg armor relies on L200 foam for movement and weight considerations. This is an attributed build process, not an inferred construction method or a new material release. [\[6\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Make a small edge sample before choosing coverage for an entire armor part. Compare weight, edge finish and how your attachment will load it, following the materials' handling instructions. September 24 covered thermoplastic offcut reuse; this primer adds a decision that comes earlier—where a rigid covering is actually needed. The tutorial discloses sponsored Worbla and L200 materials and appears on a supplier's blog. Its adhesive results belong to that maker's tests, not a universal recommendation for all foams.

MAKE A PLAN

Event radar

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

Oct 2

through Oct 4, 2026

Cosplay Mania 2026 ↗

SMX Convention Center · Pasay City, Philippines

Organizer-led preview; JAM access depends on ticket tier. Contest entry status and ticket inventory not established.

Oct 3

through Oct 4, 2026

Octocon ↗

Clayton Hotel Cork City · Cork, Ireland, and online

Saturday parade: sign up before 14:00, arrive 14:15, start 14:30. Sunday reuse talk: 14:30 on Zoom; prerecorded with Discord questions. Irish local times.

Oct 29

through Nov 1, 2026

Youmacon ↗

Huntington Place · Detroit, Michigan, USA

No 2026 ICL preliminary per specific department notice. Other named preliminaries remain planned. September 30 media deadline is for accepted skits, not new applications.

FANDOM → TECHNIQUE

On the floor

Scope: Octocon's published programme and Sayakat Cosplay's supplier-hosted tutorial. No fandom rankings, visitor counts or inferred construction details. [\[3\]](#) [\[6\]](#)

Participation → a specified route

Octocon names the signup desk, arrival time and stage-free parade arrangement. This is one organizer's access guidance, not a claim about access across all conventions.

Fantasy armor → selective reinforcement

Sayakat's documented Drow build varies foam and thermoplastic coverage by body part. This is one maker's construction choice, not measured industry-wide adoption.

TRY THIS

Make the invitation specific.

Invite another maker to compare two small armor-edge samples. Ask which is easier to move and attach, and record one trade-off before building the full piece.

Sources

1. Anime Corner / Carla Carreon · Cosplay Mania press-release preview ↗
Published / updated Sep 30, 2026 · Checked Sep 30, 2026
2. Cosplay.ph · official Cosplay Mania 2026 site ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 30, 2026
3. Octocon · official cosplay programme highlights ↗
Published / updated Sep 20, 2026 · Checked Sep 30, 2026
4. Octocon · official dates, venue and online membership ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 30, 2026
5. Youmacon · official cosplay notice and contest rules ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 30, 2026
6. Cosplay Supplies / Sayakat Cosplay · Drow Elf armor tutorial ↗
Published / updated Aug 27, 2018 · Checked Sep 30, 2026
7. CosplayGrid · September 24 edition ↗
Published / updated Sep 24, 2026 · Checked Sep 30, 2026
8. CosplayGrid · September 27 edition ↗
Published / updated Sep 27, 2026 · Checked Sep 30, 2026

Checked September 30, 2026, America/Detroit. Five findings across four independent external source organizations: one new Philippine press-release preview, two distinct upcoming Irish programme items, an existing Detroit notice and an established armor primer—not five overnight announcements. The seven previous editions were reviewed; unchanged deadlines were not repeated as fresh news. Today's improvement adds Irish primary-source access guidance and distinguishes Youmacon's specific ICL notice from generic promotional copy. Anime Corner discloses a media partnership; the historical tutorial discloses supplied materials. Undated pages retain no publication date. No forms submitted, sponsored placements by CosplayGrid or reproduced photography.