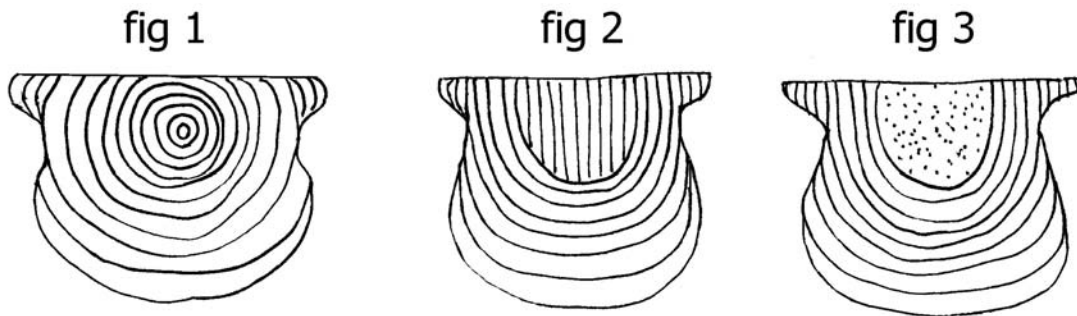


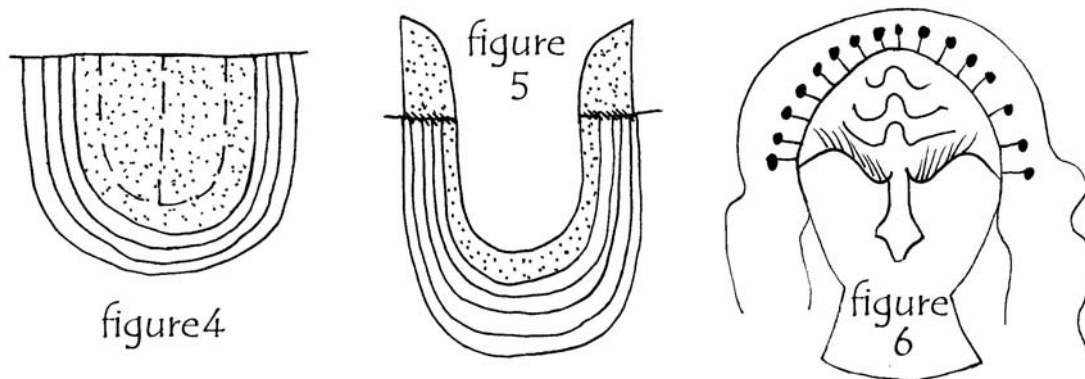
THE TRANSFORMATION, Make-up and Hair

MODIFYING THE WIG

Choosing a wig has been a series of compromises for me. The first consideration has to be: how easy is it to extend or change the hairline? Unfortunately the wigs easiest to modify are usually not the proper texture to look truly Klingon, and those with the proper kinkiness are usually nightmares to modify. Here's why. Wigs are constructed 3 ways: Figure 1 shows the lines of hair sewn to a stretchy cap in concentric circles from a spot located at the top of the head. Curly wigs with layered hair and straight, short, oriental looking wig styles are made this way. The part you'd cut out to modify has the highest density of hair and there would be many raw edges to sew down. Figure 2 illustrates the construction for a straight hair wig style, usually with a center part. The problem with loose ends rears its ugly head again. I usually buy the type of wig in Figure 3. This one has a fake latex scalp with hairs imbedded in it so that it can be parted anywhere in that section. When you cut into this section there are no loose ends, and the latex is easy to glue down to the headpiece. The main drawback is that most of the wigs made this way are the wavy showgirl type--a bit sleek to look truly Klingon, but with some brushing, they look wilder. Try to get a showgirl wig without bangs--you'll have more to work with.



The goal is to extend the hairline so that it will go around the perimeter of the prosthetic. Unless your bumps are very low, cutting the back of the wig to allow the hairline to swing forward *does not work!* What I do is trim the layers of fabric from the under side of the fake scalp, then carefully cut away all but a 1/2 inch portion of the fake scalp. (Figure 4) Use the tips of sharp pointy scissors to do the cutting, and keep the scissors near the latex skin, so you don't destroy any hairs. Cut that center piece in half. The two halves will be used to extend the hairline. (Figure 5)



ATTACHING THE WIG AND BROWS

Prepare foam prosthetics for attaching the wig by super gluing strips cut from kitchen gloves to the under sides of areas where the wig will be attached. This extends the life of these more delicate prosthetics. Purists out there will attach wigs each time makeup is applied, but most fans don't have that kind of time. Sewing or gluing the wig to the prosthetic saves a step. Whip stitch the wig in place using thread that matches the prosthetic (Figure 5), or glue the wig down to the prosthetic using latex, pinning it down to a Styrofoam wig form. (Figure 6) Once the sewing is done or the latex has dried, you may want to even out the ends of the wig, using any clippings for brows.

Eyebrows can be done two ways. For years, I have used scraps of wig hair for matching brows, gluing the pieces down on a bead of latex, working from the outer brow edge to the middle of the face, overlapping the hairs as I go. The other way is to find a fake moustache the same color and glue the two halves onto the brow upside down, using latex or medical adhesive. Be sure to locate the brows correctly directly over your natural brows (which should be covered by the prosthetic). Locating the brows too high results in surprised, confused or Pakled expressions, so be careful.

APPLYING THE HEADPIECE AND WIG

Most people choose to glue prosthetics to their faces. It keeps the prosthetic correctly aligned and looking less like a hat you just popped on. Make sure your skin is clean and oil free before you apply adhesives. If you perspire much, you may want to use a good anti-perspirant to your forehead. If you have a hollow latex prosthetic, gluing a roll of cotton inside the nose and putting a panty liner in the forehead part of the bumps may help absorb excess moisture.

There are several kinds of adhesives available. You may want to experiment to see which is right for your skin:

Spirit gum is the classic stage adhesive. It is inexpensive and readily available at costume, magic and specialty stores. Apply it like contact cement, coating the areas of the prosthetic to be glued *and* your skin. Allow to get tacky, and then make contact. Sweat can loosen it, and it builds up after repeated use. I used it myself for years. It can be removed with Bond-Off. Do not use alcohol to remove anything from latex products.

Medical adhesives, such as 355, are clear, quick drying products used by the movie industry. Use too much and it becomes brittle and granular. Remove with special solvents or Bond Off.

Pros-aide is a milky liquid that dries clear, and *very* sticky. Remove with--you guessed it--Bond-off!

Duo makes a latex based adhesive that can also be used to fill cracks. It takes some time to dry, and rubs off to remove. The one time I tried it, it irritated my skin, but my friend K'Bril swears by it.

TO BLEND OR NOT TO BLEND EDGES

Blending edges is the most time consuming part of applying make-up. This is why Michael Dorn spent 3 hours getting into make-up. Using latex products to fill edges must be done in thin stippled layers, dried, then powdered between coats. This process can be minimized by making sure your prosthetic fits well in the first place. No amount of "spackling" will patch an ill fitting prosthetic. There is a product called Cabo-Bondo which fills cracks more quickly. It is a mixture of Pros-Aide and a filler called Cabosil. It does have certain drawbacks, though. Cabosil is a silicon product--nothing likes to stick to it--including make-up. You may have to use a latex mask make-up or sealer before using your regular product. It also turns white with moisture. If you do decide to use it, apply it with a mini spatula, a kind of dental tool, or those little flat coffee stirrers you can get at McDonalds. I have had some success smoothing out the seam with a moistened finger. Let it dry thoroughly, powder, then try stippling latex over that, then latex make-up or sealer, then finish your make-up. If you wish to try some blended edges, practice when you aren't in a hurry so you get an idea how much time a good job takes. You may decide to omit this step when you'll mostly be seen from a distance, like in a parade, or when the event itself will take less time than getting onto make-up, like a library presentation.

THE MAKE-UP--AT LAST!

There are those of us who won't or can't wear make-up. This is acceptable if the prosthetic is colored to match the skin tone of the wearer, otherwise it'll look like a hat. I prefer to use colors darker than my natural fair skin so I won't bleach out in photographs. I also use 4 shades of greasepaint to give my naturally round face a definition matching my bumps more closely. I prefer Mehron

greasepaint in sticks. It goes on more smoothly than Ben Nye and covers better. The sticks also help me cover the square inches of cleavage I usually show. I have tried the Kryolan water base latex make-up and found it difficult to apply and hard to stabilize (you are supposed to fix the stuff with a hairspray-like product). I find that most water based products have this problem, and they show sweat. Perhaps you'll have better luck than I.

The main or base shade most closely matches the prosthetic color and I use that on "medium" areas. I use a lighter, somewhat warmer shade to highlight areas I want to bring forward: cheeks, jaw, upper lip (the cheater's collagen) and, of course, boobs. Then I apply a darker contour to areas I wish to recede: upper eyelids, along the nose seams, in the hollow of the cheeks, under the chin, and, of course, the cleavage. I use very small amounts of an even darker contour at the outer hollow of the eyes, and the deepest hollow of the cheeks. Then I use sponges and blend. This takes practice and experimentation. I have photos of my earliest efforts and I guess everyone goes through a racoon phase.

Set the make-up with translucent powder. I found one with anti-perspirant in it. I then apply a highlight powder (I use pale iridescent eye shadow), a deep powder blush, green powder eye shadow, black eyeliner, burgundy lipstick and lip liner. Guys, you obviously don't need all of this, but I'd think about the eyeliner. It makes Gowron's eyes pop!

MAKE-UP REMOVAL

I find that gently applying a solvent like Bond-Off to loosen adhesives is easy on the skin and the prosthetic. Foam latex appliances will swell temporarily. Don't let that alarm you--it goes away later. Wash the insides of your prosthetics with mild detergent and water to remove oils from your skin and solvents. This will extend their life. Store them away from light.

One of the reasons I use greasepaint is that it has great staying power. Unfortunately that makes it more difficult to remove. I find that the non-alcohol baby wipes are great for removing most of the greasepaint and are very gentle on the skin. The remainder comes off in the shower.

That's it for now, E-me with your comments at my website <http://www.qidar.com>.

NEXT TIME-----GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT BATTLE VESTS.