

# Introduction

Part of the joy of Epic Duels is the cool little figures. This creates a problem when making custom decks; the cardboard figures work, but they just don't have the same feel as plastic minis. Here then is a guide to all the modifications I've designed, using standard Epic Duels figures, to match some of the custom decks we've created.

The mods are divided into 3 levels of difficulty. Level 1 mods are essentially no more than a new coat of paint. Level 2 mods require a bit of cutting and gluing, but nothing too extreme. Level 3 mods require some very precision work and/or extensive modification, and it's recommended that you complete at least one Level 2 mod before attempting a Level 3 mod. In addition, there are three mods that require materials beyond what can be found in a standard ED set.

Please note that the contents of this document do not correlate to simply one spare ED set. Several mods require the same base figures, so you'll need to buy two or three sets at least to perform all the mods in this document.

## Tools and Preparation

You should have a clean work surface where the figures can stand for a few days if necessary. Take a brown paper shopping bag and cut it along the seams to create an instant drop cloth.

In addition to a couple spare ED sets, you'll need a razor/exacto/hobby knife, plastic model glue, paint brushes, a metal file, Crayola modeling compound (available at any decent arts and crafts store) and paints. Water-soluble acrylic paints are easy to work with, but require the figure to be primed with a small amount of white spray paint – coat the figure lightly but evenly and use a paper towel to mop up any excess. This will give you a flat, organic look, and use can gloss the portions you want to gloss with clear nail polish. Alternately, if you'd like the entire figure to have a glossy or metal look, the Testor line of enamel paints works very well. These paints don't require the use of primer, but will require the use of paint thinner to clean the paint from the brushes.

## Level 1

### **Ysanne Isard**

Ysanne Isard is the director of Imperial Intelligence. Start with Princess Leia. Give her a coat of red paint for her jumpsuit. Then paint her base, boots, and hair black. When her hair is dry, use a very fine brush to give her two stripes of white hair along the edge of her front bangs.

### **Jan Ors**

Jan Ors is a Rebel commander and companion of Kyle Katarn. Start with Princess Leia. Give her a coat of beige, khaki, or tan paint. Then using a gloss brown (some hobby shops actually sell a color called leather) give her highlights in the chest, knees, and elbows. Paint her boots black.

### **Elite Stormtrooper (Easy)**

Cream of the Stormtrooper crop, these fearsome warriors were hand picked by Ysanne Isard to be her private guards. Start with a Stormtrooper, and paint a black patch over his right shoulder. When the patch is dry, paint an orange patch on top of it. The effect should be an orange patch with a black border.

### **Grand Admiral Thrawn**

This is the most difficult Level 1 mod - though let's face it, isn't that a pretty relative term? Start by taking a very small amount of Crayola modeling compound and smearing it into the gap between the folds of Han's vest. It won't be perfectly even but that's okay; the goal is to create a smooth surface on his chest. Then paint his body white, leaving the boots black and painting around the holster if possible; once painted, the chest should form a smooth tunic. Use a light blue to paint his face and hands. When his face has dried, paint the base and hair black. His shoulders need yellow epaulettes. Using a toothpick, give him the Imperial insignia on the upper-left corner of his chest; the first row should have 6 blue dots, and the second row should have 3 red dots followed by 3 yellow dots.

## **Level 2**

### **Evan Piell**

Floppy-eared member of the Jedi Council. Start with Yoda. Cut off one of his hands, then cut off the corresponding hand of another saber-wielding character. Since it's unknown whether Evan is left- or right-handed, either will suffice. Repaint as Evan Piell. The cloak should be dark grey, and the skin should be human fleshtone. For a more nuanced, shadowed look to the cloak, give it a base coat of grey, then dip a brush in black paint and then into a pot of either water or paint thinner. This should create a thin liquid that will run into various cracks and crevices of the cloak and give it a more textured look.

### **Grand Moff Tarkin**

Grand Moff Tarkin is an administrator, the commander of the Death Star. Start with Count Dooku. Cut his right hand at the wrist. Cut the right hand of either Han or Greedo at the wrist. Glue this hand to Dooku. Repaint as Tarkin. The outfit should be gunmetal grey with gloss black boots, and the hair can be darkened or highlighted with silver. Using a toothpick, inscribe his insignia on his upper left breast: 6 blue dots on the first row, and three red dots followed by three yellow dots on the second row.

### **Lando Calrissian**

Lando Calrissian is an administrator, the commander of Cloud City on the planet Bespin. Start with Count Dooku. Cut his right hand at the wrist. Cut the right hand of either Han or Greedo at the wrist. Glue this hand to Dooku. Repaint as Lando. His shirt should be turquoise, his skin dark, and his pants navy blue to black with black boots.

OPTIONAL: Purchase any of the small Star Wars Lego sets that feature a figure with a black cape. After painting, take the cape and place it over Dooku's neck, gluing both flaps to the shoulders and adding a pinch of glue to the inside where it curves over his left arm to perpetually give it a dramatic, swept back look.

### **Lobot**

Lando's cybernetic majordomo. Start with Greedo. Remove his head. Remove the head of Mace Windu and glue it to Greedo's body. Once the head has set, use Crayola modeling compound to sculpt his cybernetic implant. Repaint as Lobot. He should have a white or cream top and grey pants; I painted over the small vest Greedo wears, but if you choose to paint it, it should match his pants. His belt and implant should be black. Paint the base white for the final touch.

### **Kyle Katarn**

Mercenary cum Rebel sympathizer cum Jedi, this is the man who stole the plans to the Death Star and single-handedly shut down the Dark Trooper program. Start with Han Solo. Cut off his gun hand and his head. Cut off Obi-Wan's head and glue it to Han's body. Cut off Darth Vader's hand at the gauntlet and glue it to Han's right arm. Repaint as Kyle Katarn. Give him a brown/leather vest, brown gloves, and black hair (including facial hair). His lightsaber is blue.

### **Aayla Secura**

Blue-skinned Twi'lek Jedi warrior. Start with Padme. Cut her right hand at the wrist; go right through the gun stock. Then slice the remaining gunstock from her forearm, and file down the remnants so the arm is smooth. Cut the right hand from any right-handed Jedi you have handy. Glue it to Padme. Using Crayola modeling compound, fashion lekku (the long headstalks) and use them to cover Padme's hair. Repaint as Aayla. She has a purple/brown leather jumpsuit with one arm bare, with brown boots and brown leather laced about her lekku, and, of course, blue skin. Her lightsaber is also blue.

### **Mara Jade**

Part smuggler, part Jedi, future Skywalker. Start with Padme. Cut off her left hand at the wrist. Cut off Mace Windu's left hand at the wrist and glue it to Padme. Cut off her head, and reposition and glue it so that she seems to be sighting down the gun. Repaint as Mara Jade. Her outfit should be all black, with red hair and even fleshtones. Her lightsaber isn't really defined, but blue is probably best, as Luke gave her his old saber in *The Last Command*.

### **Elite Stormtrooper (harder)**

If you recall from Episode IV, the Elite Stormtrooper carried a rather larger gun than the Stormtroopers in ED. To create this effect, take a Stormtrooper and a Clone Trooper. Cut each figure at the waist and neck. Glue the legs of the Stormtrooper and to the torso of the Clone Trooper. Finally, glue the Stormtrooper helmet to the figure. Paint as above.

### **Durge**

Soldier of fortune who barely escaped savage, mind-twisting torture at the hands of the Mandalorians. Start with Jango Fett. Cut off his jet pack and his head (easier if you do it in that order). Cut off Vader's head and glue it to Jango's body. Use Crayola modeling compound to create his shoulder plates. Repaint as Jango Fett. Jango is primarily silver, with black highlights at the joints and shoulder plates. Once the base coat is dry, use a very watered down black paint to highlight the mask, and use blue to create a Mandalorian symbol on the chest plate.

### **IG Lancer**

Foot soldiers from the battalion lead by Durge. This figure is based on Brady's IG-88 mod. Start with a Battle Droid and a Clone Trooper. Cut each at the waist and neck, and trim the Clone Trooper's gun of extra flash so that it becomes more lance-like. Glue the Clone Trooper torso to the Battle Droid legs. Then glue the Battle Droid head on top, but orient it so that the nosecone is pointing up, and the flat chin is facing toward the back of the figure. Repaint as an IG Lancer. The body should be black, and the lance metallic or silver.

### **Dark Trooper Phase II**

Diabolical creation of the Empire. Start with a Stormtrooper. Cut off Jango's jet pack, cut the missile from the top, and glue it to the Stormtrooper's back. Using Crayola modeling compound, add a pair of bulky plates to his shoulders, and then roll three tiny tubes and attach them to the barrel of the gun in a roughly pyramid fashion around the barrel. Paint as Dark Trooper Phase 2. The body should be gray, with a black eye visor and red dots in the breathing holes near his mouth (use a toothpick). The gun should be dull gold or brass. Add silver and black highlights here and there to taste.

## **Level 3**

### **Slave Leia**

Princess Leia, Jabba's captive. Start with Padme, and cut off her head. Cut off Leia's head and glue it to Padme's body. Using Crayola modeling compound, create two halves to her skirt. Glue one to the front and one to the back. Then create a braid for her hair. Repaint as Leia. The skirt should be burgundy, with brown boots and a gold metallic bra. Also paint a few gold bangles around her arms.

OPTIONAL: If you have access to jewelry-making materials, use a necklace clasp and a small length of chain to give her a collar.

### **Death Star Leia**

Brady has his own version; this is mine, and is simply meant to represent a different take on the same character. Start with an Imperial Guard. Cut off the helmet and the top of the force pike. Cut off the right hand where it pokes out through the gown (trickier than it sounds; you may need to waste one Guard as a practice figure) and carve a small divot where the hand was. Use a file to smooth the force pike from the front of the gown. Cut off Greedo's right hand and glue it where you cut the divot, so it appears to be poking through the gown. Cut off Leia's head and glue it to the figure. Using Crayola modeling compound, create Leia's distinctive hairdo. Repaint as Death Star Leia. Her gown and base should be white, her hair dark brown or black.

### **Dark Trooper Phase I**

Skeletal creatures who attack with swords strapped to their arms. Start with a Battle Droid. Lay the Droid on its side and cut off the protrusion of its arms and gun. Then lay the Droid facedown and cut off its shoulders. Finally, cut off its head. You should be left with an oblong box on legs. Cut the arms off a Super Battle Droid and attach them to the figure. Cut the light saber blade from any spare saber-wielding figure and glue it to the outside of the right arm. Cut off Jango's head and, with a small bit of Crayola compound as a neck, attach it to the figure. Repaint as a Dark Trooper Phase I. The body should be grey. The black portion of Jango's mask should be repainted red. Paint the sword metallic or silver and add metallic/silver highlights to taste.

### **Asajj Ventress**

Would-be Sith warrior and disciple of Count Dooku during the Clone Wars. Start with Darth Maul. Using the file, smooth the bumpy bits off his head. Cut him at the waist and neck. Cut Padme's left hand at the wrist. Cut her right hand at the wrist, right through the gunstock. Then cut the remainder of the gunstock from her arm and file it smooth. Cut her at the waist and neck, and glue her torso to Maul's legs. Then glue Maul's head to the figure. Finally, cut both of Anakin's hands at the wrists, and attach them to the figure's arms. Repaint as Asajj Ventress. She should have grey skin and a black dress; for the full effect, paint straps that leave her arms completely exposed and connect the top to the skirt. When first introduced she wields mismatched blue and green sabers, just like Anakin, so you can either leave them as is or repaint them both red, the color of the sabers given to her by Dooku.

### **Jawa**

The little scavengers from Tatooine aren't particularly hard in concept, but require some precise clay work to get them to look just right. Start with Yoda and cut off his head. Decapitate a Clone Trooper and glue the head to Yoda's body backward, so that you have a flat surface to the front to paint on. Roll a ball of Crayola modeling compound and pound it as flat as you possibly can. Drape this over the top, sides, and back of the figure's head to form the back of its cowl. Take about 1/4 the amount you used for the back and roll it into a tube. Flatten the tube, and place it under the figure's chin and over the cowl. Smear it into the back so that it's smooth and even, but make sure there is a visible seam along the front. Repaint as a Jawa. The cloak should be brown, the face and hands black. Once the face dries, paint two yellow eyes.

## VARIANTS:

- Cut off the right hand, add Han's right hand for a gun. (for the Jawa Chieftan)
- Use a small bit of Crayola modeling compound to form an interesting metal component. Paint it metallic and glue it to either hand. (for the Jawa Elder)
- Use a small bit of Crayola modeling compound or a toothpick to form a ceremonial staff for the left hand. (for the Jawa Shaman)
- For a cooler Shaman staff, cut off either hand and replace with a lightsaber hand at a bit of an angle. Then cut the lightsaber blade from Luke or Obi-Wan and glue it to the bottom of the saber handle in the hand. The effect is of the Shaman grasping a large staff at the center. This is why you need to glue the hand at an angle; if the saber is attached perfectly vertically, the figure isn't tall enough to accommodate the bottom half!

## C-3PO

Golden protocol droid. This figure is based on Brady's 4-LOM modification. Start with a Battle Droid and a Clone Trooper. Cut both figures at the waist and neck. Using a hobby knife, sand paper, and a metal file, do whatever it takes to cut/scrape/remove the gun from the Battle Droid's hands – and be patient, this will take a good long while. Glue the Battle Droid torso to the Clone Trooper legs. Glue the Clone Trooper head to the figure backward, so that you have a flat surface to paint on. Roll a small ball of Crayola modeling compound and flatten it into a disc. Roll another ball about 1/3 the size, and flatten it into a smaller disc. Attach this to the center of the larger disc, and attach the entire construct to the figure's chest to form the protocol droid's distinctive rings. Repaint as C-3PO. The entire body should be brass or goldenrod. Once this dries, add two large round yellow eyes and a small black mouth on the face.

# Mods Using Non-ED Components

## R2-D2 (Level 2)

Though this figure needs to be build entirely from scratch, it's actually quite easy to make an R2-D2 from Crayola modeling compound, hence the Level 2 designation. Start by rolling a small ball, and using a razor or hobby knife to cut it in half. Roll a tube with about the same circumference and about 2.5 times as tall. Put the dome on top of the tube. Roll two more small tubes and attach to the sides of the body tube to form his legs. Finally, form two feet. These should be oversized so the figure can balance. Let sit for about two days to dry. When dry, paint as R2-D2, using a photo as reference to get the details right.

**Rukh (Level 2)** *NOTE: This mod is a collaborative effort with Roman Farraday.*

You'll need the Wolfsbane figure from the Marvel Epic Duels series; it's a relatively common figure and you should be able to find it at most comic book or hobbyist game stores for a buck or two. (NOTE: If there's a choice, the one with the yellow circle on its base should be the cheapest, then blue, then red.) Use your blade to remove it from its

base. Use a metal file to shave down the spiky bits of the hair. Use a VERY thin bit of Crayola modeling compound to wrap his head and flatten it out a bit. Then wrap a thicker bit around his arms and torso to make his tunic and make the figure a bit more androgynous. Paint the figure at this point; his skin should be grey, and his tunic should be black or dark navy. When this is dry, use two thin tubes of Crayola modeling compound to give the figure a belt and shoulder strap that runs across his chest ala IG-88. This should be painted brown. Finally, remove any scrap figure (or, if that's what it's come to, just their legs) from it's base. Paint black if necessary, and glue Rukh to the base.

### **Kit Fisto (Level 3)**

Start with a Gungan figure from the Queen's Gambit game from Avalon Hill (owned by Hasbro). Cut the head and base of the spear so that it looks like the figure is holding a lightsaber. Making small and precise cuts, make a vertical cut through the character's nose just behind the eyes, and make a horizontal cut at the level of the chin. This should remove the nose and eyes, leaving the Gungan with a flat face. Cut Greedo's head off, then cut it in half vertically, so that the face is separated from the back of the head. Cut the snout off as well. Hold the face against the figure, and cut it to match as well as you can. Use a small amount of Crayola modeling compound to smooth out the rough spots, and glue Greedo's face to the blank spot on the Gungan. Use a bit more Crayola modeling compound to add a few tentacles to the head. Repaint as Kit Fisto. His tunic and pants should be brown, with a white undershirt. His skin should be khaki, and his eyes become very prominent if you paint them black. Leave his base brown if you like, or paint it white. He carries a green lightsaber.

If you have any questions about any of these procedures, please feel free to drop me an email at [richpizor@adelphia.net](mailto:richpizor@adelphia.net).