

Eyeless Jack Mask Instructions

Congratulations on your purchase of an unpainted Eyeless Jack mask; we hope you enjoy wearing it as much as we enjoyed making it! These instructions cover painting and assembling the mask, plus a few other tips thrown in along the way. If you have any further questions, or something isn't quite clear, please don't hesitate to contact us at HauntedKnoll.etsy@gmail.com.

Note: The instructions are the same for all Eyeless Jack masks, the difference being that raw casts do not include any of the pieces and parts (you'll need to gather similar things yourself), and also have an extra step to cut out the eyes.

Things you'll need:

- Eyeless Jack mask
- Hot melt glue
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paint and related supplies
- X-Acto knife

Optional:

- Airbrush
- Spray adhesive

When you're all done, it may look something like this:



Table of Contents

Eyeless Jack Mask Instructions	1
Preparing for Paint.....	5
Cutting out the eyes.....	5
Surface imperfections, Texture, etc.....	5
Strap Brackets	6
Painting the Mask	7
Primer.....	7
Base Paint.....	8
Base Blue.....	8
Darken Eyes.....	9
Clear Blue	9
Clear Coat.....	9
Dripping Eyes	10
Final Clear Coat	10
Covering the Eyes.....	11
Padding	12
Covering with Velvet [optional]	12
Attaching to the Mask.....	12
Straps	13
Using Strap Slide Adjusters	13
Attaching the Straps.....	14

Preparing for Paint

Not much needs to be done to the mask, in order to prepare it for paint, but raw castings do require a little extra work.

Cutting out the eyes [raw castings only]

Prior to painting, raw castings need to have the eyes cut out. This is best done with a Dremel.

Remove the bulk of the material with a cutter bit, and then finish cleaning out the holes with a sanding drum. Be sure to wear safety glasses, and a respirator! When you're done, it is a good idea to do a final sanding of the new edges, with sandpaper. This will remove any sharpness, which can cause problems with the fabric covering the eyes later. It doesn't take much, just enough to round off the edge.



Surface imperfections, Texture, etc.

Occasionally, there may be a small bubble or two on the surface of the mask. These are usually not visible once all the paint is done, but if you prefer, they can be filled with epoxy paste, bondo, or other similar substance.

Additionally, the surface of the mask is fairly smooth, so depending on the final look you're going for, you may wish to sand it some, to give a little texture, or matte surface.

Even for smooth looks, you may also want to just slightly rough it up with 400 grit paper, or a Scotch-Brite pad, prior to spraying on primer, to give a little more surface area for it to adhere to.

Once you're satisfied with the surface, make sure it's clean, and dry. This is best achieved by wiping down the mask with mineral spirits, or Prep All.

Strap Brackets

Before painting, it is a good idea to attach the strap holder brackets. This both cuts down on chances of scratching the paint later, and also gives something to hang the mask from, while you paint it.



One bracket should be attached at the top-middle point of the mask. The other two are slightly different for everyone, but should go on either side, somewhat even with the eye holes. To determine best placement, to ensure the straps go over the wearer's ears, hold it up, and use a piece of tape to mark the best location.

Once you have determined where they should go, use the included piece of sandpaper to rough up the areas where they'll be glued. Hold the brackets in place with tape, and secure them in place with hot-melt glue.

The following reference pictures are for a different mask, but the procedure is exactly the same.



Use the example below, for general placement. Note, this image shows the eyes already covered; **DO NOT COVER THE EYES, PRIOR TO PAINTING.**



Painting the Mask

For best results, use of an airbrush is recommended, but is not necessary. However, if not using an airbrush, subtle gradients of color are extremely difficult, and it's better to stick to a solid color theme.

Acrylic paints work the best, though use what you're most comfortable with.

Primer

It is highly recommended to start with a few coats of high-quality automotive primer, or other primer intended for plastics. To save a step, it's best to use a black primer. **3M Bondo Hot Rod Black Filler Primer** is an excellent choice. Plastikote and Rust-Oleum both make good primers for plastic as well.



Follow the directions for the product you choose. In general, you'll want to give several light coats, a couple of minutes apart, gradually building up, with the last coat being the heaviest, even coat.

Allow to dry fully, before continuing.



Example using Rust-Oleum Self-Etching Primer

Base Paint

If the primer coat has any undesirable texture, it can be **lightly** wet-sanded with 400 grit or higher paper, to give a smoother finish. If doing this, be sure to dry the mask thoroughly, and remove any dust, before continuing with paint.

If you use a black primer, or do not plan to use an airbrush, you can skip this step. Otherwise, spray the mask solid black.



Base Blue

Things get a little tricky at this point, depending on whether or not you are airbrushing.

No Airbrush

If not using an airbrush, you may wish to use a darker color of blue, and paint the entire mask that color, as achieving a color gradient, with a paintbrush, is rather difficult.

Airbrush

If using an airbrush, pick a light blue color. **Tamiya Sky Blue** is recommended, and should be thinned some. Spray the mask, gradually working a gradient out to the sides. The idea is to have the middle of the mask the darkest blue, and lightly feathering it out at the edges. i.e. more paint in the center of the mask, and less, as you work your way to the edges.



You may wish to keep more black, at the edges, than this example shows

Darken Eyes

Using any black acrylic, paint the insides of the eyes solid black. This can be done with, or without an airbrush. However, if painting with a regular paintbrush, it is best to keep to the very insides of the eyes. If using an airbrush, slightly fade the color out, around the edges of the eyes.



Clear Blue

If not using an airbrush, it is recommended to skip this step, unless you want to add a little depth of color, on top of the base blue. But the same effect is difficult to achieve, with a standard paintbrush.

Using an airbrush, paint several layers, using a transparent blue paint. **Tamiya Clear Blue** is recommended, and should be thinned a bit, before spraying. However, this time, work the gradient in the *opposite direction*. You want more of this paint on the edges of the mask, and gradually less, as you work back to the centerline. This can take a little doing, as the clear blue takes several layers to build up a good effect. The Tamiya paint dries quickly, so several coats can be done with little time between.



Clear Coat

At this point, it is a good idea to give the mask several coats of clear. **Krylon Satin Clear Acrylic** is HIGHLY recommended here; it sprays nicely, and dries relatively quickly. Give the mask several light coats, and allow to dry fully, before continuing.

Dripping Eyes

For the dripping eyes, several different approaches can be taken, to achieve different effects.

This is just one recommendation:

Using a thin, transparent gray color, gradually build up drips, under each eye. **Golden Transparent Shading Gray** is recommended, as it layers nicely, and does not require additional thinning to work well. Apply some of the paint along the bottom of each eye, and allow it to drip down the front of the mask. Then, using a lint-free, paper towel, softly wipe downwards, spreading, and thinning the paint. Allow to dry a few minutes, and repeat, until the desired level of staining is achieved.



Final Clear Coat

Adding a final clear coat is optional, but can help protect the dripping effect from chipping off. This can affect the sheen of the drips however, so be aware of that. If doing the clear coat, **Krylon Satin Clear Acrylic** is again recommended.

Covering the Eyes

There are various options for covering the eyes, but included with the kits are a couple of different swatches of fabric, one more sheer than the other. Decide which will work best for you, nothing that one is more difficult to see out of, than the other. The process for attaching them is the same.

Lay the desired fabric over the eyes, and use small lines of hot glue to hold it in place. Take your time with this to ensure that it looks right when you're done. You want to start in one spot, and slowly work your way around, stretching the fabric tight after each bit cools. This will ensure that the look from the outside is even, and flat, with no wrinkles. Once you've gone around both eyes, and the glue has completely cooled, use an X-Acto knife to *carefully* cut away the excess.

Tip: A small piece of parchment paper can be used to help spread out the glue a little, just be very careful not to burn yourself, or get glue on the part of the eye you look out of. After laying down some of the hot glue, lay the parchment paper over it, and press down, to spread out. Hot Glue will NOT stick to the parchment.



Padding

Due to the shape of this mask, and not having a defined nose, padding **MUST** be used, to hold it away from the wearer's face enough to be worn comfortably.

Kits include 3 pieces of pre-cut foam. These can either be attached directly in the mask, or they can first be covered with the included black velvet.

Covering with Velvet [optional]

Cut the velvet into three pieces, matching the size needed to cover each of the pieces of foam. Be sure to make the pieces big enough to cover the sides, and wrap over onto the bottom of the foam.

Using **spray adhesive**, spray glue all over the front, and sides of a piece of foam. Being careful not to get any of the glue on the right-side of the velvet, drape it over the foam, and press it into place on the front and sides. Do this for all three pieces, and allow them to dry. It will likely be bunched up in areas, so do your best to work around that, but in the end, it can't really be avoided.

Once the spray glue is set, trim excess fabric, ensuring you leave enough so it still wraps around the back of the foam.

Using hot glue, secure the trimmed edges down to the back of the foam.

Attaching to the Mask

Although contact cement, or other adhesives can be used to secure the padding to the mask, hot glue works the best. Squeeze enough on to cover most of the back of the padding, and press it in place. Use the below picture for sample placement.

Caution: Try not to apply glue in the middle of the top piece of padding. If that is fully glued down, it makes it difficult to loop the strap through the top strap bracket later.



Straps

The leather strap junction can be left alone, or finished by various different means. For this particular mask, it is recommended to finish it with a blue, acrylic paint.

Using Strap Slide Adjusters

There are 4 strap slide adjusters, included with the kit, which are used for attaching the straps to the mask, and strap joiner. They're easy enough to use, but here are a few pictures of the process (these pictures are borrowed from our Kreig mask how-to, but the idea is the same).

First pass a strap through a slide adjuster, going up through the bottom, and back down through the top, leaving a large loop at the top.



Next, take one end of the strap, and loop it through a strap holder slot.



Finally, run the strap back through the strap adjuster, underneath the loop you made to start, and tighten.



Attaching the Straps

Using the process above, attach the straps to the mask. The strap which goes over the top of your head will have an adjuster at the mask, and at the leather strap joiner. The longer strap, which runs from ear to ear, will only have an adjuster on either side of the mask; it just runs through the strap joiner.

The following pictures are borrowed from our Psycho mask how-to, but the idea is the same.



Attach left side





Run strap through strap joiner



Back view



Attach right side



All straps attached

And you're finished! Send me a picture of the end result; I'd love to see what you do with it!