



Happily EVA After

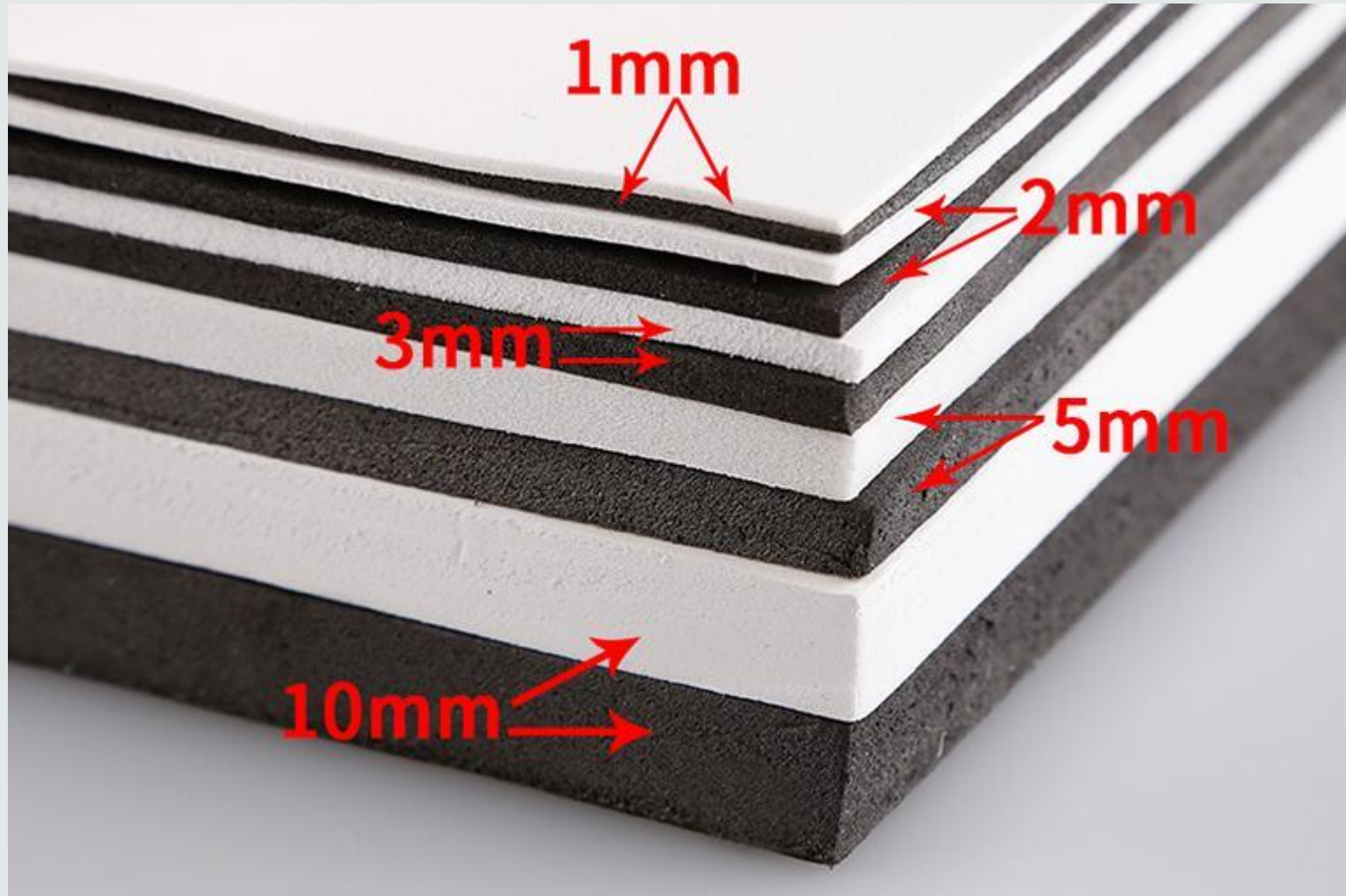
DEADLEGATO
ANIME FUSION
2024

Not an Evangelion panel, sorry!



What is EVA foam?

EVA: **ethylene vinyl acetate**



It comes in multiple widths

The width you want will be determined by what you are making

Fine details on top of another shape 1-2 mm

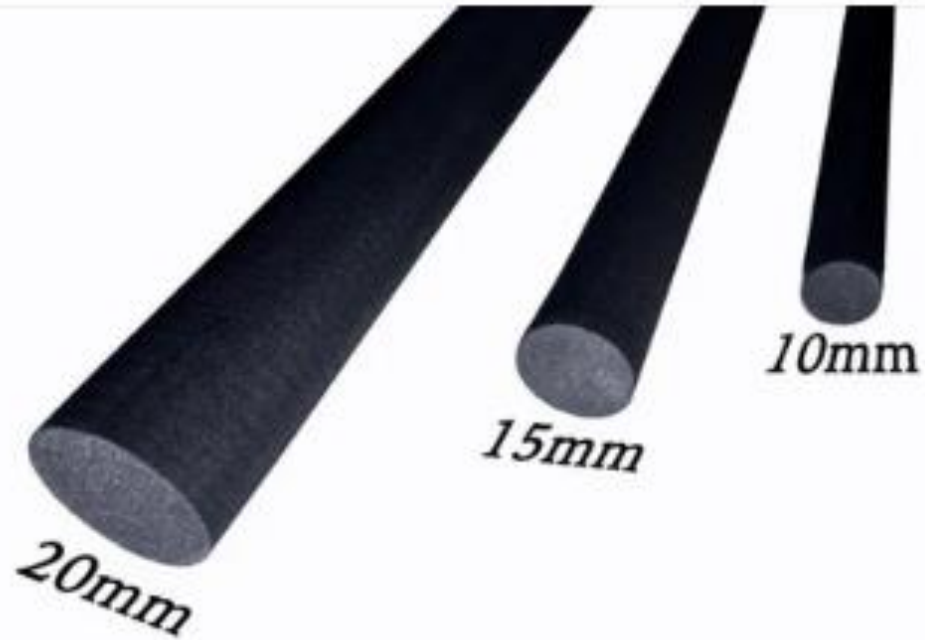
Basic body shapes, armor 3-6 mm

Weapons 10mm

(Rough guide)

Different from PVC foam

It comes in tubes! (Dowels)



(Or you can buy foam tapes for weather stripping, but how they behave in response to paint or heat may not be the same as true EVA foam)

Eva alternatives and adjacents



Roll over image to zoom in



Moldable Cosplay Foam Clay (Black) by The Foamory - High Density - 900g - Air Dries Like EVA Foam, Light Weight, Sands and Paints Easily, Non-Toxic

Visit the The Foamory Store

4.6 ★★★★★ 645 ratings | 28 answered questions

50+ bought in past month

\$39⁹⁵ (\$1.26 / Ounce)

prime

FREE Returns

Save 5% on 2 select item(s) [Shop items >](#)

Size: 900g

300g

900g

Color: Black



Brand	The Foamory
Color	Black
Material	EVA Foam Clay
Item Weight	900 Grams
Special Feature	Non Toxic
Educational Objective	Dexterity, Hand-Eye Coordination, Creative Skill

It comes in a “clay” form too

Eva alternatives and adjacents

Now available: **varioShore TPU Black**.

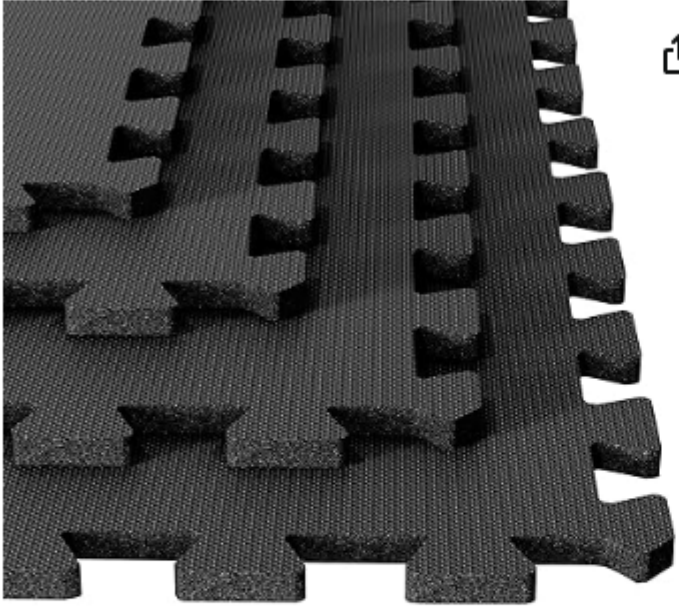


Design by Flying Ginger ([link](#)), remixed by colorFabb with inscription

varioShore TPU
(sort of)

@WillowCreativ on Twit(-ter) has
plenty of information on using
varioShore for cosplay

Your local fabric store will MARK IT UP



↑

EVA Foam Mat Tiles 4-Pack - 16 SQ FT of Interlocking Padding for Garage, Playroom, or Gym Flooring - Workout Mat or Baby Playmat by Stalwart (Black)

[Visit the Stalwart Store](#)

4.4 ★★★★★ 160 ratings

50+ bought in past month

\$21⁸⁷


✓prime Two-Day

FREE Returns


Pay ~~\$21.87~~ \$0.00 after using available Amazon Visa rewards points.

May be available at a lower price from [other sellers](#), potentially without free Prime shipping.

Color: **Black**



Roll over image to zoom in



I bulk buy mine from Aliexpress and store it until I need it since shipping takes awhile

Tools of the trade

X-acto knife **with new blade** or rotary cutter

Cutting mat

Heat Gun with adjustable settings

Adhesives

Paints

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION




Love your Lungs

NOT THIS



WEAR THIS

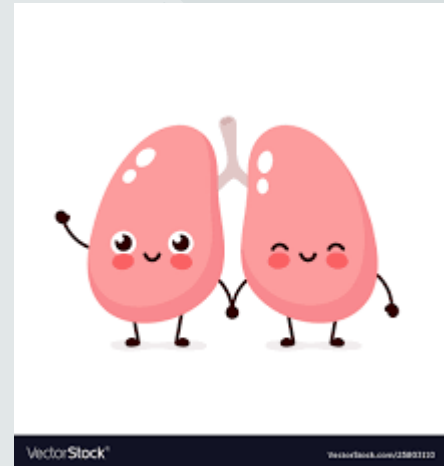


**KOTTO Strong Suction
Hose Fume Smoke
Absorber for Soldering,
Electric Iron Welding, 3d
Printing Extractor
Absorber Remove DIY
Extractor Carbon or HEPA
Filter [Updated, Hose pre-
attached]**

\$ 71.55



**Master Airbrush
Portable Hobby
Airbrush Paint
Spray Booth Kit
with 4 LED Lights,
Turntable -
Powerful Dual
Exhaust Fans with
Filter & Extension
Hose - Painting
Projects, Models,
Arts, Crafts, Cakes**



Patterning

No matter how you 'slice' it, EVA foam is expensive!

Make patterns out of a cheaper material like cardboard, card stock, or oak tag

You will want to place marks where pieces go together

That will help you align them later!



DEMON SKULL PATTERN

Demon Skull Pattern -
DOWNLOAD | PDF

3.99 \$ incl. VAT

Kamui Cosplay



<https://www.instructables.com/Introduction-to-EVA-Foam/>

You need to be a dummy...

What I mean is, you'll need a form to shape on

Duct Tape Body Doubles are **THE BEST** but you can use a standard mannequin if you want



But... patterns confuse me

That's okay, plenty of people give out free or sell affordable patterns.

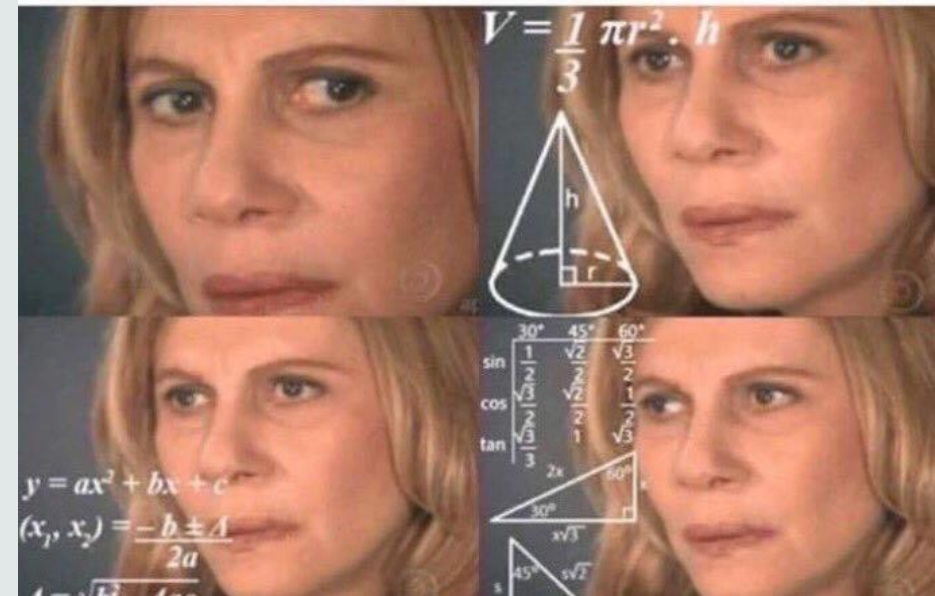
Evil Ted: <https://eviltedsmith.com/product-category/patterns/>

Punished Props Academy: <https://www.punishedprops.com/patterns-and-templates/>

SKSProps: <https://www.sksprops.com/templates>

Pepakura.eu

Kamui Cosplay: <https://www.kamuicosplay.com/product-tag/eva-foam/>



Cutting

Here is where your fresh blade comes into play

Try to cut with one smooth, slow movement- stopping and starting will give you jagged edges

Cut **AWAY** from your body and on a stable cutting surface



How do I make it ~curvy~

This is where your heat gun comes in

You can double-sided tape the pieces together while shaping, or use hot glue, but be careful about reheating the hot glue

The thicker the foam, the less-bendy it is

Keeping your gun about 4 inches away, slowly pass the heat gun over the form you are shaping

Keep it moving

You will notice a shiny sheen developing, but you DON'T want to see bubbles or droplets (TOO HOT)

After about 30 seconds, turn off the gun and gently shape with your hands. I recommend silicone finger covers just in case (also great when hot gluing.)



NECK PATTERN

\$7.00



How do I make it ~ curvy ~

You can heat multiple times, but don't let it get hot again once it's in the right shape or it will go back to flat

This includes hot cars.

You can also sand the edges, heat them, and then smooth out the sanding marks on the edges with your finger while they're still warm!

You can also press the EVA over a form while it's warm to get it to hold that shape- good for rounding and masks



NECK PATTERN

\$7.00



Adding some additional detail

Wood carving tools can be used to “emboss” details

Hot glue can be used to add details on top- but I actually prefer using the foam clay for this

You can press the clay into a silicone fondant mold, let it dry, and then glue it to your base

Silicone molds come in MANY designs

Assuming I remember, I will have an example to show



Adhesives

DAP Weldwood contact cement (requires respiratory protection)

Barge (requires respiratory protection)

When you use these glues, you apply to both sides, let the glue soak in for a bit, and then smash those pieces together! (carefully, in the right position)

Hot glue

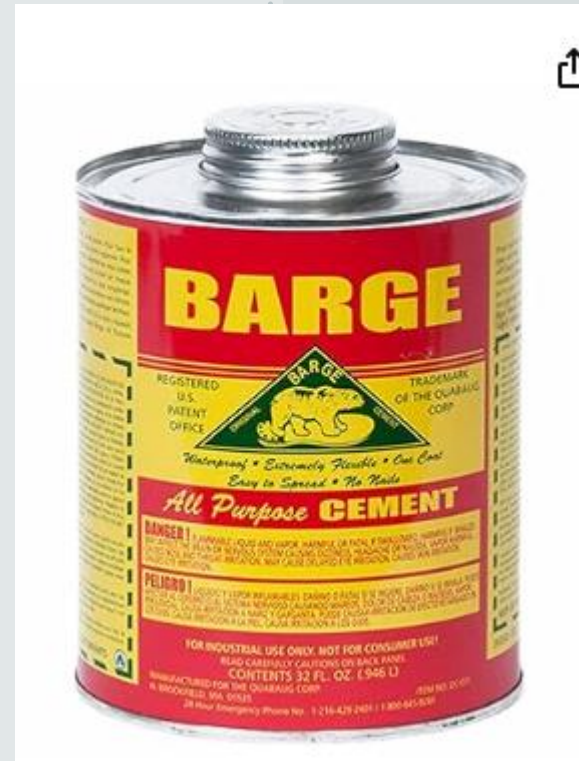
- You can get in multiple colors

- Temperature matters!

- Can be used to hold pieces in place while slower setting glues work

Aleene's Felt and Foam Tacky Glue

Tonbo Mono Aqua Glue for small delicate pieces



Preparing to Paint

Priming:

Plasti Dip (requires respiratory protection)

With disposable foam brushes or spray on version

More coats = more stable BUT less flexibility and more chance of cracking

Whatever primer you need must be flexible or it will crack

Modge podge or watered down white PVA glue can be used if you're running on a budget

Heat-treated foam needs less priming than nontreated foam

PlaidFX Flexible Paints: <https://plaidonline.com/plaidfx>



Painting

Once again, you need FLEXIBLE paints

Acrylic paints are a good choice on a budget

If you are painting colors on a black background, adding a white primer first will make it easier

Mica and chameleon powders meant for resin work can be added in a clear medium as a final layer for extra color and dazzle

Be sure you test spray paints on spare foam first- some brands eat through foam



A little bit more about painting...

You can look for tutorials on distressing and aging for that 'battle worn' look

Learn some basic painting techniques

- Basecoat

- Wash (Shadow)

- Highlights

You can find good miniature painting tutorials that explain this in detail

Your choice of brushes with bristles vs disposable foam brushes

Option to sand between layers



Protect your Paint

Mod Podge and acrylic mediums

Through The Roof (requires respiratory protection)



How do I wear it?

How you will make it stay on your body is up to what you're doing with it

You can glue it to fabric, buuuut....

I find it easier to glue an attachment to the foam and then have that attachment connect with the fabric



How do I clean it?

Mix vodka or white vinegar 1:1 with water and apply with a spray bottle

Store with dryer sheets



What if I wanna make something REALLY BIG?

You are going to need supports

Wire, acrylic rods, carbon fiber rods, and even boba straws are options for support

You can also use bamboo skewers

EVA Foam Inner Support Basics by Black Sheep Props

You can layer thinner sections of EVA around a strong inner core- a minimum of three layers is best



Not all foam is EVA foam

High Density foams like those used for Seat Cushions is a different beast entirely

That kind is good for when you want to carve a form

EVA foam is light and inexpensive, absorbs impact but hard sharp objects will dent and cut the mats. Whereas rubber is heavy, dense and more durable.

Acoustic foam is different too

Spray on foam has its uses in cosplay but it's not EVA foam lol

PVC foam, as mentioned before, is also a different beast. It's great for making things that don't need a lot of curve and that **SHOULD NOT** flex, but it requires an entirely different set of materials and skills.



Wearing your work

Mind your space!! Avoid crowded places

Practice moving **WITH THE SHOES** you plan to wear before the convention

Have someone help spot you

Don't wear a costume longer than you can tolerate

Cooling vests

Stay hydrated

Can I go to the bathroom??
(I don't know, can you?)

You can surprise your audience, you can't surprise your masquerade staff
(Okay you *can*, but you're gonna have a bad time)



Questions?

