

How to: Wear A Wig for Cosplay

So! You've gotten the perfect wig for your costume. You are all set for the big day. But then you're faced with a big problem. How do you fit your crazy amounts of hair under the tiny pageboy wig that is so perfect for your character???

So many times I go to conventions (yes, I am a huge cosplay nerd) and I see people strolling around with their wigs not properly secured. Their hair is falling out the back, or it is clear that a gentle puff of wind will blow the wig right off. So! Here is your tutorial for how to get phenomenal cosmic hair into an itty bitty living space.

Step the First: Gather your forces

I use two types of bobby pins, a hair elastic, at least two hair clips, and ultra hold styling gel (hereinafter referred to as hair glue).



The bumpy bobby pins are used under the wig, to catch any stray hairs and pin the bun in place. The smooth pins hold the wig to the hair, especially in the front. Take a look at your wig, though. It may already have handy dandy hair clips built into the wig itself. If you are lucky enough to have these, by all means, use them!



You can also find these clips at a beauty supply or wig care store, and sew them into the wig yourself, if you wish. They do make it super handy when it comes time to secure your wig.

Step the Second: Put on your costume. (At least the bits that go over your head!)



There is nothing more frustrating than carefully arranging your wig on your head, with its fancy headdress and multiple pigtails, only to realize that you then have to maneuver it through the

tiny neck of your costume! If you're worried about getting your costume dirty, you can wrap a towel around your shoulders, like you are getting a haircut.

Step the Third: The Taming of the Hair

Use the hair clips (the bendy kind that will lay flat to your skull) to pull up the front half of your hair. Depending on how short your hair is, you might need two, or four, or sixteen. Make sure all sections are secured going backwards.

Pull the rest of your hair into a low ponytail at the base of your neck. This is the true secret of wig wearing. Wigs are designed with extra space back there specifically for your hair. So what we are going for is having your hair flat to your skull until you get to the back:



Now, you're going to pull that pony tail into a bun and secure it with as many bobby pins as it will take. You don't want any hairs coming loose.

Step the Fourth: Haul Out the Hair Glue

This is where you pin down all the baby hairs and stragglers that haven't already been caught by clips, elastic, or pins. Run that hair glue over your hair, stroking in the direction you want it to lay. I also put a good dollop or two over the bun, just for extra security.

This is where you pause to do your make-up. You want to give the hair glue time to dry, especially if it is not clear gel, like in my pictures. I had some blue gel at one point, and I used it to glue the wig to my hair. It worked: the wig didn't move. But when I went to take it off, I removed some of my hair with the poor wig, and I had to spend hours cleaning blue gunk from the inside of the wig.

Do as I say, not as I do. Wait for your hair glue to dry.

