

Website Spotlight



Fursuit Resources on the Web **Philip Gust***

Here are four websites that provide resources and useful information on fursuit construction materials and techniques.

Fursuit Livejournal

The Fursuit Livejournal is a forum for fursuiters to post questions, discuss fursuit construction techniques, and show finished fursuits. Like all Livejournals, it is organized chronologically, with the most recent post first. You can access older posts using the calendar feature in the sidebar. There is also an index for accessing posts that are tagged with a particular topic.

For example, under “airbrushing” is a series of posts asking for advice about techniques for airbrushing fur, with a number of good suggestions from other fursuiters. There are also several posts showing results.

In one post a fursuiter showed the results of reworking a wolf's head that had been purchased and was unsatisfactory. The writer described how they removed the fur, reinforced and reworked the base form, added new fur and completed airbrushing it.

The post included before and after photos showing the results.



The “digitigrade legs” topic includes



discussions of techniques for creating legs, and members asking for advice. One entry showed an in-progress photo creating fur pants around a digitigrade form made of padding and duct

tape, and asking for advice on handling the seam between the pants and the shoe.

Like most forums, the quality of the content varies, but if you are looking for specific information, this is a worthwhile place to look.

Visit [Fursuit Livejournal](#)

Kobuk's Fursuit Guides

Furtopia is a forum for the fandom to discuss fursuit-related issues. Posting to this forum requires signing up and being approved, but anyone can read forum posts.

One of the more useful resources on this site is a sub-forum called “Kobuk's Fursuit Guides.”



Kobuk's portrays an Alaskan Malamute (Husky) in the fandom. His sub-

forum is a repository for guides and tutorials regarding fursuits and fursuiting.

Kobuk began writing these guides in late April 2012 and continues adding new topics. Some recent entries include:

- Traveling with a fursuit
- Fursuit rices
- A tutorial
- How to commission a fursuit
- Common fursuiting questions/problems
- Fursuit cleaning and care tutorial
- Fursuit maintenance kit.

Each entry includes a complete extended article on the topic with many photos and illustrations. Readers who are signed up with the forum can also post comments on the article at the end.

For example, here is the table of contents for “Traveling with a fursuit:”

1. Transportation Rules, Regulations, & Restrictions - The 3 "R's"
2. Modes of Transportation
3. Container Types
4. Packing a Fursuit
5. Shipping, Labeling, & What to Do If Lost.

Like all the others, this tutorial is very well written and covers almost every aspect of traveling with a fursuit in a way that is useful, providing practical advice about what to do and what not to do. It includes considerations for different modes of transportations, and types of containers to that are appropriate for each.



It also covers how to pack fursuits to ensure that they arrive safely and unharmed, and what kinds of containers to use and some not to use. For example it recommends against using molded plastic tubs because they are not sturdy and are easily broken.

This latest tutorial (last updated in April 2013) is still under construction, and will be even better once it is finished.

Visit [Kobuk's Fursuit Guides](#).

Nicodemus' Fursuit Pages

Nicodemus' Fursuit Pages are written by Adam Riggs, who also wrote the book *Critter Costuming: Making Mascots and Fabricating Fursuits*. [See Adam's article

on fursuit construction elsewhere in this issue – Ed]

This site contains tutorials on many aspects of fursuit construction, including design, materials, and techniques. It also includes pages on past project that Adam has worked on, with notes about construction.

For example, in the “Design” section, Adam covers such topics as:

- Safety Tips
- Sewing Basics
- Carving Foam
- Lifecasting
- Vacuform Plastic
- Zippers on Fursuits

Under “Carving Foam,” he discusses the basics of foam carving, and points to other pages on his site that cover foam heads, foam carving tools, and step-by-step foam carving instructions.



Rabbit head from "Carving Foam" page.

He recommends using an electric carving knife, making major cuts to rough out the overall shape; then adding details and smaller contours. He also suggests hollowing out the insides early to you can see how it will sit on your head.

Adam writes clearly, and the site is very well organized, with many helpful photos and diagrams to guide both newcomers and veteran fursuit builders.

Visit [Nicodemus' Fursuit Pages](#).

WikiFur

WikiFur is a specialized wiki that provides reference articles on topics related to Furrries and Furry fandom. Articles are organized hierarchically by topic and subtopic, and you can also access articles directly by name. For example, the “Fursuit” article is organize under Culture > Arts and Crafts > Fursuiting > Fursuit.

This article discusses many aspects including:

- History
- Types of fursuits
- Styles
- Reasons for fursuiting
- Construction
- Maintenance
- Performance

As with most public wikis, pages are built by the community, and are constantly evolving. For example, the “Fursuit” article is marked as needing to be cleaned up to conform to style standards. Members of the Furry fandom are welcome to contribute new articles, and to improve existing ones.

Visit [WikiFur](#).

Philip Gust enjoys sci-fi and fantasy costuming, and has particular interests in props, special effects, and prosthetic makeup. He also costumes in historical periods, including Georgian, Regency, Victorian, and early 20th C.