



VIRTUAL COSPLAY MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2026

MR.COMICS_COSPLAY

PH: @MEDEROPHOTOS_COSPLAY

Medero 
PHOTOS

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AUGUST EDITORIAL 2026

Written by Mr.Comics cosplay
Photo: alelanzvideo



AUGUST EDITORIAL 2026

Welcome back, crew! If you're reading this, it means you've officially survived the hottest July in years (or, at least, you've found a shelter with air conditioning on full blast long enough to read this issue).



We've arrived in August, the month of summer hits, incredibly crowded beaches, impromptu barbecues, and, above all, cities emptying like we're in a post-apocalyptic movie.





AUGUST EDITORIAL 2026

Whether you're among the lucky ones heading off to exotic destinations, or you're part of the "Sofa & Fan Team" guarding your homes, don't worry: this time around, I won't leave you alone to get bored.



Since I kept you on tenterhooks in July by not revealing anything, I've decided to change strategy for August. Because, let's face it, under the beach umbrella or on long car trips, you need certainty.

Here's a tiny spoiler of what you'll find on our pages this time:





AUGUST EDITORIAL 2026

After months, PICCOLI BRIVIDI returns, the column that recounts true events in the cosplay community.

Our usual and unmissable columns such as: CRAZY SEWING, YOU AND THE CHARACTER, and 3D PRINTING.

And many other surprises.



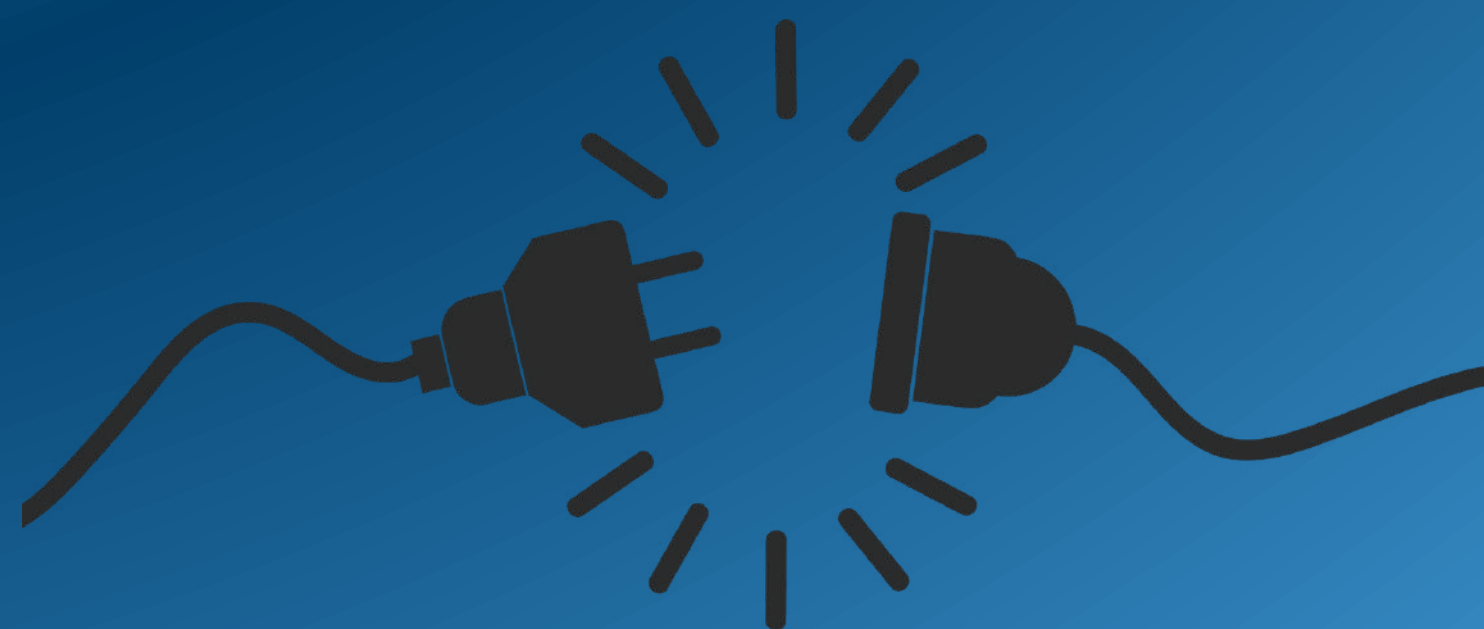


AUGUST EDITORIAL 2026

In short, the menu is extensive and, I assure you, definitely refreshing. So, grab that ice-cold drink (which will surely have warmed up by now), find the ultimate shade, and enjoy this new issue, one click at a time.



Happy Ferragosto, happy reading, and wherever you are, keep unplugging!



Your Mr. Comics

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SOCIAL NETWORKS**





BEST OF COLLAB

VELLICH3R.COS

PH: @PEIPIS.PH



convention of THE MONTH - AUGUST 2026

Written By Virtualcosplay_
Ph: @Virtualcosplay_

MONTH cons

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MARTANO COMICS 2026

2 August 2026

GIOCAOSTA 2026

7-10 August 2026

VENACOMIX 2026

19 August 2026

FANTASY BARD 2026

21-23 August 2026

BICOMIX 2026

21-23 August 2026

ROSOLINA BEACH COMICS 2026)

22-23 August 2026

SAN MARINO COMICS 2026

28-30 August 2026

CORTEMILIA COMICS & GAMES 2026

29 August 2026

EROI A GRAZZANO & GRAZZANO VISCOMICS 2026

29-30 August 2026

UNA FESTA A LUNGO ATTESA 2026

30 August 2026



MONTH cons

EUROPE

GAMESCOM 2026 (COLONIA, GERMANY)

26-30 August 2026

UNITED STATES AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

OTAKON 2026 (WASHINGTON D.C., USA)

31 July - 2 August

SUMMER COMIKET 108 (COMIC MARKET) (TOKYO, GIAPPONE)

15-16 August 2026

OZ COMIC-CON CANBERRA 2026 (CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA)

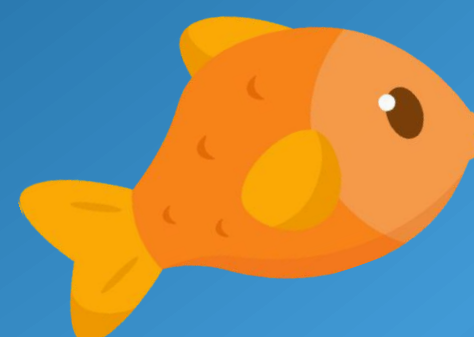
15-16 Agosto 2026

FAN EXPO CANADA 2026 (TORONTO, CANADA)

27-30 August 2026

ANIMAGA MELBOURNE 2026 (MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)

29-30 August 2026



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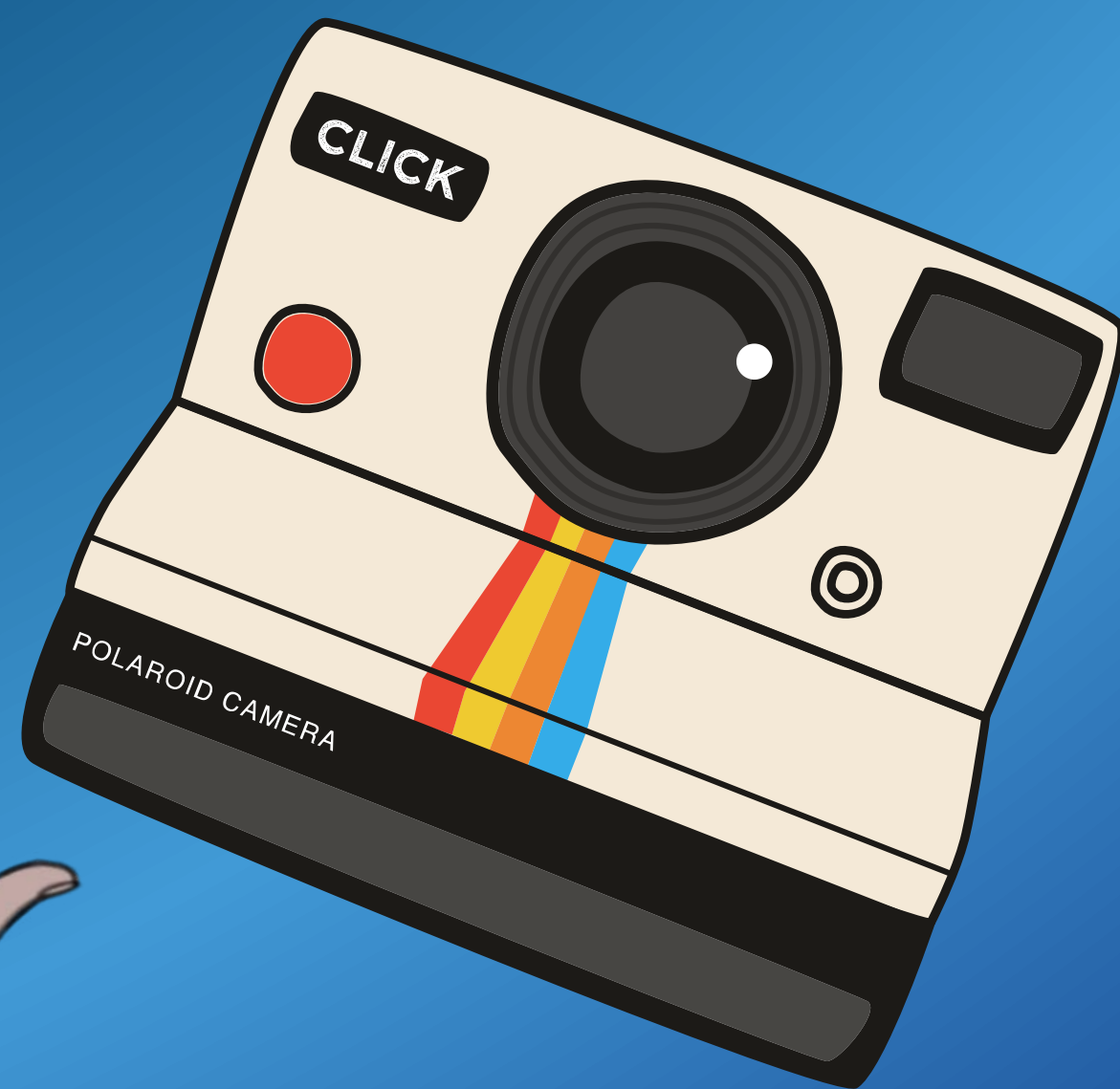
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A HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO EDITING FOR COSPLAYERS (WITHOUT PHOTOSHOP)

Written by eden.starr
Ph: eden.starr

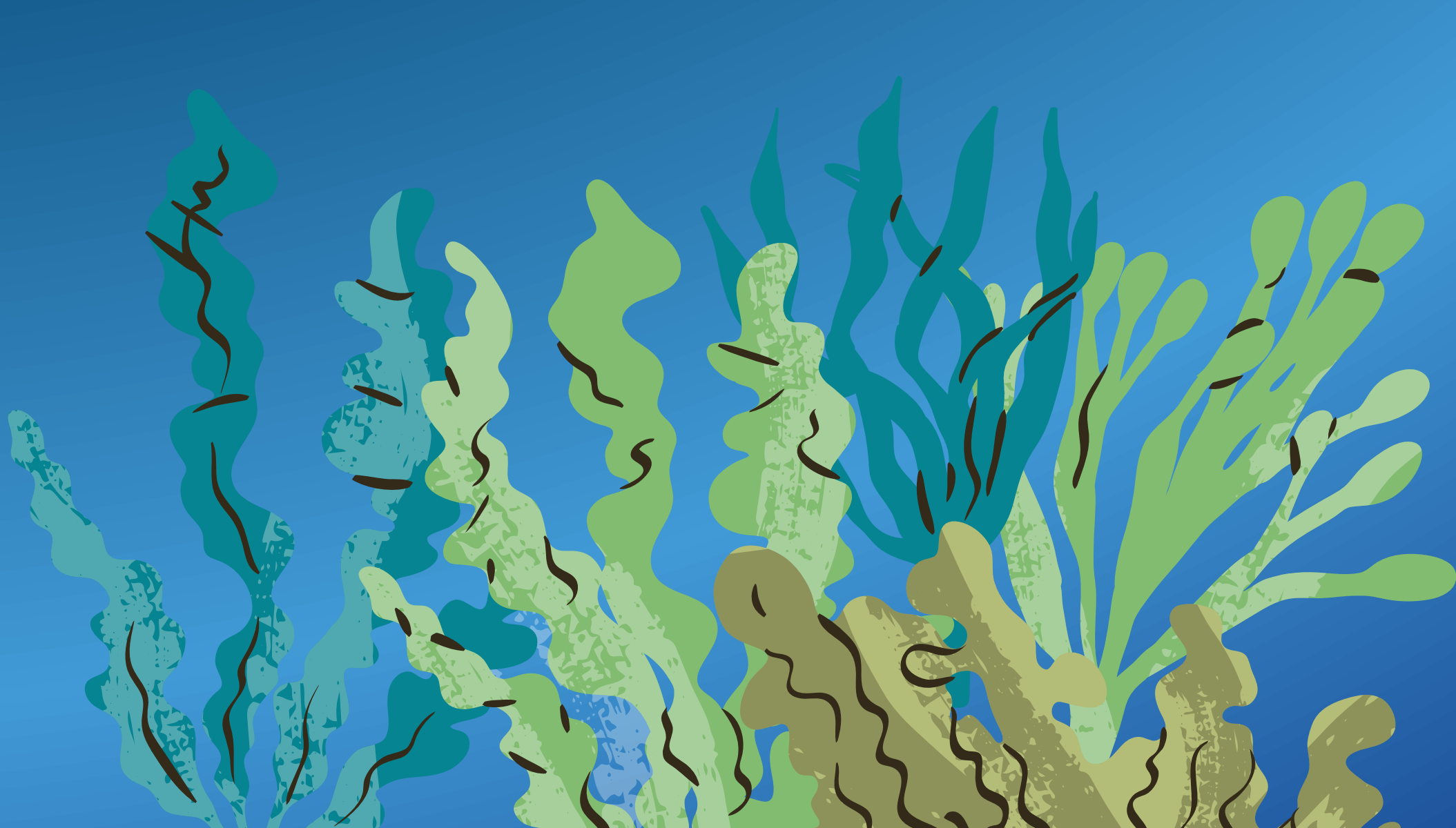
As I've mentioned in previous articles, I was given a camera for my birthday last year. I get the feeling that people assumed I got it because so many cosplayers nowadays also dabble in photography, but the reality is quite different. While on one hand I feel somewhat left out of the photographer-cosplayer dynamic, on the other, I grew up in a home filled with photo albums and with a father who has always had a passion for video cameras and still cameras (he actually bought a new one just a few months ago).



When I first got into photography, everyone I asked about their editing software gave me the same two answers: Lightroom and Photoshop. So, a few weeks after attending a trade show, I opened up my modest laptop intending to download one of the two programs. That's when I discovered a truth no one had warned me about: the cost of a subscription to Lightroom and Photoshop was simply too high for my budget. Not wanting to give up, I Googled to see if there were any cheaper alternatives (which, to me, meant free), and that's how I discovered two fantastic open-source programs that are completely free: Darktable and Krita!



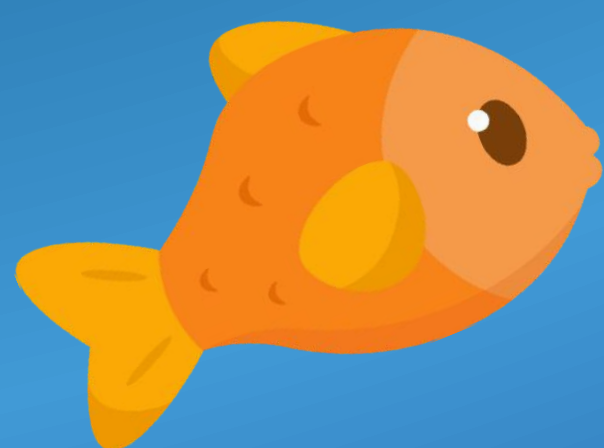
But let's take things in order. Darktable is a solid alternative, even though its interface and learning curve are somewhat more complex than Lightroom's (the first time I opened the program, it felt like looking at an airplane cockpit!). Its color management is extremely comprehensive, allowing you to calibrate even the tones of certain tricky details, such as fluorescent elements. It also offers the ability to retouch minor imperfections in clothing or skin efficiently yet naturally, without drastically altering the original image.



As for Krita, I am well aware that it is an application created primarily for illustrators (it works best with a graphics tablet, though with a bit of practice and patience, it can be used very effectively with a mouse as well). However, cosplay photography sometimes needs a touch of magic, too. Krita offers an impressive range of digital brushes perfect for adding volume to wigs, lengthening eyelashes, or creating a glowing effect on details. I admit this with some hesitation: I can't put in colored contact lenses, but thanks to Krita, that's no longer an issue, as it allows me to edit my eye color during post-production.



I decided to include three photos in this article: the original straight from the camera, the same one edited with Darktable, and finally, that same shot enhanced with a touch of Krita "magic"—turning my eyes blue, just like Hatsune Miku's! I admit I gave it some thought: this is the first time I've posted an unedited photo—a true, real, authentic shot. I reflected on it because it's a rare sight. Every day, everywhere, we see perfect cosplay photos—sometimes edited to the point where they present an image completely removed from reality. I wanted to share something real instead. A reminder, an act of love for the creative process that says: "This is the original photo; and if the edited version exists, it's because the raw version exists, too." It's a beautiful thing, and I hope no one ever forgets it. From my desk to yours,
Eden Starr





BEST OF COLLAB

_MII.COS

PH: @SILVERPH28_

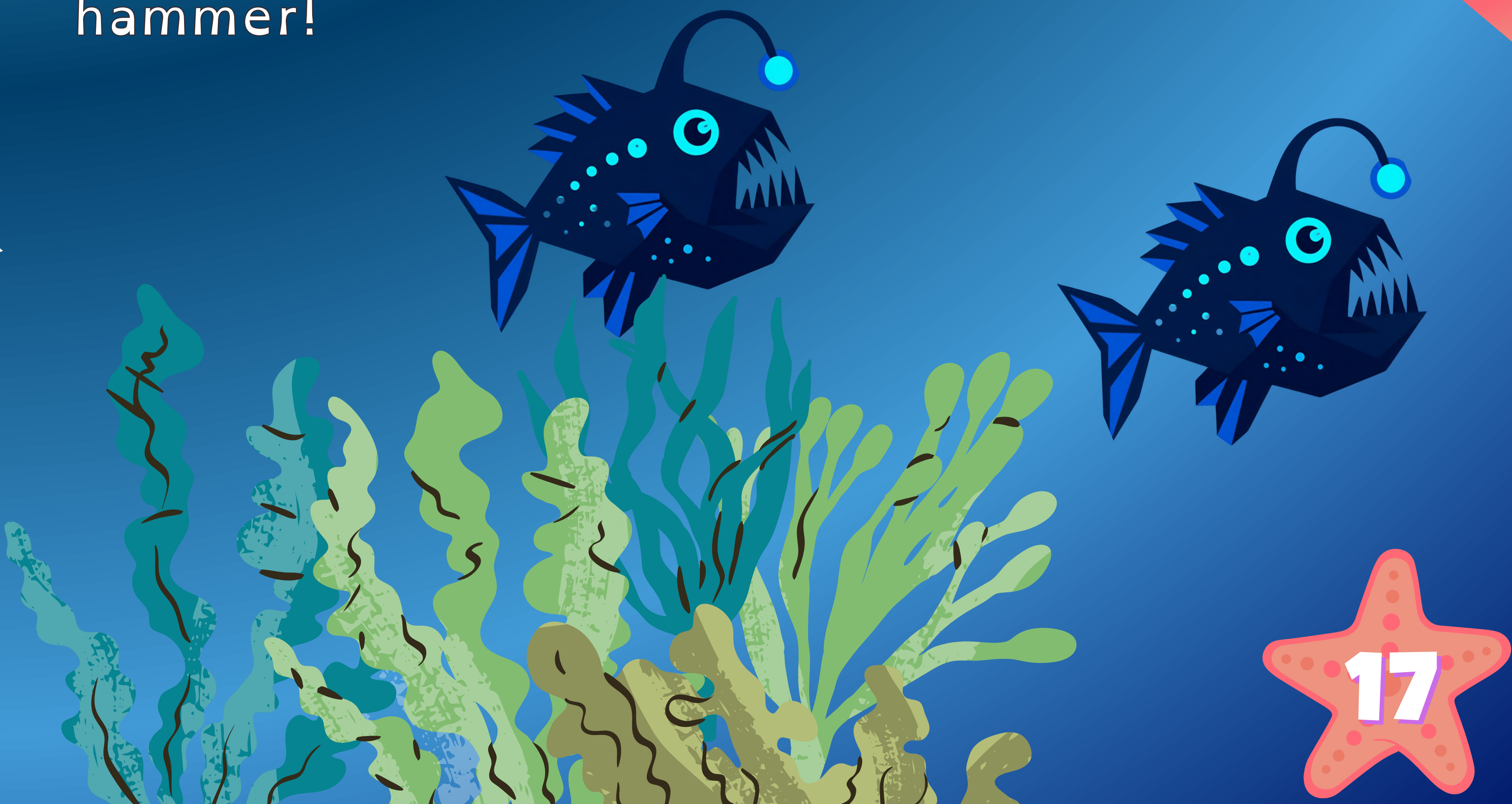


Mauro Petrolati 2025

BIG IDEAS, SMALL PLATES: HOW TO 3D PRINT GIANT OBJECTS - PART 2

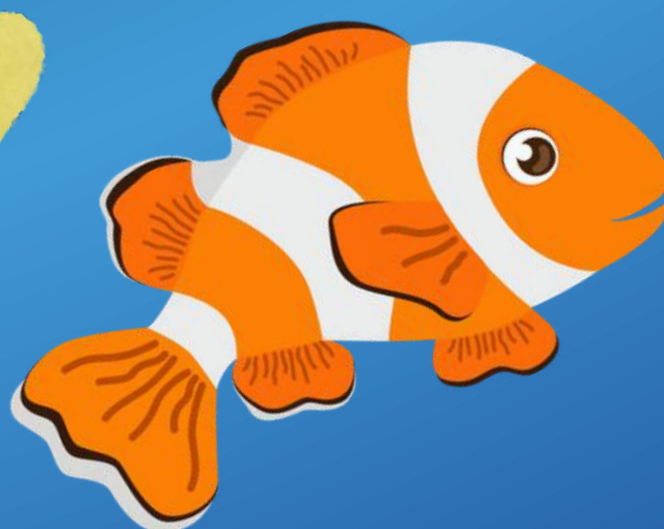
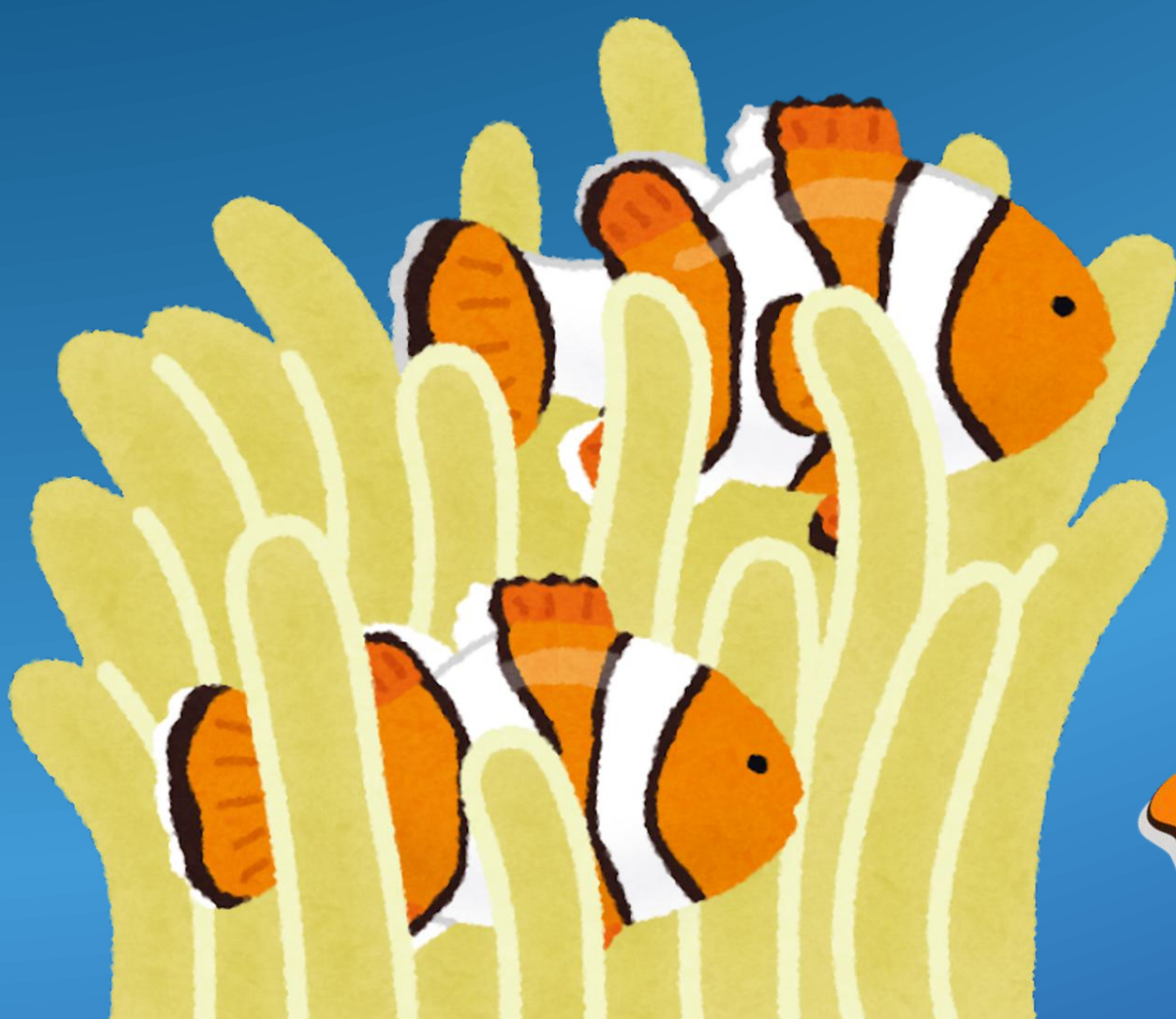
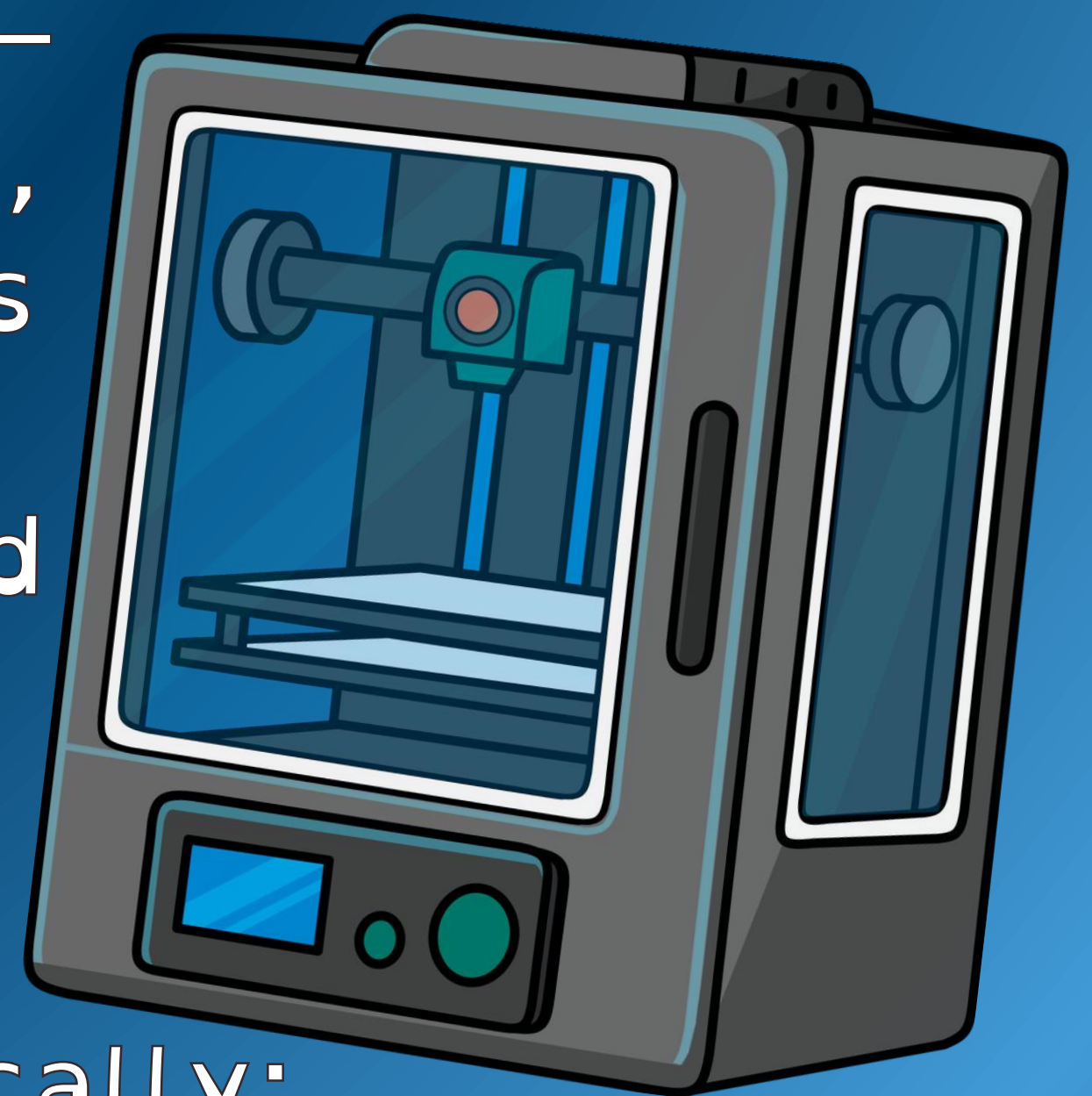
Written By droid.rust
Ph: mauro_petrolati_mein_bestes_ii

Here is part two of: Big Ideas, Small Parts: How to 3D Print Giant Objects! The "Tolerance" Factor: Avoiding nasty surprises When plastic heats up and exits the nozzle, it tends to expand slightly. This means that if you print a 5mm hole and a 5mm peg, they won't fit together. In the connectors menu, you'll find a "Tolerance" setting. By default, it is usually set to around 0.15mm or 0.2mm. If your printer is highly precise (like a Bambu Lab X1 or P1 series), 0.15mm or 0.2mm is sufficient. If you are using an older or budget-friendly printer, increase the tolerance to 0.25mm or 0.3mm to ensure the parts slide together without needing a hammer!



The professional alternative for the “lazy” (or for professionals): LuBan 3D. Making manual cuts in OrcaSlicer is fun and perfect for objects split into two or four parts. But what if you need to print a two-meter-tall statue that needs to be divided into 50 different pieces? Doing that by hand would take hours of work. This is where LuBan 3D deserves a special mention—a commercial software (paid, but with a free trial). It does many things, but among them is a feature specialized exclusively for breaking down giant models.

Bambu Studio, LuBan does almost everything automatically: You simply enter your printer's build plate dimensions.



Load your giant model. LuBan automatically calculates the most efficient way to "slice" the object into a grid of cubes, automatically placing perfect interlocking joints on every single face. If you plan to turn large-format 3D printing into a business or an intensive hobby (such as full-suit cosplay armor or statues), LuBan is an investment that will save you days of work.

To get started, however, the free tools in

OrcaSlicer are more than excellent! Top

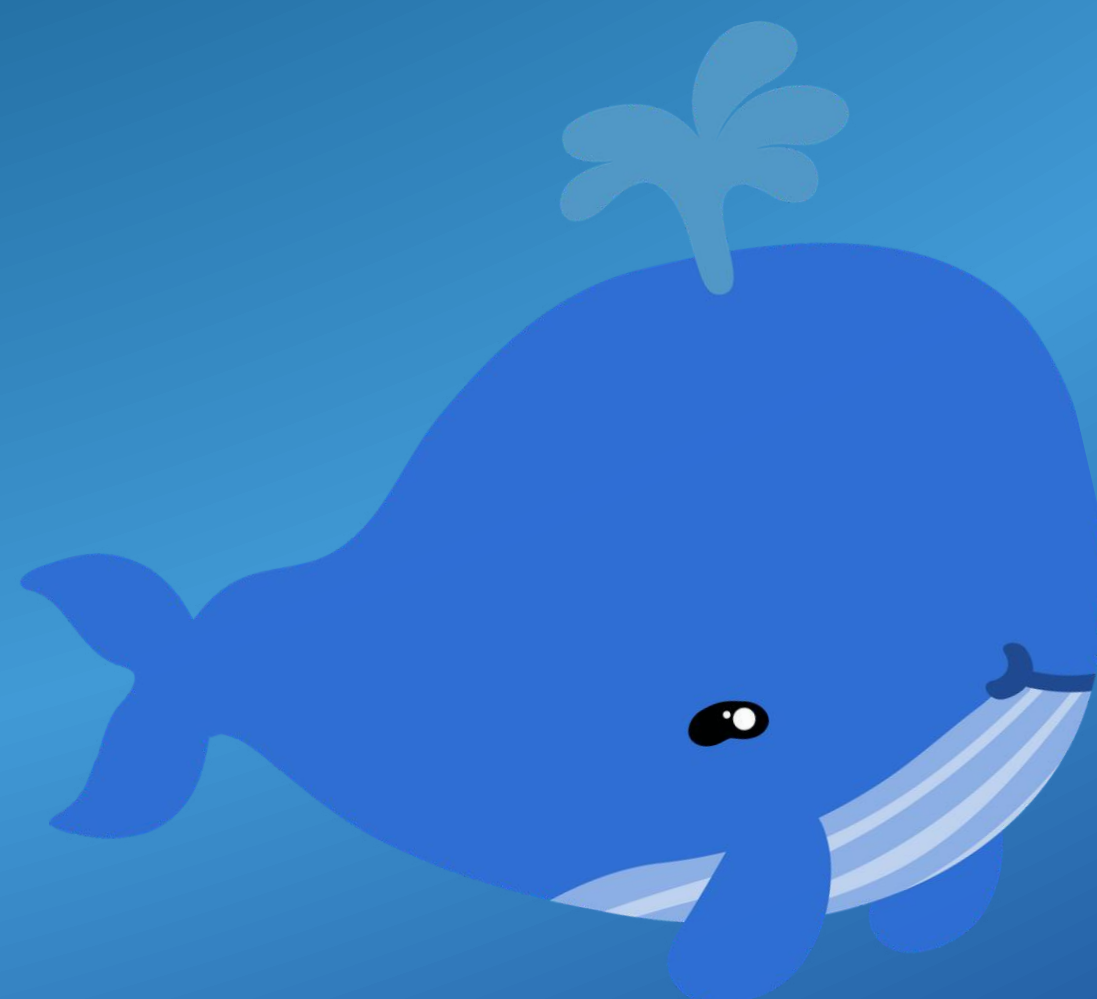
tips for final assembly

You've printed all the parts and removed the supports; now you

have a giant plastic puzzle

on your table just waiting to come to life.

What's the next step?



1. The right glue makes the difference For PLA or PETG filaments (the most common types), standard cyanoacrylate glue (like Super Glue/Krazy Glue) works perfectly. For a flawless finish, buy a spray-on cyanoacrylate activator: apply the glue to one surface, spray the activator on the other, join the parts, and the glue will set instantly—locking the piece in the correct position in just two seconds. The best long-term solution? Two-part epoxy. Cyanoacrylate tends to crystallize over time, which can cause the parts to come apart; if you want a print that lasts, two-part epoxy is a much more durable option.



2. Sand before joining Lightly sand the mating surfaces using medium-grit sandpaper (e.g., 240 grit). Creating micro-scratches on the plastic will help the glue bond much more effectively.

3. Hiding the seam lines Even with the best cut in the world, the line where the two pieces join will remain visible. To make it disappear: Use plastic putty (the kind used for scale models or automotive spray putty). Fill the gap, let it dry, and—once dry—carefully sand it down using progressively finer sandpaper (up to 400 or 600 grit). A coat of primer and a good spray-paint finish will make the object look completely seamless, hiding the trick from anyone who looks at it. Put yourself to the test!



Large-scale 3D printing is one of the best ways to wow friends and family. Now you know that you don't need a massive printer to create huge objects—just a bit of strategy when using the cutting tools already available on your computer. Grab a model, experiment with the "Cut" tool in OrcaSlicer or Bambu Studio, place your first alignment pins, and start printing. Have fun, and remember: the only real limit is the amount of filament you have on your shelf! See you next time with more tips and tutorials!





BEST OF COLLAB

MASKYTA

PH: @SAMUEL_LAZUCCA



EXPANDING THE MAP: AKIRA'S REVOLUTION AT BERGAMO COMICON

Written By @ .akirakaaa
Ph: @_akirakaaaa

THE RACE AGAINST TIME AND THE BIRTH OF KEITO

From a frantic race against time to conquering the stage: how a challenge born in just 48

hours cemented the banner of accessibility at the biggest festival.

It all started on Thursday, just as the weekend was about to begin.

I received a completely unexpected proposal from the Bergamo Comicon staff: to take the stage on Saturday the 27th for a panel entirely dedicated to the manga

Love in the Palm of His Hand. There was just one tiny detail: I already had another cosplay planned, ready, and finished for that day.

At that moment, I stopped and asked myself: "Why not? The protagonist is deaf, just like me, and I've been invited to this panel... I have to do it, come what may."



THE RACE AGAINST TIME AND THE BIRTH OF KEITO



I decided to accept the challenge and start over from scratch with only a day and a half left before the convention. I began from square one to bring Keito to life. I went into overdrive: a race against time to find the perfect hair color spray, frantic hours spent cutting and styling the wig, a desperate hunt through my wardrobe for the right clothes... and in the end, against all odds, I pulled it off. By Friday evening, everything was miraculously ready.

THE NAME ON THE TABLE, THE GIFT FROM J-POP, AND THE THRILL OF THE STAGE



Saturday's adrenaline, the power of the performance, and breaking down barriers. When Saturday arrived, the excitement was intense but the good kind, the sort that lights a fire inside you. Once I reached the panel, I experienced a wonderful moment: I met the J-Pop Manga team, who to thank me for accepting the invitation and for my willingness to participate gave me a beautiful gift: the first volume of the manga.

THE NAME ON THE TABLE, THE GIFT FROM J-POP, AND THE THRILL OF THE STAGE



But the biggest thrill was seeing the name card with 'Akira' right there on the

speakers' table. I sat right in the center, between the two speakers.



Despite the massive turnout, a camera positioned right in the center to capture every second of the event, and two interpreters working simultaneously one dedicated entirely to the audience and one focused solely on me so I wouldn't miss a thing I didn't feel overly nervous.

THE NAME ON THE TABLE, THE GIFT FROM J-POP, AND THE THRILL OF THE STAGE



In fact, I was incredibly focused: my main goal was to seize this wonderful opportunity and leverage the manga's story to convey the right information about deafness and LIS to the audience, breaking down

common stereotypes.

The moderator's questions were wonderful and profound, and the audience's response was immediate; there was an immense warmth filling the room an attentiveness that made up for every hour of sleep I'd lost the night before finishing my cosplay.



SUNDAY'S TALKS, HEARTFELT ENCOUNTERS, AND THE NAPLES DREAM



I was dead tired, I admit, but incredibly happy. Yet there was no time to relax; awaiting me the next day Sunday, June 28th was another crucial mission: a talk show focused entirely on accessibility.

Fatigue took a back seat to the importance of the work I was doing.

On Sunday morning, I woke up early to beat the endless traffic heading to the fair. Once inside, I headed straight for the Virtual Cosplay booth and waited for 1:30 PM to roll around.



SUNDAY'S TALKS, HEARTFELT ENCOUNTERS, AND THE NAPLES DREAM



Right there, just after the talk, I experienced one of those heartwarming surprises: I ran into my speech therapist again the person who taught me how to speak. Shortly after, I met a young woman who had taken LIS (Italian Sign Language) courses. I was absolutely amazed! We walked around the fair together, chatting and getting to know each other a bit. Finding people in the crowd who can communicate fluently in LIS is a priceless feeling; it makes me feel safe and completely at ease. I had more fun than I've had in a long time.

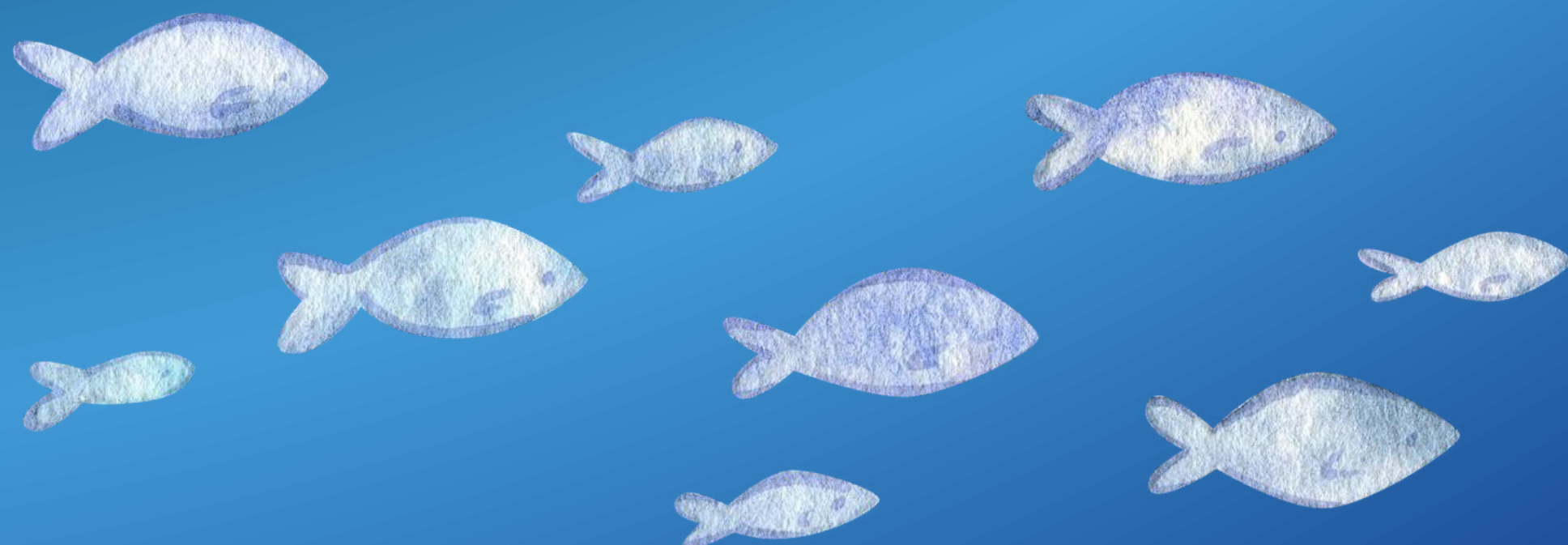


SUNDAY'S TALKS, HEARTFELT ENCOUNTERS, AND THE NAPLES DREAM

But the real bombshell was yet to drop. How did this incredible weekend of talks end? It ended with a thrilling proposal: the Comicon staff expressed their intention to put together a dedicated plan to officially invite me to Napoli Comicon!

Wow. We're talking about one of Europe's biggest conventions but more importantly, an organization that I've discovered is unique in how hard and seriously it works on breaking down barriers and fostering inclusion. That's exactly why it's hands-down my favorite convention.

When the event ended, I was left with that classic, unfillable void a sort of "post-Comicon blues" but it was accompanied by a profound realization: in just 48 hours, I had achieved something extraordinary, reaching milestones I could only have dreamed of until recently.



Now, as I wait for September and the return to convention "normality," my mind is already soaring... and I'm already fantasizing about which incredible cosplay to bring to Napoli Comicon.

THANKS

A heartfelt thank you to the entire Bergamo Comicon staff for their trust and warm welcome, to J-Pop Manga for the wonderful and unexpected gift, to Virtual Cosplay Magazine for always giving me a platform to make my voice heard, and to each of you who stopped to listen, understand, and sign with me. The bridge to accessibility is just the beginning, but we are building it together. 🙌✨

Wait... It's not over yet... Keep scrolling down...



A SPECIAL GREETING FROM VIENNA...



Vacation
Mode

Sending a special greeting straight from Vienna, from the amazing interactive space at Hands Up – Erlebnis Stille!

Now it's time for me to switch off for a bit: I'm taking a well-deserved summer break to enjoy the holidays and focus fully on studying for my upcoming university exams. But don't worry it's just a quick recharge! I'll be back in September more energized than ever, with tons of new content, fresh projects, and loads of exciting surprises waiting for you.

Have a great summer, everyone! 🌞 ✈️ 📖



BEST OF COLLAB

SILVIA_RLB

PH: @SILVIA_RLB

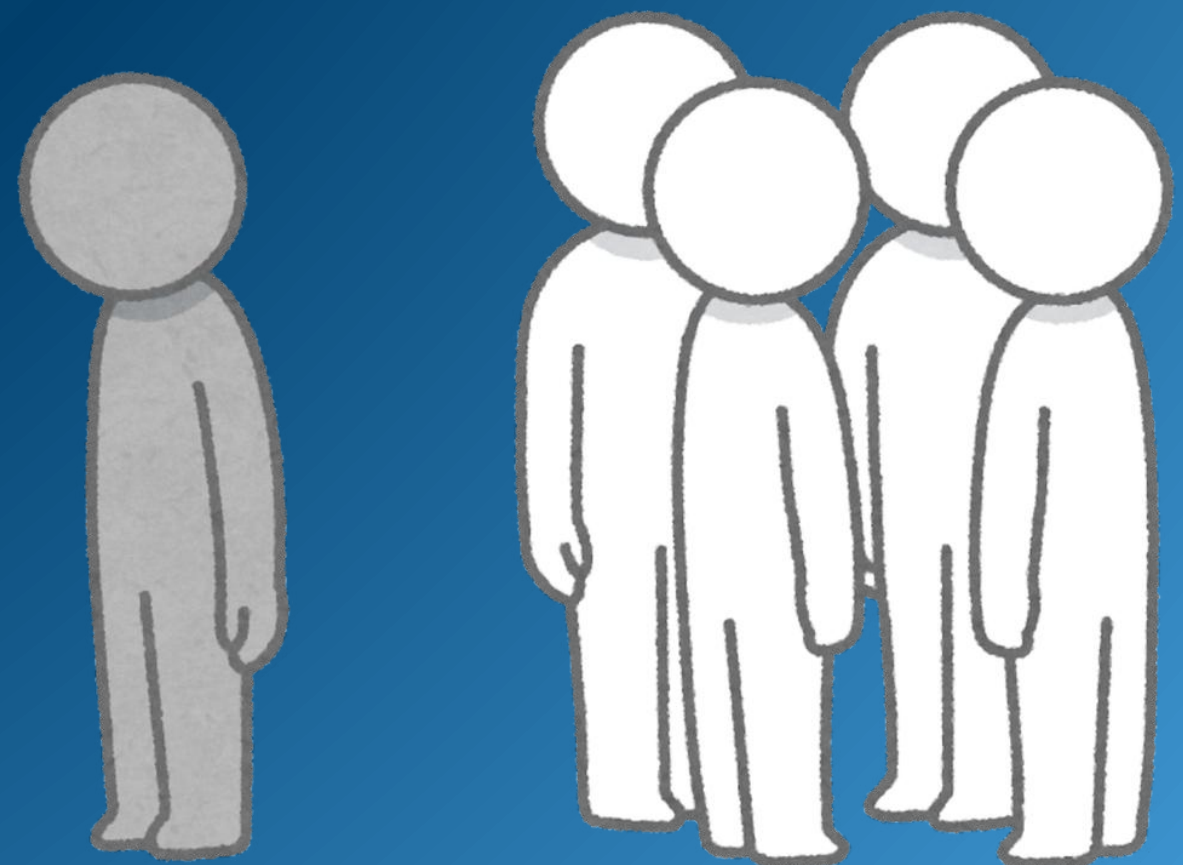


GOOSEBUMPS COSPLAYER STORIES PART 8

Written By [dan.cosplay._](#) & [saky.ycos](#)
Ph: [@hyperfixated_gremlin_](#)

COSTANTIN VS FURRY

Let me start by saying I have nothing against people who do furry cosplay, have a fursona, or run themed profiles—I used to be one of you, after all—but I have to say that the Italian community is TERRIBLE. It's full of people who badmouth cosplayers who aren't even part of the furry community, and people who organize to stalk or ostracize others at conventions—sometimes just because of certain traits their fursona has. Not that the whole community is like that, though...



COSTANTIN VS FURRY

But those few people terrify me, and after falling victim to this sort of thing, I decided to step away from all the relevant chats, communities, and social media groups because I felt incredibly uncomfortable. And no one was doing anything to prevent these situations.



DAN'S comment:

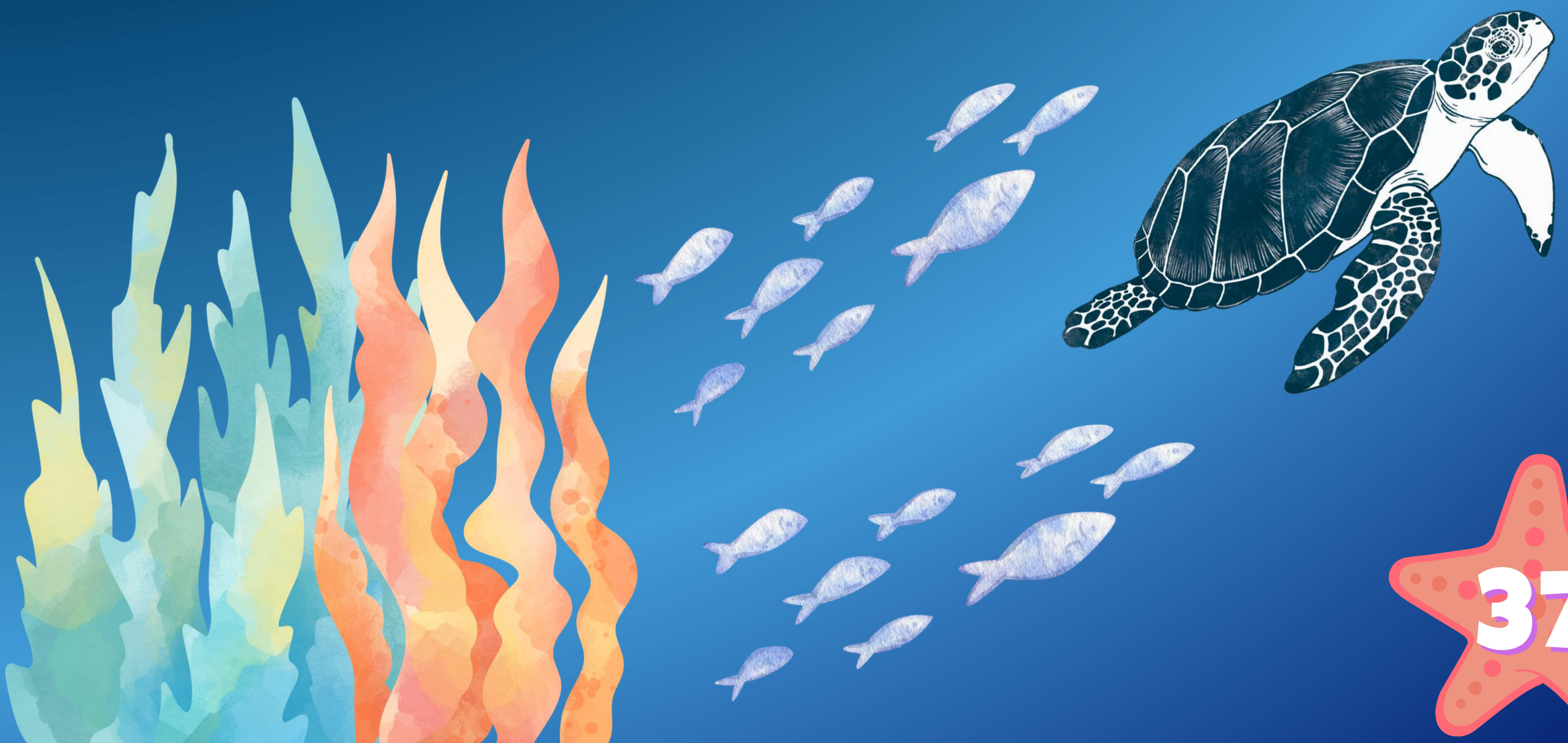
It's probably best if I don't say too much about the matter. I might tell you about my own unpleasant experience in future episodes. However, I can assure you that the community is more than just what you've seen, and I'm certain that if you're still willing to look, you'll find a group that's right for you.

SAKY'S comment:

Saky's comment: You just have to find your place in the world, as I always say—and naturally, if it doesn't work out on the first try... there are so many communities, and you'll find yours <3

LARA AND THE sense OF GUILT

My name is Lara, I'm 17, and for a few months now I've known someone who started giving me strange vibes... At first, I tried to ignore them, but they've become so frequent that I'm starting to feel scared. I ended up talking to my psychologist about one specific thing, and she advised me to work up the courage—since I had witnessed the planning of several cyberbullying incidents—to warn the person involved. I know you didn't react to anything that happened; I hope you're okay, and I feel terribly guilty for not having been able to warn you. I'm sorry.



DAN'S comment:

The fact that such people exist makes me really wonder where we're heading... But seeing people like you who still find a way to "help" gives me hope for the future. If I were you, I'd distance myself from that group of people—and fast.

SAKY'S comment:

You shouldn't feel guilty; you did what you could. One person can't change the whole world, but they can change a small part of it, which helps in the big picture. See you next month!





BEST OF COLLAB

KI.RA.COSPLAY

PH: @MARCOALLEGARI_PH



HANGING BY A THREAD... BUT THE RIGHT one

Written By gaya_cos.er
Ph: @molinaromauro

HANGING BY A THREAD... BUT THE RIGHT one

How many times do we spend hours choosing the right fabric, the most beautiful trimmings, and the most dazzling pearls for a cosplay, and then... we go home and grab the first random spool of thread we find in the box?

But while in theater, costumes must survive lively choreographies, sweat, and constant washing, in cosplay we have an additional problem: we find ourselves sewing unusual things. Faux leather, foam, plastic, rhinestones, heavy capes... all stuff that causes normal thread to break before we even begin, especially with the first useful movement or the first step you take at a fair. Here's my mini-guide to the right threads to turn your life around and avoid drama at the most exciting moment.



HANGING BY A THREAd... BUT THE RIGHT one

1. Polyester and cotton (basic constructions) 100% polyester thread is the most common and widely used. It's slightly elastic, doesn't break easily, and is perfect for 90% of the things you sew (especially synthetic or stretchy fabrics). But be careful: if you're working with very heavy natural fabrics (such as historical costumes or stiff denim) and need to press the creases firmly with the iron, switch to cotton thread. Polyester can melt or weaken at high temperatures, while cotton resists everything in the heat.



HANGING BY A THREAd... BUT THE RIGHT one

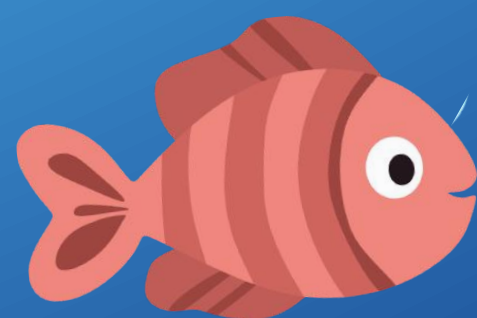
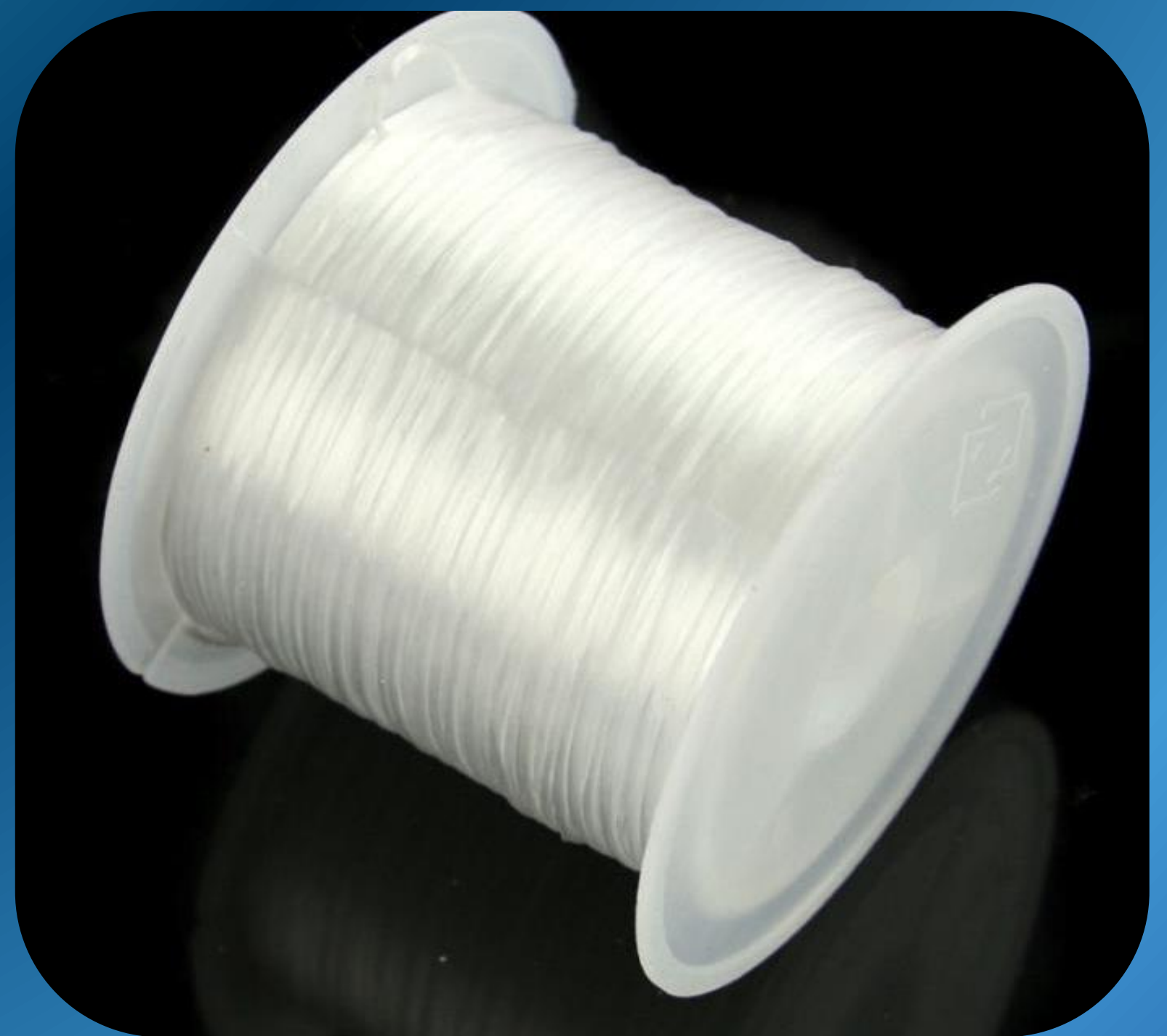
2. Topstitching thread (armor) Need to sew a thick faux leather corset, gun straps, or even attach Velcro to a piece of fabric-covered foam? If you use regular thread, it will break as soon as you make the first few stitches. You'll need topstitching thread, also called "extra-strong" or jeans thread. It's much thicker and virtually indestructible. Since it's quite chunky, use it only at the top of the sewing machine. Leave regular thread of the same color in the bobbin underneath (the insole). This will help the machine run smoothly, avoiding those annoying knots of thread.



HANGING BY A THREAd... BUT THE RIGHT one

3. Nylon Thread (Invisible)

This is literally a must-have in theater tailoring. It looks like fishing line, but very thin and transparent. In cosplay, it's a lifesaver for two reasons: when you have to hand-sew beads, rhinestones, trimmings, or giant crystals and you don't want the stitching to be visible, or when you have a super-colorful or oddly patterned fabric and don't have the time or budget to buy ten threads of different shades. This solves the problem in one fell swoop. The downside is that it's made of pure plastic. If you run a hot iron over it, it melts instantly, ruining the stitching (and the fabric). Even though it's invisible, you have to be careful where you place it and if you cut a piece.



HANGING BY A THREAd... BUT THE RIGHT one

4. Waxed or upholstery thread. Need to attach large buttons, heavy metal buckles, or the hooks of a huge, heavy cape? Forget about using regular thread, which has been passed through twenty times. In the theater, waxed or upholstery thread (the kind they use for sofas, to be clear) is used so that if someone steps on your costume in the crowded halls, it won't break.



Choosing special threads will keep you from wandering around the fair with a portable hot glue gun in hand, as I do just because I'm nervous.

Good artists copy, great artists steal.
Pablo Picasso

Dalla vostra
gaya_cos.er





BEST OF COLLAB

FABIX_IRL_COS

PH: ANDREALPPH.COSPLAY



YOU AND THE CHARACTER PT. 7

Written By [lisa.cosp_](#)
Ph: Google

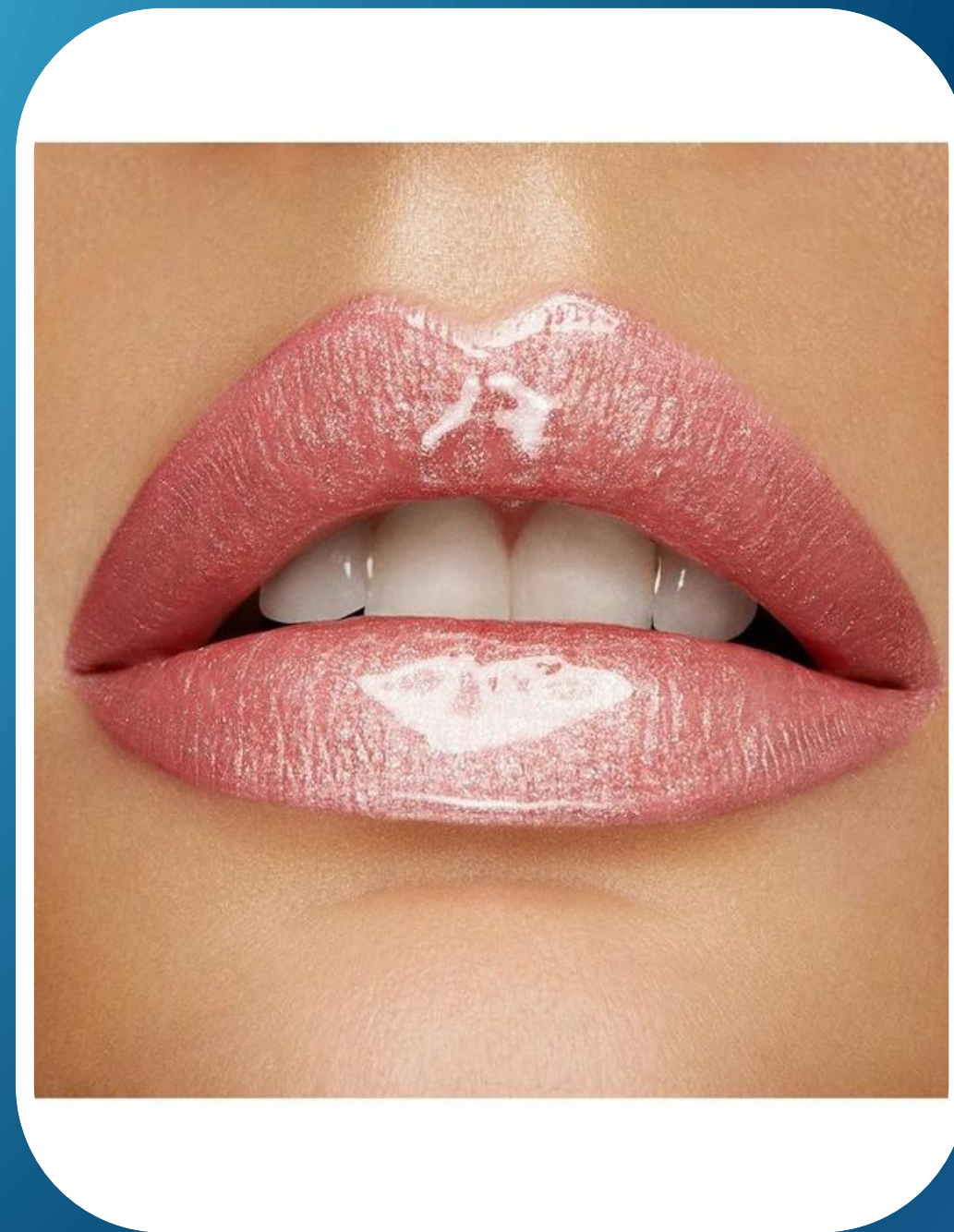
MARIN KITAGAWA'S make up

Marin's makeup can change, it can be soft or in gyaru style. Here's my advice on it:



Face: the procedure is the classic face base with foundation and powder, an unmarked contouring, just lightly on the jaw and on the sides of the nose. The blush tends towards pink and also a little on the tip of the nose. The face highlighter, positioned on the cheekbone, tip of the nose, between the eyebrows and on the Cupid's arch, can be either white, light pink or even flesh pink; instead of the highlighter you can use a white pencil (the effect is always to highlight the main features and make the face more harmonious).

KOREAN-STYLE LIPS



Lips: a glossy pink or fuchsia lipstick, or even a peach shade, can be helpful (it's best to avoid anything too bright, it shouldn't have a "dinner girl" effect). For those who don't want lipstick, a good alternative is a pink/fuchsia or peach lip gloss. In Korean makeup, for example, lips are blended and undefined, the colour is more intense in the center and fades outward.



EYES

Glitter: yes! There are also these, that can make your makeup even more beautiful, since they need to be applied sparingly on the cheeks or around the eyes, as some codplayers do.



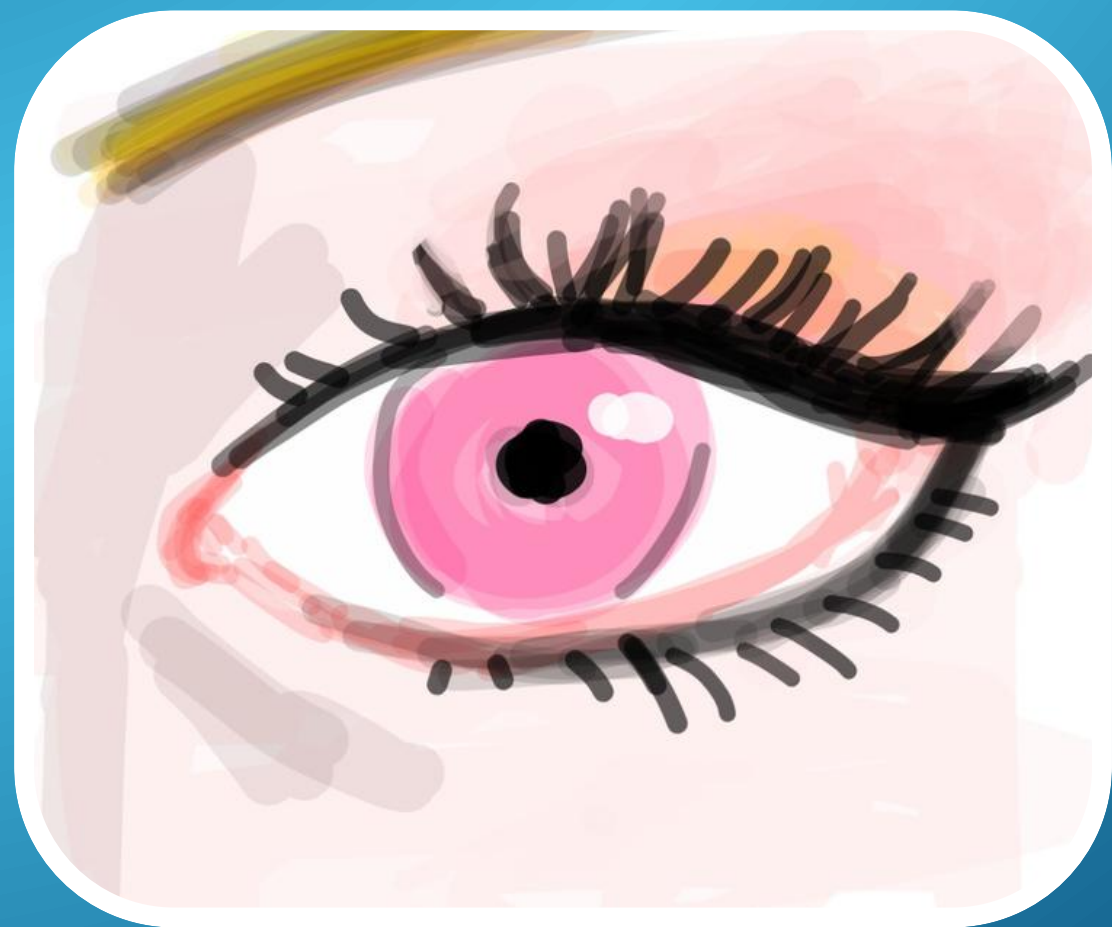
Eyebrows: same colour as the wig or a light brown for a natural effect.



VARIOUS EYE STYLES

Eyes: Marin has large eyes with well-defined lashes. Here the various styles are divided and there are three options.

Based on my advice

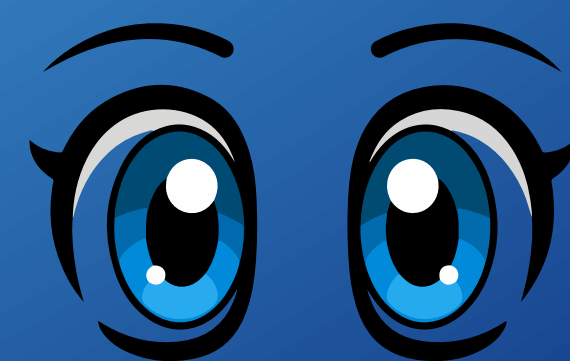


Bigger eyes by using a white pencil inside and below the eye, using the eyeliner to extend the tail of the eye, and joining the two lines with the black pencil,

leaving a space between the lower eyelid and the lash line (obviously the pencil must be blended). The pink/peach eyeshadow should be applied to the mobile and fixed eyelid, starting from the center and working outward. The eyeliner defines everything, and you can also draw the lashes, both above and below. Here too, glitter is useful (very often it's already included in some eyeshadow palettes). For an added touch, fake eyelashes are the first thing that makes the gaze more open and the eyes larger (in this case, applying drawing fake eyelashes above isn't a good idea, just the ones below it).

FOR THOSE WHO WANT A SOFT MAKEUP LOOK INSPIRED BY KOREAN STYLE

Aegyo sal: it refers to the small natural curve just below the lower lash line; Korean makeup enhances that area with the use of shadows and light. It adds three-dimensionality to the face without resorting to heavy eyeliner or overly thick lashes. How to do it? Locate the natural crease under the lower lash line and create shadow with a light brown pencil with a cool undertone or a matte shadow. Drawn a thin line just below this crease, starting from the inner corner and extending about two-thirds of the way up the eye. Blend after the line downward for a very natural and soft effect, and highlight the area with a shimmery eyeshadow or highlighter, concentrating the light on the center of the eye. The eyeshadows applied to the eyelid should be very light and shimmery too. Just a little bit of mascara.

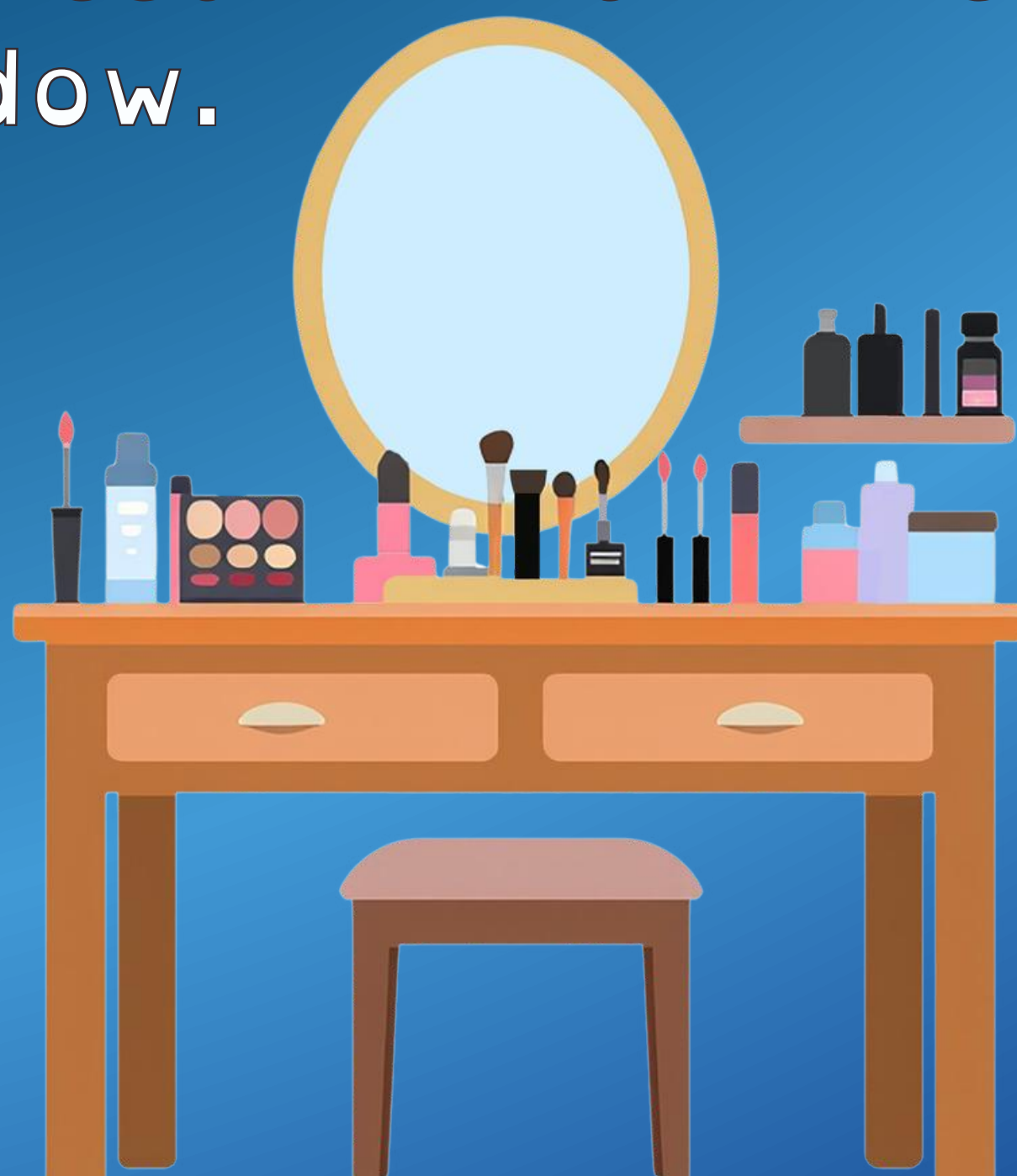


FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BE BOLD AND DO IT IN MARIN'S STYLE



For those who want to dare and do it according to Marin's style there is the

Gyaru style: the eyes need to be dramatically rounded and create a “doll” effect. The eyeliner is thick and the lines are elongated outward, the fake eyelashes are exaggerated and applied underneath, and the aegyo sal technique is also used here, even heavier and more pronounced with a white pencil and a light eyeshadow.

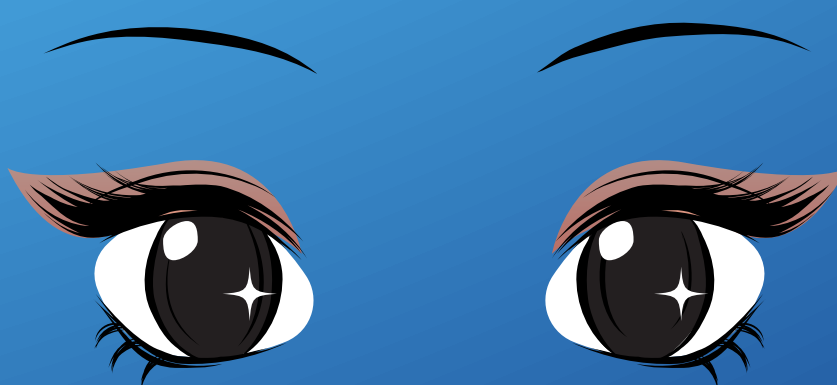


FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BE BOLD AND DO IT IN MARIN'S STYLE



The pencil is often applied to the inner part of the eye too, and combined with the previously drawn white line underneath. Lenses also do their job, including mini-sclera lenses, which cover most of the sclera. The eyeshadow is applied both above and below the eye and is much heavier and more visible, progressing from light to dark shades.

Regarding this last style, it obviously makes the base of the face heavier too, so foundation etc., is also enriched with face stickers and glitter.



CONCLUSION...

This column is over. If you have any requests, please feel free to write to me, and if you'd like to see a specific character, I can dedicate a whole article to it. I'm available for anything. Thanks always for your support.

Feel free not to follow this tips or to do it however you like; the important thing is that you feel good and more comfortable!



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