

# 7 TIPS FOR MAKING A STEAMPUNK COSTUME

by COLLEEN GLEASON, author of *The Stoker & Holmes Series*

- 1 First, think of what type of steampunk persona you want to be: eg, an aviator, a gentleman, a proper Victorian woman, an inventor, a super-hero sort of persona, etc. From there, find basic costume elements.
- 2 Next, add accessories to take it from standard to steampunk. Goggles, fingerless gloves, boots or spats, a hat or fascinator are good places to start. These elements can give almost any basic costume a steampunk look. (eg, if you have an old vampire costume, add goggles and fingerless gloves and get rid of the cape...voila!)
- 3 You can "trick out" plain Jane items, like gloves or hats, by adding feathers, cogs, lace, etc., to make them look more steampunky.
- 4 Etsy is a great resource for steampunk items and accessories. You can find anything from tricked out Nerf guns with mini flashlights, ski goggles that have been turned into steampunk goggles, jewelry, all the way to full-out costumes.
- 5 For women, a somewhat expensive but versatile "main piece" for a female is a corset. You can easily find corsets online ([corsetstory.com](http://corsetstory.com), [etsy.com](http://etsy.com), and many other places). Start with that and build from there. Put the corset on over a dress and hike up the skirt to make it shorter. Or add a crinoline under the skirt to make it puff out. You can also wear the corset over leggings and boots and go for a more masculine (but still feminine) look. A pair of goggles or a fascinator will complete the costume.
- 6 For a men, a vest and suit coat/overcoat is a good place to start. A white dress shirt (make the collar stand up) and a cravat (simply tying a scarf or tie in a cravat-style works) will add to the look. Definitely look for a bowler hat and add a pair of goggles. Spats or fake spats that fit over the top of any shoe are a great addition.
- 7 Remember, steampunk is often about the gadgets. Add anything you can find that looks "industrial" or mechanical to your costume or as a prop or accessory.



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