

SOMETHING STRANGE AND DEADLY

COSTUME FUN MISSION ONE: STEAMPUNK INVENTOR GOGGLES

by

Susan Dennard



Steampunk goggles: the perfect gift for any occasion — birthdays, holidays, whatever. A simple present that says, *I care enough to protect your eyes from gas explosions, zombie claws, and wayward automatons.*

Or maybe you want a pair for your steampunk costume—that’s certainly why *I* set out to make mine. In *Something Strange and Deadly*, the inventor Daniel Sheridan uses a pair of goggles to see ghosts, so when it came time for my steampunk photo shoot, I knew I wanted the same.



The best part of these “brass goggles” is that making them is cheap (<\$20 if you spend wisely) and easy (unless you’re clumsy like me—then it just takes a *little* extra care).

SUPPLIES

- WELDING GOGGLES
- EMBELLISHMENTS (GEARS, CLOCKS, KEYS, ETC.)
- LEATHER STRAP OR PIECE OF BELT
- METALLIC SPRAY PAINT
- MASKING TAPE
- SUPER GLUE



1. To start, you will need a pair of welding goggles. You can buy these at a Home Depot, or it's very cheap and easy to buy them from Amazon (that's what I did!).



2. I also bought a little clip-on lens thingy from Amazon.

3. Next, I bought the cheapest silver and gold spray paint I could find. (I went to Wal-Mart; I'm sure you can find something comparable elsewhere.)

4. I took apart the goggles by separating the rubbery mask from the plastic lens piece. Then, using masking tape, I covered the lenses and cut the tape so that it was the exact size of the lenses. Finally, I spray-painted.

Note: SPRAY LIGHTLY. Too much spray paint and the goggles will turn permanently sticky. I learned this the hard way and had to start over when my first pair still hadn't dried after 5 days. If you spray just enough to cover the plastic, then it should dry well enough for handling within a few hours. Also, make sure you follow the instructions on the spray paint can. You need to work in a well-ventilated area. Safety first!



5. While the painted goggles pieces were drying on the back porch, I went to a local thrift store and bought a narrow, leather belt. I made sure it was the same width as the strap on the goggles (though you could use a thinner belt) so that it could fit in the strap loop.

6. Once home again, I cut the belt into three parts, making sure that the buckle-portion and holed-portion were (when buckled together) long enough to fit around my head. I also wanted it to be able to hang around my neck for that cool “inventor on break” look. Measure accordingly and then cut.



7. Next, I found some cool embellishments. You can use whatever you want—from gears to chains to cool charms. I suggest searching “steampunk goggles” on the internet for inspiration. For my goggles, I went into my old supply of Legos and found some fun critters: scorpions, octopuses, spiders, etc. Then I spray painted those silver and gold.



Note: I used the scorpion for the goggles, and the other critters came into play in other steampunk gear. But I went ahead and spray painted everything now, in one batch.



8. Once all my painted items were dry—the goggles and the accessories—I reassembled the goggles and removed the masking tape. **Be careful, though.** The paint will stay sticky for the first few hours. If you’re patient and can wait a full day, it should be

completely dry and won't come off on your fingers.

9. Now it's time to superglue on your various embellishments. I decided to go simple for my goggles, so all I added was a single scorpion right in the center. Daniel and the Spirit-Hunters head to Egypt in the final book of the *Something Strange and Deadly* trilogy, so a scorpion felt appropriate.



10. Finally, I slid the leather belt into the strap holders, snapped on the lens thingy, and KAPOW!



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:

STEAMPUNK GOGGLES COMPLETE



Susan Dennard is a reader, writer, lover of animals, and eater of cookies. Her debut novel, *Something Strange and Deadly*—a gothic romp for teens and adults—is now available from HarperTeen. You can learn more about her on her website, <http://susandennard.com>.