

Tools, Materials & Stuff You'll Actually Use

Building a full-size, screen-accurate, 3D printed Ghostbusters Proton Pack sounds wild, but with the right gear (and maybe a little caffeine), it's 100% doable.

Here's everything I used in Part 3 of the build — from cables to paint and everything in between:

Weathering & Finishing

- Rub'n Buff (Silver Leaf): <https://amzn.to/4kXQ7QS>
- Liquid Chrome Pen (Molotow): <https://amzn.to/4ndapHi>
- Acrylic paints (black, brown, rust tones): <https://amzn.to/4l35p6A>
- Spray adhesive: <https://amzn.to/3ZFYCHy>
- Sandpaper (fine/medium grit) : <https://amzn.to/4enWr1p>
- Wire brush: <https://amzn.to/44sY4HC>
- Fuller's Earth (weathering powder): <https://amzn.to/4laT14e>
- Brushes (drybrush & detail) : <https://amzn.to/45ugpVS> & <https://amzn.to/4jY3j6L>

Add-ons & Detail Work

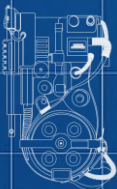
- CNA Props Ribbon Cable: C&A Prop Design | Carmel IN | Facebook
- Clip for Ribbon Cable: <https://amzn.to/4kZR0II>
- Colored tubing (Etsy): [LINK](#)
- Clippard Valve replica: Q-Pack 3D Print Files
- Ion Arm antenna (brass rod) : <https://amzn.to/4jYlbi5>
- Prop sticker set (Etsy, hand-cut) : [LINK](#)
- Strain Relief: <https://amzn.to/4k3ibky> & <https://amzn.to/4kK9e0u>
- Wire Gauze: <https://amzn.to/3T4nNzR>

Assembly Tools

- 2-part epoxy: <https://amzn.to/44gpBuQ>
- Superglue: <https://amzn.to/45yn41p>
- Hot glue gun (for welds): <https://amzn.to/4ledQvB>
- Velcro strips: <https://amzn.to/4k6cUZs>
- Steel strap (for wand mount) : Got from local hardware store

FX & Electronics

- Hasbro 1984 Plasma Series Neutrons Wand (Various outlets)
- CNA Props Smoke FX unit: C&A Prop Design | Carmel IN | Facebook
- Mini switches: <https://amzn.to/44cRqEf>
- Connecting wires:



A Step-by-Step Guide with Character, Detail, and Dirt

Step 1: Surface Prep (aka the calm before the chaos)

Before diving into weathering, I made sure everything was sanded, primed, and clean. Cables and add-ons stayed off for now — it's much easier to paint and grime an unobstructed shell.

 Used: sanding block, tack cloth, clean workspace

Step 2: Silvering the Edges with Rub'n Buff

I used my finger to rub metallic wax onto sharp edges and wear zones — corners, clamps, panel lips. This instantly made the pack feel used and lived-in, like it had seen real ghostbusting action.

 Used: Rub'n Buff (silver & antique gold), gloves or cloth

Step 3: Cutting & Placing the Stickers

I hand-cut each sticker from an Etsy set and placed them carefully using reference photos from GBFans.com.

Some needed extra glue to stay in place — totally worth it for that screen-accurate look.

 Used: scissors or hobby knife, reference photos, glue stick

Step 4: Installing the Cables & Tubes

The C&A Props ribbon cable was a beast to tame — but once shaped and glued, it looked incredible. I routed the colored hoses into place using heat and patience, following reference photos closely.

 Used: ribbon cable, colored tubing, hot glue, zip ties, hairdryer or heat gun

Step 5: Attaching the Greeblies


I installed the Clippard valve, antenna, and elbows. For tricky 3D printed parts, I pre-screwed small anchors, then glued greeblies to them for strength and precision.

 Used: screws, epoxy, brass rod, power drill

Step 6: Faking Welds with Hot Glue

To disguise seam lines and add realism, I made faux welds with hot glue.

In tight spots, I pre-made welds on a mat, sprayed glue inside the crevice, and pressed them in with tweezers.

 Used: hot glue gun, spray adhesive, tweezers

Step 7: Paint Washes & Dry Brushing

I applied a black acrylic wash to fill crevices and dull surfaces, followed by dry-brushing grey and rust tones to simulate grime and wear. Layers made all the difference.

 Used: black, grey, brown acrylic paint, paintbrushes, paper towels



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Step 8: Adding Texture with Spray Adhesive

To disguise layer lines on flat surfaces, I misted them with spray adhesive. Once dry, it left a gritty texture that helped paint stick and made the surface feel industrial.

 Used: spray adhesive, painter's tape for masking

Step 9: Fuller's Earth & Dust Layer

I brushed Fuller's Earth into crevices, vents, and details. It instantly gave the pack that “stored-in-the-firehouse-for-decades” feel.

 Used: Fuller's Earth (or similar weathering powder), soft brush


Step 10: Installing the Smoke FX Unit

I mounted the CNA Props smoke unit with Velcro so I could remove it for refills. Wired the fan and LED to a 12V power source, and routed the exhaust through the rear vent.

 Used: CNA Props FX unit, Velcro, 12V battery pack, tubing, toggle switch

Step 11: Wand Upgrade & Modding

I swapped the Spengler wand for a 1984-style Hasbro version. Mounted it using a steel strap cut and drilled as a DIY V-hook plate. Then aged it with tape, sanding, chrome pen work, and paint wash to match the weathered pack.

 Used: Hasbro wand, steel strap, drill, gaffer tape, chrome pen, black paint wash

Step 12: Strap Distressing & Final Details

I aged the Alice frame and straps using a wire brush, sandpaper, and black paint wash. Frayed edges, scuffed padding, and dusty weathering tied everything together.

 Used: wire brush, sandpaper, black acrylic, cloth or sponge

