



ANAKIN  
SKYWALKER

THE STORY OF DARTH VADER

By **Stephen J. Sansweet**  
with *Daniel Wallace and Josh Ling*

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Printed in China

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data available.  
ISBN 0-8118-2219-2

Coordinated by Lucy Autrey Wilson (Lucasfilm)  
Edited by Allan Kausch (Lucasfilm) and Sarah Malarkey (Chronicle Books)

Book design by Tolleson Design  
Design direction by Michael Carabetta and Julia Flagg

Distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books  
8680 Cambie Street  
Vancouver, BC V6P 6M9

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Chronicle Books  
85 Second Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[www.chroniclebooks.com](http://www.chroniclebooks.com)

#### *Acknowledgments*

This book came together incredibly quickly once the final go-ahead was given. Darth Vader is such a great character that the manuscript, while it didn't write itself, was great fun to put together. It couldn't have been done without the hard—and concentrated—efforts of my co-authors and friends, Dan Wallace, who spun the Vader saga, and Josh Ling, the master list maker.

At Lucasfilm, thanks go to Lucy Autrey Wilson, for helping pull together all the disparate pieces of the puzzle; Allan Kausch, for his skillful editing; Cara Evangelista, who helped dig out all the art; and Tim Wills, who managed the figure side of the equation. At Hasbro, a tip of the hat to Vinnie D'Alleva, head of New Ventures, for the brainstorming session that led to the Anakin/Vader idea; and at Chronicle Books, Sarah Malarkey, who is quickly becoming a Star Wars expert; and Julia Flagg and Michael Carabetta for their design expertise, working hand in hand with Tolleson Design. The Vader collectibles were ably photographed by Steve Essig.

For those of you bold enough—or dark-side enough—to admit that Lord Vader is your favorite character in the trilogy, you're in good company. He's George Lucas's favorite too.

—Steve Sansweet

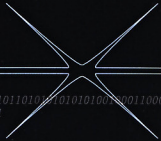
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# I: THE EMERGENCE OF DARTH VADER



From the moment that he first appeared on screen as a nightmarish demon in black striding down a spaceship corridor, Darth Vader became an icon of evil. With his nearly seven-foot frame covered from head to toe in armor and leather, a billowing black cape that left a fleeting trace of where he had just been, and a hard-edged helmet and mask that furthered the terror, Vader didn't have to utter a word to strike fear. When he did speak, those deep, modulated tones were interrupted by harsh, mechanical breathing that further chilled his enemies. From the start, it was apparent that Darth Vader was indeed a villain for the ages.

That, of course, pleased writer-director George Lucas. What Lucas hadn't expected was how popular Darth Vader would become. The poster boy for villainy—both figuratively and literally—his was the costume that kids wanted to wear at Halloween. It was Vader's image on T-shirts, pajamas, underwear, and the like that sold the best. Editorial cartoonists quickly adopted Vader as shorthand for whatever immorality they were trying to portray. When Ronald Reagan declared that the Soviet Union was the "Evil Empire," it was Vader—not some aging, faceless Communist bureaucrat—that sprang to mind.

And yet, the character who was so easy to hate in *Star Wars*, the epitome of pure evil, became much more complex as the trilogy continued. When audiences found out the terrible, dark secret at the end of *The Empire Strikes Back*, that Vader was really Anakin Skywalker, the father of farmboy-turned-hero Luke Skywalker, millions gasped in disbelief. In fact, Lucas made sure that the dialog was written and played in such a way that younger children could believe that the dreadful line, "**I am your father,**" was really a lie if the immensity of the revelation was just too much to bear.



*Opposite: The look of Darth Vader was a collaborative effort among George Lucas, Ralph McQuarrie (who did this sketch), and costume designer John Mollo.*

*Left: The imposing Dark Lord of the Sith makes a memorable first appearance in a smoke-filled corridor of the captured Rebel Blockade Runner in this scene from *Star Wars*.*





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By the time *Return of the Jedi* rolled around, filmgoers knew that Vader had spoken the truth. Still, there was a lot more to learn about his character, something that Luke had felt long before anyone else. "Your thoughts betray you, Father," the younger Skywalker says during a break in their violent lightsaber battle in the Emperor's throne room aboard the second Death Star. "I feel the good in you . . . the conflict."

"**There is no conflict,**" Vader insists. In the end, Luke is proven right.

Lucas says that the new *Star Wars* trilogy that he is working on now, combined with the existing three films, will in totality be the story of Anakin Skywalker and the entire Skywalker family. The "larger story of Darth Vader is a story in a more classical sense," he told Jane Paley, who interviewed him for a film and audio tour that accompanied the yearlong *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. "It's about the struggle between good and evil, and about how somebody falls from grace and then is redeemed by his son."

In the first trilogy, Lucas says, we'll get to know Anakin first as a gifted nine-year-old, then as a young Jedi Knight who falls in love and marries. And we'll be witnesses to Anakin's eventual turn to the dark side of the Force, becoming the monstrous Darth Vader. It will be a mighty and wrenching fall.

In the end, with help from his son Luke, Anakin struggles and finds the last bit of the light side within himself, ultimately achieving redemption. In his first draft for *Jedi*, Lucas in fact had the elder Skywalker achieve even more—a return to his corporeal body and a reunion with Luke. In fact, all three departed Jedi—Anakin, Ben Kenobi, and Yoda—returned in the flesh. A later draft had Ben and Yoda return as shimmering images with Luke lost in deep thought about his departed father. In the shooting script by Lawrence Kasdan and Lucas and in the film, the three departed Jedi appear smiling, side by side, in their spirit forms.

*Above and Right: Concept artist Ralph McQuarrie dashed off scores of quick sketches before final appearance details were settled. These sketches are of particular interest because they show a Vader with a mask but no helmet.*

As many buffs know, there were lots of changes between the initial story treatments and the various drafts for all three films in the trilogy, but none more so than for *The Star Wars*, which lost its initial article after the fourth and final draft had been written. Still there are bits and pieces that foreshadow the character of Darth Vader, the Dark Lord of the Sith, from the earliest writings.

In the story treatment, completed in the spring of 1973, sixteen-year-old Annikin [sic] Starkiller is living on the fourth moon of Utapau with his ten-year-old brother Deak and his father Kane, one of the last of the Jedi. They are hiding out from the rival Knights of Sith when Annikin spots a spacecraft orbiting the moon and rushes back to his hut with the news. The three then go to investigate the strange craft, which has landed, when seemingly out of nowhere a Sith warrior appears behind the two boys and kills Deak with his long "lazersword." The warrior is dressed in black robes and wearing a face mask.

Annikin pulls out his own lazersword and engages the warrior. Kane, who had gone on in advance of his sons, rushes back and slays the Sith warrior. Kane and Annikin later use the Sith ship to escape to Aquilae and go to the underground fortress of a General Skywalker. Kane is dying and asks Skywalker to complete Annikin's training. In another echo of what would become a major facet of Darth Vader, only Kane's head and right arm are human; all the rest of his body has been supplanted by mechanical and electronic devices.

"Having machines, like the droids, that are reasonably compassionate and a man like Vader who becomes a machine and loses his compassion was a theme that interested me," Lucas told author Laurent Bouzereau in an interview for *Star Wars: The Annotated Screenplays*. The character of Annikin embodies some of the traits Lucas would later assign both to Luke Skywalker and the irascible pirate Han Solo.



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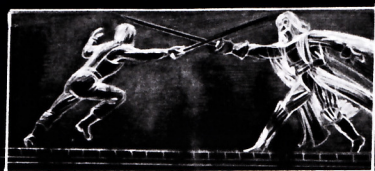
*Below and Opposite: Dramatic storyboards by sketch artist Ivor Beddoes catch every thrust and parry in the intense lightsaber duel between young Luke Skywalker and the evil being he is about to learn is his father, the Dark Lord of the Sith.*

Darth Vader, at least in name, exists in the rough draft. So how did Lucas come up with the name itself? In an in-house interview with Lucasfilm marketing executive Charlie Lippincott four months after *Star Wars* was released, Lucas had a simple explanation.

"Darth Vader is just another one of those things that came out of thin air," Lucas said. "It sort of appeared in my head one day. I mean I had lots of Darth this and Darth that, and Dark Lord of the Sith and all those kinds of things. And then I also added lots of last names—Vaders and Wilsons and Smiths—and I just came up with combining Darth and Vader." It should be noted that Lucas had long toyed with the possibility of making Vader Luke's father, but he wasn't sure at that point whether he wanted to reveal that in the second or the third film. It seems little coincidence that, in several European languages, Darth Vader comes close to meaning "dark father."

In the *Star Wars* rough draft, General Vader isn't a very important character, just tall and scowling when he's first encountered on Alderaan, at that point the Empire's headquarters planet. He's introduced just as the ruler of the Galactic Empire announces that he is sending his troops to conquer the Aquilae system, the last remaining hideout of the Jedi.

By the screenplay's second draft, Darth Vader has emerged nearly full-blown as the character that we love to hate. But now it's Deak Starkiller who engages him. And Lucas has assigned names to the opposite sides of the Force of Others: Bogan for the dark side and Ashla for the light side. As in the film itself, Vader makes a powerful entry aboard an overtaken Rebel space fighter. It is this scene that concept artist Ralph McQuarrie used to make one of the five paintings that convinced 20th Century-Fox to give the go-ahead to the filming of *Star Wars*:



LUKE ATTACKS  
AGGRESSIVELY  
SEE  
PETER DIAMOND





VADER  
IGNITE

For an eerie moment, all is deathly quiet as a huge darker figure appears in the sub-hallway. The remaining stormtroopers bow low toward the doorway. An awesome, seven-foot BLACK KNIGHT OF THE SITH makes his way into the blinding light of the cockpit area. This is LORD DARTH VADER, right hand to the MASTER OF THE SITH. His sinister face is partially obscured by his flowing black robes and grotesque breath mask, which are in sharp contrast to the fascist white armored suits of the Imperial stormtroopers. The troops instinctively back away from the imposing warrior..

Deak Starkiller stands firm; a new look of resolve sweeps across his tired face. The smoky room is deathly quiet, except for the occasional snapping and popping of burning electrical circuits in the cockpit's sophisticated control panel.

As the Black Knight enters the corridor, the few surviving troopers scramble into the sub-hallway. Lord Vader speaks in an oddly filtered voice through his complex breathing mask.

**VADER** At last we meet!

**DEAK** With so much commotion, I expected your master, not merely a servant.

Vader is angered by this remark. Taking a deep breath, he raises his arms and every object that isn't bolted down is picked up by an invisible force and hurled at the young Jedi. When the objects reach [within] about two feet of Deak, they are deflected by an invisible shield which surrounds him.

**DEAK (CONT'D)** The Bogan is strong with you; but not nearly strong enough. I'm afraid you have to use your weapon, if you're able!

**VADER** I am Lord Darth Vader, first Knight of the Sith, and right hand to His Eminence



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Prince Espaa Valorum, the Master of the Bogan. You will not mock me, or my Master; for the Ashla is weak, and the Force of Others can not save you now . . .

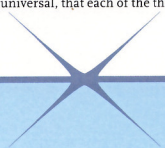
*The fearsome dark knight ignites his lightsaber and takes a defensive stance. The two galactic warriors stand perfectly still for a few moments, sizing each other up and waiting for the right moment. Deak seems to be under increasing pressure and strain, as if an invisible weight were being placed upon him. He shakes his head and blinking, tries to clear his eyes.*

**VADER (CONT'D)** Your powers are weak . . .

*Deak makes a sudden lunge at the huge warrior but is checked by a lightning movement of the SITH. A second masterful slash-stroke by Deak is again blocked by his evil opponent.*

*They stand motionless for a few moments, with lightsabers locked in midair, creating a low buzzing sound. Another of the Jedi's blows is blocked, then countered. Deak stumbles back against a wall. Slowly Deak is forced to his knees as all his energy is drained from his being. Finally, he collapses in a heap. The sinister knight lets out a horrible, shrieking laugh, as stormtroopers rush in with restraining poles, followed by a braided and flashy Imperial commander. Deak's arms and legs are pinned to the wall.*

The physical appearance of Darth Vader was a joint effort of Lucas, who had a mental picture of his Dark Lord of the Sith; the talented conceptual artist Ralph McQuarrie; and costume designer John Mollo, who had to translate McQuarrie's designs into workable and wearable costumes. It's fascinating to note that the look of Vader was so well conceived, so specific to the character yet so universal, that each of the three creators saw in it different influences.





"The original idea for Darth Vader was that he was this very big, ominous, slightly technological character, but obviously very human," Lucas told interviewer Jane Paley. "I wanted a helmet that was very threatening . . . and I was inspired by Japanese helmets during the medieval period, which had a large flare on them over the shoulders." Vader's helmet was inspired by the feudal Japanese *kabuto*, its basinlike crown widening and flaring at the ears. His face mask is somewhat reminiscent of the iron, steel, or lacquered leather *mempo* of a Japanese samurai of the period. While it was primarily meant to protect a warrior's face, the *mempo* was often designed to look like some horrific beast to frighten enemies. Not surprisingly, Vader's appearance had a similar effect.

McQuarrie notes, "He was spoken of in the script as a sort of dark lord of the evil side. I thought of a guy who perhaps was sort of like a Bedouin—the Bedouin idea was rather fascinating to George with these Tusken Raiders that he had in the script and the desert setting for Tatooine. At that time, I think he had Darth Vader linked with that."

Time was of the essence in getting the first five paintings done. "In the process of inventing these things my main source of inspiration was, of course, George Lucas," McQuarrie says. "I'd read the draft and George would come and describe in a few words—a very few words—what he wanted." McQuarrie sometimes did quick pencil sketches even as Lucas spoke. "I kept reading, and listening to George, and just doing illustrations," the artist adds. "I just kept moving on, sometimes without a specific OK from George, but with me thinking a particular design looked good. And I seemed to be doing what George wanted.

"I remember George saying that Vader should have a kind of silk robe that always fluttered as he came and went, and he might have his face covered with sort of a black silk scarf and have some kind of big helmet like a Japanese warrior." McQuarrie pointed out that the first time Vader is seen, he has just emerged


Above: In one of the earliest McQuarrie pre-production paintings based on the second draft of the screenplay for *The Star Wars*, a young Deak Starkiller confronts the fearsome Darth Vader.

Left and Right: Quick sketches of a more sinister looking Vader, some of them drawn on the back of scrap letterhead paper and no more than an inch or two high, were tossed off by McQuarrie, wielding a very fluid pencil.



*McQuarrie's concept design for Vader's mask and helmet had a Japanese feudal influence and was a bit more sinister than the final appearance, which included some modifications by John Mollo.*

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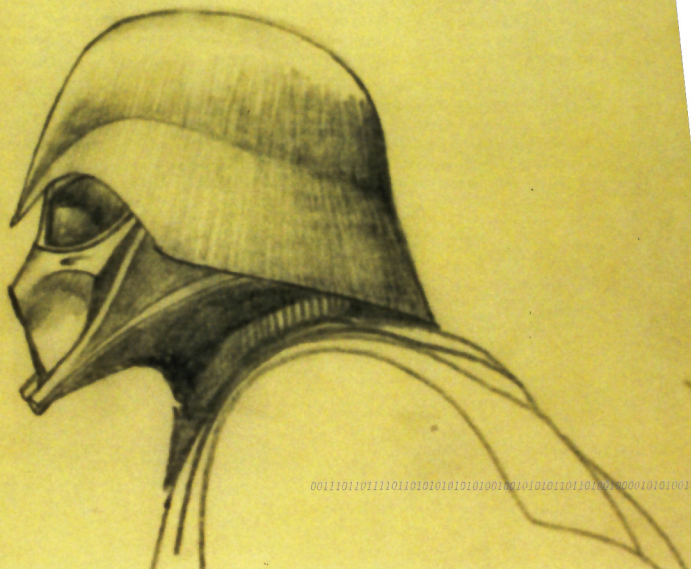
from his own spacecraft into the Rebel spaceship. "They burn through the door or something and in comes Vader when the door blows out . . . striding right in from outer space."

McQuarrie, who had worked as an illustrator for Boeing and done some Apollo animations for CBS News, said his background made him ask Lucas a question. "I said, well, gee, George, I mean how's he going to breathe out there?" McQuarrie recounts. "And George said, well, maybe for this scene we could give him some sort of breathing mask, and that everybody in the ship can have a sort of breath mask that they've slapped on. At that time Luke [actually Deak Starkiller] was going to meet Vader right there in the hallway. So I gave Luke and Vader these masks in my illustration," which was one of the original ones shown to Fox.

"George liked the mask that I did for Vader, with the big goggles and everything so he said, 'That's great, that's fine,' and we just left it at that," McQuarrie says. "That's it. You see, we weren't trying to work out every angle on this thing; we were just trying to get the general spirit of the film and go on to the next illustration quickly. All the stuff that I did on *Star Wars* I did in a relatively short time frame." Much to McQuarrie's later surprise—and delight—much of his quick conceptual work was translated almost verbatim onto the screen.

There were some changes. "The Darth that emerged in the film contrasted with my drawings in the sense that he was a more upright figure. Very stern," McQuarrie notes. "My guy was a little bit round shouldered and had more of a curving down look to his face. His mask was kind of evil looking, I think perhaps a little more sinister than the one in the film. But the film look was the correct one—that immense upright look goes along with the voice of authority. Vader isn't an evil little snakelike guy. He's a gigantic, commanding figure. He's a general."





*For years, a fully dressed Darth Vader mannequin has quietly stood guard at the Lucasfilm Archives, ensuring that there are no disturbances from this galaxy or any other.*

John Mollo, who won an Academy Award for his costume design for *Star Wars*, had the task of developing costumes for scores of actors and extras and also of turning the designs of Ralph McQuarrie into wearable reality. "Essentially, Ralph's sketches, which other creative departments would also rely on, took the place of historical reference for us," Mollo says.

"In the sketches, the main characters were depicted in quite small scale," he adds. "So our first step was to go to Berman's and Nathan's, the theatrical costumiers, and dress models from their stock, approximating as far as possible the appearance of the figures shown in the sketches. Then we photographed the models and showed them to George. After that, it was a matter of change and adjustment until we achieved the look they wanted."

For the first film, Mollo had only slightly more than three months to do all the costumes. "Doing it the way we did was sort of a shortcut," Mollo recalls. "We dressed our models up in whatever we could find. For instance, Darth Vader had this black sort of motorcycle suit on, a Nazi helmet, a gas mask, and a monk's cloak that we found in the Middle Ages department. And when George came to London we repeated that to put on a live fashion show and George would say, 'I like this' and 'I don't like that.' There was very little drawing done; it was really more of a practical make-do." Once the look was agreed on, Mollo and his staff constructed the actual costumes.

On Vader, in particular, some reworking was needed. "The problem was to redesign it because it was going to be made up in leather and it was going to be a very hot and very uncomfortable costume," Mollo recalls. "It was a matter of making it in certain pieces so that you could take bits off quickly on the set so that he wouldn't have to go around all day in the whole caboodle. The costumiers made the basic suit and we in the studio made the mask, the armor, the belts, and the funny boxlike thing with lights on it [on his chest]. I think Vader turned out very much like he looks in the McQuarrie sketches.

*The two-part Vader mask, revealed only at the end of Return of the Jedi, shows part of the Dark Lord's life-support system. Nearby is his Jedi weapon, a lightsaber.*



"George didn't want any fastenings to show, so we used things like Velcro and wrapped things over and tied them off with belts. For the functional-looking belts and boxes, I started going around an area in London where all the electronics firms are and buying up £20 worth of things. The shopkeepers would say, 'That doesn't go with that,' and I would tell them, 'I don't mind, you know; I'm just going to be sticking this on a robot.'"

While for McQuarrie the influence for Vader was somewhat Middle Eastern, and for Lucas Japanese, Mollo—who had developed a reputation as a military costume expert—saw it as a bit closer to home. "It was more of a Nazi influence, really," he says. "I mean to me it looks sort of like a Nazi helmet and pieces of trench armor that the Germans wore in World War I."

The appearance of the unmasked Vader at the end of *Jedi* was an important moment for the entire first trilogy. It was a physical transformation that served to punctuate his spiritual transformation. In the beginning, Lucas really wasn't focused on what that look might be, as he told Bouzureau in *Star Wars: The Annotated Screenplays*:

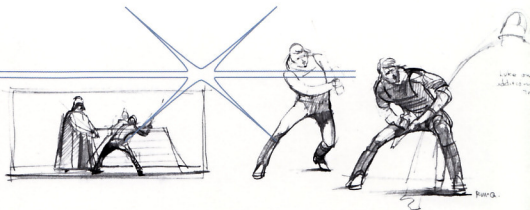
"I didn't have a very specific idea about what Vader might look like underneath the mask. I knew that he had been in a lot of battles, and at one point I thought that he had had a confrontation with Ben and Ben had sent him into a volcano. But he was all but dead, and basically he was manufactured back together even though there was very little left of him. So he is kind of this three-quarters mechanical man and one-quarter human, and the suit he wears is like a walking iron lung. By the time we got to the third film, we were able to articulate what Vader looked like underneath the mask, but until then I just knew that he was pretty messed up simply because he could barely breathe or speak." Still, Lucas made the important decision to make the unmasked Vader sad looking, and thus somewhat sympathetic, rather than repulsive looking as a legion of fans had come to expect.

*Below and Opposite: Artist Ralph McQuarrie uses pencil vignettes to capture the action before starting on an elaborate production painting. Here, Vader and Skywalker have their first confrontation in the eerily deserted carbon-freezing chamber in the bowels of Cloud City.*

Another important contributor to the persona of Darth Vader was Ben Burtt, Academy Award-winning sound designer, who came up with the unforgettable breathing sound that has been imitated by millions since *Star Wars* hit theaters. To get the effect of tortured breathing from Vader's ruined lungs, Burtt first tried to synthesize a unique sound composed of around eighteen types of human breathing, but that didn't work. "We learned that what we really wanted was just an icy, cold, mechanical breathing," he says. "And Darth breathing was a recording that I made. It was me breathing through the regulator on my scuba tank. Then I'd edit those breaths into every scene with Darth Vader and try to match the breathing rhythm of the speech, which of course was the voice of James Earl Jones."

Lucasfilm wanted foreign audiences to get as much benefit as possible from all the sound engineering done for *Star Wars*, so Burtt was sent to several countries to help in the dubbing process. "We had a French Darth Vader, an Italian Darth Vader, and so on," he explains. "In each case, we tried to come up with a means of processing the local actor's voice so that you got a sense of a booming voice inside a space helmet. It's important for Vader's voice to really seem as though it's coming from his helmet. He has no mouth to locate a voice, and if you just put a voice on the screen somewhere and it's supposed to be Darth Vader, there's always the problem that you don't connect the voice with that character."

Burtt says that the French mix turned out to be his favorite, both because of the equipment and the creativity of the French sound mixers. "We tried to come up with a way of processing Darth Vader's voice to get a booming effect, and we played around with a lot of different methods," he recalls. "The one we finally used was that we played Vader's voice over a speaker and then put a long stovepipe tube in front of the speaker with a microphone at the other end. The sound reverberated through the stovepipe and then was picked up by the microphone, fed out through the mixing console, and blended in the final





soundtrack of the picture. We got a slightly metallic, booming sound to Darth's voice, which worked very well."

Burt had a slightly different experience in Italy. "They loved Darth Vader's breathing in Italy and turned it up really loud. Every time Darth was on the screen there was this huge breathing. It sounded like a steamboat!"

While there is only one Darth Vader, it actually took four men to carry out all aspects of the role. For most of the trilogy, the man behind the mask was David Prowse, a six-foot-seven giant of a man who had won the Mr. Universe title in 1962. Prowse's most notable role until then had been that of a bodyguard for a revenge-seeking author in *A Clockwork Orange*. George Lucas offered him a choice of roles, that of Chewbacca or Darth Vader. Knowing that villains are often the most memorable characters in a film, Prowse picked Vader, not realizing until he went for costume fittings that the Dark Lord of the Sith *always* wore a helmet and face mask. (Chewbacca, of course, wouldn't have been any more revelatory.) It is Prowse who is responsible for that famous stride, the imposing presence, and the hand gestures as he inflicts unseen pain or even death on those for whom he has no more use. Prowse says his two favorite scenes are his entrance in *Star Wars* ("It's the greatest entrance that anybody can ever wish for") and the lightsaber duel with Luke Skywalker at the end of *The Empire Strikes Back*. Prowse was given dummy lines for that scene and it wasn't until he saw the completed film that he knew that Vader was Luke's father.

It was also in that scene that the second Vader was used. While Prowse had done all the fighting in *Star Wars*, the battle in *Empire* was trickier, so the production brought in stuntman Bob Anderson to do some of the swordplay on the gantry in Cloud City. Anderson reprised his role by doing all of the fighting in *Return of the Jedi*.





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The third and most famous Vader is the talented actor James Earl Jones, whose stentorian delivery, along with Ben Burtt's sound effects and Dave Prowse's body movements, absolutely nailed the character. Not many people know that the multi-award-winning Jones, whose voice announces "This is CNN" around the world, had to overcome a severe stuttering problem as a child. In his autobiography, *Voices and Silences*, Jones says that for a long time he used to deny that he was Vader's voice, because it was fun to do so. But the role, which took him less than three hours to do for the first film, "set off a chain reaction of voices in my career. With Darth Vader, that mythical character, my voice came to be used more and more frequently as a voice of authority." Jones also appreciates the exposure the role gave him to another generation of audiences who might not be familiar with his body of theatrical and other work.

Jones, who gives full credit to Prowse for creating the Vader persona, gave some fascinating insight into what is one of the most famous voice-overs in modern film in an interview with Pete Hull for the *Star Wars Insider*.

"For *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* we set aside the whole day, eight hours, for the looping of Vader's voice," Jones told Hull. "In *Empire*, I didn't know quite what I had done right in the first one. As an actor I wanted to improve my performance. I wanted to do a good job, to be more expressive. But we discovered that being more expressive wasn't the right approach for Vader.

"George Lucas and the others and I sat around and asked the question, 'If you deal with the voice as a musical instrument in terms of human inflection, what is Darth Vader's voice?' I think one of them then said, 'That's probably the mistake we're making. Vader doesn't express himself with his voice. The word



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is there, he lays it out, and that's it. Vader is a man who never learned the beauties and subtleties of human expression.' So we figured out the key to my work was to keep it on a very narrow band. A narrow band of expression . . . that was the secret."

The fourth and final Vader from the first trilogy was Royal Shakespeare Company veteran Sebastian Shaw, then eighty-two years old. The late actor's scenes were shot at Elstree Studios on closed sets, which were cleared of all but essential crew. Shaw played Vader in the famous scene at the end of *Jedi* when audiences finally see the scarred wreck of a man who had been trapped so long behind the ebony mask. And, at the end of the film, he stands proudly and scarless next to Yoda and Alec Guinness' Obi-Wan Kenobi, all of them shimmering spirits at one with the Force.

British actor Ian McDiarmid, who played the role of Emperor Palpatine under heavy makeup, remembers the day of the shoot. "I was in for my four-hour makeup and I saw Sebastian Shaw in the corridor," he told Scott Chernoff in an interview for the *Star Wars Insider*. "I knew Sebastian quite well. I said, 'Sebastian! Good heavens! What are you doing here?' He said, 'I don't know, dear boy, I think it's something to do with science fiction.' That was Sebastian. The *Star Wars* saga had passed him blissfully by."

But all the behind-the-scenes explanations of the look, the sound, and the very *feel* of the character of Darth Vader aren't enough to explain his impact. A lot of that has to do with movie magic, the melding of the skills of a bevy of creative people so that the sum far exceeds its parts. The singular vision of George Lucas, carried out in his roles as conceptualizer, writer, and director, is another important aspect. But beyond that, what is it about Vader that has made the character such an indelible part of the last two decades of the twentieth century?

*Above Left: Vader is unrelenting in his pursuit of the still not fully trained Luke Skywalker, and uses both his lightsaber and other dark-side Force powers to subdue the young Jedi.*

*Left: Luke Skywalker is about to make a momentous decision in his confrontation with Darth Vader in the reactor core of Bespin's Cloud City.*

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The answer to that may be bound up in the magic of myth, not coincidentally the title of the Smithsonian exhibit in Washington, D.C. Lucas has long said that he set out trying to create a new myth for a generation of children who had none of their own that were relevant. In the exhibition's fascinating companion book, *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth*, by Mary Henderson, the exhibit's curator asks Lucas to describe the role of myth in the creation of the *Star Wars* films:

"I was trying to take certain mythological principles and apply them to a story. Ultimately, I had to abandon that and just simply write the story. I found that when I went back and read it, then started applying it against the sort of principles that I was trying to work with originally, they were all there. . . . I'd sort of immersed myself in the principles that I was trying to pour into the script . . . [and] these things were just indelibly infused into the script."

One of those indelible myths that is part of the context of Darth Vader is the constant and momentous struggle between good and evil; another is the passing of the power of what Lucas calls the light side and the dark side from fathers to sons. Luke sets out on the hero's journey, one that will transform him, but Vader is on a journey too. He has been transformed once—from the youthful and good Anakin Skywalker into the relentlessly evil Darth Vader—but Lucas will transform him back again at the end of the journey.

Another way that Lucas tweaks mythological conventions is in the familiar plot of the hero slaying the monster. In this case, a monster, in the form of Vader, slays a hero, Obi-Wan Kenobi. But Kenobi isn't dead in the traditional sense. He has let Vader strike him down only to become one with the Force, which will allow him to continue as a guide on Luke Skywalker's difficult journey.

*Above Right: Darth Vader walks down the lower deck of an Imperial landing platform on the forest moon of Endor to have another encounter with his son, Luke, who has surrendered to the crew of an Imperial walker.*

*Right: Darth Vader is escorted by some Imperial dignitaries as he lands his shuttle on a deck of the uncompleted second Death Star with his son, Luke, in tow. Both production paintings are by Ralph McQuarrie.*



In *The Empire Strikes Back*, Vader plays another role, as Henderson points out. When Jedi Master Yoda tells Luke that he must enter a cave made from the roots of a tree, a mystic cave that is strong with the dark side of the Force, Luke asks his new mentor what lies within. "Only what you take with you," Yoda replies. Ignoring Yoda's request, Luke straps on his weapons and enters the cave. There he encounters Darth Vader, or what appears to be Vader. For as Luke strikes out with his lightsaber, his opponent's head falls off—only to reveal the face of Luke inside Vader's helmet. "This is truly a descent into another spiritual labyrinth, for in the depths of the tree lies the revelation that Darth Vader is not some external evil presence but the shadow side of Luke himself," Henderson notes. "The dark side of the Force lies within as well as without." Luke is again confronted with the inescapable when he finally encounters Vader in the bowels of Cloud City and is told the horrible truth: Vader is no evil stranger; Luke is his own flesh and blood.

Finally, in *Return of the Jedi*, Luke realizes that the only way to resolve the crisis is to again confront his father. He surrenders to him, is taken before the utterly irredeemable Emperor Palpatine, and eventually is goaded into attacking Vader. After Luke severs his father's bionic hand, he looks at his own electro-mechanical hand and realizes that if he missteps, he could become the next Darth Vader. When the Emperor then starts to destroy Luke, son appeals to father for help. At the last possible moment, Vader manages to cast off years of dark-side regimentation and kills the Emperor to save his son. "Vader has detached himself from his evil master and has been transformed through his son," Henderson notes. "Vader has become a tragic persona, and his own suffering is now the supreme monstrosity with which he must contend. . . . Vader is, in a sense, a fallen angel who reveals his true essence at last."





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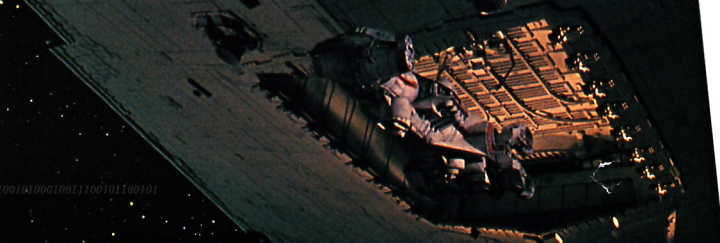
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to build a gargantuan Imperial terror weapon with the ominous code name Death Star. One of the battle station's first targets would be the hidden military base that the Rebels had established on an as-yet undetermined world.

Construction began, but the war against the Rebel Alliance intensified as more planets summoned the courage to speak out against official Imperial doctrine. The Emperor dispatched his Star Destroyers to deal with the growing problem in a brutal and heavy-handed fashion. Lord Vader watched the latest suppression with indifference. Enemies of the Empire deserved whatever gruesome deaths Palpatine saw fit to mete out, but the whole campaign would ultimately amount to little more than the stamping out of insignificant brushfires. The Force was what truly mattered, the exhilarating and at times frightening ability to manipulate life itself and to bend the very structure of reality. Still, the Grand Moff's new toy was swiftly nearing completion above Despayre, helped along by the Dark Lord's terrifying motivational techniques. Despite the weapon's gross size and exorbitant cost, Vader admitted it could make an excellent deterrent in the short run.

Due to the increase in military activity, Palpatine grew more reliant on Darth Vader to act as his eyes and ears among his Imperial subjects. Even the Emperor's most straightforward requests hid covert plots and secret agendas; Palpatine's true reasons for sending his servant off on minor administrative inspections were a mystery to Vader. Would Palpatine move against him in his absence? Was the Falleen prince Xizor, head of the galaxy's largest criminal syndicate, becoming the Emperor's most trusted confidant? Did Palpatine suspect that Vader had sometimes entertained the thought of overthrowing his master and assuming the throne in his place? But Vader was in no position to criticize or even raise the question. On his master's orders, he left Imperial City on Coruscant, now called Imperial Center, to oversee Lord Tion's subjugation of the rebellious planet Ralltiir.





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reports filtering in from his ground troops, who were assaulting a fortified Rebel position on Toprawa's surface. The lead squad seemed close to victory but Vader ordered his three auxiliary Star Destroyers to assume close planetary orbit in case a surface bombardment became necessary. As the last of the prodigious vessels slid into position, the *Tantive IV* emerged from hyperspace.

The Blockade Runner claimed to be experiencing a malfunction, but Vader was no fool. The *Devastator's* captain ordered the consular ship to heave to and prepare to receive Imperial investigators. As the vast Star Destroyer closed with the much smaller vessel, an officer in the crew pit confirmed Vader's suspicions: the *Tantive IV* had downloaded a coded, high-burst data transmission beamed from the Rebel facility on Toprawa. They had the Death Star plans, Vader knew. They must not be allowed to escape! The *Devastator* opened fire.

As the gunners poured scarlet energy at their target, the Blockade Runner lurched forward and vanished into hyperspace with a tiny wink of triumph. Several officers on the bridge gasped. Darth Vader's cold-blooded capriciousness in executing those who had displeased him was legendary. But Vader had an alternate method for locating and tracking his fugitive quarry. Imperial Intelligence had placed a spy aboard the *Tantive IV*, a protocol droid designated U-3PO. The Star Destroyer followed the droid's unerring homing signal through the twists of hyperspace, and when the Blockade Runner reverted back into realspace at the brown orb of Tatooine, the *Devastator* leapt out nearly on top of it.

The small ship was taken by surprise. A desperate, furious exchange of energy bolts ended when the *Devastator's* turbolasers hit the Blockade Runner's main solar fin. Crippled beyond repair, the *Tantive IV* shut down its main reactor and was helplessly dragged into the Star Destroyer's yawning hangar bay.

Foolishly, the ship still refused to surrender and receive boarders. Vader clenched his fist with rage. Very well then; their fates would be on their own heads. The Sith Lord assembled an assault squad of his finest





shock troops and ordered them through a blaster-chewed hull breach. Once the firing died down, he followed them into the swirling smoke.

Shots echoed along the corridor walls as Vader strode through the passenger decks. He had no fear for his personal safety. As a Dark Lord of the Sith he was capable of deflecting blaster bolts with nothing more than an outstretched palm. Vader soon located the captain, an average-stock Alderaanian named Antilles. Though a telekinetic choke was an excellent method of sharpening the Force's effect on physical matter, sometimes a simple one-handed squeeze could loosen recalcitrant tongues more quickly.

**"Where are those transmissions you intercepted?"** growled Vader. **"What have you done with those plans?"** The Rebel clung to his cover story of being on a diplomatic mission, and his life ended with a gurgling death rattle. Behind his mask, Vader's jaw clenched in anger. There could be as many as one hundred sixty-five crewmen aboard a vessel of this size. If he had to interrogate them all, so be it.

In less time than he had expected, his stormtroopers brought forth Leia Organa. Vader made it a point to remind the young captive of their recent meeting on Ralltiir. **"You weren't on any mercy mission this time,"** he said. **"Several transmissions were beamed to this ship by Rebel spies."** The Princess, like the captain before her, reiterated the story that the *Tantive IV* was a mere consular ship on official diplomatic business. **"You are part of the Rebel Alliance and a traitor!"** Vader proclaimed. **"Take her away!"**

The Princess was transferred to a detention cell aboard the *Devastator*. Vader ordered his officers to transmit a broadband distress signal from the *Tantive IV*'s bridge computer and then inform the Imperial Senate, with much regret, that all the ship's passengers had been killed in a mishap. Commander Praji appeared and delivered an update on the search for the Death Star plans. "Lord Vader," he reported, "the battle station plans are not on board this ship. An escape pod was jettisoned during the



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fighting, but no life signs were aboard." Vader sensed that the plans were indeed aboard the pod. **"Send a detachment down to retrieve it,"** Vader ordered. **"See to it personally, Commander. There'll be no one to stop us this time!"**

The *Devastator's* hyperspace transit from Tatooine to the Death Star was smooth and uneventful. Vader stood confidently on the command deck as the Star Destroyer approached the battle station and passed through its concentric rings of invisible defensive zones. On a whim he had Princess Leia brought to the bridge, where he showed her the Empire's man-made moon, a swollen gray sphere packing enough destructive energy to shatter a planet like an ornamented crystal globe. It was a mere machine in Vader's eyes, but it was indicative of the Empire's galaxy-spanning might. The sight of the weapon frightened and disturbed Leia but did not prod her into revealing what she had done with the intercepted technical readouts. Vader gave her one last chance to reveal what she knew before they arrived. Once imprisoned in the Death Star's interrogation block, more persuasive methods would be applied. The defiant senator stubbornly refused to reveal any information.

Grand Moff Tarkin met Vader in the Death Star's docking bay. The Dark Lord held a certain degree of respect for the gaunt Imperial governor, and he knew Tarkin felt the same way about him. But neither man liked or trusted the other. Tarkin resented having Palpatine's personal hatchet man peering over his shoulder, and Vader suspected that the Grand Moff was plotting to use his new superweapon to achieve unprecedented power in the Empire, possibly even to overthrow the Emperor himself. The fact that Vader harbored similar ambitions only deepened his wary suspicion.

Stepping into a turbolift, the two men exchanged a few terse words as they arrived at the Death Star's administrative conference room on the command level. Twin ebony doors hissed open, revealing a circular table and roughly a dozen chairs in which the galaxy's top military officers sat attentively. General



Tagge and Admiral Motti were spitting angry words at one another as they entered, but both stopped to regard Tarkin and his black-armored escort. The Grand Moff took his seat and informed the group of the Emperor's recent dissolution of the Imperial Senate.

Vader remained standing, watching as emotions of shock, greed, and ambition played across the assembled faces. Admiral Motti in particular appeared to despise his presence; waves of contempt emanated from his body. Soon enough, the arrogant officer spoke his mind. "Don't try to frighten us with your sorcerer's ways, Lord Vader," he began. More insolent words tumbled from his mouth before Vader reached out with invisible Force tendrils and neatly pinched his windpipe. The admiral sputtered and began turning a fine shade of blue before Tarkin spoke up. "Enough of this. Vader, release him!" The Dark Lord paused and allowed sarcasm to seep into his voice. "**As you wish.**" He gestured with one gloved hand and Motti slumped forward, chastised and humiliated.

Darth Vader had other, more important business to attend to in the detention block. As he entered Cell 2187 accompanied by two guards and a robotic IT-O Interrogator, the captured Princess shrank back. The hovering torture droid seemed to fill the tiny room. Vader spoke with cold, measured words. "**And now, Your Highness, we will discuss the location of your hidden Rebel base.**" The droid injected Leia with a mixture of serums, sending her into a hypnotic trance. But the Dark Lord's best efforts, including psychological manipulation and Force probing, amounted to nothing. The senator's inner fortitude was baffling and unexpected. For lack of a better explanation, Vader attributed it to the mental training received by all members of the House of Alderaan.

The Grand Moff proposed another path. A threat to a third party could often overcome the most resolute resistance, and nothing was more dear to Leia than her homeworld of Alderaan. Vader initially objected

to such an ambitious scheme. Alderaan was one of the most respected Core Worlds, and Tarkin had neglected to consult the Emperor on his decision, but he finally conceded. The destruction of Alderaan would eliminate a hotbed of Rebel sentiment and demonstrate to the galaxy that the Empire had an unstoppable weapon at its disposal.


The Death Star made a hyperspace jump to Alderaan and hung there in space above the placid blue orb. The Princess was escorted to the overbridge. An immense wall screen displayed their target, and Tarkin did his best to impress upon his captive the dire fate awaiting her world if she continued to refuse to reveal the site of the Rebel base. Finally, she broke down. "Dantooine," the Princess said. "They're on Dantooine." Tarkin turned toward Vader with a small twinkle of triumph in his eyes. "You see, Lord Vader, she can be reasonable. Continue with the operation. You may fire when ready." Leia was aghast as the superlaser gunners began their awesome task; the deck plates began to thrum with a mammoth surge of pent-up energy, and in one shattering instant, an entire world became nothing but pulverized rubble.

Vader later met with Tarkin in the conference room to discuss their next course of action. The Sith Lord could still sense the voices of the Alderaanian dead, a distant after-echo swirling in the Force as a turbulent vortex of agony. He put such thoughts aside. With Alderaan demolished and Dantooine next on the list, the two largest centers of resistance to Imperial rule would no longer be a factor. Imperial scout ships, however, brought back unexpected news. Dantooine was nothing but a ruse. Enraged, Tarkin ordered the Princess' immediate execution.

As the Death Star made plans to depart the Alderaan system, the crew reported that it had captured an arriving space freighter, one that appeared to be the same ship that had outrun a Star Destroyer patrol at

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Tatooine. Darth Vader personally looked over the dilapidated pirate craft and sensed . . . *something*—a strange vibration in the Force, a unique sensation he hadn't encountered in years. Vader left the docking bay, but the more he thought about his experience the more certain he became of its root cause. Obi-Wan Kenobi had returned.

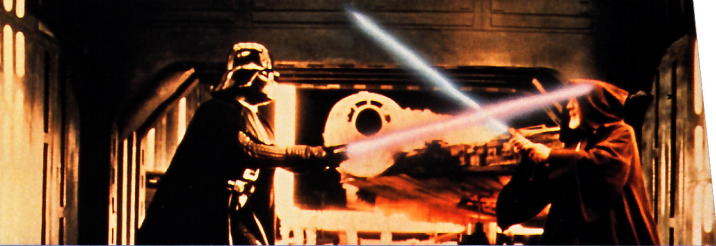
Tarkin was predictably skeptical. "The Jedi are extinct," he said. "Their fire has gone out of the universe. You, my friend, are all that's left of their religion." As if on cue, the comlink buzzed with an urgent report of a disturbance in the Princess' cell bay. "**Obi-Wan is here,**" Vader said. "**The Force is with him.**"

The Force drew the two Jedi toward their inevitable confrontation. Neither expressed surprise when they encountered one another in the stark corridor outside Bay 327. "**I've been waiting for you, Obi-Wan,**" intoned the fallen pupil. "**We meet again at last. When I left you I was but the learner; now I am the master.**" The two moved in a careful circle, striking and parrying. Lightsabers moaned and flashed as the two former friends took stock of what each had become over the years. "You can't win, Darth," warned Obi-Wan. "If you strike me down I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine."

They continued to exchange blows, and the other members of Kenobi's party ran into the docking bay towards the *Falcon's* open ramp. Obi-Wan shifted his eyes toward them and seemed to reach a decision. Drawing an aura of Force around his aged form, he raised his saber in a passive salute. Vader, with a mighty sweep of his crimson blade, cleaved his former master in two.

But Kenobi's robes fluttered to the deck, empty. Vader poked at them with one black boot. Then he turned his attention toward the pirate freighter and strode ahead, saber in hand. A closing blast door pre-





vented his forward passage. The armored panes of durasteel made little difference to one who had the Force. Vader could feel the freighter powering up, as it rocketed away from the Death Star with Leia on board. The Dark Lord smiled, switched off his saber, and bent down to retrieve Obi-Wan's fallen weapon from the crumpled pile of brown cloth. A fine trophy, and a fitting one. He would have it transferred immediately to his private fortress on Vjun. The torch had been passed.

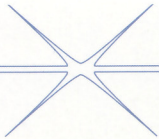
A short time later, he stood with Tarkin on the battle station's overbridge. The Grand Moff expressed understandable concern about the wisdom of Vader's plan. The Death Star could easily have rotated and brought another tractor-beam projector to bear on the fleeing ship; intentionally allowing the vessel to escape could prove to be a career-ending debacle. Vader, however, was serenely confident. The homing beacon placed onboard would lead them to the Rebel base, and their ultimate triumph would follow soon after. It would not be long now.

With a shudder, the titanic Death Star emerged from hyperspace in the Yavin system. Engineers and navigators on the overbridge began shouting out numbers as positioning data began to fill their monitor screens. The Rebel base was on a jungle moon on the opposite side of the immense planet Yavin. If the battle station executed a simple orbit around the orange gas giant at maximum sublight speed, in just over thirty minutes they would have a clean shot at the Rebels' den.

Darth Vader watched the proceedings with satisfaction. **"This will be a day long remembered,"** he told Tarkin. **"It has seen the end of Kenobi; it will soon see the end of the Rebellion."** The Grand Moff seemed indifferent, absorbed in the intricate workings of his so-called ultimate weapon. Vader took his leave of the governor, ostensibly to make a personal inspection tour of the battle station's defenses. In reality, he wanted to get away from the machinations of Tarkin and his scheming subordinate, Admiral Motti.



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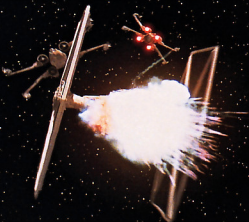





It wasn't long before the Rebels launched their counterattack with a ragged flight group of antiquated Y-wing fighters and the newer Incom T-65 X-wings. Vader watched the enemy's battle plan with interest. The tiny snubfighters appeared maneuverable enough to slip unmolested through the battle station's defensive screen, which hadn't been designed to repel anything smaller than a capital ship assault. Tarkin might be arrogant enough to dismiss the Rebel threat, but the Dark Lord had learned never to underestimate an opponent. **"We'll have to destroy them ship-to-ship,"** he ordered. **"Get the crews to their fighters."**

A squadron of TIEs soon joined the Rebel raiders, swooping and diving in a succession of vicious dogfights. Vader stayed near a tactical station and monitored the unfolding action. He doubted that this was a mere suicide attack, and the random collateral damage to the Death Star's superstructure could easily serve as cover for a more targeted strike. Within moments, he saw three Y-wings streak away from the fray and head straight for one of the many surface trenches. Vader summoned his personal wingmen, who stood ready for flight in their black pilot vacsuits. **"Several fighters have broken off from the main group,"** he informed them. **"Come with me."** The hangar was just a short distance away; his custom fighter hung from the overhead rack in the coveted front launch position. The unique vessel, a hyperdrive-equipped prototype, sported a radical bent-winged configuration that brought to mind a dark fist clenched in anger. His wingmen's standard-model TIEs, designated Black 2 and Black 3, dangled on either side. Within minutes, the three expert pilots were soaring through the vacuum of space.

The Y-wings were easy to locate and even easier to reach; the twin ion engines of a TIE fighter were capable of remarkable sublight speed. In the narrow confines of the trench, the Rebel ships would have no chance of avoiding their lasers. **"I'll take them myself,"** Vader told his wingmen. **"Cover me."** The Rebel ships went down easily: one, two, three.





Vader and his escorts peeled away from the Death Star's surface. Y-wings were slow and ungainly, but they made excellent precision bombers; Vader expected the Rebels to send more of that particular craft back into the trench. Surprisingly, a group of three X-wing fighters took their place. The better-armed X-wings were faster and presented their own set of challenges. Vader slipped his deadly TIE back into the trench. He enjoyed a challenge.

Instead of clustering together in a tight formation, two fighters were holding back to cover the lead starfighter with their quad lasers. Vader destroyed the two rear vessels, then kicked his throttle up to full to catch the front ship before it could fire its proton torpedoes. He didn't make it. The X-wing loosed a twin volley of destructive energy, engulfing the end of the trench in a billow of flame, plasma, and superheated metal. Vader roared through the expanding cloud and kept his instruments trained on the fleeing Rebel. Within moments, he had scored another kill.

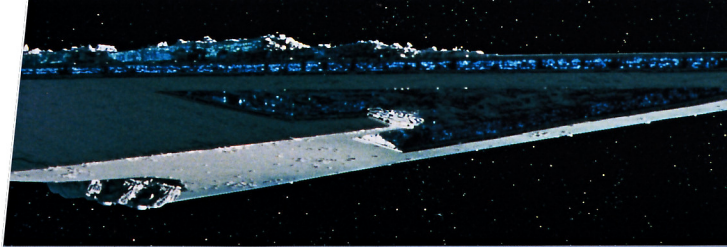
Black 2 and Black 3 followed the Sith Lord as he swung around for another pass. The proton torpedoes did not appear to have caused serious damage. Vader dropped into position behind another group of three X-wings rocketing through the trench at top speed. He made an adjustment to his fighter's energy management settings and shunted increased power to the engines.

One X-wing took a minor hit and started to lose speed. Moments later, it shot out of the plasteel furrow and climbed for the stars. "Let him go," Vader ordered his wingmen. "Stay on the leader." The second X-wing escort exploded in a brilliant fireball. Just one ship remained.

As Vader neared the breakneck fugitive, he sensed a strange aura emanating from the ship's pilot. Force-sensitive, of that he was sure, but there was more to it than that. It was almost as if he could feel the presence of Obi-Wan Kenobi himself. "The Force is strong in this one," he muttered aloud.







Vader was having a difficult time getting a targeting lock. Frustrated, he snapped off a few ranging shots, one of which hit the head of the X-wing's astromech unit. Smoke boiled from the damaged droid and the TIEs moved closer. Vader checked his computer readout. The X-wing's silhouette jumped to the center of the targeting box, and a high-pitched warbling tone indicated a weapons lock. **"I have you now!"**

In an instant, all the forces of chaos broke loose. Black 3 burst into a million incandescent fragments that continued to race down the trench through the force of inertia. Vader jerked his head upward. **"What?!"** A huge vessel was barreling down on their position straight from the direction of Yavin's sun. Black 2 panicked, throwing his control yoke to the right and bouncing off Vader's port solar panel before hitting the side wall. Thrown off balance, Vader's TIE spun crazily into space as its pilot struggled vainly with the maneuvering thrusters.

In the next few seconds, the phototropic canopy of the TIE fighter darkened in response to a colossal supernova of released energy, and the small craft bucked savagely in the tumultuous shockwave. Vader felt more than a million lives extinguish with a distant scream of futility. The most destructive weapon in the galaxy—the Grand Moff's technological terror—had been destroyed.

It took some time for Vader to reach Imperial space in his damaged fighter. He returned to find turmoil. Many of the best and brightest officers had been killed at Yavin, including Grand Moff Tarkin, and the Rebel Alliance had been handed a gift-wrapped propaganda victory. Remaining Imperial officers were either jockeying for position in the new hierarchy or pointing fingers to lay blame for the Death Star fiasco.

Darth Vader started preparing a second move against the Rebel base, this time with an unstoppable Imperial fleet instead of an untested doomsday weapon. An arrogant but competent officer named



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Admiral Griff executed a blockade of the Yavin system, placing Interdictor cruisers along the major hyperspace routes and preventing any of the Rebel high command from evacuating their jungle moon. But Vader refused to give him permission to strike. The first Super Star Destroyer ever constructed would soon be launched from the shipyards at Fondor and Palpatine had promised his servant that the colossal vessel would be his. Vader vowed to wipe the Rebel scourge from the surface of the Yavin moon with the formidable new flagship as his death-dealing chariot.

As the warship neared completion the Dark Lord busied himself. The torture of a captured Rebel soldier revealed the astounding name of the pilot who had seemed so strong in the Force during the final trench run: Skywalker. Deep inside the black metallic shell, a flicker of joy came to life—it had to be his son. Just as quickly, darkness closed around the flame. His son was on the side that had to be destroyed.

Several Imperial admirals, incensed over the Sith Lord's delay of the Yavin attack, moved against Vader on Fondor but were outsmarted. On Aridus, Vader set a trap that showed artful promise but failed to ensnare the Skywalker boy. Before long, he took command of the finished Super Star Destroyer, newly christened *Executor*, and headed for Yavin to crush the base into blackened dust.

But the Rebels had thrown together a hasty evacuation. And Admiral Griff grievously miscalculated a hyperspace microjump and collided with the *Executor*, allowing the Rebel withdrawal force to leap to hyperspace.


The Rebels could now be anywhere in the galaxy; the search for them would be lengthy and tiresome. Darth Vader led the hunt from the bridge of the *Executor*, running down leads on Jazbina and other scattered worlds. A call from an Imperial regional governor named Bin Essada touched off one of the most aggravating encounters.

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R. M'QUARRIE

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Essada relayed a report from Mimban, a sodden, forsaken mudpit in the Circarpous system. The planet's Imperial overseer had somehow bungled his way into capturing Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia Organa but was too stupid to realize his prisoners' true identities. Darth Vader arrived at the world to take the pair into custody, but they had already escaped into the trackless swamps. With help from a crystalline shard that appeared to focus and magnify the Force, Vader tracked the fugitives to a vine-encrusted temple ruin and defeated the Princess in elementary lightsaber combat.

The boy proved much more of a challenge. He was reluctant to admit it, but the presence of Obi-Wan Kenobi clung to the youth like a second skin and seemed to be guiding his precocious actions. In a final burst of screaming energy, Luke's saber blade sliced through the Dark Lord's right arm where the limb met the shoulder. Vader reeled from the blow but quickly regained his focus; he could sense that Kenobi's essence had vanished and would not be able to move against him again. As he stepped forward to claim his exhausted prize, a single misstep sent him plunging down a crumbling stone well. In the time it took Vader to extract himself, both Rebels had abandoned the temple.

As the Civil War intensified, the Imperials scored a few propaganda victories, including a devastating strike against a supply convoy at Derra IV that cost the Rebels dearly. Buoyed by the recent string of successes, Lord Vader's elite Death Squadron—five Star Destroyers led by the command ship *Executor*—continued to search for the new Rebel base. Captain Needa and the *Avenger* were in charge of releasing Arakyd probe droids that rocketed off in one-way hyperspace pods to the farthest reaches of the Outer Rim Territories.

Unbeknownst to his subordinates, Vader harbored a more personal agenda that went hand-in-hand with his stated goal of crushing the Rebels. Ever since he had learned the name of the X-wing pilot who had



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destroyed the Death Star, he had obsessed over the possibility that Luke Skywalker—his son—could be persuaded to stand by his side and learn the secrets of the dark side of the Force. The Skywalker blood ran hot. Young Luke held great power and limitless potential; his raw strength even exceeded Vader's own. Together, no one could oppose them, not even the Emperor.

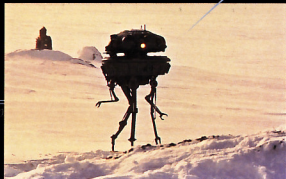
During moments of quiet meditation in his hyperbaric chamber, Vader received insights, seemingly from the Force, into his son's whereabouts. Perhaps it was destiny that the two should meet again. After one meditation session, the Dark Lord contacted the *Avenger's* crew and ordered them to launch probe droids at the frozen planets Allyuen, Tokmia, and Hoth.

When Captain Piett reported an intriguing probe droid transmission to Admiral Ozzel, the superior officer on the *Executor* upbraided him about the sketchy quality of the information. Vader cut them off. **"You found something?"** he growled. Piett seemed pleased to have a sympathetic ear and gestured toward the image on the monitor screen transmitted from a frigid world ostensibly empty of intelligent life: a half-buried planetary shield generator.

**"That's it,"** boomed Vader. **"The Rebels are there."** Ozzel's annoyance at having his authority publicly countermanded gave the Dark Lord a small twinge of pleasure.

The fleet left immediately for the Hoth system and Darth Vader retired to his meditation chamber for the final leg of the journey. His quiet contemplation was interrupted by General Veers, who informed him that the Death Squadron had successfully dropped from hyperspace but encountered an impenetrable defensive energy shield on the system's sixth planet. Vader was livid. Ozzel had bungled the emergence from hyperspace and tipped their hand. **"He is as clumsy as he is stupid,"** fumed the Sith Lord, who told Veers to prepare his All Terrain Armored Transport battalions for the inevitable fight.

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Behind Vader an enormous viewscreen flickered to life, displaying the *Executor's* bridge. Ozzel turned to regard the Dark Lord and smoothly launched into an update on the fleet's current status. His self-assured words suddenly caught in his throat. **"You have failed me for the last time, Admiral,"** growled Vader, imperceptibly reaching through the transmission screen and squeezing Ozzel's neck in an unbending vise. As the former commander of his fleet labored desperately for oxygen, Vader summoned Captain Piett to the fore. The bright and ambitious officer listened carefully to the battle instructions. **"Make ready to land our troops beyond the energy shield and deploy the fleet so that nothing gets off that system. You are in command now, Admiral Piett!"** A shadow of worry crossed Piett's lined face as Ozzel fell to the deck with a loud thump.

The Battle of Hoth was a one-sided slaughter. The ineffectual Rebel counterattack only delayed the inevitable; hundreds of their troops perished and millions of credits worth of heavy equipment, including an extraordinarily expensive KDY Planet Defender ion cannon, were abandoned or destroyed. Even so, a handful of transports and X-wing fighters were able to slip through the Star Destroyer blockade and most of the Rebel command staff managed to avoid capture. More troublesome in Vader's eyes, Luke Skywalker and the smuggling ship he often traveled with, the *Millennium Falcon*, were both missing. The latter was particularly vexing, as Vader had entered the hollowed-out Rebel snow hangar just in time to see the battered freighter blast off into the icy blue sky.

Darth Vader returned to the *Executor* to monitor the ongoing pursuit. Soon, he had welcome news: the *Millennium Falcon* had been sighted. A knot of TIE fighters and several massive Star Destroyers engaged the fugitive freighter, and based on their tactical analysis, reported that the vessel did not appear to have a working hyperdrive. Interrupting the Sith Lord's private meditation session in the hyperbaric chamber, newly appointed Admiral Piett saw the immutable black helmet suspended high in the air between a set of mechanical jaws. Vader sensed the mix of respect and repugnance play over Piett's face as he waited



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until the veined, scarred horror that was Vader's head was safely covered before speaking. "Our ships have sighted the *Millennium Falcon*," Piett began. "But it has entered an asteroid field and we cannot risk. . . ." **"Asteroids do not concern me,"** Vader interrupted. **"I want that ship."** The fate of his predecessor still fresh in his mind, the admiral hurried to obey.

All Star Destroyers, including the *Executor*, were diverted into the swirling asteroid storm. Turbolaser gunners blasted the largest rocks; those they missed impacted against the bow shields like multi-megaton compression bombs. Structural damage and incidental casualties were mounting. Via a holographic communications link, Captain Needa tried to impress upon his liege the futility of their self-destructive search. "Considering the amount of damage we've sustained, they must have been destroyed." Darth Vader would have none of it. He could sense an intangible essence among the asteroids. At that moment, Admiral Piett came forward with some startling information: the Emperor was waiting to speak with him on his personal HoloNet linkup.

Palpatine's communications to the fleet were infrequent but could never be ignored. After ordering Piett to head out of the enshrouding asteroid swarm, Vader hurried to the *Executor's* communications vault. He knelt with humble obedience, his servile presence activating the oversized hologram of the galaxy's cruel overlord. Palpatine's eyes burned like smoldering embers from his shriveled and age-ravaged face. "There is a great disturbance in the Force," the apparition began, its voice dark and sepulchral. "We have a new enemy: Luke Skywalker." Vader listened with secret apprehension. He knew his master wanted Skywalker dead, but Vader had plans for his long-absent son, if he could just convince Palpatine to keep Skywalker alive. **"He's just a boy,"** he began, but the Emperor stubbornly reminded him of Luke's untapped power. Vader persisted. **"If he could be turned, he would become a powerful ally,"** he offered hopefully. The Emperor considered the matter for a moment. "Yes," he said finally. "Yes. He would be a great asset. Can it be done?" Vader smiled inwardly over his private victory. **"He will join us or die, my master."**

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The capture of the *Millennium Falcon* was now more important than ever. The Dark Lord possessed valued contacts among all strata of galactic society; by calling on a few of the more disreputable, he had quickly assembled on the *Executor's* bridge six of the deadliest bounty hunters: Bossk, Dengar, IG-88, Zuckuss, 4-LOM, and of course, Boba Fett. Their presence on his flagship sent a public message to his officers that they had failed in their assigned duties. Vader made his demands clear to the hunters, taking special care to emphasize that only a live delivery would be accepted. Before he could finish, Piett, with relief evident on his face, interrupted to report that the Star Destroyer *Avenger* had located their elusive quarry. With muttered curses, the bounty hunters scattered to their ships.

The *Avenger's* pursuit was fast and fruitless. One moment Captain Needa was confidently predicting a smooth capture; the next moment he was admitting that the *Falcon* had vanished into thin air. His desire to publicly apologize saved Vader the trouble of seeking him out, but the end result was the same. Two guards dragged Needa's cooling corpse from its supine position on the *Executor's* smooth deckplates as Vader turned to listen to Piett's bleak status report. The admiral confessed that the Imperial fleet had found nothing, and that the surprisingly slippery *Falcon* could now be almost anywhere in the vastness of interstellar space. **"Alert all commands,"** he barked. **"Calculate every possible destination along their last known trajectory. Don't fail me again, Admiral!"**

The Sith Lord's unorthodox tactic of hiring free-lance bounty hunters paid off where polished military precision had not. It was Boba Fett who contacted Vader, announcing he had located the *Falcon* and tracked its likely destination to Cloud City in the nearby Bespin system. The *Executor* and Fett's *Slave I* arrived at the floating metropolis before the Rebels' damaged vessel could, and Vader immediately summoned the local ruling council. Cloud City's baron-administrator, a charismatic man named Lando Calrissian, was clearly opposed to dealing with the Empire. But several columns of marching stormtroopers made it clear that he had little choice. Up until now the city's gas-mining operation had escaped direct









Solo and his companions were escorted to the chamber by a contingent of stormtroopers. Calrissian and Fett stood nearby to observe the procedure; shuffling Ugnaught workers scurried here and there among the exhaust ducts and cooling hoses. Seeing no reason for delay, Vader signaled for the captive to be placed on the hydraulic platform above the carbonite shaft. The Wookiee instantly went berserk. Several stormtroopers were pitched over the edge of the observation platform like boneless nerfs and Fett raised his blaster rifle to place a clean shot through the alien's skull. Vader slapped the weapon down. He was in charge here, and no bounty hunter could be allowed to forget that. Solo succeeded in pacifying the enraged Chewbacca, and moments later he was lowered into the dark heart of the freezing assembly. A plume of white steam and a stressed mechanical groan ensued; Vader watched with a cold, emotionless stare. As an enemy of the Empire, the Corellian pirate deserved only death, whether it was dealt out in this joyless chamber or in the decadent palace of Jabba the Hutt. Soon, a fully carbonized coffinlike slab was removed by immense durasteel tongs and pushed flat to the deck. Calrissian reported that the unorthodox procedure had worked perfectly. Vader turned to Fett. **"He's all yours, bounty hunter. Reset the chamber for Skywalker."**

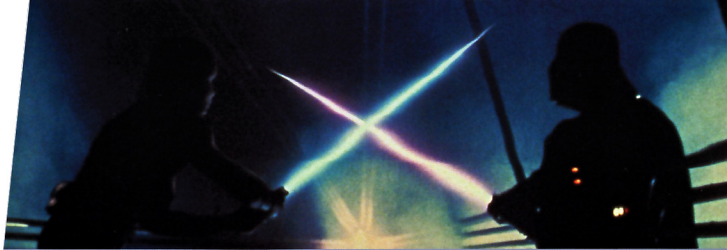
Vader felt Luke as he made his way through the eerily deserted city corridors and directly to the carbonite facility. Part of that was a result of the Imperials' careful preparations, but the true orchestrator was the Force, drawing father and son together in a dance of destiny. Darth Vader stood atop a lighted platform shrouded by a haze of vapor and observed the slow, deliberate approach of his antagonistic offspring. Only a few words needed to be said. **"The Force is with you, young Skywalker. But you are not a Jedi yet."**





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The boy mounted the stairs. Vader could sense waves of arrogance and anger radiating from his foe. Eagerly, too eagerly, Luke ignited his saber. The weapon's silver pommel and humming blue blade were achingly familiar to Vader. In silent response, he switched on his own scarlet blade and the youth lunged to attack.

His son was more skilled with the energy sword than Vader had expected. A vicious, violent series of parries and thrusts forced the Dark Lord to use tactics he seldom had a chance to employ against his primitive stable of robotic training drones. **"You have learned much, young one,"** he admitted. But now was not the time for games. Darth Vader made a lightning jab and hook, sending the boy's weapon flying and forcing him down the metal staircase. Vader continued advancing, pressing Luke backwards toward the black pit of the carbon-freezing core. Too late, the youth realized his peril and tumbled down the shaft with a small cry of surprise. **"All too easy,"** muttered Vader, as he activated the freezing controls with a tug on the Force. **"Perhaps you are not as strong as the Emperor thought."**

Hot steam boiled up from the hole, but a slight movement high above caught the Dark Lord's eye. The boy tenuously hung from the cooling hoses. His prodigious jump would have been impossible without the dexterous manipulation of the Force. **"Impressive,"** Vader remarked, slashing at the tubing with his lightsaber. **"Most impressive."** Luke performed an acrobatic flip, dropped solidly to the deck, and thrust a smoke-spewing hose into his enemy's face. Vader roared in anger. In a flash, Luke had retrieved his weapon and brought it around in a sweeping cut that Vader barely deflected. **"You have controlled your fear,"** said Vader, hoping the praise would put his son off balance. **"Now release your anger. Only your hatred can destroy me."** The boy drove forward with powerful, furious blows. Vader retreated, faltered a moment at the edge of the platform, then dropped into the long shadows below.



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words instead of weapons. **"There is no escape,"** he began. **"You have only begun to discover your power. Join me and I will complete your training. With our combined strength, we can end this destructive conflict and bring order to the galaxy!"**

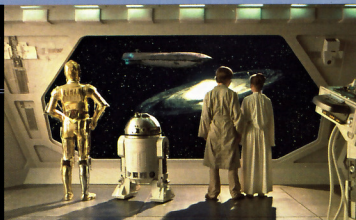
Luke continued to resist, but Vader had been intentionally holding back one crucial piece of information for just this moment. **"Obi-Wan never told you what happened to your father,"** he offered. The injured youth swallowed the bait. "He told me enough," he spat. "He told me you killed him." Darth Vader paused for an instant. **"No. I am your father."**

The truth was a bracing shock that nearly overwhelmed the boy, but Vader persisted. **"Search your feelings. You know it to be true."** Luke cried out in blind denial, a sound of hollow, abandoned agony. **"Luke,"** Darth Vader continued, using his son's given name for the first time in their fight. **"You can destroy the Emperor. He has foreseen this. It is your destiny. Join me, and together we can rule the galaxy as father and son!"**

This standoff was pointless, and Luke would have to realize that. **"Come with me,"** he tried again. **"It is the only way."** With those words, however, something seemed to change in Luke's vanquished demeanor. The boy looked up, locked eyes with his father, and stepped off the edge of the platform into yawning nothingness. Vader quickly moved forward to watch him fall, and caught sight of the body as it disappeared into a side exhaust vent. Abruptly, the Dark Lord turned and headed back along the gantry in the direction of the shuttle landing pad.

He sensed through the Force that his son had not perished. Reports from his officers of Calrissian's treachery and the *Millennium Falcon's* escape were distressing, but far from devastating. One of the first things that had been done to the smuggling ship upon its arrival at Cloud City had been a subtle sabotage of its hyperdrive motivator. The *Falcon* would rescue Luke and the *Executor* would retrieve the *Falcon*, a sat-

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isfying end to a needlessly frustrating day. Vader's personal shuttle touched down in the *Executor's* landing bay and the Dark Lord headed immediately for the bridge.

Admiral Piett greeted him and delivered an update on the chase. "They'll be in range of our tractor beam in moments, my lord." Darth Vader trusted in his men to draw tight this simple snare. "Good," he replied. **"Prepare the boarding party and set your weapons for stun."** Vader moved toward the panoramic observation windows at the front of the bridge and looked out at the tiny darting dot that represented the fleeing freighter. He could sense that Luke was aboard.

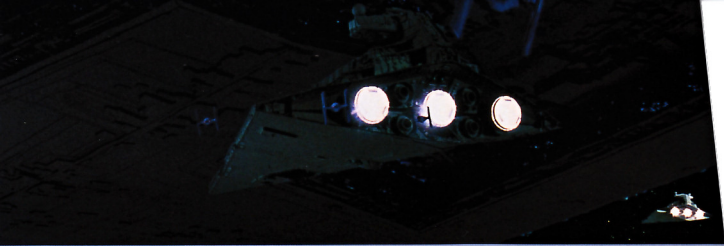
Reaching out, Vader established a mind-to-mind link with his progeny. *Luke* . . . he thought. He was pleased when the response came. *Father*. The boy had already accepted reality. It was not too late to bring him around. *Son. Come with me.* Luke seemed to have intentionally broken off the link, but Vader sent out another appeal. *Luke. It is your destiny.*

From behind him, Vader heard Piett's command to make ready for the tractor beam. The bridge came alive with muted whistles as data screens and positioning sensors came online. One instant the *Millennium Falcon* was in the targeting crosshairs; a moment later it had shot forward and disappeared into hyperspace. Darth Vader observed the startling event with thoughtful contemplation, then turned and strode from the bridge. Admiral Piett watched him raply, his face ashen with the absolute terror of a condemned man on his way to the executioner's gallows.

The admiral was lucky. Vader gave him an indefinite stay of execution while he reflected on his son's fate and weighed the balance of destiny. The encounter had left an indelible mark on the Dark Lord's buried spirit. In the middle of a lengthy meditation he received a call from his personal Noghri honor guard, which had been surreptitiously scouring Cloud City for several items of note. Darth Vader shuttled back down to Bespin and followed the sinewy aliens into a blistering smelting core. Amid steaming

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undoubtedly hoping to use the information to curry favor with the Emperor, but the Sith Lord refused to allow his competitor even the smallest advantage. Darth Vader erased all records indicating Xizor's news of the shipyard's whereabouts and reported the valuable information to Palpatine himself. The Emperor, pleased, ordered his servant to depart immediately for the Bajic sector and smash the insurgents' clandestine hideaway.

The *Executor* and three smaller Star Destroyers cut the Rebel shadowport to ribbons. Eager for some hands-on destruction, Darth Vader climbed into his signature TIE fighter, one of the only Imperial vessels to have survived the debacle at Yavin, and engaged the oncoming X-wings. After a long absence from the cockpit, the Dark Lord was a bit rusty behind the controls, a weakness that could have been exploited by any marginally competent Rebel pilot. There were none. Vader blasted nearly a dozen starfighters to molten fragments without once taking a serious hit to his energy shields. The only worthy adversary he had faced in years had been his son at Bespin. He knew the two of them were destined to cross paths once again.

After the lopsided victory, Vader contacted the Emperor from the *Executor's* communication's vault. His heart seized with hot, burning fury when he saw who was standing next to Palpatine in the holographic viewframe: Prince Xizor. Palpatine blandly congratulated his servant on his success, then subtly admonished him for not bringing up Xizor's key role in the discovery of the Rebel base. The quiet Falleen's complacent smirk of triumph was far more irritating than any public rebuke.

Upon his return to Imperial Center, Vader sensed that he had lost a measure of influence with Palpatine. His master was now prepared to move ahead with a plan formed largely at Xizor's suggestion that seemed reckless, but the Emperor loved its devious nature. The idea was to trick the Rebels by allowing their Bothan agents to capture a freighter carrying vital data on the new Imperial Death Star. If all worked

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as planned, the Rebels would think that they had time to attack the still incomplete battle station, the trap would be sprung, and the Rebellion would be crushed. Vader voiced his overwhelming objection in as deferential a tone as possible, but was not surprised when Palpatine ignored him and proceeded.

The Bothans succeeded in capturing the freighter and transferring its computer core to a safe-house on Kothlis. Interestingly, Vader learned through his spies that Luke Skywalker had just been abducted on Kothlis by a group of Barabel bounty hunters. He doubted the two events were unconnected. Vader headed for the planet with all possible speed to pay off the Barabels and collect his son, only to discover that Luke had escaped from the bounty hunters' stronghold only hours before. Something useful did come out of the journey, however. One of the surviving Barabels confessed that a second bounty had been posted on Luke's head—Xizor's bounty—which would be paid only if the human merchandise met one grisly condition: it was a corpse.

Vader was enraged. This latest plot went far beyond mere courtly sparring. Prince Xizor was trying to murder Vader's potential successor. The Dark Lord contacted the treacherous Falleen and ordered him to keep away from Skywalker or suffer the dire consequences. Vader's son, however, didn't need his father's protection. Luke and his companions infiltrated Imperial City and destroyed Xizor's luxurious castle with a thermal detonator, nearly killing the devious prince. The Falleen aristocrat retreated to his skyhook, a tethered satellite high above Coruscant's atmosphere, and prepared to blast the fleeing *Millennium Falcon* into phosphorescent fragments.

For Vader, that marked the beginning of the endgame. As his TIE squadrons unleashed dazzling devastation, the Sith Lord opened a channel to the skyhook. He reminded Xizor that he'd been warned not to interfere with Skywalker and gave the doomed prince exactly two minutes to surrender himself into

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mations. Vader and Jerjerrod knelt on the deck, eyes downcast, as Palpatine tottered down the shuttle ramp. "Rise, my friend," the Emperor said to Vader, ignoring Jerjerrod entirely. As the two Jedi walked the length of the bay, Vader informed his master that the battle station would indeed be finished on the original timetable. The Emperor expressed pleasure and once again brought up the Skywalker matter. "In time, he will seek you out," he assured his servant. "And when he does, you must bring him before me." Palpatine paused, savoring his absolute mastery over everything within his sight. "Everything is proceeding as I have foreseen it." His evil laughter echoed hollowly through the cavernous chamber.

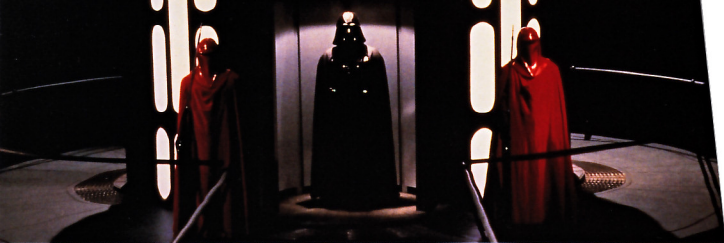
The Emperor set himself up in the Death Star's throne room, spending most of his time in private conference with his advisors and viziers. Vader was keeping abreast of the latest reports filtering in from the military and from Imperial Intelligence, most of which claimed to have pinpointed a massive armada of Rebel warships assembling near Sullust. Palpatine's call finally came, and Vader dutifully reported to his master's chambers. "Send the fleet to the far side of Endor," the Emperor commanded. "There it will stay until called for." Vader objected as respectfully as he could, pointing out the questionable wisdom of leaving the battle station open for a quick strike when the Rebels were gearing up for some unknown offensive. Palpatine overruled him. His master was clearly holding back critical information and only provided the cryptic comment, "Soon the Rebellion will be crushed and young Skywalker will be one of us." The Emperor ordered his obedient servant to shuttle back to the orbiting *Executor*.

Aboard the flagship, Vader continued to monitor Rebel fleet movements and oversee the daily comings and goings of the Death Star's supply shuttles and equipment barges. The activity was mundane and monotonous until the arrival of yet another nondescript *Lambda*-class standard Imperial shuttle. The Dark Lord sensed the vessel's approach before he saw it; one life-essence aboard it stood out like a bolt of

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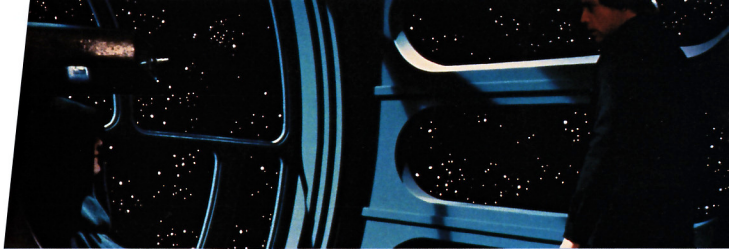
electricity against a backdrop of mud. Could his son have returned so soon? Vader hurried over to the clearance station, where Admiral Piett stood watching the small craft's approach on a monitor screen over a technician's shoulder. Vader interrupted without preamble. **"Where is that shuttle going?"** Piett provided the *Tydirium's* destination and clearance code, pointing out that everything seemed quite normal. Sensing his lord's concern, Piett offered to keep the ship in a holding pattern. **"No,"** Vader commanded. **"Leave them to me. I will deal with them myself."**

Vader considered the matter and decided he had better report the information to Palpatine. It would be unseemly to appear to hold back information. Vader returned to the battle station and entered the throne room, empty now save for Palpatine and his red-robed bodyguards. The Emperor looked up with annoyance. "I told you to wait on the command ship," he said peevishly. Not intimidated, Vader went ahead with his report. Palpatine showed no surprise that a Rebel shuttle had landed on the forest moon but seemed taken aback by the news that Luke Skywalker was one of the passengers. **"I have felt him, my master,"** offered Vader. "Strange that I have not," responded Palpatine. "I wonder if your feelings on this matter are clear, Lord Vader." Vader took a breath and responded in the affirmative. "Then you must go to the Sanctuary Moon and wait for him," ordered his master. "His compassion for you will be his undoing. He will come to you, and then you will bring him before me."

Less than a day elapsed before Vader received a call from the commander of Endor's surface garrison. His shuttle touched down on the landing platform as an Imperial AT-AT pulled up to one of the three docking collars ringing the structure's closest support column. Vader met the Imperial officer in the egress corridor on the lower deck. Behind the man, flanked by stormtroopers, stood Skywalker. The haughty commander turned his captive over to his lord's custody and handed over the boy's lightsaber with a disdainful flourish. Darth Vader ordered him out of their presence, leaving father and son alone in the sterile stillness of the empty passageway. Vader broke the silence.

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"**The Emperor has been expecting you,**" he remarked. "I know, Father," conceded the boy, placing special emphasis on the final word. Vader seized on the small acknowledgment. "**So. You have accepted the truth.**" Luke, however, took the conversation in a direction he hadn't anticipated. "I've accepted the truth that you were once Anakin Skywalker, my father," he said and went on to expound upon the core of goodness he claimed was still locked inside Darth Vader's armored shell. Luke's words were uncomfortably biting and ignited a tiny spark inside that Vader thought he had extinguished long ago.


As Vader pondered what had been said he ignited the lightsaber he held within his black gloves, examining its buzzing green blade. "**Obi-Wan once thought as you do,**" he mused. "**You don't know the power of the dark side. I must obey my master.**" Luke made one more appeal to the Anakin Skywalker of yore and was met with a final rebuke. "**It is too late for me, Son. The Emperor will show you the true nature of the Force. He is your master now.**" Stormtroopers filed in to take the prisoner to the shuttle, their white boots clattering on the floor plates. Luke looked up with a mixture of regret and pity. "Then my father is truly dead," he declared quietly.

Vader brought Luke directly to the Death Star's throne room. The turbolift doors whirred open to reveal a grim chamber of dissonant light and deep shadows. Atop the highest platform, Palpatine waited in his grand command chair. He watched their approach with satisfied pleasure. "Welcome, young Skywalker," he gloated. "I have been expecting you." With a trivial twitch of his fingers Luke's wrist shackles unlatched and clanked to the floor. A moment later the motionless royal guardsmen standing near the turbolift vacated the room at their master's command. Only the three Jedi remained. Luke was free to move—or to attack—at any time.



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"You won't convert me as you did my father," Luke declared. The Emperor rose from his throne and slunk closer. "Oh no, my young Jedi," he countered. "You will find it is you who are mistaken . . . about a great many things." He spat out the final words with palpable hatred. Luke remained outwardly calm. "You're wrong," he stated serenely. "Soon I'll be dead, and you with me." The Emperor seemed to glow with evil glee. He triumphantly revealed his foreknowledge of the impending Rebel attack. Luke was clearly shaken but continued his verbal sparring. Darth Vader was finally stirred to speak. **"It is pointless to resist, my son,"** he said. Palpatine reveled in his arrogant gloating, and Vader suddenly realized what a virtuoso his master was at emotional manipulation. After the Emperor had eliminated all hope, Luke would have no recourse but to attack in furious desperation. And then the dark side would seize the boy in its unbreakable grip.

Within a short time the Rebel armada dropped from hyperspace in the vicinity of the battle station. X-wings, B-wings, Mon Calamari cruisers, Corellian corvettes—Vader had never seen such a large concentration of enemy vessels committed to a single engagement. Fortunately, the Death Star's impenetrable defensive shield was undiminished. As the Rebels scattered to avoid the invisible barrier, Admiral Piett and the other fleet commanders emerged from Endor's shadow and launched multiple wings of TIE fighters. Palpatine took his potential apprentice to the observation window for a ringside seat overlooking the fiery carnage.

Luke watched the bright flashes as his friends and comrades died in the cold vacuum above the forest moon. Palpatine, once again seated in his chair, gently patted Luke's captured lightsaber with his right hand. "You want this, don't you?" he said to the boy. "Strike me down with it. Give in to your anger!" The repeated goading was beginning to take its toll on Luke. Vader watched intently as the Emperor played his trump card. Keying the throne's intercom, Palpatine ordered the superlaser gunners to fire on the Rebel vessels. A lance of green destruction speared forth from the Death Star's focusing dish and a lumpy Mon Cal cruiser disintegrated with a silent flare.



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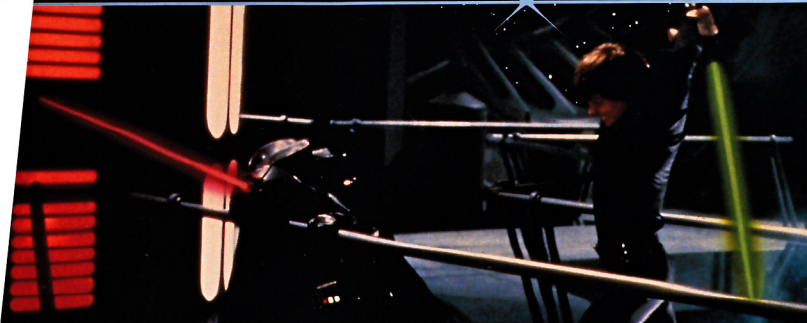
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The Emperor clapped his hands with delight. Vader prowled through the wreckage to find Luke, who appeared to have gone to ground in the thick darkness between the squat columns of machinery. Vader could sense his son's presence and sense his turbulent feelings. **"Give yourself to the dark side,"** he called out. **"It is the only way you can save your friends."** A swell of feeling from Luke indicated he was on the right track. **"Yes,"** he went on. **"Your thoughts betray you. Your feelings for them are strong. Especially for . . ."** Vader paused, not quite believing his initial reading but arriving at an inescapable and astonishing deduction. **"Sister. So, you have a twin sister. Obi-Wan was wise to hide her from me."** Luke remained silent. **"If you will not turn to the dark side,"** Vader speculated, **"then perhaps she will."**

His son's anguished, inarticulate scream—and flood of pure hot rage—took Vader by surprise. He thrust his saber up in just enough time to avoid a death blow. Wild-eyed, Luke drove forward furiously and recklessly, his undisciplined swings throwing off sparks where they glanced off the railing around the uncovered core shaft. The Dark Lord could do nothing but back away. Luke's unchecked hatred forced Vader onto the turbolift bridge and down to his knees. With a labored grunt of exertion and a roar of green fire, Luke severed his father's mechanical wrist. Chest heaving, the boy stood trembling, his weapon pointed at his progenitor's prone form. Vader was centimeters from death.

"Good, good!" cackled the Emperor as he approached the pair. "Your hate has made you powerful. Now fulfill your destiny and take your father's place at my side!" The seductive words triggered a fundamental change in Luke. He looked at the wires sprouting from the smoking stump of Vader's arm, then slowly clenched his own artificial hand. Drawing himself up, he switched off his weapon and turned to face his enemy. "Never," he said, throwing his saber handle aside. "I'll never turn to the dark side. You've failed, Your Highness. I am a Jedi, like my father before me." The Emperor's mouth turned down in a dissatisfied scowl. "So be it . . . Jedi."



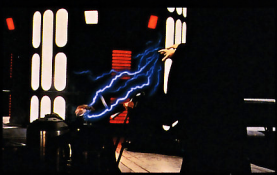


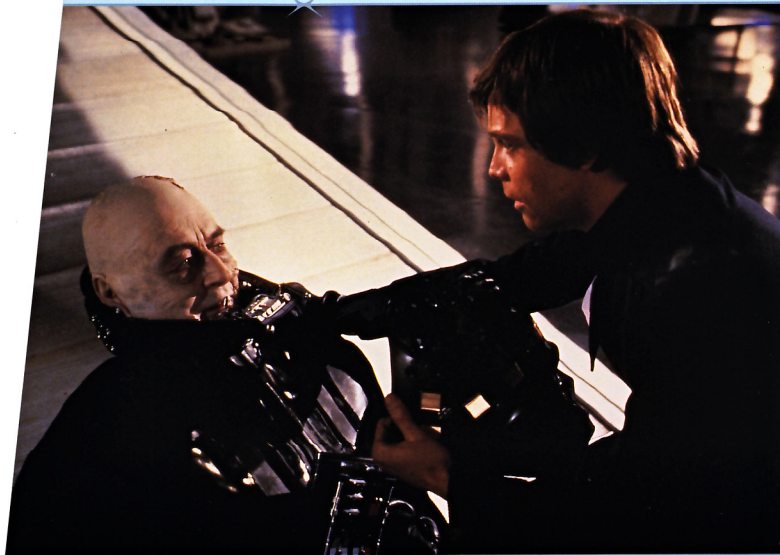
Palpatine raised both hands threateningly and the air seemed to crackle with suspended energy. "If you will not be turned," he warned, "you will be *destroyed*." Creepers of electric current poured from his fingertips and ripped into the boy with shocking violence. Luke staggered backwards, grabbed a metallic container for support, and finally dropped to the ground in unimaginable pain. Voltage coursed through his skeleton and a thousand blue sparks pierced his flesh. Writhing in excruciating torment, Luke looked up pleadingly at Vader, who had struggled to his feet and was now standing by his master's side. "Father, please," he begged. "Help me." Though Vader appeared stoically callous, his inner thoughts surged in confusion.

The Emperor shut off the pyrotechnics and for a moment it appeared as if he might spare his victim, but his yellow eyes grew even harder. "Now, young Skywalker," he proclaimed, "you will die." Concentrated lightning even more intense than the last barrage flooded Luke's prostrate body and the boy screamed in the throes of his agony. Darth Vader looked from his son to his master and back again. At last he arrived at a life-changing determination. The Lord of the Sith picked up Palpatine with his injured limbs and hefted him high over his head. As malignant energy crawled across the skin of his life-supporting armor, he hurled the sinister despot down the bottomless core shaft. The Emperor's life force rushed out in a ravaged blur and Vader fell to the floor, weakened, wheezing, and dying.

Luke dragged his father to a shuttle hangar. Imperial officers, gunners, and stormtroopers rushed about in a state of edgy agitation over the Rebel attack and seemed to pay the pair little mind. Luke finally faltered under the weight and eased the body onto a metal spacecraft ramp. He knew Vader wouldn't last much longer. "**Luke,**" gasped the sickly voice within the nightmare helmet, "**help me take this mask off. Just for once, let me look on you with my own eyes.**" Carefully, with some trepidation, the young Jedi released the mechanism's rear holding clamps. With a hiss of equalized pressure, the false face lifted away.

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The air felt cold on Anakin Skywalker's face and his damaged eyes could barely focus in the harsh light. The dying man blinked weakly and took a shallow, unassisted breath. His son stared back with concern—and love—in his face. **"Now . . . go, my son,"** Anakin groaned, forcing the words through his rapidly stiffening lungs. **"Leave me."** Luke was unwilling to be orphaned so soon after regaining his father. "No," he begged. "You're coming with me. I've got to save you." Anakin attempted to smile through the hideous scar tissue of his ravaged face. **"You already have, Luke,"** he reassured his son. **"You were right about me. Tell your sister . . . you were right."** The assertion escaped his parted lips in a final, rattling whisper. His eyes closed softly and Anakin Skywalker, the last of the old Jedi warriors, merged his spirit with the harmonious light of the Force.

The remaining vestiges of the tyrant known as Darth Vader were immolated in a funeral pyre in the Endor moon forest. As in a scene from ancient legend, Luke lit the primitive wooden bier with a flaming torch and watched solemnly as it blazed. Pure fire illuminated the darkness even as it consumed the mask, cape, and armor that had once belonged to the Dark Lord of the Sith. Glowing sparks and flakes of ash wafted up to the celebrating stars. Darth Vader was no more. After years of confinement, Anakin Skywalker was finally free. And as Luke gazed off to one side, he could make out the shimmering spirits of Ben Kenobi, Yoda, and his father, together again in the Force.



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*Just Toys made this dimensional Vader carrying case, similar to one that Kenner had made years earlier, to hold 20 of its Star Wars bendable figures.*

### III: TWENTY YEARS OF DARTH VADER COLLECTIBLES

No one would ever accuse Darth Vader of being cuddly or cute. He certainly wasn't heroic in the accepted sense through most of his existence. He wasn't close to being colorful: his look was nearly 100 percent monochromatic, as was his booming voice. Despite all that, just about anything with a Darth Vader image has been highly collectible since the first *Star Wars* merchandise dribbled out in 1977.

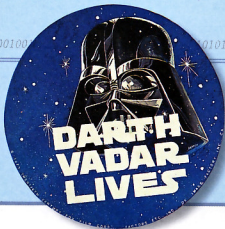
The image of Darth Vader—whether on an inch-high plastic figure inside a Japanese candy box, a full-size dressed mannequin that lights up and costs \$5,000, or a Dutch billboard used to promote *Star Wars* trilogy videos—is about as recognizable worldwide as that of Santa Claus, and the jolly old elf had quite a head start.

Vader's image is everywhere: model kits, stickers, push-button games, cutout masks, stamps, paint-by-number kits, origami, spring-wound toys, medallions, kites—and so much more, as shown by this chapter's list of two decades of Vader collectibles from apparel to watches. The appeal of Darth Vader items is fairly simple to understand. Vader is the arch-villain and easily the most forceful and recognizable character in the *Star Wars* saga. So it's little wonder that, from the start, merchandisers have wanted to make Vader watches, bedspreads—even baby booties. Why do fans buy Darth Vader action figures? So they can take them home and constantly trigger pleasurable memories of the films. That, at least, might be a psychologist's explanation. But there's another: because they're cool!

Some of the earliest items with Vader's image came from Factors Inc., which was one of Lucasfilm's first licensees. It hit the jackpot with *Star Wars*. The earliest Vader items included a metal pin-back

*It was a marriage that had to happen: Star Wars and Pez. But even Jedi would have to think twice before opening their mouths to willingly let Darth Vader fire pellets into them—even if they are sugary candy.*





*The earliest badges, T-shirts, and related licensed items from Factors Inc. managed to misspell the last name of the Dark Lord. The design was never produced in a corrected version, and no one knows what happened to the miscreant who slipped in an "a" instead of an "e."*

badge, a mirror on a chain, cloth patches, a T-shirt, and even a canvas tote, all with a blue star field-filled circle, an illustration of Vader's helmet and mask and the phrase "Darth Vadar Lives." Yes, *Vadar*. They were in such a rush to get everything out that they misspelled the Dark Lord's last name and no one caught it in time. There isn't any indication that the Factors folks were subjected to a Vader-like choke hold. The products never had a second run with a corrected spelling and they remain oddities, but they aren't worth any more—or less—than if the name had been spelled correctly (about \$5 to \$25).

Even though Darth wasn't included in Kenner's first shipment of action figures (the Early Bird assortment had four heroes), the Vader action figure has been a mainstay of the under-four-inch line since the first twelve figures were issued on cards. In fact Vader is one of the only figures that—without change—appeared on every different card variation that Kenner produced between 1978 and 1985, from *Star Wars* to Power of the Force. One of the last figures to be produced in that line was that of Anakin Skywalker as he appears in spirit form at the end of *Return of the Jedi*. The most valuable figure is the earliest Vader that, like the earliest Luke Skywalker and Ben Kenobi figures, has a double-telescoping lightsaber with a needle-fine tip that extends from the figure's arm. It's possible that the double-telescoping Vader exists only as salesmen's samples, since the design was simplified to a single-telescoping saber early in production. Mint on a perfect card backing, such a figure would command more than \$1,500—perhaps a lot more.

Several Vader variations have appeared in the latest incarnation of the Power of the Force line, from the regular bulked-up figure to a Vader FX with built-in light-up lightsaber. In 1998, Kenner/Hasbro released a long-sought but difficult to produce small Vader action figure with a removable helmet that shows a scarred Anakin Skywalker. The company has also remade its classic twelve-inch Darth Vader action figure, in regular and electronic versions, and a special fourteen-inch version with removable



helmet and electronics. Accompanying this book is the first-ever large collector figure of Anakin Skywalker as he appears at the end of *Jedi*.

Kenner reintroduced its old-style Vader in the Toys "Я" Us exclusive Classic Edition four-pack in 1995. It also made two differently posed Vaders in its short-lived metal Action Masters series, harking back to the various tiny Vader metal figurines in the also short-lived Micro Collection of 1982.

In Japan, under sublicense from Kenner in 1978, Takara's Darth Vader action figure was one of three (C-3PO and the stormtrooper were the others) that were slightly resculpted. Takara also produced a set of four eight-inch plastic action figures on a bubble card, including a fairly detailed Vader. In recent years, these rare figures have skyrocketed in price and would be hard to find for less than \$400. In sealed, mint condition, they could cost hundreds more.

Related to the action-figure line were vehicles such as Darth Vader's TIE fighter, both original (a rare department store version came with a thin cardboard "battle scene" backdrop) and Collectors Series. There was also a die-cast metal version of Vader's TIE fighter. The original issue had wings that were too small and not many were made; mint on the card, that version has sold for \$1,500 and up. The regular version is worth about \$45 to \$60. Kenner produced a Vader-head action figure carrying case (later reproduced by Just Toys for its Bend-Ems figures), with several department store variations containing figures. The case was also used in a packaging test for vacuum-metalized C-3PO cases, and some of the gold Vader cases have made it to the collectors market, where they command \$150 and up.

Another unusual piece was the Darth Vader utility belt, made by Kenner Canada, along with Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia belts. These ugly plastic belts with suction-cup guns were never author-



*The original large-size Kenner action figure (boys don't play with "dolls") was sublicensed by Denys Fisher for the United Kingdom market.*

Lee Co. made this leather belt and enameled Darth Vader buckle as part of its Star Wars "official belt" line.

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ized by Lucasfilm, and when Kenner U.S. asked to sell them too, Lucasfilm said to stop selling them altogether. Ugly yes, but rare too, so one in a decent box commands several hundred dollars. Also in the strange but true category was Kenner's Darth Vader SSP van and a similar van model kit from MPC. At least they were made of black plastic and had a sort of menacing look.

One early favorite item is a colorful Kenner Darth Vader bob bag from 1978. Made of vinyl and accompanied by a patch kit, this Vader couldn't be defeated unless you squeezed the air out of him, because he bounced back every time you connected with a punch. Or you could pull down part of the Sith Lord's mask with the Darth Vader Switcheroo, which was a wall switch plate that incorporated a light switch as part of the mask.

There were lots of coloring books and some attractive paint-by-number kits of Vader (one even glowed in the dark). But the Emperor's evil henchman always dressed in basic black with very few colorful accessories, so there wasn't a whole lot to color. One of the nicest arts and crafts items was CraftMaster's 1978 3-D Darth Vader Poster Art. In addition to red, yellow, and light blue marking pens, the set contained a 17-inch by 22-inch poster, a tube of glue and a "die-cut parts sheet" that could be used to assemble a three-dimensional Vader helmet and mask. There are detailed, illustrated twenty-step assembly instructions on the back, including "coloring hints" that suggest a green Death Star. "You can't make a mistake since the finished poster is an expression of your unique personality," the package copy helpfully explains. (Price today is about \$25 to \$35.)

Also in the crafts area, Lee Ward made two different Vader "suncatchers," metal frames in which colored plastic was melted in the oven to produce a stained glass effect. There were also latch-hook rug and pillow kits that Lee Ward produced, in Vader head and full-body designs. More recently, Craft House created a plastic silver-metalized Vader medallion, which could be given an antique look with the included wash.

*This original Ben Cooper Lord Darth Vader vinyl, fabric, and plastic costume and mask made many youngsters feel the power of the Force in 1977.*

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Costumes and masks have always been popular items among fans. These range from the original boxed Ben Cooper vinyl and plastic kids outfits (\$25 to \$35) to the recent Rubies costumes in child to adult sizes. (Ben Cooper also made a Vader playsuit and “fun poncho.”) Don Post Studios/Party Professionals was there at the start with a plastic kid-size mask of Vader. Today the line includes a full-size glass-fiber, museum-quality mask made from an original used in the filming of *The Empire Strikes Back*. It retails for around \$1,200; a heavy plastic version sells for about a tenth of that price. Masks have been made in paper, cardboard, vinyl, and rubber.

At the top of the price range is a full-size Vader mannequin from Rubies, complete with cape, mask, and hard glass-fiber parts—and it lights up, too. It sells for around \$5,000. Illusive Originals has produced an eerily realistic, full-size Vader bust. It includes Anakin's head the way it looked when Luke removed his father's breathing mask. The helmet and top part of the mask hang on a separate pedestal. In 1997, Riddell came out with an amazingly detailed 45 percent scale version of the three-part Darth Vader “reveal” mask and helmet.

And on it goes, from electronic toys that will let you sound like Darth Vader, to kits that let you build models of him (one actually “breathes”), to banks and billfolds where Darth will protect your money, to posters and all kinds of clothing including Vader Underoos, to jewelry, party goods, linens, and towels—in short, just about everything except Darth Vader Really Dark sunglasses (Lucasfilm turned that one down twenty years ago).

The worldwide fascination with things Vaderish is strong, and if you have any doubts, just browse through this list of twenty years of Vaderana.



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## APPAREL

### UNITED STATES

Jacket with "Darth Vader lives" [sic] patch  
Bright Red Group, 1977

Windbreaker with "Darth Vader lives" [sic] patch  
Bright Red Group, 1977

Darth Vader SW socks  
Charleston Hosiery, 1977

Darth Vader glitter T-shirt  
Factors, 1977

Darth Vader T-shirt  
Factors, 1977

"Darth Vader Lives" [sic] T-shirt  
Factors, 1977

Vader helmet and X-wing T-shirt  
Factors, 1977

Black leather belt with enameled Vader buckle  
The Leather Shop, 1977

Darth Vader brass buckle  
The Leather Shop, 1977

SW black or brown leather belt  
with enameled Vader buckle  
Lee Co., 1977

Vader nightgown  
Wilker Bros., 1977

Darth Vader ESB socks  
Charleston Hosiery, 1980

Darth Vader suspenders  
Lee Co., 1980

ESB black or brown leather belt  
with enameled Vader buckle  
Lee Co., 1980

Darth Vader thermal Underoos  
Union Underwear, 1980

Darth Vader Underoos  
Union Underwear, 1980

Vader pajamas (short sleeves)  
Wilker Bros., 1980

Vader pajamas (white with blue sleeves and pants)  
Wilker Bros., 1980

Vader robe  
Wilker Bros., 1980

Darth Vader ROTJ socks  
Charleston Hosiery, 1983

ROTJ fabric belt with Vader buckle  
Lee Co., 1983

Vader gloves  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Vader mittens  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Vader scarf  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Vader sweatsuit (gray with black sleeves and gray pants)  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Vader sweatshirt (sleeveless gray hooded)  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Vader sweatsuit (white and red with red pants)  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Vader Warm-up suit (long sleeve top and long pants)  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983

Darth Vader SW Galaxy I (art by Joe Smith) sweatshirt  
American Marketing, 1994

Darth Vader SW Galaxy I (art by Joe Smith) T-shirt  
American Marketing, 1994

Lord Darth Vader necktie  
Ralph Marlin, 1994

Vader black and white stipple T-shirt  
Changes, 1995

Vader video art T-shirt  
Changes, 1995

Darth Vader THX video cap  
Fresh Caps, 1995

Darth Vader video cap  
"Never underestimate the power . . ."  
Fresh Caps, 1995

Vader embroidered shirt  
Ralph Marlin, 1995

Vader silk necktie  
Ralph Marlin, 1995

Vader silk necktie in tin box  
Ralph Marlin, 1995

Vader's Retreat necktie  
Ralph Marlin, 1995

SW video art necktie  
Ralph Marlin, 1995

Darth Vader embroidered denim jacket  
SW Insider, 1995

Darth Vader "Imperial Wear" T-shirt  
Changes, 1996

"Darth Vader Lives" patch T-shirt  
Changes, 1996

Vader and Vader's TIE vintage ringer T-shirt  
Changes, 1996



Left: Having a bad hair day? Nobody would notice—or if they did, would never dare to poke fun—when you're wearing this saucy logo cap from Fresh Caps.

Right: Vader is never afraid to say what he thinks, so this T-shirt both recruits for the Imperial Forces and gives more than a hint of what lies ahead. No subliminal advertising here.

Vader head with blue and orange highlights T-shirt  
Changes, 1996

Vader "I want you" T-shirt  
Changes, 1996

Vader vintage ringer T-shirt  
Changes, 1996

"Darth Vader Lives" cap  
Fresh Caps, 1996

Darth Vader cap  
Fresh Caps, 1997

Darth Vader character cap  
Fresh Caps, 1997

Darth Vader injection mold mesh cap  
Fresh Caps, 1997

Darth Vader injection mold brushed cotton cap  
Fresh Caps, 1997

Darth Vader Force T-shirt  
Freeze, 1997

Darth Vader repeat pattern silk boxers  
Ralph Marlin, 1997

Darth Vader denim shirt "The Dark Side"  
Nieman Marcus, 1997

Lord Vader T-shirt  
Winterland, 1997

Vader pajamas with Al Williamson art  
Wormser, 1997

Vader pajamas with long pants  
Wormser, 1997

Vader pajamas with shorts  
Wormser, 1997

#### FRANCE

Vader sweatshirt, yellow  
MSD International, 1980

#### MEXICO

Vader sweatshirt  
Amate Textile, 1983

ESB black or brown vinyl belt with enameled  
Vader buckle  
Tudor, 1980

#### SWEDEN

Vader with red circle on white T-shirt  
Wright and Co., 1983

#### BANKS/WALLETS

##### UNITED STATES

Vader ceramic bank  
Roman Ceramics, 1977

Vader combination bank  
Metal Box Ltd., 1980

Vader silver-plated figure bank  
Towle, 1981

Vader figure bank  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader nylon coin holder  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader nylon pocket pal  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader nylon purse  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader vinyl billfold  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader vinyl wallet  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader bust savings bank  
Thinkway Toys, 1994

Vader electronic talking bank (catalog packaging)  
Thinkway Toys, 1996

Vader electronic talking bank (try me box)  
Thinkway Toys, 1996

##### AUSTRALIA

Vader plastic head bank  
Commonwealth Savings Bank of Sydney, 1983

##### CANADA

Vader bust savings bank  
Thinkway Toys Canada, 1994

Vader talking bank  
Thinkway Toys Canada, 1996

##### ENGLAND

Vader change purse  
Touchline Productions, 1983

Darth Vader ceramic money box with chocolate coins  
Kinnerton Confectionery, 1997



Above: An early version of the Dark Lord dominates this color saturated necktie from Ralph Marlin. The original illustration, by concept artist Ralph McQuarrie, graced the cover of the first paperback printing of the Star Wars novelization.

## BED AND BATH

### UNITED STATES

- SW Lord Vader bedspread  
Bibb Co., 1977
- SW Lord Vader bedsheets  
Bibb Co., 1977
- SW Lord Vader blanket  
Bibb Co., 1977
- SW Lord Vader curtains  
Bibb Co., 1977
- SW Vader beach towel  
Bibb Co., 1977
- SW Vader hand towel  
Bibb Co., 1977
- SW Vader washcloth  
Bibb Co., 1977
- Darth Vader/Boba Fett reversible pillowcase  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Darth's Den bedspread  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Darth's Den bedsheets  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Darth's Den blanket  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Darth's Den curtains  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader bedspread  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader bedsheets  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader blanket  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader curtains  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader's Chamber bedspread  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader's Chamber bedsheets  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader's Chamber blanket  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader's Chamber curtains  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Lord Vader's Chamber sleeping bag  
Bibb Co., 1980
- ESB Vader beach towel  
Bibb Co., 1980

- Darth Vader figure pillow  
Adam Joseph, 1983
- Darth Vader/C-3PO reversible pillowcase  
WestPoint Stevens, 1997
- Darth Vader bath towel  
WestPoint Stevens, 1997
- Darth Vader beach towel  
Franco, 1997
- Darth Vader sleeping bag  
Nieman Marcus, 1997

## BOOKS AND RELATED

### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader's activity book  
Random House, 1977
- ESB storybook (hardcover)  
Random House, 1980
- ESB storybook (softcover)  
Scholastic, 1980
- Darth Vader bookmark  
Random House, 1983
- Vader bookplates (box of 50)  
Random House, 1983
- The Clove of Darth Vader  
Bantam, 1992
- SW: From Concept to Screen to Collectible (hardcover)  
Chronicle Books, 1992
- SW: From Concept to Screen to Collectible (softcover)  
Chronicle Books, 1992
- Vader die-cut bookmark  
honeycomb-like hologram pattern  
Fantasma, 1992
- Vader tassel bookmark  
Antioch, 1995
- SW: A New Hope hardcover novel  
with video art cover  
Ballantine, 1995
- "Shadows" cardboard Vader bookmark  
Bantam, 1996
- SW: The Toys postcard book  
Chronicle Books, 1996
- SW Flip Book  
Funworks, 1996
- SW Mighty Chronicle book  
Chronicle Books, 1997
- Darth Vader's Mission: The Search for the Secret Plans  
Funworks, 1997



*Left: Who would even think of trying to pry open this double combination tin bank protected by the image of Lord Vader? Metal Box Ltd. produced it in 1980.*

*Right: If only one Star Wars character is desired by a licensee to sum up the trilogy and make a visual statement, it is almost always Vader, as shown on a cover for a recent Scholastic storybook.*



Vader helmet (later versions)  
 Don Post, 1978-97

ESB Lord Darth Vader costume and mask  
 Ben Cooper, 1980

Darth Vader costume pattern  
 McCall's, 1981

ROTJ Lord Darth Vader costume and mask  
 Ben Cooper, 1983

Darth Vader deluxe child costume  
 Rubies, 1994

Darth Vader value priced  
 Rubies, 1994

Darth Vader adult costume  
 Rubies, 1995

Darth Vader jumpsuit with PVC mask  
 Rubies, 1995

Darth Vader PVC mask (child)  
 Rubies, 1995

Darth Vader rubber mask  
 Rubies, 1995

Darth Vader teen zone costume  
 Rubies, 1995

Deluxe Darth Vader fiberglass helmet  
 Don Post, 1996

Darth Vader costume kit  
 Rubies, 1996

Darth Vader classic action helmet  
 Don Post, 1997

Darth Vader PVC mask (adult)  
 Rubies, 1997

Darth Vader miniature helmet  
 Riddell, 1997

#### ENGLAND

Darth Vader costume set  
 Acamas Toys, 1983

Darth Vader playsuit  
 Dejjertoy, 1995

#### MEXICO

Vader costume  
 Promotora Textil, 1997

#### JAPAN

Darth Vader rubber mask  
 Ogawa, 1983

## COMPUTER RELATED

#### UNITED STATES

Vader mouse pad  
 MouseTrak, 1994

#### ENGLAND

Vader on gantry mouse pad  
 The Mousepad Co., 1997

Vader vs. Obi-Wan mouse pad  
 The Mousepad Co., 1997

Vader with outstretched hand mouse pad  
 The Mousepad Co., 1997

#### SINGAPORE

Vader mouse pad  
 Pepsi, 1997

## CRAFTS

#### UNITED STATES

"Darth Vader Lives" [sic] iron-on  
 Factors, 1977

Darth Vader and TIE fighter glitter iron-on  
 Factors, 1977

Vader, full figure iron-on  
 Factors, 1977

Darth Vader 3D poster art  
 CraftMaster, 1978

Darth Vader Lives poster art  
 CraftMaster, 1978

Darth Vader glow-in-the-dark paint-by-number set  
 CraftMaster, 1980

Darth Vader and TIE fighter iron-on  
 Factors, 1980

Vader head in circle iron-on  
 Factors, 1980

Darth Vader latchhook pillow kit  
 Lee Wards, 1980

Darth Vader latchhook rug kit  
 Lee Wards, 1980

Darth Vader (full body) suncatcher  
 Lee Wards, 1980

Darth Vader (head) suncatcher  
 Lee Wards, 1980

Vader rubber stamp  
 Adam Joseph, 1983



Left: A weapon for a more civilized time? There is nothing very civil about the way that Vader wields his lightsaber, shown here in an exact replica from the craftspeople at ICONS.

Right: Vader seems really frosted (or at least the glass does), one of the Imperial Forces set of glasses from Crystal Craft in Australia.

Darth Vader suncatcher  
Fundimensions, 1983

Darth Vader medan craft set  
Craft House, 1996

Darth Vader medallion promo from Toy Fair  
Craft House, 1996

Vader figurial rubber stamp  
Rose Art, 1997

#### CUPS/GLASSES

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader tumbler #4 (of 8)  
Coke, 1977

Darth Vader tumbler #4 (of 8) (smaller than above)  
Coke, 1977

Darth Vader tumbler #4 (of 8)  
Coke/7-11, 1977

Darth Vader tumbler #4 (of 8)  
Coke/Majik Market, 1977

Darth tumbler limited collectors edition  
Coke, 1979

SW/Darth Vader glass  
Coke/Burger King, 1980

ESB/Darth Vader glass  
Coke/Burger King, 1980

ESB/Darth Vader glass test series (indented base)  
Coke/Burger King, 1980

Vader child's plastic mug  
Applause, 1997

Plastic drink cup with Vader poseable figurial topper  
KFC (Hawaii), 1997

Plastic drink cup with Vader poseable figurial topper  
FAO Schwarz (Las Vegas), 1997

Vader 7-11 stores Big Gulp cup  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader large drink cup  
Taco Bell, 1997

##### AUSTRALIA

Darth Vader plastic tumbler  
Pizza Hut, 1995

Darth Vader frosted character glass  
Crystal Craft, 1996

##### CANADA

Plastic drink cup with Vader poseable figurial topper  
Taco Bell, 1997

Darth Vader large drink cup  
Taco Bell, 1997

##### ENGLAND

Vader drink cup  
Pepsi, 1997

##### MEXICO

Darth Vader cup with lid and flex straw  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader sports bottle with blue lid and flex straw  
Pepsi, 1997

Vader Pepsi glass  
Pepsi, 1997

Slender Vader Pepsi glass  
Pepsi, 1997

#### FILM, VIDEO, AND SLIDES

##### UNITED STATES

SW THX Trilogy boxed set (Vader image, pan and scan)  
Fox Video, 1995

SW THX VHS video (Vader image on cover, pan and scan)  
Fox Video, 1995

SW Trilogy widescreen boxed set (Vader image on cover)  
Fox Video, 1995

SW THX laserdisc (Vader image on cover)  
Fox Video, 1995

Darth Vader edition 70 mm film original  
Willits, 1995

SW Trilogy Special Edition VHS boxed set  
(Vader cover, pan and scan)  
Fox Video, 1997

SW Trilogy Special Edition VHS  
(Vader cover, widescreen)  
Fox Video, 1997

SW Trilogy Special Edition laserdisc set (Vader cover)  
Fox Video, 1997

##### CANADA

SW Trilogy widescreen boxed set (Vader cover, slipcase)  
Fox Video, 1995



Above: A silverized Darth Vader mug from Applause makes a fine container for a hot cup of java, or some of Aunt Beru's cool blue milk.

Left: Vader in pewter tops this collector's stein from CUI, complementing an original piece of art from illustrator Jason Palmer. Vader was one of three characters immortalized (Ben Kenobi and Chewbacca were the others) in the first ever ceramic Star Wars tankards from California Originals in 1977.

## FOOD RELATED

### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader card game from Burger Chef fun meal  
Coke/Burger Chef, 1977

Lord Darth Vader card #15 (from GM cereal)  
General Mills, 1977

Vader sticker (from GM cereal)  
General Mills, 1977

Darth Vader card #5 (of 16)  
Wonder Bread, 1977

Vader ESB trading card  
Burger King/Coke, 1980

Vader photo card, Whatchamacalit candy bar 6-pack  
Hershey, 1980

ESB Vader candy head  
Topps, 1980

ROTJ Vader candy head  
Topps, 1983

C-3PO cereal box with Darth Vader mask on back  
Kellogg's, 1984

Darth Vader card #8 (of 10) from C-3PO's cereal  
Kellogg's, 1984

Vader/Anakin spinner toy  
KFC (Hawaii), 1997

Darth Vader 1-liter Pepsi bottle label  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 2-liter Pepsi bottle label  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 2-liter Caffeine Free Pepsi bottle label  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 2-liter Pepsi bottle label—half width  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 2-liter Caffeine Free Pepsi label—half width  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 3-liter Pepsi bottle label  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 20 ounce Pepsi bottle label  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 20 ounce Caffeine Free Pepsi bottle label  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader Pepsi soda can  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader Pepsi 12-pack box  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader Pepsi 24-pack box  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader bagged PEZ  
PEZ, 1997

Darth Vader carded PEZ  
PEZ, 1997

Darth Vader pizza take-out box  
Pizza Hut, 1997

Darth Vader paper food bag  
Taco Bell, 1997

### AUSTRALIA

ESB jelly candies in Vader header card  
Red Tulp, 1980

Wrapper for ROTJ Iced Treat with Jedi Jelly  
Pauls, 1983

Vader miniature and ROTJ backdrop from kids meal  
Pizza Hut, 1995

Darth Vader carded PEZ  
PEZ, 1997

### CANADA

Vader circular card from York peanut butter  
Metric Media, Inc., 1980

Vader Pepsi 12-pack box  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader carded PEZ  
PEZ, 1997

### ENGLAND

Darth Vader SW popsicle wrapper  
Lyons Maid, 1977

Vader punch out mask from ice cream packages  
Lyons Maid, 1977

Darth Vader ESB popsicle wrapper  
Lyons Maid, 1980

Lord Darth Vader black cherry yogurt cup  
Dairy Time, 1983

Darth Vader chocolate egg  
Kinnerton Confectionery, 1997

Vader shaped box of jelly candies  
Kinnerton Confectionery, 1997

Vader tin of jelly candies  
Kinnerton Confectionery, 1997

Darth Vader 2-liter Pepsi bottle  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader 2-liter bottle 2-pack box  
Pepsi, 1997

Darth Vader Pepsi can  
Pepsi, 1997



Darth Vader candy head  
Topps, 1997  
Doritos 6-pack bag  
Walkers, 1997  
Assorted Doritos snack bags  
Walkers, 1997

#### GREECE

Darth Vader bagged PEZ  
PEZ, 1997

#### HOLLAND

Darth Vader carded PEZ  
PEZ, 1997

#### ITALY

Darth Vader Pepsi can  
Pepsi, 1997

#### MALAYSIA

Darth Vader popsicle wrapper  
Walls, 1980

#### MEXICO

Cremitos chocolate cookie wrapper  
Gamesa, 1997

Darth Vader figurine from assorted cookie boxes  
Gamesa, 1997

Emperador (chocolate) cookie box  
Gamesa, 1997

Emperador chocolate cookie wrapper  
Gamesa, 1997

Frutana strawberry cookie wrapper  
Gamesa, 1997

Grageitas cookie box  
Gamesa, 1997

Sabrosas large cookie box  
Gamesa, 1997

Half liter bottle with Vader label and Vader cap  
Pepsi, 1997

1-liter bottle with Vader label  
Pepsi, 1997

2-liter bottle with Vader cap  
Pepsi, 1997

Caramello Poffets snack bag  
Sabritos, 1997

Doritos snack bag  
Sabritos, 1997  
Pink Vader bubble gum  
Sonrics, 1997  
Purple Vader shaped bubble gum  
Sonrics, 1997

#### NEW ZEALAND

Darth Vader circle sticker from Twinkies  
General Foods, 1980

Vader cutout paper mask  
Tip Top, 1980

#### SPAIN

Darth Vader figurine from Tombola chocolate egg  
Chupa Chups, 1997

Darth Vader Pen Pop  
Chupa Chups, 1997

Darth Vader Port-a-Chup lollipop  
Chupa Chups, 1997

Darth Vader puzzle from Tombola chocolate egg  
Chupa Chups, 1997

Darth Vader TIE fighter from Tombola chocolate egg  
Chupa Chups, 1997

Darth Vader ice cream stick  
Frigo, 1997

Alien bits snack bag  
Matutano, 1997

Darth Vader Pepsi can  
Pepsi, 1997

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Left: Back in 1978, a British company made edible black marshmallow candies in the shape of Darth Vader's head. A little more tasty is this white and dark chocolate lollipop. It was an F.A.O. Schwarz exclusive for Christmas 1997.

Right: Darth Vader's image was captured on several of the set of 50 Coca-Cola Japanese bottle caps as part of a 1978 promotion. The rarest caps don't have any photos; they could be redeemed for up to 100 Yen, and most were.



## FOOTWEAR

### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader Lives shoes  
Clarks, 1977

Darth Vader shoes  
Clarks, 1977

Darth Vader sneakers  
Clarks, 1977

Darth Vader boots  
Stride Rite, 1983

Darth Vader shoe laces  
Stride Rite, 1983

Darth Vader sneakers  
Stride Rite, 1983

Vader red and white slipper socks  
Stride Rite, 1983

Vader white and black slippers  
Stride Rite, 1983

Darth Vader sneakers  
Pagoda, 1997

### ENGLAND

Darth Vader slippers  
British shoe, 1983

### HONG KONG

Darth Vader booties  
Unknown, 1980

## GAMES

### UNITED STATES

Vader puzzle in tray  
CraftMaster, 1983

Vader gaming miniature  
West End Games, 1988

Vader on Death Star gaming miniature  
West End Games, 1988

Darth Vader 3D sculpted yo-yo  
Spectra Star, 1994

Darth Vader card (from SW:  
Customizable Card Game premiere set)  
Decipher, 1995

Vader card (from introductory SW:  
Customizable Card Game 2 player set)  
Decipher, 1995

Vader's custom TIE card (from SW:  
Customizable Card Game premiere set)  
Decipher, 1995

Vader's eye card (from SW:  
Customizable Card Game premiere set)  
Decipher, 1995

Vader's lightsaber card (from SW:  
Customizable Card Game premiere set)  
Decipher, 1995

Vader's obsession card (introductory SW:  
Customizable Card Game 2 player set)  
Decipher, 1995

Intimidator game (with Vader's voice)  
Micro Games of America, 1996

SW 2-in-1 game with Vader medallion  
Micro Games of America, 1996

SW interactive board game  
with Darth Vader video cassette  
Parker Brothers, 1996

Darth Vader 3D sculpture puzzle  
Milton Bradley, 1997

### AUSTRALIA

Vader puzzle in tray  
Creative Crafts, 1983

### ENGLAND

Vader 150-piece puzzle  
Waddingtons, 1983

### JAPAN

Vader block puzzle in plastic tray  
Takara, 1978

Vader 60-piece puzzle  
Takara, 1978

Vader 500-piece puzzle  
Takara, 1978

*Of all the incongruous items that used the image of the Dark Lord of the Sith, these fuzzy baby booties from Hong Kong have to top the list.*



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## HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN RELATED

### UNITED STATES

Vader flying disk  
Pine-Sol, 1977

Vader SW Dixie Cup box  
American Can Co., 1980

Darth Vader Switcheroo  
Kenner, 1980

Puffs tissue box with color-in Vader on back  
Procter & Gamble, 1980

Darth Vader cake candle  
Wilton, 1980

Darth Vader cake decorating kit  
Wilton, 1980

Darth Vader cake pan  
Wilton, 1980

Vader ESB Dixie Cup box  
American Can Co., 1981

Vader SW Saga Dixie Cup box  
Dixie Northern, 1982

Vader SW Saga Dixie Cup box (win a party with Vader)  
Dixie Northern, 1982

Vader speaker phone  
ATC, 1983

Vader head night light plug-in  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Darth Vader plastic cake topper  
Wilton, 1983

Vader magnet  
AH Prismatic, 1994

Vader doorknob hanger  
Antioch, 1996

Vader video art phone card  
GTI, 1996

Darth Vader electronic holiday ornament  
Hallmark, 1997

Vader metallic holiday ornament  
Nieman Marcus, 1997

## JEWELRY

### UNITED STATES

3" "Darth Vader lives" [sic] button necklace  
Factors, 1977

Darth Vader scatter pin  
Weingeroff, 1977

Darth Vader ring  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader barrette  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader bracelet  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader clip-on earrings  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader key ring  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader necklace (small pendant)  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader necklace (large pendant)  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader pierced earrings  
Weingeroff, 1977

Vader stick pin  
Weingeroff, 1977

Darth Vader ring  
Wallace Berrie, 1980

Vader dangle pin  
Wallace Berrie, 1980

Vader enameled pendant  
Wallace Berrie, 1980

Vader brass key ring  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader figure necklace  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Vader in Flames style key chain  
Creation Conventions, 1987

Vader in Flames style necklace  
Creation Conventions, 1987

Vader enameled pin  
Howard Eldon, 1987

Vader figure pin  
Hollywood Pins, 1993

Vader hologram key chain  
Third Dimension Arts, 1993

Vader key ring  
AH Prismatic, 1994

Right: From caps to shoes, Vader can cover a fan from head to toe. These sneakers from Clarks were part of an extensive line of casual and dress shoes.

Below: British Shoe produced these Vader slippers/sandals for children for the 1983 release of Return of the Jedi.



Vader small head key chain  
Hollywood Pins, 1995

Vader medium head key chain  
Hollywood Pins, 1995

Vader large head key chain  
Hollywood Pins, 1995

Vader small head pin  
Hollywood Pins, 1995

Vader large head pin  
Hollywood Pins, 1995

Vader "Never underestimate..." pin  
Hollywood Pins, 1995

Vader die-cast gold key chain (in box)  
Placo toys, 1996

Vader die-cast key chain (on blister card)  
Placo toys, 1996

Vader medallion key ring  
Rawcliffe, 1996

Vader electronic key chain  
Tiger Electronics, 1997

#### JAPAN

Darth Vader ring  
J.A.P., 1997

#### LUGGAGE AND CARRYALLS

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader belt-bag  
Pyramid, 1996

Darth Vader breathing belt-bag  
Pyramid, 1996

Darth Vader interactive backpack  
Pyramid, 1996

Darth Vader vinyl backpack  
Pyramid, 1996

Darth Vader leathery backpack  
Pyramid, 1997

Darth Vader leathery belt-bag  
Pyramid, 1997

Darth Vader leathery duffel bag  
Pyramid, 1997

Darth Vader rolling luggage  
Pyramid, 1997

#### MODELS

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader (bust)  
MPC, 1978

Darth Vader TIE Fighter (1st larger box)  
MPC, 1978

Darth Vader TIE Fighter (2nd smaller box)  
MPC, 1978

Darth Vader (figure)  
MPC, 1979

Darth Vader Van  
MPC, 1979

Darth Vader TIE fighter  
MPC/Ertl, 1989

Darth Vader (figure)  
MPC/Ertl, 1992

Darth Vader 1:4-scale vinyl figure  
Screamin', 1992

Darth Vader 1:6-scale vinyl figure  
Screamin'/Kaiyodo, 1992

Darth Vader vinyl figure model  
AMT/Ertl, 1996

TIE fighter (Vader's) Flight Display  
AMT/Ertl, 1996

Darth Vader TIE fighter model rocket  
Estes, 1997

Darth Vader TIE fighter with paint  
MPC/Ertl, 1997

##### ENGLAND

Darth Vader TIE fighter  
Denys Fisher, 1977

##### FRANCE

Chasseur T.I.E. (DV TIE fighter)  
Meccano, 1978

Dark Vador (bust)  
Meccano, 1978

##### GERMANY

Darth Vader TIE-Jäger  
Kenner Germany, 1978

##### JAPAN

Darth Vader TIE fighter  
MPC/Revell/Takara, 1978

Darth Vader (1:6-scale resin)  
Kaiyodo, 1992



*Left: There have been a number of figural model kits of Darth Vader, including this paintable vinyl version from AMT/Ertl. Perhaps the most unusual is an early plastic Vader bust from MPC that actually made a raspy breathing sound.*

*Right: The first action-figure carrying case in the revived line of Kenner/Hasbro action figures carries the same Vader logo as the one on nearly all of the action figure packages.*

Darth Vader (1:6-scale vinyl) small box  
Kaiyodo, 1992

Darth Vader (1:8-scale vinyl)  
Argonauts, 1993

Darth Vader large figure  
Reds, 1994

Darth Vader large figure  
Reds, 1995

Darth Vader (1:6-scale vinyl) large flat box  
Kaiyodo, 1997

#### OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader kite,  
Spectra Star, 1983

Darth Vader Skymaster 700 kite  
Spectra Star, 1994

Darth Vader figure kite  
Spectra Star, 1996

##### AUSTRALIA

Vader kite  
G. & J. Barnes, 1983

##### ENGLAND

Darth Vader action stunt kite  
Worlds Apart, 1983

##### JAPAN

Darth Vader flying disk  
General Mills, 1977

#### PARTY ITEMS

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader name badges  
Drawing Board, 1977

Vader small party plates  
Drawing Board, 1977

Vader ESB party blowouts  
Drawing Board, 1981

ROTJ Vader balloons, bag of 10  
Drawing Board, 1983

ROTJ Vader punch balloons, bag of 4  
Drawing Board, 1983

Vader ROTJ party blowouts (red or black header package)  
Drawing Board, 1983

Darth Vader "Happy Birthday" mylar balloon  
Anagram, 1997

Darth Vader party mylar balloon  
Anagram, 1997

Vader small party plates  
Hallmark, 1997

Vader large party plates  
Hallmark, 1997

Vader table decoration centerpiece  
Hallmark, 1997

#### PATCHES

##### UNITED STATES

"Darth Vader lives" [sic] patch  
Factors, 1977

SW Saga Vader patch  
Dixie, 1980

ESB Vader Patch (sweepstakes prize)  
Kenner, 1980

Vader in Flames patch  
SW Fan Club, 1980

#### PEWTER

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader TIE fighter pewter ship with base  
Rawcliffe, 1993

Darth Vader chess piece  
Danbury Mint, 1994

Darth Vader pewter figurine  
Rawcliffe, 1994

Darth Vader medallion  
Noble Studios/SW Insider, 1995

*Right: Rawcliffe's line of Star Wars miniature pewter figurines includes this sculpting of Vader, ready for the final lightsaber duel with his son, Luke Skywalker.*



## PLAQUES, SCULPTURES, AND LIMITED EDITIONS

### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader Cinemacast sculpture  
Kenner, 1994
- Darth Vader life-size prop replica  
Rubies, 1996
- Darth Vader lightsaber  
ICONS, 1997
- Darth Vader lightsaber, James Earl Jones signature edition  
ICONS, 1997
- Darth Vader reveals Anakin Skywalker  
limited edition sculpture  
Illusive Originals, 1997

### POSTERS

#### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader poster  
Factors, 1977
- Vader SW soundtrack mylar poster  
20th Century Fox Records, 1977
- Darth Vader door poster  
Sales Corp. of America, 1983
- ROTJ Vader poster  
Scholastic, 1983
- Vader poster for Nintendo  
Nintendo/LucasArts, 1991
- Vader poster for SW Galaxy cards  
Topps, 1993
- Litho of above  
Gifted Images, 1994
- Vader video art poster  
Western Graphics, 1995

### SHOW SOUVENIRS

#### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader PVC figurine  
Disney, 1990

### JAPAN

- Darth Vader PVC figurine key chain  
Kenneth Feld Pdns., 1992
- Super Live Adventure Vader voice  
Kenneth Feld Pdns., 1992
- Vader Super Live Adventure light spinner  
Kenneth Feld Pdns., 1992
- Space World Exhibition memo pad  
Space World, 1997
- Space World Exhibition pocket memo pad  
Space World, 1997

### STAMPS/COINS

#### UNITED STATES

- Vader Power of the Force coin  
Kenner, 1984
- SW first day cover (Vader video art)  
SSCA, 1995
- SW gold stamp wallet (Vader video art)  
SSCA, 1995
- SW gold stamp wallet (QVC version)  
SSCA, 1995
- SW silver stamp wallet (Vader video art)  
SSCA, 1995

### STANDEES

#### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader standee  
Factors, 1977
- Darth Vader standee  
Advanced Graphics, 1994
- Darth Vader with lightsaber standee  
Advanced Graphics, 1996

### STATIONERY/SCHOOL SUPPLIES

#### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader birthday card for 11-year-old  
Drawing Board, 1977
- Darth Vader die-cut birthday card  
Drawing Board, 1977
- Darth Vader  
"Don't play games with me... Write!" card  
Drawing Board, 1977



Left: Among the jacket patches for the crew of technicians working on the Star Wars trilogy was the one known as "Vader in flames," which was adapted from a Ralph McQuarrie illustration.

Right: From Down Under comes this vinyl pencil box with an unforgiving Vader from Creaa Promotion of Australia.

Far Right: Ignore that command at your own peril! Which is probably why Manton Cork placed such a sticker on its angry-looking Darth Vader corkboard.

Darth Vader Halloween card  
Drawing Board, 1977

Darth Vader "Happy birthday Earthling" card  
Drawing Board, 1977

Darth Vader Official Duty Roster perky pad  
Drawing Board, 1977

Darth Vader writing tablet  
Drawing Board, 1977

Darth Vader notebook  
Mead, 1977

Darth Vader asteroid puzzle birthday card  
Drawing Board, 1980

Vader notebook  
Stuart Hall, 1980

Vader in freeze chamber notebook  
Stuart Hall, 1980

Vader puffy sticker  
Topps, 1980

Darth Vader 4-pencil pack  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader collectible eraser  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader felt tip marker (red, blue, black, purple)  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader head eraser  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader head glow-in-the-dark eraser  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader head magnet  
Adam Joseph, 1983

Darth Vader pencil sharpener  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader shuttle scissors  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Darth Vader tape dispenser  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Pencil with Darth Vader topper  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Scented marker/Darth head on clip (red, blue, black, purple)  
Butterfly Originals, 1983

Box of 32 valentines with Vader on outer wrap  
Drawing Board, 1983

Darth Vader and guards  
"May the Force Be with You" card  
Drawing Board, 1983

Darth Vader birthday card  
Drawing Board, 1983

Darth Vader hologram paperweight  
Third Dimension Arts, 1993

Vader mini box  
AH Prismatic, 1994

Vader sticker  
AH Prismatic, 1994

Vader with saber magnet  
AH Prismatic, 1994

Darth Vader and troopers mini hologram desk art  
AH Prismatic, 1995

Darth Vader Dark Lord of the Sith portfolio folder  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader Dark Lord of the Sith notebook  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader fat little wireless notebook  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader "Never underestimate..." fat notepad  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader "Never underestimate..." notebook  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader "Never underestimate..." portfolio folder  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader student day planner, blue/black  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader student day planner, gray/black  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader student day planner, Vader stitching on cover  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader zipper binder, blue/black  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader zipper binder, gray/black  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader zipper binder, Vader stitching on cover  
Mead, 1997

Darth Vader FX pen  
Tiger Electronics, 1997

Darth Vader lightsaber FX recording pen  
Tiger Electronics, 1997

#### AUSTRALIA

Darth Vader head glow eraser  
Crystal Craft, 1983

Darth Vader and Stormtrooper 3-ring binder  
Fantastic, 1997

#### ENGLAND

Darth Vader 3-ring binder  
Merlin, 1997



#### NEW ZEALAND

Darth Vader pens (orange or green)  
BIC, 1993

#### TINWARE AND OTHER CONTAINERS

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader pencil tin  
Metal Box Ltd., 1980  
Darth Vader tin box  
Metal Box Ltd., 1980  
Darth Vader circle tin (small)  
Cheinco, 1983  
Darth Vader circle tin (large)  
Cheinco, 1983  
Vader with saber box  
AH Prismatic, 1994

#### TOILETRIES

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader bubble bath  
Omni Cosmetics, 1981  
Darth Vader shampoo  
Omni Cosmetics, 1981  
Darth Vader soap  
Omni Cosmetics, 1981  
Darth Vader pop-up comb  
Adam Joseph, 1983  
Darth Vader toothbrush  
Oral B, 1983

##### CANADA

Darth Vader soap  
Omni Cosmetics, 1981

##### ENGLAND

Darth Vader bath bubbles (in figure bottle)  
Cliro, 1977  
Darth Vader bubble bath  
Cliro, 1977  
Darth Vader foam bath  
Addis, 1984  
Darth Vader galactic bath foam  
Grosvenor, 1995

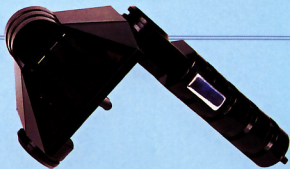
#### TOYS: ACTION FIGURE, DOLLS, AND RELATED

##### UNITED STATES

Darth Vader action figure (SW card)  
Kenner, 1978  
Darth Vader large-size action figure  
Kenner, 1978  
Darth Vader TIE fighter (action figure size)  
Kenner, 1978  
Darth Vader TIE fighter special edition with backdrop  
Kenner, 1978  
Darth Vader action figure (ESB card)  
Kenner, 1980  
Darth Vader action figure collectors case  
Kenner, 1980  
Darth Vader's Star Destroyer action playset  
Kenner, 1980  
Darth Vader action figure (ROT) card  
Kenner, 1983  
Darth Vader TIE fighter in collectors edition box  
Kenner, 1983  
Darth Vader action figure (Power of the Force card)  
Kenner, 1984  
Darth Vader action figure (long lightsaber)  
Kenner, 1995  
Darth Vader action figure (short lightsaber),  
orange card  
Kenner, 1996  
Darth Vader 12" doll, dark background  
Kenner, 1996  
Darth Vader 12" doll, light background  
Kenner, 1996  
Darth Vader TIE fighter  
Kenner, 1996  
Darth vs. Xizor action figure set  
Kenner, 1996  
Darth Vader action figure, green card  
Kenner, 1997  
Darth Vader vs. Ben Kenobi 12" Power F/X doll set  
Kenner, 1997  
Electronic power F/X Darth Vader action figure  
Kenner, 1997  
Darth Vader action figure, freeze frame card  
Kenner, 1998  
Darth Vader 14" electronic doll  
Kenner, 1998



Above: Kenner/Hasbro's Power FX electronic Darth Vader action figure has a light-up red lightsaber and is ready to do battle with the Power FX Luke Skywalker. The bases of the two figures join together, and both can advance, retreat, and spin around thanks to handy lever action.



#### ENGLAND

- Darth Vader action figure (SW card)  
Palitoy, 1978
- Darth Vader action figure (ESB card)  
Palitoy, 1980
- Darth Vader action figure (ROT) card)  
Palitoy, 1983
- Darth Vader action figure (tri-lingual card)  
Palitoy, 1984
- Darth Vader action figure (long lightsaber)  
Kenner, 1995
- Darth Vader action figure (short lightsaber)  
Kenner, 1996

#### CANADA

- Darth Vader action figure (SW card)  
Kenner Canada, 1978
- Darth Vader action figure (ESB card)  
Kenner Canada, 1980
- Darth Vader action figure (ROT) card)  
Kenner Canada, 1983
- Darth Vader action figure (long lightsaber)  
Kenner Canada, 1995
- Darth Vader action figure (short lightsaber)  
Kenner Canada, 1996

#### JAPAN

- 8" Vader figure  
Takara, 1978
- Darth Vader action figure (SW card)  
Takara, 1978
- Darth Vader figure (SW card, white figure background)  
Takara, 1978
- Die-cast Vader figure  
Takara, 1978
- Darth Vader action figure in box #2  
Poppy, 1980
- Darth Vader action figure (long lightsaber)  
Hasbro Japan, 1995
- Darth Vader action figure (short lightsaber)  
Hasbro Japan, 1996

#### BRAZIL

- Vader action figure  
Glassite, 1988

#### TOYS: ELECTRONIC

##### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader power talker  
Micro Games of America, 1995
- Darth Vader mix and match walkie-talkie  
Micro Games of America, 1996
- Darth Vader squawk box  
Tiger Electronics, 1997
- Rebel Force laser game in shape of Vader  
Tiger Electronics, 1997

##### ENGLAND

- Radio control Darth Vader  
Hitari, 1997

#### TOYS: MICRO MACHINE RELATED

##### UNITED STATES

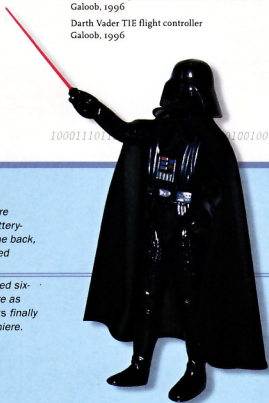
- Darth Vader/Bespin transforming action set  
Galoob, 1994
- Action fleet Darth Vader TIE (big wings)  
Galoob, 1995
- Action fleet Darth Vader TIE (small wings)  
Galoob, 1996
- Darth Vader lightsaber/trench battle  
Adventure Gear (1st)  
Galoob, 1996
- Darth Vader lightsaber/trench battle  
Adventure Gear (2nd)  
Galoob, 1996
- Darth Vader TIE flight controller  
Galoob, 1996

##### CANADA

- Darth Vader/Bespin transforming action set  
Galoob, 1994
- Action fleet Darth Vader TIE (big wings)  
Galoob, 1995
- Darth Vader lightsaber/trench battle Adventure Gear  
Galoob, 1996
- Darth Vader TIE flight controller  
Galoob, 1996

*Left: From the George Lucas Super Live Adventure arena show in Japan comes this Darth Vader battery-operated voice changer. When you speak into the back, a muffled sound comes out the front grill. Labored breathing works best.*

*Right: Japan's Takara produced this highly detailed six-inch die cast metal and plastic Darth Vader figure as part of its extensive line in 1978, when Star Wars finally opened in Japan—13 months after its U.S. premiere. The lightsaber glows in the dark.*



## TOYS: MISCELLANEOUS

### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader inflatable bop bag  
Kenner, 1978
- Darth Vader SSP van  
Kenner, 1978
- Die-cast Darth Vader TIE fighter  
Kenner, 1978
- Darth Vader small vinyl statuette (Suncoast Video)  
Out of Character, 1993
- Darth Vader large vinyl statuette (Suncoast Video)  
Out of Character, 1993
- Darth Vader Action Master figurine (two styles)  
Kenner, 1994
- Darth Vader statuette with lighted base  
Applause, 1995
- Darth Vader vinyl doll (Vader standing on rebel helmet)  
Applause, 1995
- Darth Vader vinyl doll with cloth cape  
Applause, 1996
- Darth Vader lightsaber (red box)  
Kenner, 1996
- Darth Vader vinyl doll, boxed  
Applause, 1997
- Darth Vader lightsaber (green box)  
Kenner, 1997
- Darth Vader Buddy small plush doll  
Kenner, 1998

### CANADA

- Darth Vader utility belt  
Kenner Canada, 1977
- Darth Vader Bend-Em/form-fitting bubble  
Just Toys, 1993
- Darth Vader Bend-Em/form-fitting bubble with Topps card  
Just Toys, 1993
- Darth Vader Bend-Em/square bubble  
Just Toys, 1993
- Darth Vader Bend-Em carry case  
Just Toys, 1994
- Darth Vader Action Master on card  
Kenner Canada, 1994
- Darth Vader lightsaber (red box)  
Kenner Canada, 1996
- Darth Vader TIE space shooter  
Milton Bradley, 1996

### GERMANY

- Darth Vader vinyl large figurine (same as Suncoast)  
Carlsen Comics, 1994

### JAPAN

- "Baby Vader" small plush doll  
Takara, 1992
- Vader mini flashlight/lightsaber (yellow, green handle)  
Makura Toys, 1977

## TRADING CARDS

### UNITED STATES

- Vader box art #0 card  
Topps, 1993
- Vader hologram: SWG1 Millennium Falcon factory set  
Topps, 1993
- Darth Vader 23 karat gold card  
Scoreboard/QVC, 1995
- Vader in his TIE Fighter SW Finest promo card SWFA  
Topps, 1996
- Vader Shadows of the Empire promo card SOTEa  
Topps, 1996
- Darth Vader 24 karat gold card, SW  
Authentic Images, 1997
- Darth Vader 24 karat gold card, ESB  
Authentic Images, 1997
- Darth Vader unmasked 24 karat gold card, ROTJ  
Authentic Images, 1997
- Vader cover gallery card C4  
Topps, 1997

## WALL DECORATIONS

### UNITED STATES

- Darth Vader window art decal  
Image Marketing, 1993
- Lord Darth Vader large hologram wall art  
AH Prismatic, 1994
- Dark Lord of the Sith (Factors poster) Chromart  
Zanart, 1994
- ESB advance style A Chromart  
Zanart, 1994
- From Concept to Screen to Collectible cover Chromart  
Zanart, 1994
- Darth Vader hang up  
Great Scott!, 1995



Left: This 24k gold embossed card from *The Scoreboard* has Vader reaching out to an unseen Luke Skywalker near the end of *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Right: "You cannot resist the power of the Force!" says Vader, just prior to the sound of an explosion. What a pleasant way this Talking Alarm Clock from England's Spearmark International Ltd. has of waking up little children.

Far Right: If a loud alarm from the AM/FM clock radio isn't enough to wake you on a dreary morning, then a sleepy glance at the menacing visage of Darth Vader should do the trick. The battery-operated clock radio is from Micro Games of America.

Darth Vader trilogy flag  
Great Scott!, 1995

SW video art small Chromart  
Zanart, 1995

SW video art large limited edition Chromart (Musicland)  
Zanart, 1995

Darth Vader Al Williamson litho (limited to 500)  
Zanart, 1996

Darth Vader banner  
Sharper Image, 1996

## WATCHES AND CLOCKS

### UNITED STATES

Analog with black rubber strap; gray face "SW,"  
"Darth Vader," full body with saber, oval display box  
Bradley Time, 1977

Analog with black rubber strap; white face "SW,"  
"Darth Vader," full body with saber, stars on bezel  
Bradley Time, 1977

Analog with rubber and metal strap; gray face "SW,"  
"Darth Vader," full body with saber, stars on bezel  
Bradley Time, 1977

LCD digital, black rubber strap; blue SW logo on white face  
"Darth Vader" with saber  
Bradley Time, 1980

LCD digital, black rubber strap; lenticular face "DV," "SW"  
Bradley Time, 1982

LCD digital, black rubber strap; white face "Vader," "SW"  
Bradley Time, 1982

Analog with black leather strap; Vader on numberless  
face with X-wing and TIE second hand; snap box  
Fantasma, 1993

As above but in clear plastic ball in gift box  
Fantasma, 1993

As above but numbered limited edition in velvet pouch  
Fantasma, 1993

Darth Vader hologram watch with rubber strap  
Third Dimension Arts, 1993

Darth Vader hologram watch  
AH Prismatic, 1995

Darth Vader AM/FM clock radio  
Micro Games of America, 1995

Darth Vader collector's sculpted watch, carded  
Hope Ind., 1996

Vader limited gold watch in circular tin  
Fossil, 1997

Vader limited gold watch in Death Star case  
Fossil, 1997

Vader limited silver watch in circular tin  
Fossil, 1997

Vader limited silver watch in Death Star case  
Fossil, 1997

Darth Vader collector's sculpted watch with Falcon case  
Hope Ind., 1997

Darth Vader collector's sculpted watch  
with Death Star case  
Hope Ind., 1997

### AUSTRALIA

Darth Vader flip-top watch, space battle package  
Playworks, 1996

Darth Vader analog watch; Vader face, stormtrooper strap  
Playworks, 1997

Darth Vader flip-top watch, C-3PO package  
Playworks, 1997

LCD Vader watch; Vader face, TIE fighters on strap  
Playworks, 1997

### CANADA

Darth Vader flip-top watch  
Watchit, 1997

### ENGLAND

Darth Vader talking alarm clock  
Spearmark, 1997

Darth Vader analog watch; Vader face, stormtrooper strap  
Watchit, 1997

LCD Vader watch; Vader face, TIE fighters strap  
Watchit, 1997

### JAPAN

Analog with black leather strap; Vader on face,  
X-wing and TIE second hand; Superluxe Adventure box  
Fantasma, 1993

Darth Vader hologram watch, gold trim and leather strap  
Third Dimension Arts, 1993

### MEXICO

Darth Vader watch included with AA 8-pack of batteries  
Duracell, 1997



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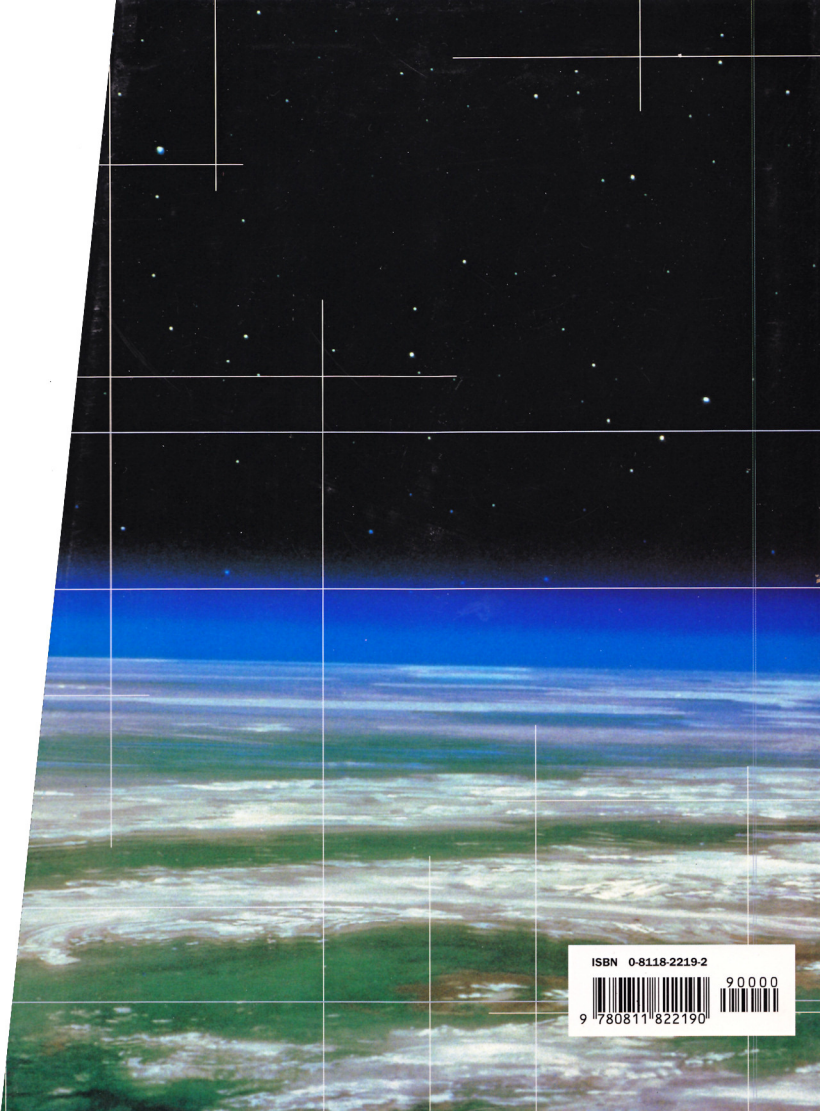
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ISBN 0-8118-2219-2



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