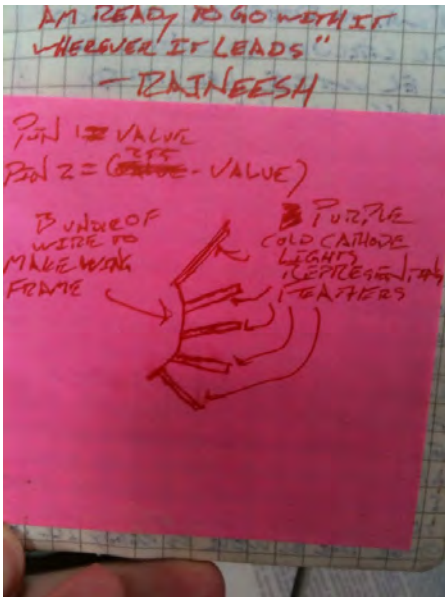




Industriangel.

2008-2010

Sometimes your nightmares are real...



Like many projects, Industriangel started with a dream. Quite literally. As I drifted off to sleep one night, a vision of a creature with glowing wings descended upon me, silent and foreboding. I immediately woke up and made this very first sketch.

At this point I had no idea how to build anything like this, but I knew I had to. So I set out to do it.

4 months, \$200, and lots of trial and error later, Industriangel became reality.

I had a vague idea of the general shape and outline that I wanted the wings to have. They needed to be frozen in perpetual flight, not tucked neatly away so I started looking for pictures of birds in flight that would convey that moment power. This picture served as the main influence from nature.

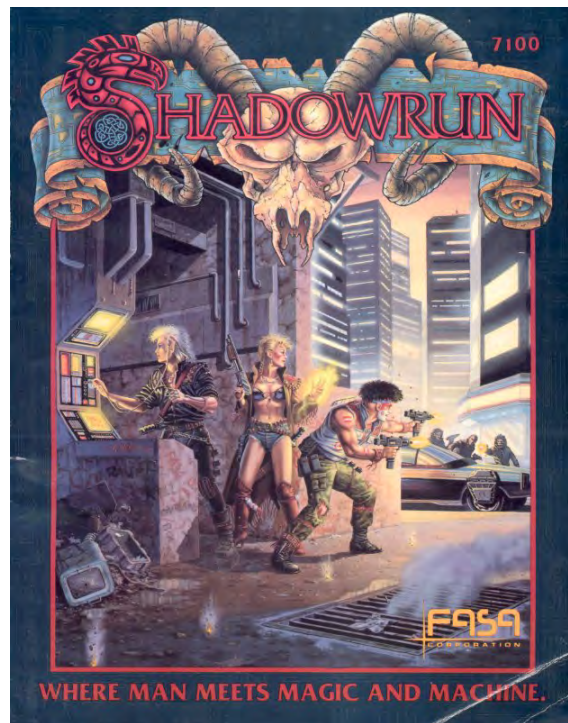


The influences for this project mostly came from my background as an anime-loving, rpg and wargaming geek.

Cyberpunk, as it stood as an 80s ideal is mostly dead, but I grew up with it and the idea of man merging with machine was one that gripped my imagination for many years. Industriangel would be a throwback to cyberpunk, not in the style of terrible 90s movies like Hackers, but something more visceral.

My first encounter with the genre was through the RPG Shadowrun, which was detailed enough to really get me thinking about the subject. Cybernetic implants, the Matrix, smart weapons and megacorporations were a heady mix for a 14 year old in the early 90s.

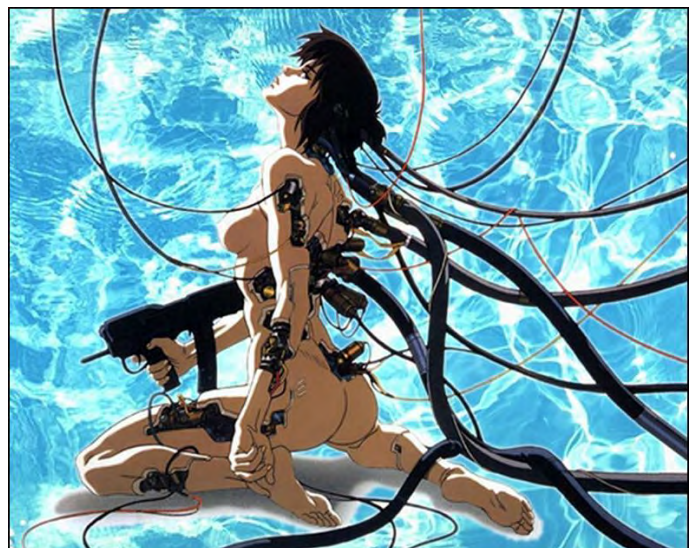
This game formed the basis for all of my later interest in the subject matter.



The Gothic art of Warhammer 40,000 was a big influence on this project. The combination of ornate hulking power armor and a dark setting resonated with me somewhere deep inside. Industriangel would draw on the mood of this game heavily.



Ghost in the Shell is one of my favorite movies. On the surface, it is a typical mid 90s cyberpunk anime, but upon closer inspection there are some deep philosophical issues presented. What is human? Can you prove it? It took about 10 watchings over several years before I really felt like I understood every nuance of this film.



Masamune Shirows design is very late-era cyberpunk, where the focus is still on man+machine rather than genetherapy and biomodification. I wanted to incorporate his penchant for lots of cabling intertwined and writhing around itself.

Construction:

Each wing is made of 15 metal coat hangers bent into shape and tied together with green florists wire. This bundle was then covered in a sheath of black heatshrink to disguise its construction and to make the wings black.

These were then inserted into a small frame at the base made out of a short length of pvc tubing and 2 copper t's. Unfortunately I didn't take any pictures of this part of the process.

This frame was sandwiched between 2 pieces of buffalo hide and bolted together. Harness straps were connected to the backplate.

The lighting system is made up of 4 CCFL tubes and 2 inverters per wing. The inverters were taken out of their bulky plastic casing and wrapped in heat shrink.

The lights and inverters are then tied onto the wings with more wire. This gives them flexibility if someone bumps into the lamps. They will bend at the joint rather than breaking the lamp in most cases.

The lamps are 12v and have a high current draw (although I've had difficulty determining just how much). So to power them I built an 8 D-cell battery holder. This is pretty heavy so I mount it on a belt to carry the weight on my hips, rather than my shoulders.



Its important to note, that when I started this project I had no experience with any part of its construction, so it ended up being a lot of trial and error to get it working.

A good fetish/industrial costume needs a good respirator and pair of goggles. So I set out to appease the beast before It was even completed.

I spent a good few weeks looking for goggles and found these beauties. Apparently they are Swiss motoring goggles, but I'm not sure about that.



The respirator was a bone stock Comfo-Soft II for \$20 new on eBay. It was sick, but needed some modification. I took the front plate off and wrapped all the silver parts in black electrical tape, then ordered a small 12V inverter and some red el wire, which I installed on the respirator non-destructively.



