

## 'Blast 'Em!': Heritage Auctions Offers in July Stormtrooper Helmet and Blaster Used in 1977's 'Star Wars'

*These two coveted, screen-used items that help launch George Lucas' never-ending franchise are just the props collectors are looking for*

### [DOWNLOAD DIGITAL PRESS KIT](#)

**DALLAS, Texas (July 7, 2022)** — A long time ago in a theater probably not too far from your house, Star Wars was released — May 25, 1977, long before the original space opera was rechristened Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope. To celebrate that 45th anniversary, Heritage Auctions is thrilled to offer in its [July 22-23 Hollywood & Entertainment Signature® Auction](#) two of the rarest and most coveted items featured in the film that spawned a never-ending franchise: [a screen-matched stormtrooper helmet](#) and [a screen-used hero E-11 blaster shared by stormtroopers, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia](#).



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

We've got a good feeling about this.

"Finding screen-matched props from Star Wars is virtually unheard-of," says Joe Maddalena, Executive Vice President at Heritage Auctions. "I've had the pleasure and privilege of offering several items from the movie that changed everything. But there is something particularly magical about the helmet and blaster. These recognizable, revered items were made for a movie that was turned down by studios before 20th Century Fox OK'd a franchise that continues to thrive in the 21st century."

When George Lucas began shooting Star Wars in the Tunisian desert in March 1976, only six stormtrooper helmets were completed in time for filming. These first helmets were later dubbed "sandtroopers" by fans and ultimately by Lucasfilm. In addition to their custom, desert-worn weathering, these helmets also featured unique hand-painted detailing that differs slightly from all the other stormtrooper helmets finished and used later.

Of these six original sandtrooper helmets, only two are confirmed to exist in private hands. Heritage Auctions is offering one of the two.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

In addition to being one of the surviving original first-produced and first-filmed stormtrooper helmets from the original Star Wars, this specific helmet can be conclusively identified on-

screen across multiple sequences. It was also worn by one of the few stormtroopers who delivered dialogue — the very one who speaks to the bartender after Obi-Wan Kenobi's, let's say, disarming encounter in the Mos Eisley cantina.

It also screen-matches the one worn by the stormtrooper who talks with the mysterious informant Garindan, then rushes his squad to Docking Bay 94 to stop the Millennium Falcon from fleeing the Mos Eisley Spaceport. His last words were, "Stop that ship! Blast 'em!" immediately before being gunned down by Han Solo.

The rushed, handmade nature of the original six stormtrooper helmets ensured that each would appear unique to an observant viewer when finished. The eyes and "teeth" were cut out by hand from the vacuum-formed shells, leaving noticeably varied results from helmet to helmet. The glossy white spray paint used on the helmets famously didn't take very well, leaving each helmet with a less-than-uniform finish.

Another Star Wars centerpiece in this star-studded event is that screen-used hero E-11 blaster, which was wielded by both stormtroopers and Han, Luke and Leia during the Mos Eisley Spaceport shootout, the Tatooine scenes, some Death Star sequences — and during the beloved trash-compactor scene.

Bapty & Co., the legendary British theatrical armorer, based this science-fiction weapon on a British Sterling submachine gun, custom fabricating and dressing it specifically for the first Star Wars production. The front section of the blaster is an actual Sterling body tube with the central barrel replaced by a simple wooden dowel painted black.

Custom-made from aluminum, the grip and trigger guard are not standard. The rear section of the Sterling was cut away, and a solid aluminum billet cast specifically made by Bapty & Co. for these props was slotted into the rear of the gun. The billet extends from the rear of the Sterling tube past the ejector port and receiver, rendering the piece a non-working weapon.

Here, too, are multiple lightsabers from the Star Wars prequels, among them [Obi-Wan Kenobi's hero lightsaber hilt used by Ewan McGregor in Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith](#). If, that is, you're looking for a more elegant weapon from a more civilized age.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

*Heritage Auctions is the largest fine art and collectibles auction house founded in the United States, and the world's largest collectibles auctioneer. Heritage maintains offices in New York, Dallas, Beverly Hills, Chicago, Palm Beach, London, Paris, Geneva, Amsterdam, Brussels and Hong Kong.*

*Heritage also enjoys the highest Online traffic and dollar volume of any auction house on earth (source: SimilarWeb and Hiscox Report). The Internet's most popular auction-house website, HA.com, has more than 1,500,000 registered bidder-members and searchable free archives of five million past auction records with prices realized, descriptions and enlargeable photos. Reproduction rights routinely granted to media for photo credit.*

For breaking stories, follow us: [HA.com/Facebook](#) and [HA.com/Twitter](#). Link to [this release](#) or [view prior press releases](#).

**Contact:**

Tami Howard Carr  
469-525-8850  
[tami@tonyfaypr.com](mailto:tami@tonyfaypr.com)

Robert Wilonsky  
214-409-1887  
[robertw@ha.com](mailto:robertw@ha.com)