

The process evolves in the course of performative exercises in the workshop and often extends into daily life. (Preciado, 368)

Rather than swaying towards overt “man-ocratic” (Bottici) expressions of masculinity in drag king performance, histories of drag king practice have historically sought to dismantle and reconstruct modes of gender expression. For example, the normative assumption that drag kings are required to have cocks in order to be a man devalues the identities of men and masculine individuals who biologically do not have a penis. Queer drag kings work to shift the form of the phallus as default for men’s genitals. A burrito, condom filled with cotton balls, plastic bag with hair gel, a utility bic lighter, no packer at all. While attending a drag king workshop in Amsterdam hosted by a butch bartender named Bear, they taught us a recipe for packers I later found reiterated in different king communities.

Supplies

- Condoms
 - Nylon Stocking
 - Duct Tape
 - Hair Gel
- (Preciado references cotton balls as an alternative)

Directions

- Fill a condom with hair gel and tie off.
- Flip upside down and layer one or two more condoms tied off over the first condom filled with gel. This ensures a possible failsafe if the condom breaks.
- Cover with nylon stocking, cut to appropriate length and tie off.
- Use duct tape for an extra seal and create the desired shape of your packer.

Even without a packer, the notion of impersonating masculinity may be embodied in the way you shift your weight. Shifting “the body’s center of gravity—culturally located in cis-females at the level of the breasts,” to the pelvis verticalizes and masculinizes the body’s weight. For practice, mimic the men and masculine people in your life when they walk/sit. Try following: fathers, brothers, uncles, lovers, people you walk behind on the street or sit next to on public transport. Spread your legs, take a wider and more stable stance, “man-spread,” open your arms and hold them away from your body.

Binding breasts with tape, or using a compression top binder, is another method to shift your cultural and corporeal center of gravity away from the chest and to the crotch. If using tape, be sure to use something skin-safe rather than a duct tape. Never tape directly over the nipple, use a bandaid or piece of tissue to protect your nipple. Apply to dry skin. Bind your breasts to the side of your chest, under your armpit, keeping the middle of your chest open to contour with make-up a masculine looking chest and possibly add chest hair in a similar method to facial hair. You do not need to extend the tape to your back, only to underarms.

