



THE SKYWALKER LIGHTSABER

The Skywalker lightsaber is essentially the ur-lightsaber against which all others must be measured. It is the first lightsaber seen in a *Star Wars* movie, was the first lightsaber prop created for 1977's *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*, and has been celebrated as one of the most famous fictional creations in movie history. In a *Daily Telegraph* survey, Luke Skywalker's lightsaber bested a fierce field of competitors—including Robin Hood's bow and Indiana Jones's bullwhip—to claim the number-one spot as the favorite movie weapon of all time.

Set decorator Roger Christian knew he was on the brink of something special when he found the pieces for what would become Luke's lightsaber in a vintage photography shop in London. "I knew this lightsaber was the Excalibur of this film," he recalled. "I knew it would be the iconic image."

In the movies, the Skywalker lightsaber passes through many hands. It is constructed by Anakin Skywalker during the Clone Wars and used by him until he loses it on the lava planet Mustafar. The lightsaber is kept by Obi-Wan Kenobi, who then passes it to Luke Skywalker on Tatooine. Luke later loses the weapon during the duel on Cloud City, only for Maz Kanata to become the weapon's next on-screen caretaker. Eventually Rey claims the weapon as her own.



The Skywalker lightsaber—built by Anakin, carried by Luke, and adopted by Rey—seemingly meets an explosive end in a Force struggle between Rey and Kylo Ren in *Star Wars: Episode VIII The Last Jedi*. But the celebrated weapon returns in *Star Wars: Episode IX The Rise of Skywalker*, newly repaired and instrumental in Rey's efforts to vanquish Palpatine during the Battle of Exegol. At the close of the film, the lightsaber is given a solemn burial along with Leia's at the old Skywalker homestead on Tatooine.

Actress Daisy Ridley, who portrays Rey, found the lightsaber props surprisingly difficult to manage during filming. "It is heavy even to carry, let alone swing around," she said. "They are heavier and more cumbersome than they look."

A dark leather band around the middle of the repaired Skywalker saber hides the jagged break and the weld that reseals it, though scorch marks are still visible on the reverse side. The activation controls are replacements. The shattered internal crystal has been fully restored through the use of advanced Force techniques that Rey gleaned from the sacred Jedi texts.

