



The Halloween Asylum

<http://www.thehalloweenasylum.com/eightftwitch.html>

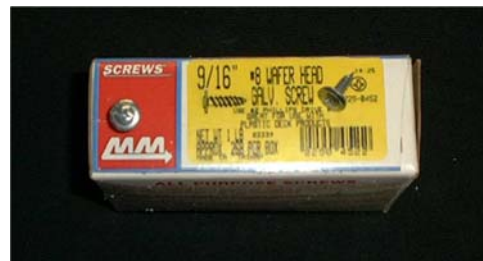
The Eight Foot Animated Witch

Project Parts List

- 3 - 10' x 1" PVC Schedule 40 pipe
- 4 - 1" PVC Caps
- 4 - 1" PVC 90 deg. Elbow
- 1 - 1" x 1" x 1" x 1" PVC Cross piece
- 3 - 1" x 1" x 1" PVC T section
- 4 - 1" x 1/2" PVC bushing
- 4 - 2" x #6 machined screws w/nuts
- 1 - Box 9/16ths x #8 wafer head screws (See Pic #2)
- PVC cleaner
- PVC Primer
- PVC Glue
- 2' x 1/2" O.D. Flexible Plastic tubing

Start by taking the 3 10' x 1" PVC pipes and cutting them into the following lengths.
(Note: You will have some left over, just save it for another project.)

- 1 - 6" Neck
- 2 - 5" Rear foot extension
- 2 - 8" Front foot extension
- 2 - 10" Hip extension
- 2 - 14" Shoulder extension
- 2 - 20" Bicep extension
- 2 - 24" Forearm extension
- 1 - 36" Torso section
- 2 - 42" Leg Sections
- Pic # 1 shows most of the pieces





Now that everything is cut to length, take one of the T joints and the cross piece and cut two slots out of each side using your Dremel tool and a cut off wheel. Refer to the pic here to get the idea.

The pieces that will fit into each of these sections will need to be sanded with a 100 grit sandpaper in order to make them a looser fit. When you start to feel the fit get easier, step to an even finer grit to create a smooth finish on these ends. More on this later.



Glue together the pieces that will be the base of our witch.



Add the leg sections and the 90 degree hip section as well. Do not glue the torso section, these will be screwed in to place using the wafer head screws. (Pic #7 and #8)



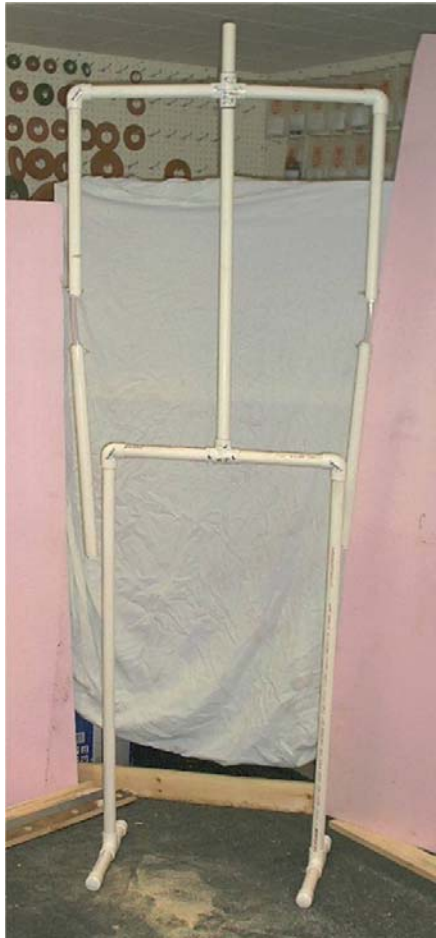


Repeat these steps to create the upper body including the shoulders and upper arm. (Pic #9)



To create the flexible elbow and forearm, glue the bushing into the ends of the forearm and upper arm (You will need to sand the inner part of the tube with a Dremel tool and a barrel sander) and once dry, drill a hole large enough to accommodate the machine screws. Now connect all the parts with the screws

and you will have the frame to any type of human type figure with several pivot points. (Pic #10)



If you need more pivot points, just cut slots in the 90 degree pieces and screw them in as well. On a final note paint everything black or white depending on what you are creating and spray a little silicon lubricant on the moving joints for a smoother operation. Pic #11 shows the finished frame.



These are the hands I will put on the witch and they will be firmly wrapped around a pole into a cauldron she will be stirring. I got these from www.halloweenasylum.com (not affiliated with this site)



I used a coated semi stiff wire to make the hands frame which I inserted into the witch hands. This was much like putting gloves on a little child during winter.

If you have ever done it you know how difficult it is. I preformed the hands as much as possible for placement around the pole and then put expanding foam into each individual finger and let cure. When that was complete, I did the palm of the hand. This gives the finger stuff someplace to go without getting overbearing. The wire extends beyond the glove to allow for attachment to the frame.



The hands are now ready for mounting.

Obtained from
Omarshantedtrail.com



Here is the finished head. Once I got through the steps listed below, I used Great Stuff Window & Door Foam to fill in the chin area of the mask. The foam crawled out onto the face of the mask like a worm so I left it for effect.



I found Styrofoam heads at Sally Beauty Supply for just \$3.60 ea. They conveniently come with a 5/8ths inch hole in the neck which is perfect for attaching to 1/2 inch PVC. (Remember, use PL300 Foam board adhesive!)

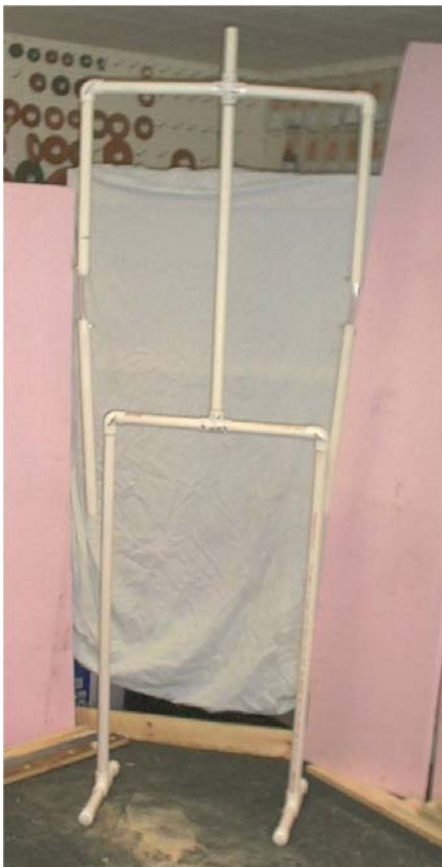


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The Eight Foot Witch Reworked

I was browsing through some creative Halloween sites when I stumbled across A brilliant idea to add even more animation to this project. So the first thing I did was tear the frame apart and start reworking it. It's all listed below, and I think it made the project way better.



OK, This is what I designed in the first place.



The first thing I did was unscrew all of the pivot points and dismantle the frame.



Here I cut the "hip bones" down by 6 3/4" leaving two inches to reattach a new center structure to. As you can see I then spray painted them flat black. *(If you are interested, that's my dog Sam)*



Here is the new hip/pelvis structure. I've given you two views so you can see how it will work. Notice I cut in the pivot areas to allow for the animation when this is all finished.



This is two views of the new shoulder/neck area. The pieces are 1x1x1 t's, 1x1x1x1 crosses, and the 1" PVC tubes are 6 3/4" long. *(as of this update, I had not cut the pivots in the T's)*



This is a 1" to 1/2" reducing bushing. You will need a couple of these for this change over.



Before you glue it into the neck piece you must use your Dremel with a round sander bit to sand out the ridge you can see pictured in the right picture. You'll see why soon.



Here is the key to the upgrade. This was a cheap floor stand oscillating fan that I have dismantled down to these components. I will cut off most of the fan rod to prevent it from snagging on the costume of the unit.

Spray paint the whole thing, cord and all flat black.



This may be hard to see but this is the hip/pelvis area as assembled. In the center there is a two inch long piece of 1" PVC glued in first. In to that is one of those bushings that you have again removed that ridge from.

In to that bushing I glued an eight inch long piece of 1/2" PVC. The fans stem mount just happens to be designed for 1/2" so the next step was to mount that to the center unit.



Is this all clear as mud now!?! Don't worry it all comes together in the end!



This is the fan's mounting piece. It fits right onto the 1/2" PVC and has its own set screw to secure it. Now just mount the fan into this piece, and it to has it's own set screw to hold it in place.

Here you can see the fan motor and rotating stand all mounted in place. Some minor modifications were made to put the pivot point directly under the head's pole so that it would rotate properly.



You can make out the chicken wire shaped into an upper torso to fill out the upper body. We also shortened up the legs at this point to bring the height down a tad. We then reattached the arms and slid the head piece into place. (you may need to shorten the length of the neck post to accommodate your individual project.)

Once the head piece was back in place, I screwed on a 2 x 2 corner bracket and then screwed that onto the fan housing. (There was 1/2 inch clearance so that you could screw right into the plastic housing. Double check you individual equipment for this procedure.)

Eight Foot Witch Page 3 Of Everything



OK, First remember that all pics are thumb nailed so click for a larger picture. On the left is your first look at the entire unit. The cauldron is a plastic barrel that has been cut down to a workable size for our construction piece. Yours could vary. The following pictures will show you how the motor, speed reducing gear box and fog machine were mounted.

Again yours will vary depending on the configuration of you gear. The base that this was all mounted to was an old steel frame with 2 1/2" casters on it. I wire brushed it and primed it, and painted the whole thing flat black. I then mounted two 1 X 8" boards on the length of what I will call the trolley. On to that I mounted plywood at widths to support the witch and the cauldron, all of which will vary with your project.



In the picture above you can see the riser I built to set the cauldron on.

This was necessary in order to allow the pulley and gear system to spin freely. Directly above is the pic of the motor and the gear reducing system.

You can also see that an on/off switch has been installed with a simple three prong plug extension cord.



This is the fog machine mounted between the witches legs. I screwed the bracket right to the frame so the whole unit can be wheeled into position. If you refer to the section on "Fog Chillers", You will see how I mounted the connectors to both the cauldron and the fog machine itself.



A simple 4" "L" bracket was mounted to a board mounted to the pulley system to hold the pole in place. The pole is held in place by a 3/4 x 3/4 inch board 3' in length. The PVC pole slid right over it.

The silver hole you see is the 3" dryer vent mount I used so the dryer flex pipe would have more than enough to hold on to. When all was attached I sprayed it flat black.



Here You can see the rough in of the whole mounting system and the trolley. I also sprayed the power cord black so it would fade into the background. The PVC frame of the witch is mounted by two 1" C clamps screwed on to the wood base. Below is four views of the finished project. I actually oiled the pivot points so aid in movement and to quiet them some. (They squeaked loudly.) I used green coated floral wire to tie the hands together on the pole to help them stay in place.



So here she is, the head turns left and right, the arms and the pole rotate and fog pushes up through the venting in the bottom of the cauldron. I will add some purple rope lighting around the cauldron, and a colored light inside the cauldron for more effect.

This project, start to finish took a lot of time and two of us to complete. Best of luck if you try it, it will add a ton of oohhs and aahhs to your presentation on Halloween.





Obtained
Omarshaunte