

<http://www.deathlord.net/FeedingFrenzy/frenzy.htm>

FEEDing FrEnzy



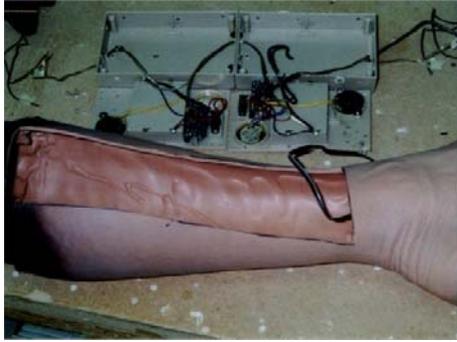
Difficulty Rating: 

Ever since I started haunting seriously back in '97, I have been arranging a display that consisted of a giant cat being attacked by rats. Next to the scene I would place a Rat in the Trap (RITT) which would flail madly while screaming, trying to free itself from the rat trap that had caught him by the nose. And every year that scene would command more responses from the TOTs than animatronics that took a hundred hours apiece to make so I knew there was something to this. A few months ago I mentioned this topic on the [chat list](#) and a member responded that her husband took this a step further by attaching rats to a severed leg and adding some animation. Sounded like a feeding frenzy to me! Here's how I did mine.

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I picked up a couple of RITs this year at the Halloween Club a few miles north of Knotts Berry Farm in So. Cal. that had the plastic attaching their head to the trap broken off from kids playing with them. For \$3 each, it was a great deal. They also had this latex leg that is hollow and would work perfectly for my new project.



The first step was to disassemble the RITs and connect the power boxes to each other with hot glue and zip ties. You can also see the wiring has been hacked into. Extensions wires had to be soldered in to get all the way out of the leg and to the rat's motors located in their stomach area. I also hard wired in lines going to the battery connection to each unit so I could eliminate the need for any batteries. The two boxes, now attached to each other, was then used as a template to mark exactly on the bottom side of the leg the outline that would need to be cut out. This allowed me a way to the inside of the leg to zip tie the nose of each rat to different areas of the leg.



I attempted using many combinations of wiring and transformers, but because of how these particular two were wired, possibly opposite of each other, they wouldn't share the same power source and have both work. I was forced to use two separate transformers and I decided to install these inside the leg as well. With much testing I found that I would need two 4 1/2 volt transformers that produced 1 amp (1000 milliamps) each to power these guys. Using an extension cord, I plugged one transformer into each side and zip tied them together onto the plug end and fit the whole assembly into the hollow area at the top of the leg. If they ever vibrated loose from the power cord I would be removing about 16 zip ties to plug them back in again, so one zip tie is cheap insurance.

Once the cut was made and the boxes fit, I drilled small holes in the edge of the latex and into the boxes for attachment with zip ties. At first I drilled holes in the cover plates to the boxes as well but later decided to just cut out notches from the plate where each zip tie would be so the plates could be removed. Just in case I ever needed to get back inside the guts. Again.



Now to emulate skin being ripped up I lay on beads of hot glue around the areas where each rat is attached.



Next I outlined the ridges with CreateX airbrush black paint with a small paint brush for a curdling.



Finally, I added red to both the leg and around the mouths of the rats, being careful to not fully cover the black. As mentioned before it gives it contrast and sort of an icky, curdled look.

Here's what it looks like complete. When these guys are [activated](#) the thrashing they give the severed leg is really frantic! Both rats are screaming hysterically as well, so it sounds like a crazed feeding frenzy. The great thing is that each year I set them out they won't be needing batteries!



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