

Cameosattik

<http://www.cameosattik.com/gravedigger.html>

GRAVE DIGGER

I actually got this idea from another prop. It was a ghostly moving shovel. So, I thought why not people behind it with movable arms.

Since my first latex mask didn't turn out for my witch, I'm using it for this prop.



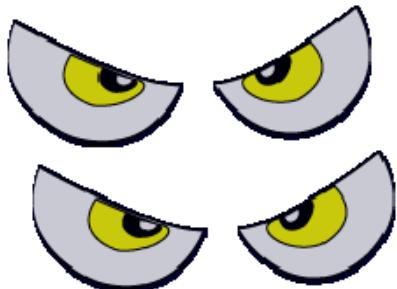
He's made of a simple PVC frame. Here you can see I have all the parts marked and cut. I used 1 1/4" PVC. All pieces are cut to whatever length you need for the size wanted.



The frame is put together, you can't see them, but I did add two 90 degree elbows and 7" pieces for feet. I glued most of the joints, but the spine I left loose so I can take him apart to store



Here I've connected the boots to the plywood, with a 3" screw through the toe, and used shelf brackets on the back and screwed the boot to the PVC. I was going to cut the brackets flush with the plywood, but decided I could use them for more stability. You will notice there is a 1 X 4 under the toes of the boots, I had to add it because of the heel of the boot. He leaned forward too far.



Remember the mask project I was working on... well this is the finished project. I added acrylic eyes to finish him off.



Now that the mask is ready, and my frame is made, I need to buy him a suit. I decided to go with a Victorian theme. Unfortunately when I get something in my mind, it becomes a mission. I went to my local Salvation Army store and found the boots, but ended up a Goodwill for the rest of his outfit.

I should have had a few pictures of his stuffing and arms, but I got so excited about his clothing and dressing him up, I forgot to take pictures...lol. I used a thin dense camping mat to pad him. It was folded over his head with a hole cut for the neck and then wired together between the legs. The arms I needed to move freely, so I rolled some of the foam in two sections per side, then strung picture wire from one side to the other.



Everything is fastened to a nice sized chunk of plywood. I ordered two Mirror Ball motors off from Ebay, quite cheap! They are 5RPM and will hold up to 25 lbs. This one is turned sideways and screwed to a piece of 1 X 4, then used metal brackets to fasten that to the plywood.



My brother-in-law does a lot of welding so I had him weld the hinge at the bottom and the L bracket at the top, It isn't the prettiest, but it works

I definitely am not an engineer, it took three tries to figure out the lengths of metal I needed for this to work the way I wanted. The first time I turned it on, the shovel was knocking the digger in the noggin! Then it went out too far in the front. I ended up with the long piece between the motor and shovel being 6.5" long, putting the top end in the hole closest to the shovel and the bottom one in the hole closest to the motor.

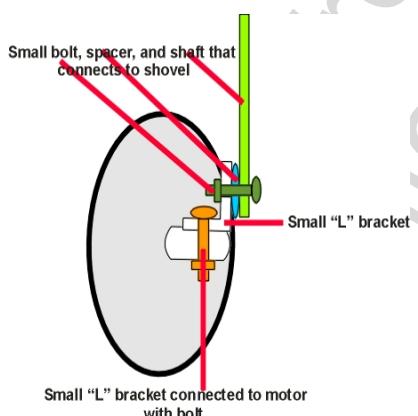
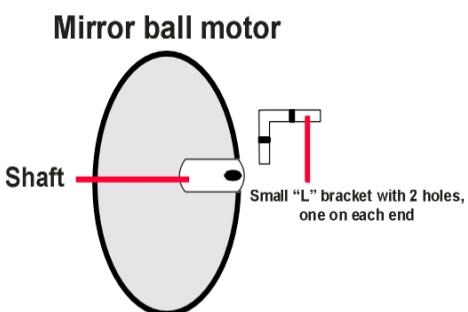


The finished Grave Digger

I do have a few last minute finishing touches to add to this guy, but they will wait until I set him up out front, I will be sure to get some video to post.



This project only took a few days to complete. What took the longest was finding just the right clothing, this outfit cost me about \$20, so I would say the whole project was maybe \$30, minus the mask making. You can buy one in the store for a few \$.



Here is a diagram of how the motor is attached to the shovel



Since I had to add a bit more padding to this guy (ie: a pillow), I took a picture of his foam padding and arm role. You can also see the picture wire I used to connect the arms so they are movable. I believe that was about a 7' length.