



The Halloween Asylum

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

The Graveyard Fence

Materials

- 2 – 1" x 8" x 8' pine boards
- 12 – 10' x 1/2" white PVC pipe
- 2 - 10' x 1/2" sections of rebar
- 44 1 1/2" black phosphate screws (just buy a small box)
- 3 cans flat black spray paint
- 33 Toppers for posts/or some type of finial
- Adhesive to attach toppers (use something that will not damage the material used to make the topper)



1. Using your table saw, rip the 1x8x8 pine down to two-inch wide lengths. This should give you 6 sections with a 1 1/4" piece left. (Fig. 1) (Don't discard, use in some other project!?!)
2. Now cut the length down to 6'2 1/2". This now gives you the length that your fence will be. (I use this size for convenience of storage and because this length is more stable when on display) (Fig. 1)
3. Now, using your tape measure, mark off from each end the following points in the two inch width of the boards: 2 1/2", 9 1/2", 16 1/2", 23 1/2", 30 1/2", and the center will be at 37 1/2". Mark each of these at the center of the board that being 1 inch. (Fig 1)
4. Using your drill press (way better than a hand drill) drill a 7/8ths inch hole at each point. Decide which 1" side will be the front and drill a pilot hole on the back side at the center of each of the 7/8ths inch holes you just drilled. (This will prevent the wood from splitting)

5. If you are as fussy as me, use wood filler for any gouges or errors, and sand to a smooth surface. As long as you sanding, I round all of my edges and corners for an added touch of safety and I like the way it looks.
6. Using your PVC cutter cut your PVC down into the following sizes: 1 @ 34", 2 @ 34 ½", 2 @ 35 ½", 2 @ 37", 2 @ 39", and 2 @ 41 ½". (This is per section of fence you are making, and you have enough material to make three sections.)
7. Take a ¼ sheet piece of wet/dry sand paper, (200 grit) and sand each piece of PVC. This will clean the PVC surface and give the spray paint a better surface to stick to.
8. Spray everything flat black once you are satisfied that the pieces are in the condition you want them in. (TIP: If you have some #6 brad nails, tap them into a wood sawhorse to form a V then lay your PVC pieces in them for painting. It makes the job way easier.)
9. Now it's time to put it all together. Lay what will be your bottom strip good side down and place the 34" PVC rod in. Pull through 6 inches of the rod and screw in place with a 1 ½" black screw. (Note: do not screw in the bottom of the 41 ½" section as this is where the rebar support will go to hold your fence in position.)
10. Measure up 21 inches from the bottom wood strip and place the top strip over the center 34" rod and screw it in place as well..
11. Continue the pattern out with each rod size in a shortest to tallest progression until all are in place and secure.
12. Touch up any bad scratches with the black spray paint.
13. Attach your toppers or finials with an appropriate adhesive.
14. Your project is complete. For my toppers I used a 4-inch Styrofoam skull I found at Wal-Mart, and a 2" foam skull from a garland strand I found at Menards. Take the ½" rebar and cut it into 3 equal sections, push into the ground so that each end section will fit over it then slide your fence into position and you now have just enough to block people from wandering through your graveyard. (Fig. 2)



Figure 1 is hard to see but I ripped my boards down to a full 1" x 2" x 6' 2 1/2". All holes have been drilled out and pilot holes for the screws have been done as well. You can also tell I used wood putty to fill in some of the rough gouges...then it's off to the sanding and painting room. I use a belt sander to rough shape my pieces followed by a palm sander for finish work.



Figure 2 shows how I positioned the skull onto the post. I glued a #8 brad nail into each skull using PL300 foam board glue to avoid melting the Styrofoam skulls.



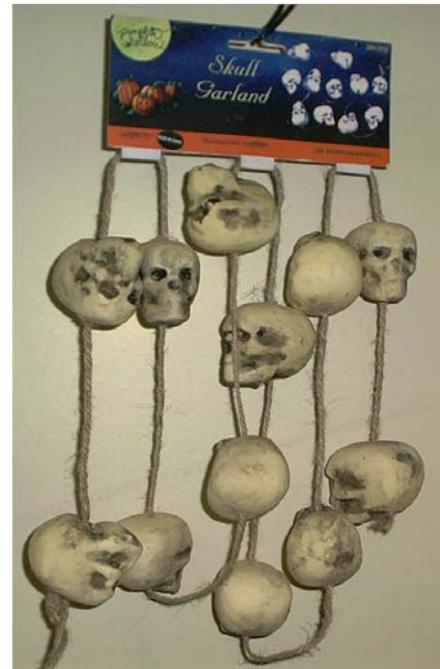
Figure 3 is the finished product...For 2006 I intend to make 6 to 8 more sections.



Figures 4,5,6 are just a better look at the skull finials.



Figure 7 illustrates how the small skulls were packaged. I just cut them apart, pulled out the string, and glued away.



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The Corner Posts

Project Parts List

- 1 sheet 1/2" x 4' x 8" OSB or plywood
- 8 4' x 1 1/4" boards (*leftovers from ripping wood for fence project*)
- 1 box 1 1/4" black phosphate screws
- 1 sheet 4' x 8' x 3/4" Foam Board
- 4 tubes PL300 Foam Board glue
- If you want to add any lights or electrical components, add whatever you will need to make that happen!
- Black and Gray latex paint



Start by cutting the OSB down to the following:

- 4 - 4' x 10 1/2" sections
- 4 - 4' x 11 1/2" sections

Using the leftover cuts from the fence project make 8 - 4' pieces

Now just make a box. (*see illustrations below*)



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Now measure your Foam board so that you have an even overlap at the corners.

At this time I add two 3 inch angle irons to attach my fence pieces to, and I use a piece of scrap 1/2" PVC pipe to slide over a piece of rebar. *(This helps to stabilize the whole project and prevent someone from making off with your work in the middle of the night.)*

Glue on your Foam Boards and let cure.



For the sanding process I start with Ace Hardware wood filler or Dap latex wood filler to fill in the seams that are created during the gluing process. These products adhere very well to the foam board and sand easily.



"Carve" the stone pattern with your Dremel tool, and sand to shape.

From the bottom to the top I measured lines at 14", 24", and 38 ". In the 10" rows (2 & 4), I measured in 5" from one side turned and measured 5" again.

This will give you a "rock" that is 5" on one side and 7" on the other. And finally on the far right, a nearly finished product.

The only thing left is a flat top piece that will support a gargoyle of some sort. Notice the two angle irons I buried into or rather under the foam. The fencing will attach to these to hold them in place making the whole structure less steal able.





Paint your stones with black latex paint followed by a dry brushing of gray.

NOTE: As you can see I have added top support to my columns to support lights and assorted other items of interest to a graveyard. Use your imagination and be innovative while doing this. If you want to know to create the gates and hinges just follow the link below!

Note: In figure three you can see I added two 3" angle irons to one side of the column. This will be covered by the foam board and is there to attach and support the first fence sections. In addition I will add the hinge section for the gate to the graveyard scene. The angle iron will be buried under the foam board while the hinge section will be screwed onto the top of the painted finished column.

NOTE: If you are anything like me, you are doing all of this on a somewhat limited budget. I go around to new home construction sites and raid the wood dumpsters. I always find odd cuts of OSB, 2 x 4's, and other odds and ends that I can use to make my props. If in doubt, ask the job foreman for permission.

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Gates & Hinges

Project Parts List

- 1-10' x 1" PVC pipe
- 2 - 10' x 1/2" PVC pipe
- 2 - 1 1/4" PVC x 6"
- 2 - 1" 90 deg. Service Elbow
- 1 - Box 1" black phosphate screws



Note: These directions are just for the gate to my

crypt.

This project starts very much like the building of my fencing with the exception that we are using the 1" PVC as the cross bar.

I use the same method to drill my holes using my drill press and a 5/8ths inch Forstner drill bit. (*I built a jig for drilling round product by cutting a V notch into a 6' piece of 2 x 3 and clamp the pipe into place to avoid shifting.*)

Once your holes are drilled at the spacing you desire, paint the pieces you have cut and let dry. Once dry, assemble, screw in place and touch up. The gate hinge is really easy to create. As you can see below I attach a 90 deg. Service elbow to the gate. This is designed so that one end fits on to the 1" PVC but the other end does not.



You make the rest of the hinge out of the 2 - 1 1/4" PVC pieces. I cut each end so that about a 1 1/2" tab about 1" wide was left on the top and bottom, drilled a pilot hole for the screw and just screwed this on to the door of my crypt. The service elbow just drops right in to the piece allowing the gate to swing freely. (*of course, paint before putting in to place.*) This saved me almost \$12.00 on this project for a special hinge and instead the hinge setup was only \$4.00!



Here is the start of the hinge...the tab at the top of the piece will be cut down to 3/8's of an inch which will leave plenty of room to drill the pilot hole for the screw. You can make these at four inches long as well, but what I will do is cut a curve into the bottom section to give it some style.



This is what is left after sanding, now I will tap a pilot hole for the screws and paint them black.



This will be a double gate that will mount on the columns I have built. I took a 1 x 2 board and clamped it to my work area. Then I placed my 1" PVC next to it and holding it firmly in place, struck a straight line down the entire length of it with a sharpie. Then I did the same thing with the service elbows so that when I glued the pieces together, they would line up correctly and fit in the hinges I built.



This step is very difficult and requires a very strong grip. I marked off the spacing on my PVC tubes and drilled the holes you see here.



The hard part is holding the tube steady while turning the drill press through a round object. It wants to roll in your hands, and you must fight it all the way. After all of that, I still had to use my Dremel with a drum sander and open the holes a little.

The Parts & Measurements

4 - 1" PVC Pipe 46" Long

2 ea. 1/2" PVC Pipe with The Following Lengths:

34.5", 35.5", 37", 39.5", 41.5", 44.5", 47"

4 - 1" x 90degree PVC Service Elbow

For The Hole Spacing, Start at One End and Cross mark at:

2", 9", 16", 23", 30", 37", 44"



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