



<http://www.themadlab.com/august2008tutorial.htm>

## Endless Mausoleum

Posted by : SherlockSam

### The Endless Mausoleum

Now for the how to and picture parts!

In the Endless Mausoleum, row upon row of crypt plaques will stretch into infinity through the use of mirrored surfaces, lighting and prop walls. The basic structure is a wood frame made to support the Styrofoam walls and ceiling. The front and back walls contain special effect prop glass.

### Building the Inner Structure



**Metal railing:** This material is sold in the same place as the Plexiglas and is made to hold the Plexiglas in a door. It has a groove the glass will sit in. Cut metal railing pieces  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch shorter than each of the Plexiglas sides for both pieces of Plexiglas. Cut the wood to match the lengths of the shorter end of both pieces of Plexiglas. For the longer sides, cut the wood 2 inches longer than the Plexiglas. Pre-drill the holes and screw the metal pieces to the centers of each wood piece. Spray paint all assembled pieces black.

Cover one side each for the two Plexiglas pieces with Gila Privacy Mirror Window Film. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to apply. On the back of one piece of Plexiglas (not the film side) spray paint with silver paint. This will be the back mirrored wall.

Use L brackets to attach the wood frame sections together for each Plexiglas sheet.

Cut 4 pieces of 1x2 wood for braces for the depth needed between the two framed pieces of Plexiglas. This depth can be whatever is needed. This sample was 3 feet deep. Stand the wood brace on its side next to the L bracket edge for both the top and the bottom and attach with a second L bracket as shown. The 2 inch thick Styrofoam wall will rest against this edge.

Measure the inside of the floor area between the wood pieces. Cut a piece of 2 inch thick Styrofoam to fit inside for the inner floor. Measure the side openings the same way and cut 2 inch Styrofoam walls for the right and left sides. Fit the pieces into place and trim if necessary. It should be snug, but not tight.

Your construction should now form a box with two Plexiglas walls for the front and back.

## Lighting



For the interior light, wrap a halogen light fixture with a purple, or blue, color cellophane. This will add a color cast to the light.

Use L brackets to screw wood pieces to the top, side braces for each light used. Attach lights with zip ties. Run the light plugs along the top and out the back to plug in. The roof will lay on top of this section and hide cords.

Cut 8 pieces of 1 inch thick Styrofoam rectangle wall plaques, so that two will fit across the inside side walls. Use a hot tool to create a roughened, one inch border on each plaque. Glue the plaques to the inner walls so that they are evenly spaced out, four on each side. Let dry.

## Building the Parts

Raise the structure up and rest on four milk crates or build a similar wooden box as a base. Use 1 inch Styrofoam to create wall base pieces for the top and bottom of each side wall. This will hide the milk crates and cover the structure's wood frame.

Create corner covers with 3/4 inch Styrofoam cut to match structure height. Duct tape the corner pieces together. Cut roof piece to cover top opening with some overhang. Create a front cap to cover the top, front edge of the structure. Use two straps of Velcro to attach to back of light on the inside of the structure. The front cap has squares attached to face with a one inch space between each. Use craft glue and toothpicks to attach.

Create pillars using 2 inch thick Styrofoam for short, pillar side walls on either side of the front opening. At the top and bottom of each pillar wall is a 2 inch thick pillar cap cut wider and longer than the wall piece. The footer cap has two stacked pieces of 2 inch Styrofoam. Use two swimming pool noodles that have been cut open to wrap around the front each of each pillar wall. Trim to fit height. Use craft glue and tooth picks to hold noodle to the wall. Use craft glue and toothpicks to attach all the pillar pieces together. Also, create a pillar to pillar top piece. Create an open box shape with five pieces of 2 inch thick Styrofoam. Add more evenly, spaced squares across the front with glue and toothpicks. This section will rest on top of the top pillar caps, not attached to the pillars.

The front step is made with three pieces of 2 inch thick Styrofoam. This piece will cover the front milk crates and the bottom Plexiglas edge. It fits snugly between the two columns. Cut notches in the sides of the step to fit over pillar foot caps. Use duct tape for the seams. Glue and toothpick joined pieces to reinforce.

## Creating the Details

Using a hot tool, carve details to outer structure, such as cracks, stone lines, bricks. Here pieces of plaster seem to have fallen away to reveal underlying brick wall. The bricks are sculpted with a rougher texture that is also slightly lower than the plaster layer.

Use spray foam to create vines on side walls, step and pillars. Do not overlap the spray foam on Styrofoam pieces that come apart. Start vine at bottom and spray in a wavy line going upwards. Let dry.



Remove all Styrofoam pieces from wooden structure. Prop up the wood frame when these pieces are removed so it doesn't tip over. Monster Mud all pieces on all sides. Let dry.



Obtained from  
Omarshantedtrail.com

## Painting



Paint the interior sides (side walls, roof and floor) of the Styrofoam pieces to resemble marble using craft paints. Let dry.

For the outside portions of the Styrofoam a stickier mixture of paint is used. This helps to hold the vines, the spongy, pool noodles and Monster Mud together better. Dark gray base paint mixture: mix white, house paint primer with black, latex, enamel house paint until you get a dark gray color. Use a large brush to cover all the unpainted Styrofoam.

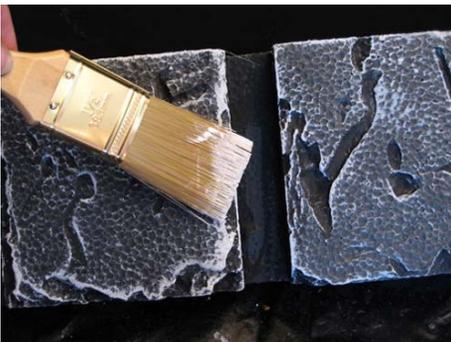
Next, use a smaller brush to paint along all the vines, in all the nooks and crannies or cut marks with solid black craft paint.

For the brick Styrofoam portions, drag a brush with red paint over the raised brick texture to cover only the top texture edges.



Paint all the vines with brown, craft paint.

Finally, drag a dry brush with a small amount of white paint over the surface texture of the Styrofoam wall areas. This will highlight only the raised areas and really bring out the "stone" look of the pieces. Let dry.



Obtained from  
Omarshauntedmail.com



you can see the reflection of the wall in the front 2 way mirror!

Obtained from  
Omarshuntedtrail.com



Because we live in the south, we had to add the Spanish Moss to give it that creepy look!



We added a flicker hanging light and some dead flowers in their vases ,inside.



Home made flicker candles were added to the outside on it's steps.

Obtained from  
Omarshuntedtrail.com