

The Crypt

Halloween Yard Haunt Prop Building

Crypt Materials used:

Scrap Plywood

(2) .5" 4' x 8' plywood

(7) 8' 2" x 4" wood

(2) 10' 2" x 4" wood

Styrofoam

Huge Tarp

I tried to start pretty basic... a bunch of the book is just about the geometry of the motion, and how to design four-bar linkages, and that kind of stuff... though

I assume parts from Grainger's, to make it more universal. But yeah, you could probably apply the info in the book to garage-sale parts.. It does go into pneumatics and control stuff, too.

[Edwin Wise on his book - Animatronics](#) :

A Guide to Animated Holiday Displays.



The Crypt's Facade:

I needed a little something-something to house my Flying Crank Ghost [[FCG close-up](#)]. So I built me a crypt!

Gothic Arches

The first thing I knocked out were the gothic arches by [carving them from styrofoam](#) and enhancing the the pieces with the appropriate layers of latex paint.

Pillars

The half inch thick plywood and inner two-by-four frames for the two front pillars are scrap and were obtained, with permission, from a nearby construction site.

Measurements: 8 feet tall and 14.5 inches wide

Primary Arch

I purchased the quarter inch thick plywood for the primary arch because this section had to consist of one piece. The arch has a height of four feet with the peak bringing the crypts height to 10.5 feet with the [celtic cross](#) adding atleast another 3 feet for a total height of about 14 feet.

Latex Paint Job

First I rolled a light gray, then sea sponged on; green, black, white, and dark gray.

The Crypt's Not-So SuperStructure:

To carry the FCG and hold the facade in place I built a skeletal frame of two-by-fours with a full sheet of plywood on each side with some miscellaneous sheets of plywood across the top and all covered with one tarp.

I put together a [wire diagram of the structure](#) with some measurements.

It took me a total of about 6 hours to slap it together and my fingers were crossed for the 5 days it stood in the hopes that it wouldn't fall. Luckily for me, the gods of wind had that week off.

Gargoyles

The [gargoyles](#) are hollow blown plastic with a cost of about \$12 each. I built some [Holsters for my Gargoyles](#). I clipped the plastic gargoyles to some dark gray painted plywood. The plastic tab between the horns is sandwiched between the two layers of plywood. There's a small stock of wood attached to the plywood between the hooves. Again, I sandwiched the plastic with a small piece of plywood and drove a screw through the plywood, through the plastic and into the wood stock.

Attaching the gargoyles to the pillars: I screwed together 3 layers of two-by-four, each block was attached to the top of each of the pillars and then I screwed the gargoyles plywood to the block.

Lighting

Lighting was minimal. I had a single light with a C-9 bulb at the base of each gargoyle and one four foot [black light](#) behind the [La Llorona styrofoam](#) to bathe my FCG.

Audio

I placed a CD player just behind a pillar and it was set on repeat playing the Midnight Syndicate's [Born of the Night](#).

