

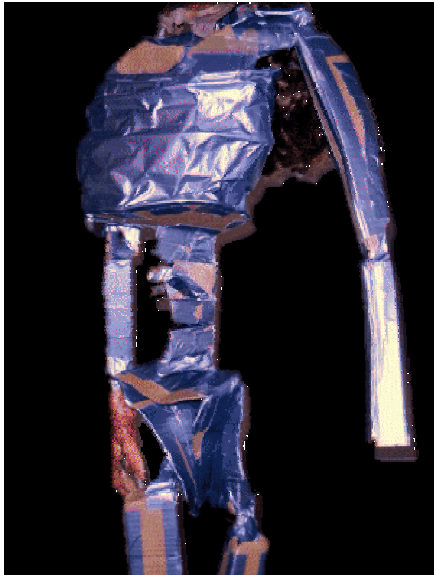
PRIMITIVE PICTURES

<http://www.geocities.com/primitivepictures2001/dirtnap.html>

Building Uncle Dirtnap



Pretty cool what you can do with a model skull kit, some old nylons, a wig, and carpet glue, eh?



Several Shots of Uncle Dirtnap's cardboard and gaffe tape "Skeleton". Note the articulated spine for floppy, corpse-like motion. His head in these shots is "sans cranium"- no skull in there. The remaining hand is carved from styrofoam and coated in hot-glue "veins". He was pretty beat up by the time these shots were taken.



Obtained from Omarshaurts@trail.com



The Completed "Uncle Dirtnap" as he appears in the film "White Noise"

First you want to get a hold of a human skull, or at least a plastic model of one. You want a plastic so it'll be easy to pose the finished corpse and it will move appropriately when needed. You can get these skulls at hobby shops and sometimes Wal-Mart for between \$16 and \$20. This will be the most expensive component in your corpse- it's all downhill from here! Well, after you build the thing, anyway. Paint the skull in yellowy greys with acrylic paint and your ready to go. You can reuse this skull over and over again! Or you could just go the other route and bring a shovel to your local cemetery, but I don't advise it.

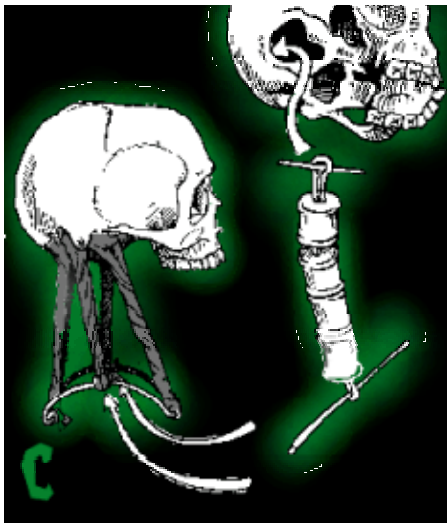


NYLONS: You'll need a few pairs of flesh colored nylons (whatever flesh color you like- nylons come in all the shades!). Cut 6 x 1 foot long (30cm) lengths of nylons- this will give you 6 "tubes" of nylon you can twist into "muscles" (Figure "A" above).

Spread the end of one of these tubes and place it on the appropriate point on the skull for a neck muscle. Paint these onto the skull with liquid latex; but use a brush you're no longer fond of, as it WILL BE DESTROYED in the process. Nothin' you can do about it. Use a hair dryer to speed the drying (note: it's not the heat, but the flowing air that dries the latex).



So now you have 6 twisted “muscles’ dangling down from your skull. Get yourself a wire coat hanger and bend it into the basic shape your collarbone follows and mirror this shape in the back-(kind of a saddle-shaped oval). Tie the loose ends of these “muscles’ to the hanger (Figure "B").



Now for the face. If you want the jaw open, fix it open with pleistescene before continuing. Get some tissue paper, lay it over top of the forehead, cheeks and eyes and paint this over with latex. If you want to add a nose, lay a piece of tissue paper across the face, covering the sinuses, and paint over with latex. Allow this to dry. I got a little lazy and used make-up applicators (true foam latex) as filler for the nose- there's no reason you couldn't do the same. Build up the missing bits of the nose with cotton balls covered in tissue- again paint this with latex.

For the lips on Uncle Dirtnap, I used balloon rubber folded over with bits of make-up sponge inside for volume. I painted over this with latex as well. The ears were made with a tube of nylon rolled back and shaped before covering with latex. I safety-pinned these ears to the skin of the skull and again painted them on with latex. **ALL SAFETY PINS ARE REMOVED ONCE THE GLUE/LATEX IS DRIED!** Ram a broom handle into the hole in the bottom of your skull to act as a temporary neck. You'll eventually need a real “neck'-you could use an old goose neck from a lamp or salvaged industrial wire covers, or thread spools with a few rubber bands running through the centers (Figure "C" above).



Now that you have a painted skull, get the leg of another nylon, cut out the reinforced toe. Push the skull's face through the opening you've just made and paint the edges in place (only the face should be protruding). Once you've dried this, stretch the loose end of the nylon over the hangar, safety-pin it in place and paint the entire nylon over with a layer of latex (Figure "D" above). This makes a kick-ass skin as well as fixing the skin to the base and the skull. Once the "skin" is dry, glue the muscles to it underneath the skin.

Now you have a "bust" of your corpse. It's the only detailed piece you should need unless you want to carve shriveled hands from styro or polyfoam. Paint the skin with artist's acrylics and pin on a second-hand wig to top off your head.

THE BODY: Get yourself a BIG piece of cardboard (like a large appliance box, or a garment industry box), lie down on it and have someone trace your outline on it with a marker- this should be very visible. Make additional lines on this silhouette as illustrated. Now BLACK equals a CUT line, and RED equals a FOLD line. If everything works out, you can fold pieces over to make triangularly tubular limbs (see Dirtnap skeletal photos). Tape these together at the seams with copious amounts of gaffer tape. Really, copious amounts of gaffer tape can be recommended for almost any occasion... The chest on Dirtnap was made with several slot-and-groove cardboard disks and then covered in gaffer tape. You can more or less figure out the construction of the body from the photos. Drape the skeleton in appropriately stained or eroded clothing and Bob's Yer Uncle (Dirtnap) -you have and almost instant mummified corpse. If you wanted, you could do a life cast and slush mold to make a more recent cadaver.