



[http://www.geocities.com/hillbilly\\_nurse/HALLOWEENlab.html?200721](http://www.geocities.com/hillbilly_nurse/HALLOWEENlab.html?200721)

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## Specimen Jars

Create your own Mad Scientist's Laboratory in your home.

Start by collecting lots of old bottles and jars. No lab is complete without "chemical and specimen jars". Fill them with creepy things you find in the toy section at the department stores.

- Little plastic eye balls are good.
- You can also make organs out of clay and bake them in the oven.
  - Several coats of paint and a clear sealer will allow you to submerge them in water without turning them to mush.
- Use a little food coloring in the water to add extra creepiness. Paint the lids with gloss black spray paint.
- Print off some labels from the computer.
- Those pig ears they sell in the pet store for dogs to chew on kinda resemble dried bat wings.
  - Take a few of these and cut them down into bat wing shapes with a Dremel tool or a coping saw and then you can have a jar of dried bat wings.
- Don't put water in the bat wing jar because they will start to rot.
- A small head of cauliflower in a large jar of water closely resembles a brain.
  - Just be sure to throw out the cauliflower right after Halloween. The stench could wake the dead!!!!
- Before storing your specimen jars, be sure to rinse them out thoroughly and dry the eyeballs and other organs completely.

## Medical Instruments

Medical instruments are a must for the mad scientists laboratory. The ideal situation is to get your hands on some actual antique medical instruments.

- Online auctions are a good place and if you live near a large city with lots of hospitals, local antique stores are likely to have some.
  - Many doctors collect antique instruments.
  - You might even ask your family doctor if he knows anybody that deals with in them.
- You don't necessarily need a whole set to make an impressive display.
  - Stainless steel forceps, hemostats, and various scissors are usually found at flea markets.
    - These instruments are typically made in Pakistan, China, or some other place outside the U.S.
    - They're not up to surgical standards here, but they look exactly like those used in hospitals here.
  - These can be picked up very inexpensively and are typically used by hobbyists.

- Get a good assortment of them and you are well on your way.
- An old butcher's saw kinda resembles an old antique bone saw and is a looks great covered in a little stage blood.
- Any small old saw witll do however.
- Old electric drills, the kind with the aluminum cases, resemble those used in surgery.
  - They don't have to work and can be picked up at yard sales for next to nothing since they aren't really safe to use due to the fact that they aren't grounded like power tools today.
  - Just cut off the plug end to prevent anyone from using it!!!!
  - (Of course do this with the drill turned off and not plugged into any power sources!!!!)
- Large glass and stainless steel syringes are still available for use on livestock at farm and ranch supply stores.
  - Remove any needles or carefully take the needles off and grind the sharp points off so no one gets accidentally jabbed with it. Safety first.
  - Farm and ranch stores also carry scalpels with various types of blades. You have to be very careful with these and its a good idea to n ot use them if small children are going to be around because they are extremely sharp. If you must have scalpels, consider putting them in a small glass case that is locked. Small glass display cases can be found at hobby stores.
  - Even if you can't get an actual set of medical instruments, you can assemble your own set and create the look that you desire. And remember to keep your eyes out for the real thing. You might find just the perfect set of medical antique instruments and the wife will find that antique china cabinet she keeps nagging you about....

## Mad Scientist's Library

Create a library collection for the lab using old books with new covers. Old dictionarys, encyclopedias, and text books work great.

- You can pick these up at yard sales and thrift stores for usually under a dollar. If the titles on the book are small.
- You might be able to cover them up using some labels you've printed on the computer.
  - The label just has to be on the spine of the book.
  - New covers can be made from brown paper sacks and the titles can printed neatly with markers. "Reanimation of Corpses and Dead Tissues" by Dr. Frankenstein is a good example.
- Make up some creepy titles and put them on books. Use a couple of plastic skulls for book ends. Get a copy of "Gray's Anatomy" and open it up to a page showing the dissection of a limb, or the head.

## Various Finishing Touches

Now for a few finishing touches.

- Hang an old periodic table of the elements on the wall.
  - Make a copy of diagrams from old anatomy books and enlarge them.
  - Add some color to them using colored pencils and hang them up on the wall as well.
- Take old circuit boards from old radios, VCRs and handheld computer games and glue them together with a hot glue gun to assemble a mysterious device for the lab.
  - You can even come up with a name for it and label it!
  - Add some wires and even old car parts. Anything to look mysterious.
  - Buy some plastic mice and rats and put them in various spots around the lab table.

- A small aquarium with some mulch in the bottom and some rocks can be the home for plastic snakes.
- A few cleaned chicken bones scattered around on the table can also be quite effective.
- An old chemistry set complete with test tubes will also add a nice.
  - I DON'T recommend using any alcohol burners for safety reasons.
- Tall glass bottles filled with colored water with air pumped into them from an aquarium pump can make a bubbling brew.
- Just use your imagination.

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