Windshield Wiper Driven Hanging Man

http://www.oneillpcs.com/hauntedhosting/LadyIron/index.html1

The following instructions are for a full sized hanging victim that will kick and thrash for countless hours of family enjoyment. First, here is a materials list of what you need:

- One Saturn (or any brand of your choice) windshield wiper motor
- One plastic five gallon bucket
- Aprox. eight feet of 2" X 2" lumber
- One pair of small 'T' hinges
- One pair of small strap hinges
- One piece of 1/2" plywood aprox. 6" X 20"
- Aprox. five feet of 1/8" X 3/4" flat metal flat bar
- One weight of aprox. 1-1/2 to 2 lbs. (A block of steel 2" X 2" X 3" works well)
- One Styrofoam wig head
- One pair of old work boots
- One pair of gloves
- One pair of lightweight coveralls (painters coveralls work very well)
- Two bungee cords
- One burlap bag or hood
- Random pieces of foam rubber
- Aprox. 20' of 5/8" or 3/4" nylon (coreless) rope
- Aprox. 25' of electric fence wire
- Aprox 50' of 18 gauge insulated stranded wire
- One automotive battery charger
- Assortment of 1-1/2" drywall or wood screws, 1/4" carriage bolts and nuts,
- 1/4" fender washers, safety pins, and tape.

This should be everything, but you may vary some items as you follow the assembly instructions. Good luck.

LET'S GET STARTED

The heart of the Hanging Man is the Saturn windshield wiper motor. This is one of the most versatile motors I have come across. They are available at a variety of surplus houses on the net for under $20.00. It operates as high as 106 RPM, and can be slowed down by either the internal switching, or by reducing the input voltage to 6V DC.

Guts

First you must start by measuring the inside diameter of your plastic pail and draw a circle as a layout. Place your motor with the shaft dead center of the circle. Measure the distance from the center of the motor shaft to the circle and subtract 1/2". You will need to either extend, or make a new crank arm with your counter weight at the end. This weight can be of practically anything that can be permanently attached to the end of the crank arm.

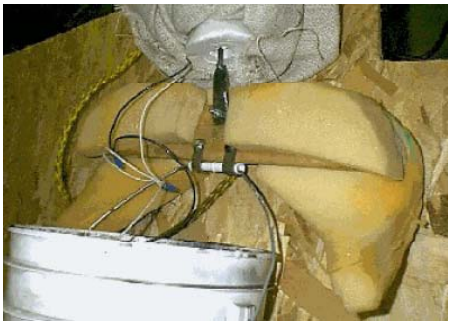
Now measure the distance from the mounting holes to the circle. This will give you the length of the mount brackets made from 1/8" X 3/4" flat steel bar. Make sure to add one inch to this dimension. You will need to bend the metal one inch from the end to mount to the wall of the pail. Drill mounting holes for the bolts through the pail and the motor mounts. It's a good idea to hook the wires to the motor before installing the assembly into the pail. If you are planning on using your victim outside make sure to drill a couple of drain holes in the bottom of the pail.

Legs

Measuring the bottom of the pail, cut one piece of 2" X 2" lumber to span across the center. Bolt this piece in place with two 1/4" carriage bolts with the nuts on the inside of the pail. Depending on the size of the coveralls you are using, you will now cut the upper and lower legs from the 2" X 2"s. Using the 'T' hinges, bolt the upper legs to the 'hip' as shown in the picture to the left. You will want to screw these in with the legs slightly further apart at the 'knees'.

Using the strap hinges, attach the lower legs to the upper legs placing the hinges on the reverse side as the 'T' hinges (knee joints). You may want to glue small pieces of foam rubber to both the knee and hip joints to reduce banging when operating. With fender washers and drywall screws, install the bungee cords from the upper to the lower leg pieces as shown on the right. These can mount practically anywhere on the leg. I suggest that you don't mount the bungees exactly the same on both legs.

Head & Shoulders



The shoulders are formed from 1/2" plywood. I used a piece 6" X 20", but you may need to alter that to fit your coveralls. Cut a radius on the top of each end of the plywood to round them off. Using the 1/8" X 3/4" flat bar, bend two short pieces to fit around the plastic bucket handle and bolt through the bottom of the 'shoulders'. Cut another piece of the flat bar long enough to bolt to the plywood and extend all the way through the Styrofoam head. This bar will need a 5/16" hole in each end. I suggest double nutting the mounting bolt for the head loosely to the plywood.

The more pivot points you can make, the more action your hanging man will have. Glue foam rubber to each side of the plywood to add girth. Tape the motor wires to the head bar and slide your Styrofoam head over the top flat bar with the end slightly protruding the crown of the wighead.

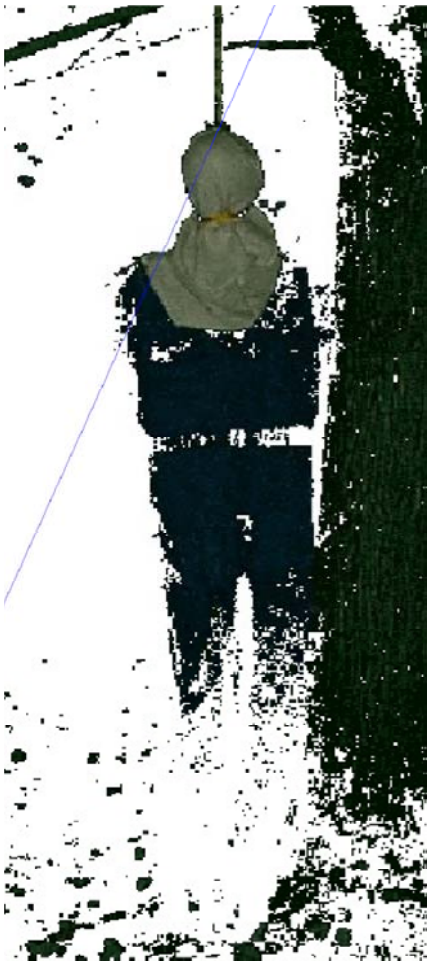
It is time to add the burlap hood. Finding the point of the hood, poke a small slit and feed the motor wires through. Now slip the hood down over the Styrofoam head with the end of the metal head bar just through the slit.

Attach the electric fence wire to the hole in the flat bar on the outside of the hood leaving a few inches sticking out. You will want to run the fence wire through the hole a few times to make sure it is secure.

At this time I suggest taping both motor wires and the fence wire together to feed through the nylon rope. Once your noose is attached you will use the excess fence wire to wrap around the rope for added security. Note: The rope does NOT support the weight of the hanging man.

Once your head and hood are in place you will feed the wires through the center of the coreless nylon rope. To do this, grab the rope with both hands about 8" apart and compress the rope together. This will form a channel in the center that the wires will pass through. Feed the wires through the channel a few inches at a time until you have reached the end as shown in the picture to the right.

Getting Dressed



You are now ready to dress your hanging man. Pull the coveralls over both legs at the same time. Make sure the bottom of the legs protrude from the coveralls. Continue to pull the coveralls up to the shoulders and zip closed. Button or snap the very top button, at the neck, over the neck of the Styrofoam head. Cutting the foam rubber, fill the loose sleeves all the way to the wrist.

At the wrist, pin the work gloves to the cuffs of the coveralls. Suspending your victim, bring the hands behind the back and tie the wrists together. You may want to use safety pins to attach the sleeves at the elbow to the coveralls. for a better appearance. While still suspended, take the work boots and attach to the bottom of the legs by inserting drywall screws through the sole and into the bottom of the leg. You are now ready to hang your man.

Select a tree limb or rafter of suitable size to hold his weight. Note: If you are using a tree, find a limb that will support but is still small enough to bend slightly under his weight. This will add even more action to the animation. Tie the end of the rope off securely.

Attach the motor wires to the clamps of your automobile battery charger and watch the fun begin.

Note: While test running your hanging man, you may want to add some loose weights (gravel works well) to the inside of the boots until you reach the desired movement. Your victim will sway, bob, and kick for several hours of enjoyment for the entire

neighborhood. You may even want to invite your windshield wiperless friend over to show that his missing car parts have been put to good use.