

Haunt Warehouse

<http://www.virtualplacebo.com/halloween/props/skeleton.htm>

Skeleton



This is how the skeleton looked as it arrived in the box from The Anatomical Chart Company.

There was a little assembly required. Some of the hardware was loose in the bottom of the box. I found 90% of the screws that held the ribcage together, but some of them had fallen out of the box during shipping.

For the most part, my skeleton was complete and relatively good looking straight out of the box.



I had to do some "surgery" to the skull. The nose and related bones were glued in funky and made the skull look silly, so I broke them all apart, did some filing and cutting and then glued the whole assembly back together with 2 part epoxy.

While I was at it I used my heat gun to heat up the ribcage and pull it out. It was smashed flat and kind of off to one side when I got it

Once I had things straightened out I went to work making the bones look a little less clean <grin>.



I found some tips on the internet for a simple method of making the bones look a little more realistic.

Using Minwax Gelcoat Mohogany #605 I painted on a nice thick coat and then blotted it off lightly with a terry cloth towel. I left a lot of the stain in the cracks and crevices and did my best to keep it messy and just blot it off instead of rubbing



I did the arms, legs and head first. They were fairly easy to do because they are light and easy to handle.



The ribcage took the longest. it was tough to get the inside of the ribs and the spinal cord all coated. The whole assembly weighs quite a bit and was tough to hold while blotting off the stain.

If I had to do it again I think I would build a support for the torso and hang it from the top hanger that came with it.



The finished product assembled after about a week of drying. For over a month after I stained the skeleton, there were parts of the spine that were still wet to the touch. You'll need to give the skeleton plenty of time to dry before handling it too much or you risk rubbing off the stain.

If you are nervous about "ruining" your \$100.00 skeleton like I was, it doesn't seem like you can really go wrong with the staining technique. There was not much to it and you can touch up here and there if you end up rubbing off some of the stain.