



<http://usersites.horrorfind.com/home/haunts/monstermaze/>

Skeleton Cage

Inexpensive and Easy to Make, No Woodworking Skills Required!



Requirements:

- \$ 1.00 - 2 planks of wood, 12" x 12" each (50 cents ea.)
- \$ 4.80 - 12 36" wooden dowels, 5/8" diameter (40 cents ea.)
- \$ 1.00 - 1 large keychain ring
- \$ 2.00 - 4 screw hooks (50 cents ea.)
- \$ 8.00 - 4 chains of 1 foot in length each (\$2.00 ea.)
- \$ 1.00 - 1 can of Black Spray Paint
- About 4 feet of 30 lb. fishing line
- \$12.00 - 1 Mr. Thrifty 33 1/2" skeleton (On Sale, Normally \$15)
- **\$29.80 - TOTAL COST**

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com

Tools Required:

- Rubber Mallet (or Hammer)
 - Drill with 5/8" bit
 - Circular Saw to cut planks into 12" x 12" pieces (only needed if they are not pre-cut)
 - Glue (I used wood glue for all wood to wood surfaces and silicone for Mr. Thrifty to wood surfaces)
 - Hair Dryer
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How It Started Out:

I loved the bucky cage that I have seen at the Boneyard Bargains website, However, the plans called for getting two 12" round wooden discs. Well, I couldn't find round discs at Home Depot if my life depended on it. I also found out that it is very; very difficult to cut a circle of wood if you have no real woodworking skills (and guess what, I have no skills whatsoever.)

I decided to go with 4 chains in a square cage instead of 3 chains in a circular cage. I was pleasantly surprised at how well the cage came out!

How I Did It:

STEP 1

Take the HAIR DRYER and use it in Mr. Thrifty's hands until they become soft and pliable, then SLOWLY bend the hands until they have a curved 'cupping' shape.

STEP 2A

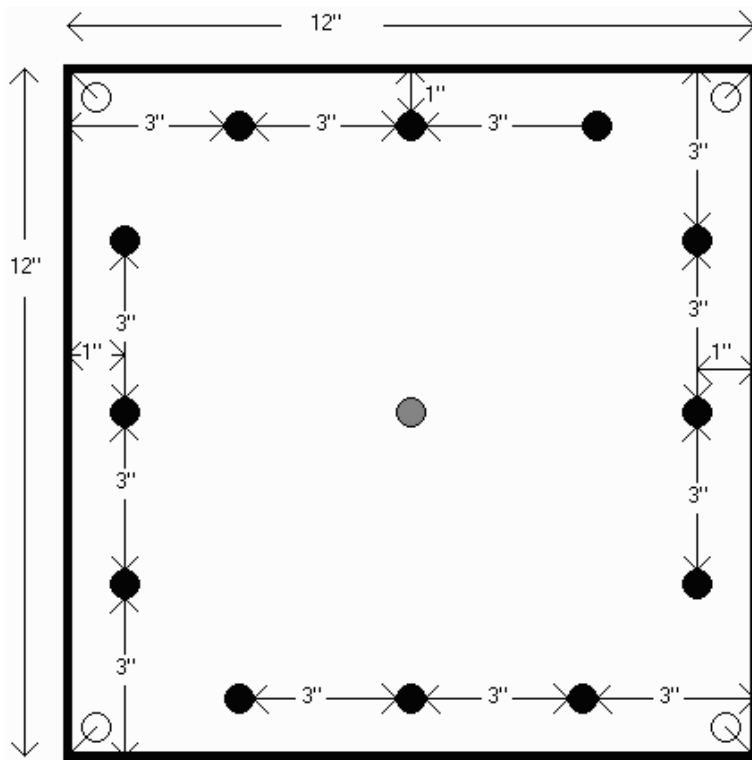
If your wood is not pre-cut to 12" x 12" do so now with your Circular Saw. This should take only two minutes. If it is already pre-cut, proceed to ***STEP 2B***.

STEP 2B

Take each plank of wood and about 1" away from the edge, mark off every 3".

Repeat this step for all four sides for both planks of wood. At these points drill a 5/8" hole.

In dead center of ONE of the planks drill an extra hole. This will be your TOP plank.



TOP PLANK

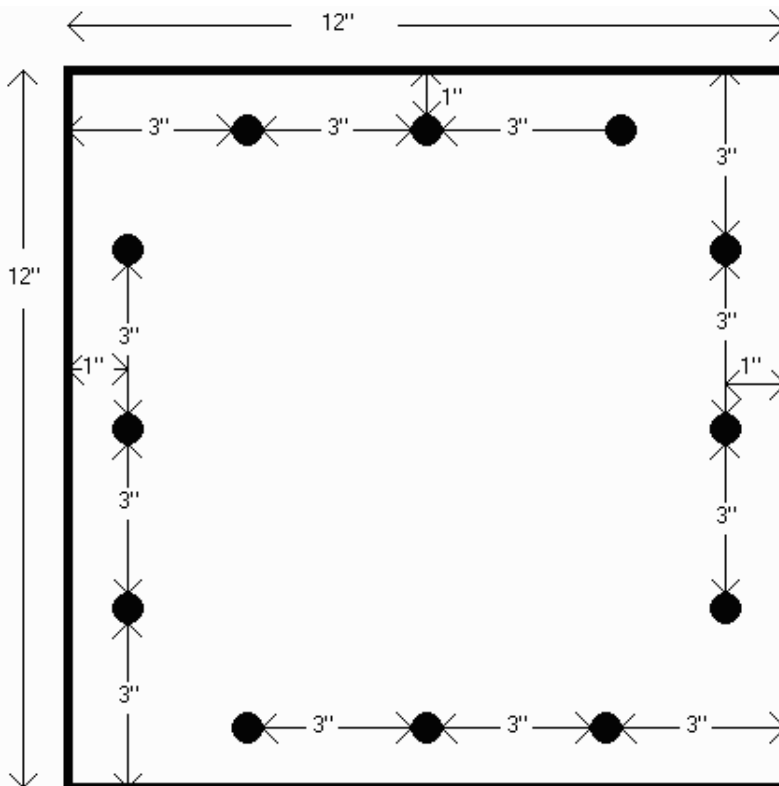
LEGEND

○ = Place to put Screw Hook
1" diagonally from corner

● = 5/8" hole for dowel

● = 5/8" hole for fishing line

—
1"



Bottom Plank

LEGEND

● = 5/8" hole for dowel

—
1"

STEP 3

Spray paint the dowels and both sides of the planks of wood, black. It is alot easier to spray paint all the dowels at once.

STEP 3.5 Go get a beer.

WAIT A COUPLE OF HOURS FOR THE PAINT TO DRY

STEP 4

On the plank of wood with the hole in the center (your TOP plank), screw in the four hooks into the wood, about 1" in diagonally from each corner. (See TOP diagram for an idea of what I mean) Then place 9 of the dowels into 3 sides of the holes of the wooden planks, leaving one side completely open. You may need to gently tap the dowels in with a Rubber Mallet.

STEP 5

Take your fishing line and tie it around the neck of the Mr. Thrifty 33 1/2" skeleton. Feed it thru the center hole of the TOP plank and secure it to one of the screwhooks. Remember, you don't want it too short or your Mr. Thrifty will be floating in mid-air, and you don't want it too long or he will be slouching against the cage bars.

I found that having Mr/ Thrifty's knees slightly bent gave it a nice 'realistic' look. You will need to 'play' with the length of the fishing line to get the posture that you are looking for. Bend the arms and place the hands around the dowels as if he was 'holding' the bars for that nice 'loss of all hope' look. Use your glue to hold his hands in place and also glue the heels of Mr. Thrifty to the BOTTOM plank to keep his posture as you move the cage.

STEP 6

Place the 3 remaining dowels into the holes, you will need to bend them slightly, be careful not to snap them in half! Try placing them in the BOTTOM plank 1st and bend them into place for the TOP plank. Use your glue at every point where dowel meets plank. You don't want your pride and joy falling apart.

STEP 7

Attach the four chains to the screw hooks and place the key ring to the other end of each one.

CONGRATULATIONS! Your done and he is ready to hang by your key ring!