



<http://www.msmeeples.com/witch.html>



We really enjoyed making the witch. It was a great project to work on! We found the idea on the [scarefx](#) site. Below you will find a description of how we used this idea to make our own version of the witch.



Pieter started by making a frame out of wood. On the pieces sticking out of the front is where the cauldron will stand. The space between the legs will be used to hide the electronics, more about this later. The body is made from 40 mm PVC pipe, elbows, and T pieces. You don't need to make a technical drawing with measurements. Simply measure yourself as Pieter did. He measured his shoulder height, width, etc. (He is 6' tall). Instead of using PVC glue, he used self threading screws to attach the pieces. This way it's not permanent and you can always adjust things later if needed. It also makes storage

Obtained from
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The upper and lower arms are made from a square piece of wood with insulation material around it to give it thickness.

The insulation material can be found at a do it yourself store. On the ends of the upper and lower arms are eye hook screws. The arms are then attached to them with tie wraps in order to help the shoulders and elbows move more freely. Be careful not to pull them too tightly. (see pic)



A windshield wiper motor was used to move the head from side to side. We found it at a car junkyard for €10. To control the speed of the head movement, a adaptor with a variable voltage capability was used (there's a pic of this sort of adaptor on the page with the puking punchbowl baby).



A thin PVC pipe was used between the head and the motor. Pieter sawed a 3 cm slit into it across the top so that he could later clamp it tightly around the motor shaft. The pipe clamp provided a tight connection to the motor. Tape was wrapped around the end that went into the head until it was the right diameter to fit tightly in the hole in the head.



The placement of the motor demands a bit of creativity but not much more of an explanation. If you look at the pictures closely, you'll figure it out. It is however very important that the motor is placed at the right degree and that the PVC pipe can turn freely between the shoulders. The head also needs to be able to turn freely.



Chicken wire was used to give the witch's body more of a form. Use your own creativity to create the form you want and just make sure that none of the moving parts are hindered. We used bubble wrap to create a hump in her back.



Once again make sure no moving parts are hindered. Even with the chicken wire and bubble wrap, we still weren't totally satisfied with her form so we have her breasts so that her dress hung better.



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The rubber witch's hands were bought at a party store. In order to allow the fingers to bend, wire hands were made to fit inside the rubber hands. Its clear to see in the pics how they were made.

Five thick pieces of wire connected to a plastic wire housing unit. The bones on the hands were made from pieces of PVC pipe. Use your own hands for the measurements. To prevent the pieces of pipe from sliding off, bend it at the end.



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We wanted to make the cauldron from a large plastic oil drum but they aren't very easy to find. We tried other alternatives but they were dwarfed when set in front of the witch. After a long search we found one at a drum recycling company. Pieter cut the top of it off with a decoupe saw and spray painted it black

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Pieter found 2 copper rings in the scrap pile at his work which he thought would be great to use for the handles. Of course there are many other alternatives to use.

For the fire under the cauldron, we used a 1 meter long 220 volt light rope. The light rope that we already had was clear so we wrapped orange tissue paper around it to give it the proper color. Of course if you have to buy the lights, then you're better off just buying the colored lights from the store in the first place. Holes were drilled in the bottom of the cauldron, 2 across, so that the light rope could be attached with tie wraps.

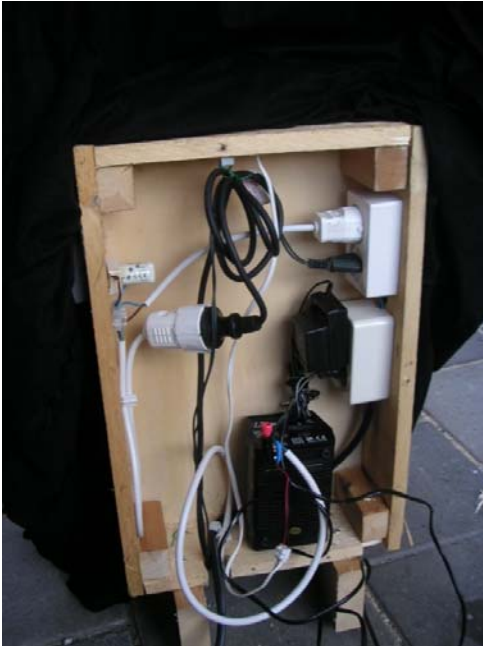


Of course just having the lights didn't make it look like a real fire. It needed to flicker. We accomplished that by adding a starter switch from a fluorescent light tube between the light rope and the outlet. Another rope light with green tissue paper wrapped around it was placed inside the cauldron to give it a spooky lighting effect. We weren't happy with the effect and eventually replaced it with a green spotlight.

The motor used to move the stick stirring the pot, came out of a laminating machine and was operated by a 12v adaptor. Of course other types of motors can be used, but its important that the motor has a delay. The motor is attached on the inside bottom of the cauldron.



The edge of the cauldron was finished off with pipe insulation material made from foam. It has a slit on one side, so we slipped it on and then later spray painted it a copper color to match the handles. Since we didn't have a long thick tree limb available, we made our stick from PVC pipe and gave it a wood color. There is also a piece of PVC pipe under the cauldron which the fog travels through to enter the cauldron.



This photo shows how the electronics were frame between the witch's legs. To prevent an arranged to fit into a small cabinet in the wooden octopus of wires, two double outlets were made from which only one electric cord remained. The upper outlet contained the plug from the green spotlight and orange rope light. Here its clear to see the flicker starter in the upper right corner. The two adaptors for the motors were plugged into the bottom outlet. With two different adaptors, you can easily adjust the speed by rising or lowering the voltage. If the witch is going to be sitting outside, its also a good idea to make it water proof.



We searched high and low and we finally found this witch mask on the internet. It wasn't exactly what we wanted but it kind of grows on you after awhile.



We put the mask on her, set the hat on her head and whala...the final result!

