



<http://www.mourningcemetery.com/Projects/GroundBreaker/index.htm>

Ground Breaking Zombie



About a year ago, we saw someone use a neck massaging motor to power some props for their haunt. We thought this was an excellent idea and decided to make one of our own. So here is our version of a Neck Massaging Ground Breaking Zombie.

First, about the motor. You need to look for a "Shiatsu Neck Massager" which we found on Ebay for 20.00 shipped. The whole basis of this prop is to use the circler motion of the massaging "fingers" to power the zombie.



Once you get the motor, tear off the cloth covering on the motor. You will see two "fingers" attached to the motor. We tried both ways. Once, without the white plastic knob, and one with. We actually found that the white plastic knob worked the best, so keep it on the motor.

Now let us warn you, before you go any further, you need to have a ton of patience. To get the motion you will like, you need to test and re-test and this will take you a while. The reason is you have to be conscious of the weight (don't want to be too top heavy because than the motor will not turn). You have also have to be conscious of the range of motion. If you let the motor run freely, than it will get stuck to one side and it is not powerful enough to pull itself back. Just wanted to give you this warning before moving forward.

We used two different types of PVC for the figure. First, we used 1 1/2" which is attached to the motor. The white plastic knob we kept on the "finger" of the motor is used to attach the PVC pipe.



The second size of PVC was 1". We used that to frame the zombie. We used a 1" Cross fitting to create the shoulders, attach the head, and stick a piece of 1" PVC half way down the 1 1/2" that is attached to the motor. Do not attach the 1" piece of PVC into the 1 1/2" piece. You will this to sit freely in the 1 1/2" so make sure you make the 1" long enough that it will stay inside, but not touch the motor.

Also you will see we attached the motor to a wooden base. We highly suggest this as this will increase the base's width and weight so that the zombie will not tip over.



Now until you see it for yourself, the motion is hard to describe. The best way we can put it is like how the Earth revolves around the sun. The motor and PVC will act like the Earth. Just as the Earth spins while going around the Sun, so will the PVC that is attached to the motor. Now as long you don't want a tornado zombie spinning in the ground, you will have to not only control the path around the sun, but eliminate the spinning.



We built a frame to control the motion of the zombie. This way the motor does not go too far in one decoration and not be able to pull itself back up. We also used tie straps to control the spinning so that the zombie will only look in one direction.

Now the patience will come into play when you figure out the dimensions of the frame for the motion and the tie straps.



Lastly, we began building the body for the zombie. This is as simple as buying two sets of LIGHT WEIGHT shirts (can't stress light weight enough). I bought a white one to be used as his body (flesh) and the other for his rotted shirt. We spread a think layer of spray foam on the white shirt and painted it a skin color. The other shirt, we burnt (very carefully) until we achieved the desired effect. The finished product is below. We also have a movie of the motion.

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com