

“Are There Skeletons in Your Closet? If So, Corpse Them the Easy Way”

Make-N-Take/Instructional Course
Canadian Haunted Attraction Conference 2014

Course Instructor:
Dr. Bill Ramsay/*Dr. TerrorEyes*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course the attendee will:

- 1.) Become familiar with the components, challenges and techniques utilized in creating a “corpsed” skeleton effect which may be used in a home haunt, commercial or pro-haunt.
- 2.) Under supervised instruction, apply minimal skills to create a corpsed skeleton.
- 3.) Learn safe and correct applications of the completed product.

DEFINITION:

A “corpsed” effect will be applied to a skeleton supplied by the course attendee. Unlike latex adhesive with its associated problems/issues, this technique is quick and simple. It utilizes few components and dries very quickly. The components are inexpensive and easy to acquire. The Heat Gun and the can of *Minwax* wood stain can also be used for other future projects.

Some images of this course may be found online at:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.917127268300998&type=1&l=b7c7eddd82>

REQUIRED ITEMS (total cost is approx. \$21.44) Components found at *Harbor Freight (HF)* and *Lowe’s*.

- (1) Roll of 0.5 mil Clear Plastic Drop Cloth (9’x12’), at HF #95142, \$1.99.
- (1) Natural Bristle Brush (2”), at HF #36928, \$0.69.
- (1) *Drill Master* Electric Heat Gun (1,500 watts), at HF #96289, \$13.99 on sale.
- (1) Can of *Minwax* Wood Finish, “Red Oak 215” (8 oz.), at Lowe’s #99657, \$4.77.
- (1) Skeleton of any material.

- (1) Pair of scissors to cut the thin plastic drop cloth.
- (1) Rag to wipe away wood stain.
- (1) One pair of vinyl (non-latex gloves) gloves.
- (1) Slotted (flat blade) screwdriver, medium sized – to open the wood stain.
- (1) Two tablespoons of yellow acrylic paint (you probably have some already).
- (1) Shirt or blouse of 100% polyester (a Goodwill store item is fine).

PROJECT TIME: It should take about 25 minutes to complete.

Legal Disclaimer:

By making any device or using any information from this seminar or informational guide, the user assumes full responsibility and liability for any product's use. William K. Ramsay or "Canadian Haunted Attraction Conference" is not responsible, nor liable for any damage or injury caused by designs, instructions, products, tools, or mechanisms. This includes, but is not limited to: injury, bodily harm, property damage, and/or death. The user of these products should use extreme caution when building as well as displaying these props. The props presented here have not been tested for any safety standards or regulations.

STEP 1 – Getting ready to wrap.

- Unroll about a two-foot wide piece of drop cloth plastic.
- Cut it with the scissors.
- Then unfold that piece to see how long it really is.

STEP 2 – Wrapping your bones.

- Wrap a piece of unfolded drop cloth around the torso (chest and hips) of the skeleton. Wrap snugly, but not tight and don't worry about wrinkles. It is okay to overlap.
 - Do the same for the head, neck and shoulder.
 - Do the same for the each limb **but try to wrap it in a vertical manner – following the length of the limb.**
 - Shoulders, arms and hands -- one piece per arm.
 - Hips, legs and feet -- one piece per leg.

STEP 3 – Melting it into place.

- Starting at the head, use the heat gun in a slight side-to-side manner, slowly approach the plastic drop cloth on the skeleton until it starts to "shrink-wrap" itself onto the bones.
- Work one limb or area at a time.
- There is no "right" way. Just keep watching the results and modify as you go along.
- **Be careful not to get too close or touch the gun tip to the plastic (or your skeleton or yourself for that matter!!).**
- It looks good when the empty chest (abdomen) has shredded "parts" or holes of thinned drop cloth stretched over it.

STEP 4 – Coloring.

- **Be sure to wear the vinyl gloves now!**
- Using the natural bristle brush and *Minwax* Red Oak 215 wood stain, lightly brush a slight bit of the wood stain on the plastic drop cloth which has now been shrink-wrapped onto the skeleton.
- Work a one square-foot area at a time.
- Wipe it away somewhat with the rag.
- You want to achieve a “brownd/dried skin” look.
- You can use your heat gun from about a foot away – waving it back and forth quickly over the skeleton to dry the stain quickly.

STEP 5 – That “something extra”.

- For that super-cool effect, you can use some sparse hair from a *Dollar Tree* store cheapie partial wig (glued to the top and rear of the now-shrink-wrapped skull) fastened with *3-M Spray Adhesive*.
 - You can also insert cheap plastic eyeballs into the skull’s eyeball sockets. (You may have to first cut out the sockets in a cheap plastic skull.)
- You can partially shred the 100% polyester shirt and place it onto the skeleton. Then “age” it quickly by using the heat gun close to it and give it a aged/charred and wrinkled appearance.
- Flat black spray paint can be applied inside the chest cavity to darken it, if desired.
- A golden-yellow acrylic paint may be lightly dry-brushed onto some areas of the finished “skin” to add detail and depth.

ABOUT ME

- Board Certified Optometric Physician, Halloween Prop Creator, Home Haunter, Commercial Haunter, author, lecturer, and 32nd Degree Freemason.
- Some of my Halloween prop work may be viewed online at:
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