

HOW TO DESIGN AND BUILD A CREEPY OUTDOOR CEMETERY

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Tombstones

- **2" white Styrofoam**
- **Cutting foam**
 - knife
 - Hot Wire Foam Factory knives www.hotwirefoamfactory.com
 - construction hot knife www.demandproducts.com
- **Leave the plastic on one side of the foam to glue the epitaph on**
- **Epitaphs**
 - Where to find them
 - One of the largest online collections
http://www.horrorseek.com/home/halloween/wolfstone/HalloweenTech/grsepi_Inscriptions.html
 - **Carving the epitaphs**
 - Print out epitaph at the desired size. You can do this by printing them in one word at a time or use Excel or a design program that can "tile" print the whole epitaph (We use Illustrator)
 - Leave the plastic on the foam, and glue the epitaph onto the foam
 - Carve out with an Exacto knife or Dremel
- **Adding extras**
 - Add skull or decorative accent with gorilla glue or any other water activated glue
 - www.vandykes.com has lots of accents



- We use pre-cut top shapes made of black poster board to design the tops of the tombstones
- cracks and carve out areas to make it look aged
- **Painting tips**
 - Find recycled paint in your area - much cheaper than hardware store
 - Paint one coat of black to cover the foam
 - One dark gray coat, with a sponge or solid roller
 - Light gray coat with a sponge or sponge roller
 - age the tombstone by using watered down black paint to make drips on the letters.
- **How to keep them standing**
 - cut out strips in the back
 - glue in 1" PVC with construction adhesive
 - cover with expanding foam for extra strength

Molding and Casting

- **Making molds**
 - Brush on silicone rubber
 - Mother molds Plasti Paste
- **Casting**
 - Expanding foam
 - Plastics



Skeletons, Cages and Coffins (oh my)

- **Cages – bending aluminum**
 - Aluminum can be found at local hardware store
 - metal tapping screws
- **Aged to perfection**
 - Great Stuff and spray paint
- **Simple toe-pincher-coffin design**



- Making wood out of foam
 - use pink foam and wire brush
- **Corpsifying**
 - Latex paint
 - Liquid Latex
 - Spider webbing
 - Skeletons
- **Make your own demon**

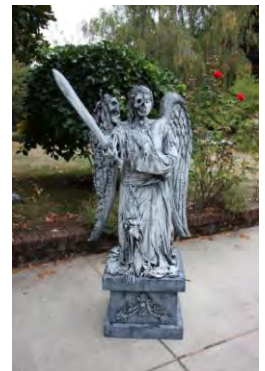
Monster Mud Creatures

- **Inspiration – Terror Syndicate**
 - www.terrorsyndicate.com
- **Ingredients – monster mud and burlap**
- **Making monster mud**
- **four parts drywall mud, one part outdoor latex house paint**
- **Dipping choices**
 - Burlap, clothing and fabric
 - dip them in water before dipping in monster mud
 - cover material completely - use paint brush to touch up dry areas
- **Making them water resistant**
 - polyurethane in a spray bottle - need to treat every year



Monuments

- **Think bigger**
- **Making an impact**
- **Combined** construction techniques
 - Hair and face features are made with monster mud and paper towels on a male foam wig head
 - When using clothing or sheets, be sure to cover chicken wire with bubble wrap or foam or the wire frame will show through
 - Project large images for carving onto the foam with a Tracer (found at hobby stores)



Large Structures

- *Build a model first*
- *Getting the big job done*
- *The Mausoleum*
 - 1 x 3s and plywood squares make the frame for a 4x8 piece of white foam
 - Put the structure together so that you can mark the lines for grouting
 - Construction tubes for the columns covered in sheets dipped in monster mud for the columns
- *The Hearse*
- *The Abbey*
 - Rough up the foam to look like stone with a kitchen scouring pad
 - Sea sponge roller for large paint projects
 - Vinyl “stickers” (printed at a Fastsigns) on Plexiglas



Animated Props



- *Animated spider*
- *Grave digger*
- *Moving coffin Lid*
- *Driver- 3-axis Bucky Skull*

Special Effects

- *LED Spotlights*
- *Video effects with Pinnacle*
- *Video bust*
- *Video ghosts*
- *Preacher combined effect*



Helpful links

[The Home Haunters Prop Building Handbook - Steve Hickman](#)

www.terrorsyndicate.com

[LED Spotlights](#)

www.minispotlight.com

[Rear Projection Screen Material](#)

www.rosebrand.com

[Foam Cutters, Coatings, Fasteners](#)

www.demandproducts.com

[Latex Head, Hands, body forms](#)

www.ghostride.com

[Mold Rubber / Casting Material](#)

www.smooth-on.com

[Pan & Tilt and Servos](#)

www.servocity.com

[Burlap](#)

rayssupplycompany.com

[Skull n Bones Mask \\$16.00 \(Mud men masks\)](#)

www.badplanet.com

[Animation Motors](#)

Dayton 3M096 replaces 2Z806

www.grainger.com

[Fog Machine \(American DJ Fog Storm 1200\)](#)

www.planetdj.com

[Skeletons](#)

www.skeletonstore.com

www.mr.skeleton.com

[Black speaker wire](#)

www.electronicplus.com

[Skeleton Cage Design - Brian Lorsung](#)

www.davisgraveyard.com/Skeleton Cage.htm

[Prop controllers](#)

www.efx-tek.com

[Friendly Plastic](#)

www.amaco.com

[Sinister Scents](#)

www.shop.dreamreapers.com

[Web Gun](#)

www.minionsweb.com

www.davisgraveayrd.com

