

DEREK GREENWORTH'S HALLOWEEN PAGES

<http://www.madhauscreative.com/Halloween%20projects.html>



These instructions are written to illustrate the method which I used to create realistic bats for either indoor or outdoor use. While they were inexpensive to create, they were extremely time consuming! So if you are in a hurry to make multiple bats, this probably isn't the method that you will want to use. If you're looking for a prop that will be weatherproof, and sturdy enough to last year after year, then this is the method for you!

Material List:



The materials used for this construction include:

- a hot-glue gun
- aluminum foil
- side cutter pliers (or wire cutters)\
- a sturdy wire coat hanger
- and some scrap paper.

Step 1:



The first step is to crumple up your scrap paper to get the relative shape that will eventually become the body of the bat.

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com

Step 2:



Wrap the paper wad with black electrical tape as tightly as possible until it conforms to the shape of a bats body.

Step 3:



Pierce through the body with a sharp object. I used a dental pick, but any object that can poke through the tape and paper will do. I suppose a standard ice pick would also work great.

Be careful though, because the paper and tape are wrapped so tightly that the pick had to be worked through slowly.

Step 4:



Cut and straighten the wire hanger. Insert the hanger through the body as shown above. Make sure that the wire is long enough to be bent to form the wings in later steps.

Step 5:



Use the side cutters to shape the wings to form the familiar inverted "W" shape of the bat's wings.

Step 6:



Use the hot glue gun to help keep the wings from moving.

Originally i intended to anchor the wings in place with the hot glue, but it wasn't strong enough to keep the wire in place. Frustrated, I developed the next step, which worked out great in the end.

Step 7:



Position a small piece of scrap wood (or plastic) behind the wings. This wooden piece will provide the stability that is needed when the wings are decorated.

Step 8:



Once you get the wood in place, wrap that sucker in electrical tape as tightly as possible.



This shot shows how the bat should look after the wooden slat is taped on to anchor and stabilize the wings.

Step 9:



Place the bat form on some plastic sheeting. I used a trash bag, but in hindsight, I think that a heavier plastic tarp would have worked better.

After placing the bat on the plastic outline the shape of the wings with a black magic marker.

The photo above shows the outline in yellow so you can see it more clearly. Make sure to give about an inch of extra space around the close hanger to make it easier to attach later.

Step 10:



Cut the outline from the sheet using scissors. Notice the extra space that I left to make it easier to attach in the next step.

Step 11:



Lay the body on top of the wings and fold the seam over the hanger. Tape in place with the electrical tape until the entire wing is sealed.

Step 12:



After both wings are completed, add the finishing touches such as ears and eyes. The ears are easily made from folding electrical tape into a triangular shape and taping to the head. I used a dot of glow in the dark fabric paint to give the eyes a creepy glow..



This shot shows the bat as it hangs in my basement. I screwed a threaded eyelet into its back to hang it for Halloween, but have it held in place with a clamp in the photo.



Another shot of the bat. You can see the glowing eyes and the ears in this picture.