

# The Beakman's Halloween Page



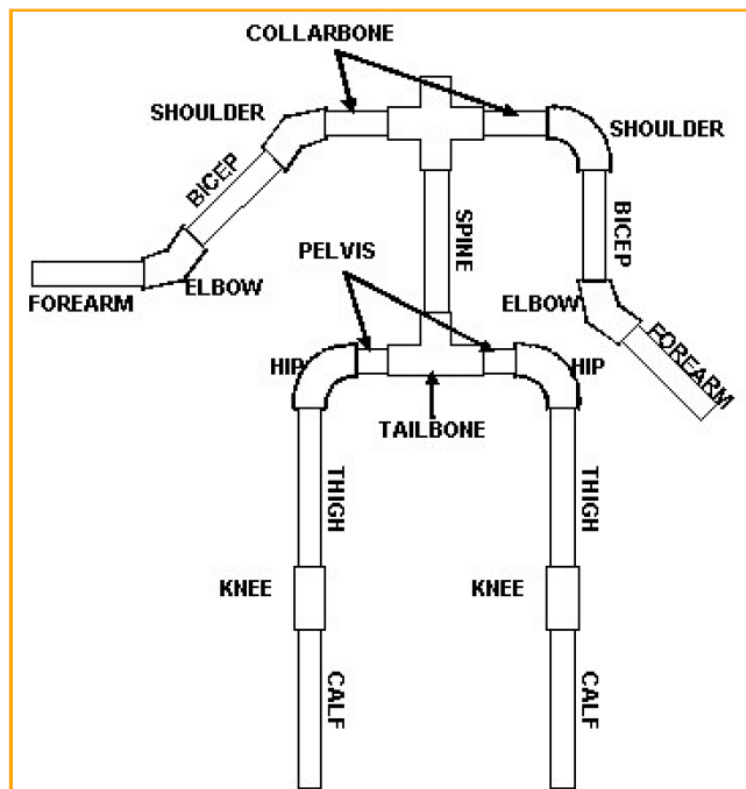
<http://www.buffnet.net/~beakman/halloween/projects/pvc-fig.htm>

## **PVC Figures**

All the figures in my display are made using a PVC pipe 'skeleton' frame. I originally got the idea from Spooky House Productions. The basic idea is to use lengths of PVC pipe for the main 'bones' of the figure, and various pipe connectors (e.g., straight, 45-degree elbows, 90-degree elbows) for the joints.

The advantage of this over a wooden frame is that the PVC pipe is lightweight but strong, and the figure is easier to pose in different ways using the various PVC pipe connectors. I use 1-inch diameter PVC piping in my figures. A diagram of how to assemble the figure is given below.

(Dimensions are in inches)  
Spine: 18  
Collarbone: 7  
Bicep: 12  
Forearm: 11  
Pelvis: 4  
Thigh: 17  
Calf: 20



The above measurements are for a person a little over 6 feet tall (I was my own model), so change them to suit the size figure you want.

Once you've cut the PVC 'bones' to the desired length, decide how you want your figure posed, and then use the appropriate PVC pipe connectors (45-degree elbows, 90-degree elbows, etc.) to connect the bones. Keep in mind that you will need at least one 4-way connector for the spine-collarbones-head connection, and one 3-way connector for the spine-pelvis connection (the 'tailbone'), as shown in the diagram. Glue the 'bones' and 'joints' together with PVC cement, and you've got a nice frame figure.

The best thing to use for heads are the styrofoam heads used to display wigs or hats (Check your local yellow pages for wig sellers). Simply glue a length of wooden dowel up through the bottom of the head, so that about 1 foot is sticking out of the bottom of the neck, and slide that into the top of your PVC 4-way connector.

If you want a skinny, skeletal figure, just dress the frame up as it is. To fill out the chest a little bit, I simply take a plastic bag from the grocery store, loop the two handles around the neck, and stuff it with newspaper.



To mount the figure on dirt or grass, simply pound some 3-foot long, 1-inch diameter wooden dowels or pieces of rebar about halfway into the ground, and slide the ends of the legs over them. If your figure is wearing a long cloak, just make sure it's long enough to reach the ground and you're all set. If you want your figure to be wearing shoes or boots, then you'll have to cut out the bottoms of the shoes (or at least cut a hole for the PVC pipe to fit through) so you can still slide the leg bones over the supports embedded in the ground. Spooky House Productions has a good method for mounting the figure on concrete or any other surface you can't stick supports into.



***Some tips:***

I usually don't glue the spine to the 3-way tailbone connector. This way I can separate the top half of the figure from the bottom half for easier storage. Also, this allows some twisting of the torso while posing the figure.

I also don't glue the shoulder connectors to the collarbones or the biceps. Again this allows removal of the arms for storage and more options in posing the figure.

You definitely must glue the 'pelvis bones' to the tailbone and hip connectors, or your figure may slowly start leaning over during the night (unless you want a tipsy ghost!).

Obtained from  
Omarshauntedtrail.com