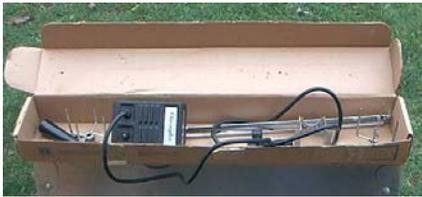


# Flying Crank Ghost

## Cheap & Easy

[http://www.geocities.com/hillbilly\\_nurse/HALLOWEENfcg.html](http://www.geocities.com/hillbilly_nurse/HALLOWEENfcg.html)

The flying crank ghost is the pinnacle of Halloween props. She is graceful and mysterious. A truly unearthly experience to behold. I wanted one the first time I seen one. The flying crank ghost or FCG as it is known in the haunt world is the great creation of Doug Ferguson. At his website, [Phantasmechanics](#), he details the construction of the FCG and offers videos, books, and kits all for the FCG. The flying crank ghost is an articulated motor driven marionette. My budget is a little on the skimpy side so I opted to use a barbecue rotisserie motor I picked up second hand. It doesn't offer the reliability or the power as the Dayton motor used by Doug Ferguson, but it serves the purpose. I based my FCG on [Ron's](#) plans. He used a rotisserie motor to power his FCG. I chose to use a different crank mechanism than he did. I chose to use one of the original rotisserie rods for the crank. I made some modifications to it and the motor to make it work.



This is the barbecue rotisserie as I found it. I picked it up for \$5 at the Salvation Army Thrift Store. A new one is about \$25. Saved some cash and got a very good rotisserie that had been used very little. Looked like it had only been used maybe once or twice.



This is the 1" x 2" furring strip that makes up the platform of the flying crank ghost. It was 85 cents at the lumber yard. Be sure to get a really straight one without lots of bark and splits. You just need one of them. And you'll have some left over after you get done cutting it down to size.



Here is the furring strip cut down to size. The dimensions aren't critical, but I'll post 'em when I get out to measure the thingy. Basically, your building a "T" shape with them.



I started off by marking the center of the furring strips with a pencil so I could join them together square and true. I found the center of the shorter furring strip by dividing its length in half. The center of the longer strip is half the width of the furring strip itself. When you line up the pencil marks and square the two pieces at the top of the "T", you have a nice, regular "T" shape.



I fastened the furring strips together with 4 1" drywall screws. I predrilled the holes with a small drill bit and an electric drill. You want to predrill the holes to keep from splitting the soft wood. You can see one of the predrilled holes left and below the drywall screw on top. I then flipped the "T" over and put two more screws in the opposite corners on the other side. The drywall screws do a good job of making a tight joint. A little bit of wood glue would even make the joint stronger.



And this is what the platform for the FCG mechanism looks like put together. I'll explain later on about the whole in the stem of the "T".



I took the cover off the rotisserie motor to expose the gear motor inside. The square rod just slipped in the socket on the drive shaft of the motor. So I came up with a way to keep it in place. I inserted the rod into the socket of the drive shaft and then I took a small drill bit and drilled completely through the socket and the rod. Then I took a small aluminum nail and put it through the hole and bent it over on both sides. This keeps the rod from falling out of the hole when you turn the motor upright. I drilled the hole far enough up on the motor that the nail would clear the cover and not rub while the shaft was turning.



This is another pic of the nail through the driveshaft of the motor.



This is the motor all back together with the crank attached. I fed the crank through a 5/8" hole in the platform. Note the shape of the crank. I bent the square rod by putting it in a crack in the sidewalk and leaning on it!!! It works. Also note the eyelets that the fishing line will run through. There is one on each corner of the platform.



This is the hole through the platform for the shaft of the motor and the crank. The hole was drilled with a 5/8" spade bit. I drilled about 1/2 way through the 1X2 with the bit and then flipped it over and drilled the rest of the way through to prevent splintering.



I then lined up the motor on top of the platform. Then I temporarily fastened the motor to the platform with black wire ties. Note the little silver screw about 1/2 way up on the end of the motor. I used it to fasten a steel bracket to keep the motor from shifting around while the crank was rotating.



These are pics of the spool that goes on the end of the crank. Its nothing more than a large fender washer with three holes drilled in it on a large bolt. I can't tell you what size the bolt is but about any size will do. I ran the nut on the bolt down until it was out of threads. A little hose clamp was used to fasten the spool to the end of the crank.



This is the steel bracket I mounted on the end of the motor to keep it from slipping around. The bracket was found at the lumberyard among the truss plates. Don't know exactly what this thing is called but it works great for this. I had to drill a hole to match up with the screw on the motor and for the three drywall screws I fastened it to the platform with. I put one of these brackets on each end of the motor. They keep the motor very still and no twisting occurs while its running.



Here is a pic of both brackets fastened on to the motor. I left the wire ties on there. Couldn't hurt anything. You may have to use something else to keep your motor from twisting around but for this particular one these brackets work great.



Here is the completed platform with the motor and crank assembly. A quick touch up with some flat black spray paint and Voila!!! Note the eyehooks on the top and bottom of the platform. The ones on top are to fasten it up in ceiling of the shed (Read as: Hillbilly Mausoleum). The bottom ones are to run the fishing line to the arms and the head. I taped the cord from the motor to the platform with black electrical tape on the head end of the platform.





I made the hands for the ghost out of coat hangers and masking tape using the idea from John Hart's page. I'll put a link in when I get a chance.

Here is an under the ghost view showing the motor, crank, and the ghost's head. The body of the ghost was made out of coat hangers following [Doug Ferguson's](#) original plans. I used a styrofoam wig head from Sally's Beauty Supply. The cheesecloth fabric came from the lumberyard in the furniture stain section. I used plain old blue fishing line from Walmart to string up the FCG.



Here is the final pic of my FCG. I call her Elizabeth. I hope to have a night shot with the black light on her soon. I need to work a little on the cheese cloth draping yet but you get the main idea. For a complete description of FCG instructions, please visit Doug Ferguson at [Phantasmechanics](#). He offers kits and videos and explains the whole thing better than I can.

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