

The Art of Halloween Haunting

http://www.halloweenpropmaster.com/Dougie_head_hack.htm

Here's the step by step to use a Talking Douglas Fir Tree (Dougie) as a replacement head for your Singing, Dancing Santa. I'd like to thank fellow Utah Haunter Douglas Holladay for teaching me this Dougie Hack at a [Rocky Mountain Haunters Gathering](#).



On the left you can see the Douglas Fir "Dougie" in the box and below, as it comes out of the box.



The bag of parts (hat, etc), the tree top, and the power supply are not used and can be set aside. Only the main body of the tree is used.

Remove the screws from the bottom of the base and cut the wires close to the electronics in the base.

The entire base and electronics are not used.





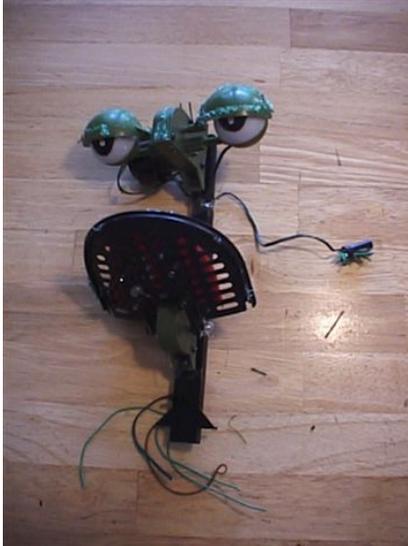
Pull the wires up and unscrew the tree trunk from the base.



Remove the branches from the trunk by unwrapping the branches and cutting a few tie-wraps.



This is what you are after, and the only part of the Dougie that is needed to use it with a Wal-Mart Singing, Dancing Santa.



The Santa provides the electronics to drive the motors.

On the Dougie to the left, you can see the infrared sensor (wire going to the right) which will be removed.

This Dougie has two motors (some have a single motor drive both the eyes and the mouth).



Here's the Dougie part and the \$2 Styrofoam wig head that will serve as a form or base for the Dougie part.



I've marked the section of the foam head I'm going to remove with a hot wire foam cutter. You can use a knife or hacksaw blade if you do not have a foam cutter.

You can also remove the part between the two marked areas. Just a simple cut from the top of the head down.



This Size "M" connector (Radio Shack part # 274-1577) can be attached to the wires from the hacked Dougie which will allow for easy plug in to the neck on the Santa.

I've used electrical tape to attach the Dougie to the foam wig head.

The head allows for a good fit of a mask that will cover the head and mouth and eyes.

Find a good mask with a moveable jaw. (see bottom picture)

The 4 remaining wires (2 from each motor) will be twisted together to form two wires that attach to the Santa plug on the neck.

Details on the correct wiring will be shown on that page when added and a link placed here.

(Just test the wires by holding them one stuck down into the hold on the connection, the other held against the outside with your finger. This will insure you get the wiring right. The Dougie will only work wired one way.)



This picture shows the bottom of the foam wig head with the connector attached and ready to plug into the Santa neck. I've cut a small groove into the foam to allow the for the wires.



Here you see the neck with the connector plugged in.

To the right you see the Dougie hacked head just setting on the neck. Last year I used a hot glue gun to hold the neck on. This year I'm using a connector type attachment, shown on the next page (link below).



Below you see the Dougie Hacked head with a mask.



I've taken a 2" PVC joint (the inside diameter is just under 2 1/2") and used a saw to cut it in half. The connector was about 4-5" tall and I didn't want that much neck.

I then used a Dermal Rotary Tool to make it slightly larger by going around the inside lip with a rough sanding type bit. It now fits onto the outside of the Santa neck stump.



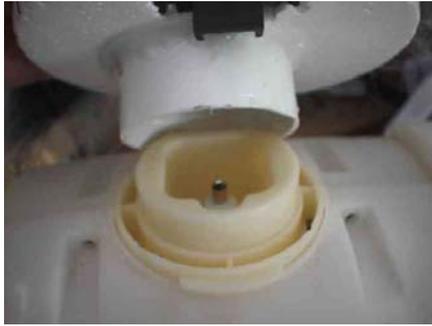
I hot glued the other side of the joint to the base of the Styrofoam wig head.



Here you see the view from the bottom of the wig head. You see the connector that will plug into the Santa neck connector and a small screw I added to tighten after the PVC is slid over the Santa neck stump.

(See below)

The screw goes into the plastic of the Santa neck stump to secure the head on tightly.



Here you can see the PVC about to slide over the Santa neck stump. (After the connector is plugged in).

Then I tightened the screw (in the back).



This photo shows the Dougie head with a mask and the PVC glued to the neck and attached to the Santa neck stump.

The eyes will light up, the mouth will move with the speech from a CD player attached to the aux. input on the Santa, and the head will turn from side to side as he talks.