



<http://www.halloweenforum.com/album.php?albumid=522>

Tutorial: Outdoor flicker lights

I love the flicker lights using tea lights but I wanted something that I could put on a timer. So I hacked a string of Christmas flicker lights.

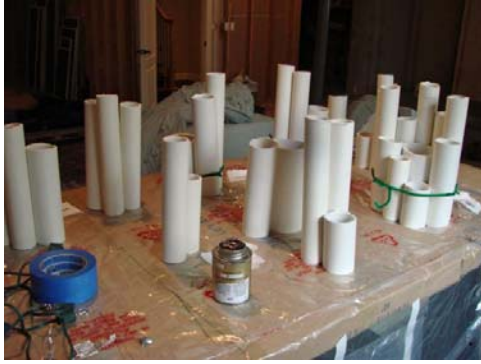


I hacked a set of outdoor Christmas flicker lights to make this. The following pictures shows you how to make the candles but I did not show how to make the waterproof connections. If the wires between the sockets are not long enough to reach between the candles, either make your candles short enough to reach or learn how to make waterproof connections. If I'm electrocuting anybody, it will just be myself so I'm not giving instructions in this regard. Sorry :(

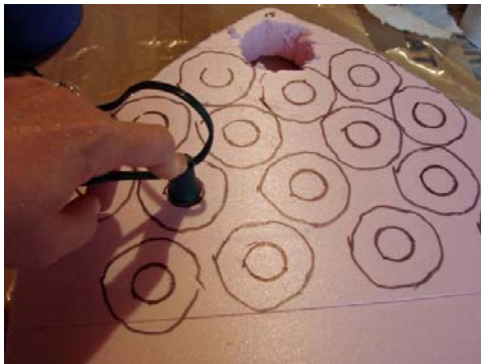
UPDATE: PushEject had updated this with a much safer method. Buy C7 sockets, flicker bulbs, wire and a male plug and make your own custom flicker light set. You place the lamp wire into the groove in the socket and lightly hammer in the end cap. The socket has metal pinchers that puncture the wire and makes the connections. It seems much safer and easier. Here's a link to the socket set so you can see what I'm talking about and where you can buy all the lighting supplies.

<http://www.actionlighting.com/item-detail.asp?ID=1405&MainCategory=&Sub=>

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Omarshauntedtrail.com



Cut out PVC using either a PVC pipe cutter or circular saw. I hear the PVC pipe cutter is easier... :) Then glue your preferred arrangements using PVC glue. I had to re-glue a couple of times to have it hold.



Push down a PVC pipe to make an impression of the inside of it. Cut it out and use that as your template for the others. Use a socket to make an impression of the inside. I used 1 1/2 inch pink or blue foam for this (it was leftover).

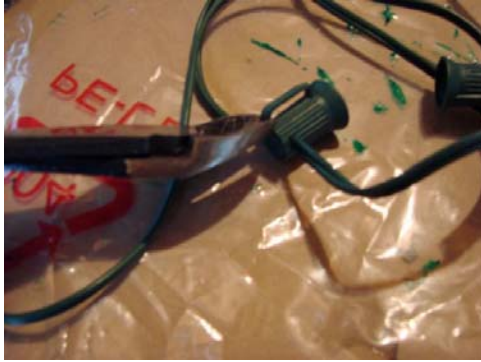


Cut out the centers first and push out. Then cut out the circles and separate. I used a Dremel with the small router attachment multi-purpose cutting bit.



Clean-up the edges and blow off the dust.

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Snip off the clip on the side of the socket. If you need to extend the wire length, you need to make sure you make water-proof connections. Since I'm not an electrician and I'm just guessing how to do that, I'm not going to show how I made mine. I don't want to be responsible for anyone getting electrocuted, just myself. Sorry :(

UPDATE: See the suggestion I put on the first tutorial picture for an alternative way that you can make your own custom flicker light set by purchasing C7 socket sets, flicker lights, male plug and wire.



Push up socket into foam circle and snuggle it back down into the candle.



I used caulk to cover up and seal the foam.



To keep hot glue and spray paint from getting into the socket, cut out circles of blue painter's tape.

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To keep a lot of rainwater collecting, find the lowest part of the top that is away from the center of the candle grouping and mark. If you need to make an even lower area for water to drain off, cut a trench with the Dremel.



To give a glowing appearance and to hide some of the bulb you will need to build up the top of the PVC. Starting at one edge of the cut you made, circle the top with your glue gun. Let cool and repeat until you get a nice build-up. It takes about 5 passes.



Starting from the outside of the top zig-zag large swaths of glue being sure they butt up as you go down. Gravity will connect it to give it a nice covering look. As you reach the bottom, add large glops of glue and that will give you a bulbous drip at the bottom.



Add a second layer to cover the gaps left by the first layer.

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Keep adding drippings until you like the look. Then, take outside and spray paint lightly with a matte ivory or white paint. Flat looks dead and I would think gloss paint would look weird. Take off the blue circles and Walla! You are done.



This gives you an idea of how I will arrange these in the graveyard. I hot glued a dowel into the tombstone to hold them upright and then will hot glue the bottom of the candles simulating wax drippings. Thanks for looking at my project :)

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