

Terror Tom's Halloween Page

http://www.geocities.com/hillbilly_nurse/HALLOWEENtomb.html



Make your own tombstones and turn your yard into a haunted cemetery. I chose to make mine out of 1/2" and 3/4" AC plywood. I got it for free so I couldn't complain.

Some people use styrofoam and carve elaborate designs and the epitaphs into the foam. I wanted something a little quicker and besides my carving skills leave a lot to be desired.



I cut the plywood to shape using a jigsaw with a blade designed to cut wood. It worked pretty well. I then painted the tombstones with some gray exterior paint I picked up at Big Lots for \$6 a gallon. I painted the epitaphs on with black enamel paint. Check out my personal list of [epitaphs](#). Below are some of the tombstones I cut out. I made 27 in all.



The elaborate bat design was cut out using a table top scroll saw.



Now you ask, "How do you get them to stand up?" I used some flat galvanized metal strips from the hardware store. Each piece measures 1/8" x 3/4" x 72". I cut the metal strip at an angle to have a point to make it easy to stick in the ground. At first I used a hacksaw to cut the metal bar and then I thought enough to use the jigsaw with a metal cutting blade in it.

Much easier especially when its like 90 degrees out. I then used a center punch and a ball pein hammer to dent the strip in two places to keep the drill bit from wandering when I drilled two holes in it. I then attached it to the back of the tombstone with a couple of 1" drywall screws.

Tool & Materials List:

- 1" drywall screws
- hacksaw
- center punch
- ball pein hammer
- drill bit
- screwdriver bit for drill
- electric drill
- jigsaw
- 1/8x3/4x72 flat metal bar



This is the metal bar before being attached to the tombstone. Notice the angle at the end of the bar and two holes drilled into it.

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com



This is the bar attached to the bottom of the tombstone.



This is the back of the tombstone. You can hardly see the metal bar in this pic. The metal bar can be easily pushed into the ground. And easily pulled out. If the drywall screws go through the front, don't worry. The bar is so low on the tombstone that it probably won't show at all.



The finished product....pretty cool, huh?

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