

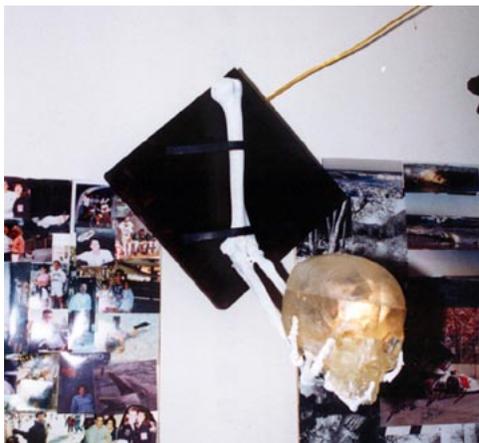


<http://griplipproductions.homestead.com/skullight5.html>



These skull-n-hand light props will be used to light the walkway that will lead up to the house from the street.

I plan on making 8 of these props. Here are some photos of the first two I have made. Keep in mind that I am not an electrician, and I do this stuff at my own risk.



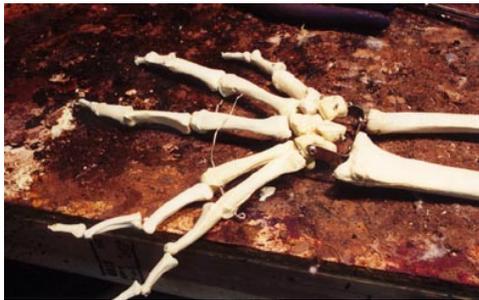
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First, you must unscrew the finger bones from the bracket the holds them to the wrist bones.



Take the fingers and flip them over and then reattach them to the bracket. This is so that the fingers will be on the correct side when it is attached to the skull.



The next thing to do is remove the wire that holds all the fingers together.

Take a pair of wire cutters and cut right through the spring looking thing that is between the fingers. Then gently pull the wire out one finger at a time.



Now, to hold the wrist at the right angel for the skull I used marine epoxy putty that you can buy from Home Depot.

By playing with the skull in the hand you can figure out the right angle for the wrist. Take the putty and push it into the wrist and fingers bone area. Smooth it out as best as you can. Prop the arm up so that it will hold the right angle that you want and let the putty cur over night.



For the elbow I used J B Weld, you can also buy this at Home Depot.

Make sure that you get as much of the J B Weld into the joint area as possible.

Then prop the arm up so that it will hold the angle that you want and let the Weld cur over night.



While the arm is curing you can look for a something to mount it to.

I used a scrap piece of wood. Now that the putty/weld has completely cured you will need to hold the arm to the wood mount and make a mark where the wire will go.



Drill a hole big enough for the wire to go through

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After the hole is drilled you will need to paint or stain the wood mount. I used red oak wood stain. Make sure to get it down the hole you just drilled.



While the wood is drying you can mount the skull to the hand.

I have made two of these props at this point in time. I made one with the lower jaw intact and one with out the lower jaw. Either way is fine.

Put the skull on the hand and find the best spot for it. Move the fingers around and just play with it for a second.

Once you have the skull in the right spot, take a marker and the hand from inside the skull, where the cut out circle is.

With out moving the arm pull the skull away and put some hot glue just out side of the mark you just made. Let that sit for just a second and then put the skull back on and hold until the hot glue cools. From in side the skulls add more hot glue to the hand and skull.



Now that the skull is firmly attached to the hand, we now need to secure the fingers.

Adjust the fingers to the area that you want them to touch the skull. There is a piece of curled up wire that sticks out of the end of every finger.

With a pair of wire cutters, carefully cut that piece off. Use eye protection, sometime the wire will shoot across the room.

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Now put some hot glue on the end finger bone and attach it to the skull. I then added a drop of glue at each finger bone joint, just in case the tip bone came loose from the skull. This should make it harder for the bones to come off the wire. Do this to all the finger bones.



Now it is time to add the light socket inside of the skull.

First you will need to drill a hole in the back of the skull for the wire to fit through.

In the photo I cut the light socket wire real close and then added the white wire. This will make it easier to hide the wire underneath the bone.



I secured the wire to the bone with wire ties. After I had the wire in the right spot I hot glued them in place. Try not to use a lot of glue. After the glue cooled I removed the wire ties.



To hold the arm to the wood I used chain link fence tension bars that I had left over from another project.

I cut a piece about the size I thought I would need and then started to bend it. I took an old pry bar that is about the same thickness as the bone.

I put the pry bar on the ground. I then put the tension bar over that and held one side down as I hammered the other side.

I then reversed the tension bar and hammered the second side. I did this until I had a hump in the middle big enough for the bone to fit under. When you put the tension bar over the bone, you should have approx.  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch gap at each side of the bar. This is so when you screw it down it will hold the arm in place.



I then drilled holes at both ends for the screw to go through.



After drilling the hole's I then spry painted them black.

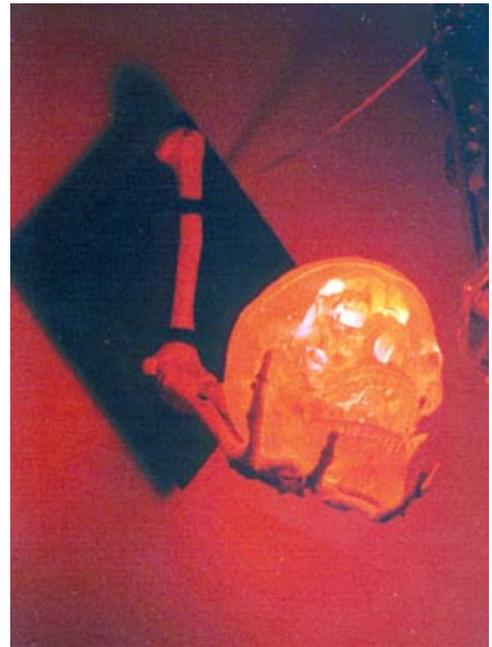
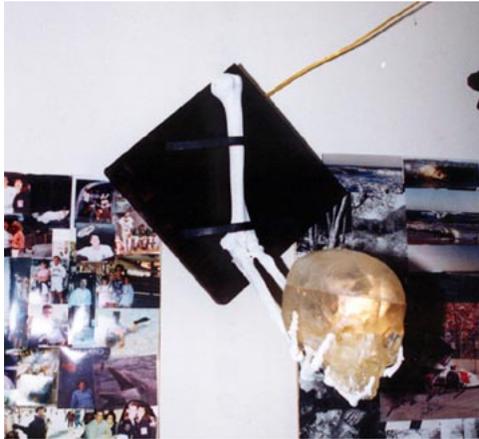


Before mounting the arm to the board, I painted the arm with a white primer that an artist would use on a canvas.

I believe it is called Jessup. It is commonly found at craft stores. After that dried I ran the wire through the hole in the wood and then secured the arm with the tension bars.

It is best to tighten one side a little and then the other side a little and then back to the first side, until the arm is secure. If you hear the bone start cracking it is tight enough

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