

# DEREK GREENWORTH'S HALLOWEEN PAGES

<http://www.madhauscreative.com/cheap%20skulls.html>



In order for this procedure to work, you must first own at least one pre-existing skull. In this tutorial, I will be working with two different skulls. One large latex/foam skull, and a smaller hard plastic one. Both were purchased at my local Big Lots store for only a few dollars. I must also add that instead of actual hours of time for this project, I have gauged it against a more realistic measure of effort; the soundtrack to the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

## Material List:

The materials used for this construction include a hot-glue gun, glue sticks, aluminum foil, white, off-white, and black acrylic paint, a jar of india ink and a hobby knife or razor blade.

### Step 1:

Start the Rocky Horror Picture Show CD. Cover the skull that you wish to reproduce with aluminum foil. Be sure to wrap the foil around the bottom also, as you will need this area for support later. I usually cover the entire back with one large piece and use smaller separate pieces for the eyes and nose. You may have to work the foil in order to get all of the textures that you desire. If you are using several pieces of foil, sometimes it helps to put a small "dot" of hot glue to keep the aluminum foil from shifting around.

**Tip: To keep the foil from tearing, I wrap it loosely around my finger before putting it in the eye socket. This keeps the foil from tearing when you smooth it into the socket.**



## Step 2:

Once the skull is completely covered in foil, begin covering it with the hot glue. I always do the eye sockets first so that I don't have to work around other areas to reach in there later. Trust me.... Do the eye sockets first or you will get messy. Once the eyes are finished, move on to other areas of the skull. Although I'm sure other techniques will work, I always move the tip of the glue gun in small circles while applying the glue. This lets the tip of the gun to "stir" into the glue that you already applied and keeps the skull from having visible seams of glue.

You will undoubtedly notice that there will be pits where the glue is thicker or thinner than adjoining areas. That's okay because it gives a creepy texture to the skull that will really come out once you start painting it.



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### Step 3:

Continue applying the hot glue in small patches until you have the top and sides of the skull covered. Once that the glue is hard to the touch, turn the skull over and begin working on the bottom. **THERE IS NO NEED TO COVER THE ENTIRE BOTTOM WITH GLUE.** You only need to use enough glue on the bottom to create a strong ridge along the bottom edges. This ridge is what will support the weight of the finished skull.

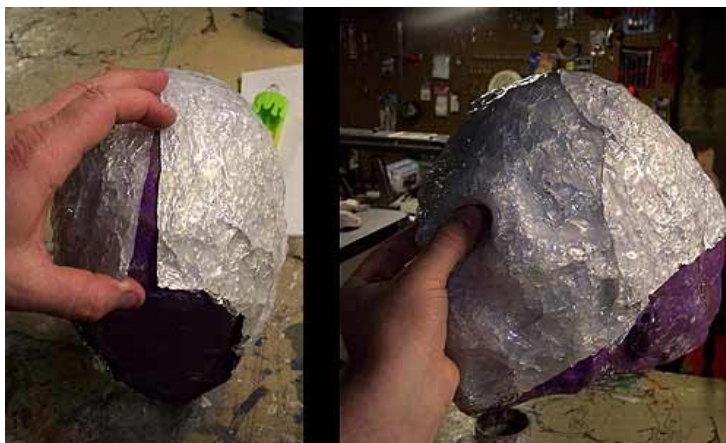
### Step 4:

Allow the skull to completely cool down. This usually only takes about three or four minutes.



### Step 5:

With a X-acto knife or single edged razor, carefully slice through the skull and aluminum foil from the back edge to the crown of the skull. Be careful, this project isn't worth loosing a finger.



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**Step 6:**

Pry apart the sliced areas of the skull. At this point, the glue should be fairly flexible and should peel off of the original skull without too much difficulty. Sometimes the eye sockets tend to hang up more than the other areas, so you might have to squeeze that area to loosen it up a bit.

**Step 7:**

Reach inside of the new skull and peel away any excess aluminum foil. You may also want to take your X-acto Knife and trim any edges where the foil is still hanging.



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**Step 8:**

Now its time to glue the cut that you made in Step 5. Using your glue gun, run a light bead of hot glue on one edge of the cut and hold them together until the glue hardens. Once it holds together, I always run another bead in a criss-cross pattern on the inside of the skull to give it extra support.

**Step 9:**

Next, you need to examine the outside of the skull for holes or areas that still show aluminum foil. Quickly patch these areas with a small drip from the glue gun. By now, you should be at the end of your Rocky Horror Picture Show Soundtrack, so you will need to start it over.

Your skull is finished. Now it is time to paint it. Continue to page three for a painting tutorial.



**Optional Step:**

It just so happened that the width of the smaller skulls were the approximate length of a glue stick. So for extra support, I glued the stick to each end or the insides to give it some more structural support. This isn't really necessary, but what the hell, right?

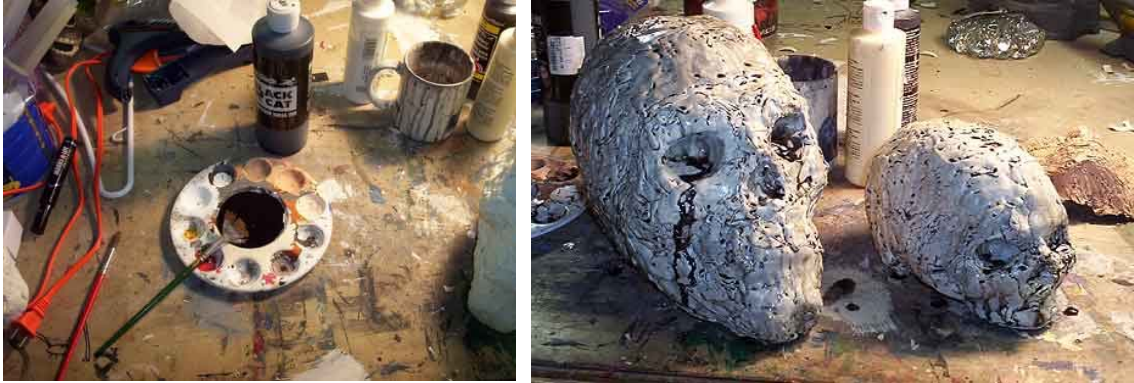
**Decoration:**

I recommend that you produce several skulls and have a stockpile of them before you begin decorating. If you try to decorate each skull on an individual basis, you will waste countless hours if you intend on making several of these props. The best method of doing this is to paint them like you are working on an assembly line, performing each step on all of the skulls at a single time. This will be much more efficient in the long run.



### Step 10:

Paint the entire skull with cheap white paint. Don't worry that it makes the skull look cheesy, its jut to help the other paint from looking opaque later on. Make sure to fill all of the little nooks and crannies with paint or the next step won't work correctly. Allow the paint to dry thoroughly. If you rush these steps, your project's color will turn to mush and look bad, so be patient.



### Step 11:

Make a wash of water and black Cat india ink or black acrylic paint. I like the ink better because it doesn't adhere as easily, and that allows you to shift it around if an area accidentally becomes too dark. Using a fan brush and the watered down ink, cover the skull completely, allowing the wash to seep into the recessed areas of the skull. By now, you will be realizing that this is a really cool project. After the skull is covered and ink has dripped all over your table, dab it from the skull, removing the big areas but leaving it in the cracks and recessed areas. Wipe off your table, and let the project sit over night.



**Step 13:**

Paint over the skull with an off white or light crème colored acrylic paint. Use a fan brush so that most of the recessed areas will still show the blackness of the previous ink wash. Let the sucker dry again.

**Step 12:**

Prepare another ink wash. This time cover the entire skull and let the ink seep into the cracks again, but leave it on the flat surfaces too. Allow to dry. Your skull is now ready to scare the crap out of visitors. Now clean up your lab, feed Igor, and go about your way.

Obtained from  
Omarshauntedtrail.com