



[My Ghoulish Friday](http://www.ghoulfriday.com)

http://www.ghoulfriday.com/classic_spider_victim

Classic Spider Victim



There are countless versions of this spider victim or cocoon victim. I'd always liked it, and decided to attempt it in 2004 as my first full body, all from scratch prop. Click on the titles to see a full description of each step.

Step 1: Create a Frame

Generally, it is best to use PVC pipe to build a frame. I didn't have any, and I couldn't afford to buy it. So I built mine out of wood.

You don't have to worry about arms and legs. Your spiderweb victim will be in a rounded cocoon at the end of all this. You just want a somewhat rectangular shape that:

- is wide at the top (almost the width of shoulders)
- narrow at the bottom (almost the width of two feet forced together side-by-side)
- has something on the very top where you can attach your head/face (that's what the piece of wood sticking out the top of the middle of my frame is for). If you are using a full mask, make sure the piece of wood is the same height as the mask with a little extra room to screw the bottom of the 'neck' to the body frame.

Seriously, there are better ways to make this frame. Do a search online to try and find them!



Step 2: Wrap in Chicken Wire and Cotton



Chicken wire creates the bulk of the cocoon over the entire except the face. Bend the chicken wire gently into a rounded shape around the body (it took 2 pieces for this), over the shoulders (two smaller pieces) and then another around the head shape area (resting the top on that short piece of wood). You'll need wire clippers to cut the sheets of chicken wire.

First I bent the chicken wire around the body, overlapping the two ends where they met, and tucked the cut ends of wire into existing/uncut 'holes' in the chicken wire. I bent the wire of cut ends to wrap them around those intact 'holes' to tie them in place. **Wear gloves!** Chicken wire can be rather nasty on the exposed edges. I'd also suggest wearing a long sleeved shirt so you don't scratch up your arms.

Next, I attached the shoulder pieces, and bent the cut wire so it attached to the body sheets.

I made a paper mache head which I attached to the wire frame. If you are using a full mask for this prop, I suggest you slip it over the top of that piece of wood (the neck) BEFORE you put the chicken wire over the top. And then stuff the mask with newspapers or plastic bags or whatever you have on hand. I then attached the head piece of chicken wire to the shoulders.

I also made a paper mache hand which I attached to the side of his body with wire (framing wire you use to hand pictures).

I then wrapped sheets of cotton over the wire (covering the wrist while leaving the hand exposed, and covering the head leaving the face exposed). You can buy the sheets of cotton in large bags at any craft store (it's used to stuff pillows) or you can get an old comforter and use the stuffing from that. You could even cover it in spiderweb cotton I suppose, but it would be more time consuming. You want the cotton fairly thick or else the outline of the holes in the fence will show later in this process.

Step 3: Latex Paint and Webs



I covered the cotton in latex paint tinted greyish-green. It hardens it up pretty well. And finally, I stretched webbing around it and covered it in spiders.

Obtained from
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