



**Scarymount**

**Manor**



<http://www.scarymountmanor.com/gallows.html>

## Gallows



Here is a great prop that appears harmless and, when timed right, delivers a good, unanticipated scare. The first year we used this prop, we had a blow-molded skelly hooked up to it. It worked really great because everyone would just write the skelly off as just hanging there, phony, and not pay much attention to it then WHAM! The arms fly up to grab you! Last year we upgraded the skelly to a rubber one and ran into some operative issues. This year, we have it all worked out.



I took great care to make certain the filament lines in the top photo were visible to you. At night, you cannot see them.

Last year, the line we used was too light and kept breaking under the weight of the skelly arms. The lighter weight filament line worked ok with the lighter, blow-molded skelly, but was not strong enough to hold up with this skelly.

Brother Lu wanted a more realistic looking skeleton than your average blow-molded one, so we upgraded. The new skelly reacted differently

when operated so we had to modify the gallows to accomodate it.

First, you need to build a gallows. We used some landscape timber which, when not used at Halloween, doubles nicely in the garden as a place to hang a lantern. Call it "creative storage".

At the top of the gallows, you'll need to create wooden extensions for the small hooks through which the filament line will run. Sorry, the extensions are painted black, and are a little hard to see in this photo. If you look at the top photo and follow the lines, you can see where they run.

The hangman's noose holds the skelly in place, and a heavy metal rod is inserted in his spine and into the wood behind him. This is a stabilizer to keep the skelly from getting out of control when you jerk the lines to make his hands pop up. We created a blind behind him and covered it with see through camo material. when its dark it works great - no one can see the operator.

What you do is wait until your ToT's are passing by, and when they least expect it, you pull the lines and they jump out of their skin. The whole thing operates like a giant marionette. We do not involve the feet though. . . that was a disaster.



Extensions