

HauntMaven.com - Wolfstone's Haunted Halloween Site



http://wolfstone.halloweenhost.com/PropsMisc/sgnhar_Harbingers.html

Harbingers: Signs Of Things To Come

The Wolfstone Haunt is only in full operation for one night a year. Parts of the haunt are on display for the preceding week.

For a long time, David has campaigned for some sort of advance advertisement to let the neighborhood know that we would be doing something for Halloween. One year, we put out fan-blown inflatable pumpkins.



In 2005, David led the creation of a sign...

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com

Concepts

It all starts with the concept - the vision.



As this scratch pad demonstrates (upper left), David had a vision from the start of what he wanted the sign to look like.

Other designs might be done in subsequent years - we particularly like the "HAUNTED" sign (lower left).

Cutting And Routing



David started by laying out the text on a computer and printing on numerous sheets of paper.

The sheets were glued to the board using [3M Super 77](#) spray contact adhesive.

Don't use too much, do only one surface, and allow to air-dry before putting together. Remember - you have to get it off again later!



The letters were carved into the wood with a router.

The router was adjusted to go about 3/4 of the way through the top layer of the plywood.



Here's David, routing the letters, following the glued-on paper template.



Close up of the routing.



Most of the template peels off the wood easily.



A few bits of the paper template have to be scraped off.

Obtained from
Omarshantedtrail.com



Final carved sign.

Paint And Stain



After the lettering was routed into the wood, Diana put black enamel paint into the recessed lettering. She used whatever black paint we happened to have around, oil-based RUST-OLUM flat black enamel.



After filling in the letters, the sign was sanded. This gets rid of spatters, router "fuzz", leftover spray adhesive, etc.

For the staining and weathering, Dennis used three flavors of Minwax stains:

product	description
Minwax White Oak	This is a water-based stain. If you apply this generously, subsequent coats of oil-based stain don't stick very well.
Minwax Golden	This is a light, oil-based stain. It soaks rapidly into the wood, unless you previously

Oak	put a lot of water-based stain there.
Minwax Special Walnut	This is a dark, oil-based stain. It soaks rapidly into the wood, unless you previously put a lot of water-based stain there.

Our reasoning was that old wood might be faded and bleached by the sun - hence the white stain. But anything that was kicking around for a long time would be dirty.

So we did a base coat of the white stain, with some smears of the darker colors.

Mounting

The sign was mounted on a "lodge pole" from [Home Depot](#). This is essentially a wooden pole about 8 feet long, pressure-treated to resist pests.



We chose to drive the lodge pole into the ground using a "lodge pole driver" (in the gardening department) from [Home Depot](#). You may also find it under the name "fence post driver" (in the construction materials department).

The device consists of a heavy, weighted tube, with handles, closed on the end.



The driver slips over the pole and is slammed up and down to drive the pole into the ground.



Al holds things steady while David mounts the sign.

He used simple drywall screws, long enough to go through the plywood of the sign and deep into the wood of the pole.

The more screws you use, the harder it is for somebody to steal it.



David made some special cast plaster skulls to decorate the top of the pole.



The more screws you use, the harder it is for somebody to steal it.



More screws on top make it hard to lift the skulls off the pole.

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Final Decoration



We will use some dark red hot-melt glue to simulate blood drips.



Dennis adds some blood: wait until the glue gun is good and hot; start at the top of the drip; push a lot of the glue through the gun, while moving the glue gun down with the drip.



Close up of adding a drip.



David applies some blood drips to the skulls.

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