

Death Appeal

<http://www.deathappeal.com/>

STIRRING WITCH



Scary isn't she!! Well maybe not real scary but I think she turned out quite nice.

It took several weeks for me to build because I couldn't get the right motor. All the projects similar to this talk about using a rotisserie motor which is about 3 rpm. To me this was way too slow.

I wanted something people could see moving as they drove by. I ended up using a 20 rpm continuous duty motor from McMaster Carr Part # 6142K45 single phase sub fractional AC gear motor face mount, 20 rpm 20-in lbs torque. This one worked the best.

Although you may not be able to see it in the picture, the stirrer has a small bucky skull with flashing LED eyes.

There are also two black rats on the rim of the cauldron with flashing red LED eyes. I didn't pay attention at the time but I should have used different color LEDs.

I had to make a body and I wanted it to be stable because with the 20 rpm motor I knew there might be a problem with it tipping over. Some of the designs I've seen used either 3/4" or 1" but I decided to use 1 1/2". Again, I figured if it was heavier it would be more stable.

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com



I don't have any real measurements so you will have to sort of play it by ear. You will notice that the one leg is longer and that was the back leg to help support the body. Since there would be a rocking motion and the arms were going to be pushed back I decided to add this for support.

The sort of oval shape at the top was for her shoulders and the overhang in the back was used to put a "hump" in her back. The elbows on the "hump" were only added to give it a rounded look. I only glued some parts but the hump I left loose so I could adjust it to make it any height. I did the same thing for the shoulders and they could be set high or low in case I needed to make adjustments.

At the top I put a PVC reducer which will be a bit clearer later. The two eye bolts were added to support her arms.

Her arms were made of 1/2" PVC. I didn't want to build any hands so I got some Don Post which I think were called Hazel hands. They were marked down and I didn't like the first pair (Hell Hands) I had gotten.



The black patches in the middle of the hands are Velcro. These held her hands in place on the staff while she is stirring the pot.

I super glued them to the hands since the adhesive on the back of the Velcro would not stick for very long and with the cold weather it would come off.

Since the arms would be moving I knew that the sleeves would have a tendency to ride up the arms. The left arm is shown with some of that polyester filling you can get at Wal-Mart.

I rolled it on the PVC and then used some green paint to give it some color. This way if the sleeve rode up, you wouldn't see a white stick.

For the fingers I used some heavy gauge copper wire. I added some small PVC pieces for joints but it isn't necessary. The copper wire is very easy to form around the staff.



The staff or stirrer was made out of 3/4" PVC. I wired up two LEDs and sort of decayed a Mr. Thrifty skull then mounted it on top.

I ran a wire down the PVC and drilled a hole about 1 foot from the bottom and pulled the wire through.

The two black patches at the top are the other part of the Velcro for the hands and the black strap at the bottom is just a Velcro strap I used to secure the wire around the staff so it wasn't pulled when the shaft moved.

If you do this leave yourself plenty of slack for the wire so you have something to work with. You don't want the wire so short it pulls when the witch is stirring.