

Groundbreaker Corpse



Have you wanted a realistic looking corpse for your Halloween display or party but don't want to spend hundreds of dollars buying one?

Here is how to create one yourself !

Here is a list of items you will need:

Hot glue gun & sticks

Duct tape

2 - Newspapers

1 - 1' x 2' piece of plywood ½ thick

1 - 14" piece of 2 x 4

19 - 1 ½" wood screws

2 - washers for 2 of the wood screws

1 - 12" long ¾" wooden dowel

1 - 10" long ½" pvc

1 - Skull (Styrofoam or light weight plastic work best, bucky skulls are too heavy)

1 - pair of bucky arms or skeleton arms of your choice.

1 - pair of eyeballs (if you choose)

1 quart of latex

Batting or paper towels

Small can of Gel stain

1 - Roll of paper towels

2 - 2" paint brushes

1 - garbage bag

1 - can of black spray paint

Aluminum foil

Craft paint in the colors of pink, red, yellow, light brown (this is for the gums and teeth)

1- small bowl



Step 1 -

You will need 2 newspapers for making the ribs. Throw away the sale ad's and the regular pages that are only 1 sheet wide.

Open the 2 page sheet as if you were going to read it. Now grab either the left or right lower corner and pull it into the center so that now you have a diamond shape instead of a rectangle in front of you.

Slowly start rolling the edge in front of you very tightly, you want it to stay small. When you have the piece rolled up take a couple of small pieces of tape and place around it in a couple of places so it won't come unrolled.

See picture on left, you want your rolled up newspaper to look like the one the skeleton is holding.

You will need to make 7 of these. (5-ribs,1-center rib,1-collar bone)

Now you are ready to cover them in duct tape.

Take the roll of duct tape and start to unroll it (about 6 inches long) take 1 piece of rolled up newspaper and place the duct tape on one end of the newspaper at an angle (this will help use less tape) so that you'll be wrapping it like the stripes on a candy cane. When you get all 7 wrapped with the duct tape set aside

Step 2 -

Lets get your skull ready.

If you want your mouth to be open you can cut the lower jaw off, position the mouth (jaw) as wide open as you want then using a hot glue gun and glue sticks, glue the jaw into that position. You can also put gaps in between your teeth or take a few out.

When the hot glue has cooled, turn your skull upside down. Mark a spot where you need to drill or cut the hole for the pvc "neck", keeping in mind if you want the head tilted to the upper right or left or looking up or downward, this will determine if you need an angle as you cut or drill your hole in the skull.

After you have you hole cut or drilled out take the 10 inch long pvc and place it in the hole, tilt or position the skull as you like then hold and place some hot glue around the outside of the skull around the hole and pvc. When cooled set aside.



Next, rip off a 6" sheet of foil and then cut in half to make 2 6"x6" pieces. Roll each one up tightly then, mold into a ear shape(see picture). Now take your hot glue gun and glue the "ear" onto your skull about where your ear would be on the skull. Next, rip off another small piece of foil and wad up into a small end of nose piece(see picture) and hot glue into the nose. This will give you a more defined facial look, you can leave it out if you wish. If you are planning on adding eyeballs of some kind when your skull is finished, cut out a hole about 2"x2" on the lower back part of the skull. When you have completed this, set the skull aside.



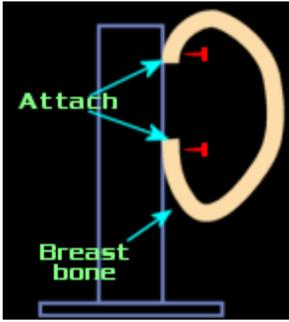
Step 3 -

Grab the 1ft x 2 ft piece of plywood and the 10 inch piece of 2 x 4.

Place the 2 x 4 in the center of the plywood then move it back 2 inches.

Using a pencil or marker trace around the base of the 2 x 4. Using 2 of the wood screws attach the 2 x 4 to the plywood. Hold the pieces on their side so you can hold the 2 x 4 to where you marked on the plywood and to see the back of the plywood so that you can also see where you need to start your screws.

When you have this piece finished paint both pieces black by using either spray paint or exterior latex house paint. Then set aside.



Step 4 -

To start building the rib cage, take 1 rolled up newspaper piece and gently bend it all over making it into a circle. We are going to attach this to the 2 x 4 so that it sticks outward. This is the center piece of your ribs and we will use this to attach all the ribs together along with attaching them to the 2 x 4. Screw the newspaper roll to the 2 x 4 using 2 or 3 screws (you many need an extra one on the top) make sure you put the screws on the “inside” of the rib cage - see picture!

(photo on left from www.spookyblue.com from his groundbreaker how to)



Next take the rest of the rolled up newspaper pieces and also bend them into a circle. Start at the top of the 2 x 4 and make a circle that is about 7 to 8 inches across, place it on the inside of the center rib then, on the back of the 2 x 4 overlap the ends of the rolled up newspaper piece and screw them to the 2 x 4. See picture.

Repeat this process again but gradually increasing the size of the ribs as you go down, keep in mind that on the 5th rib to make it sag downward little bit and on the 6th rib to have it sag down a more than the 5th rib.



Now take the roll up duct tape and tear off a couple of pieces about 5 inches long then tear each one in half the long way. Take the top rib and center it against the center rib and take two pieces of the duct tape and tape the rib to the center rib. Going across with the tape one side to another making an X with the tape pieces.

Repeat this process with each rib.



Step 5 -

See Picture in Step 6.

Grab your drill and a 7/8 wood drill bit. Place the tip on the top of the 2 x 4, look at where the edges of the drill bit line up make sure to get as close to the “rib” side as you can leaving 1/4 of an inch of wood on the edge. Drill the hole about 1 inch down. Do not drill the hole in the middle of the 2 x 4 as your neck will not look normal.

Using hot glue (or you can use liquid nails but it takes a lot longer to dry!) squirt a lot into the hole for the pvc, and quickly place the pvc into the hole, position your skull in the desired position and hold for a minute or two until glue cools.



Step 6 -

Take the 12” wooden dowel and place it on top of the 2 x 4, right behind the pvc, center it and now where the dowel is laying on the 2 x 4 mark 2 dots where we are going to be starting the screws to attach the dowel. Once you have the dots marked grab the drill and a 3/32 drill bit and drill holes where the marks are. Then start your screws.

Place the dowel back on top of the 2 x 4 and center. Screw the screws in the rest of the way down.

Now take two small sections of the rolled up newspaper - about 6 inches long and place one end of each piece on the wooden dowel towards the arm and the other end on the first rib towards the center rib and tape down, this will be your “collar bone”.



Step 7 -

Now, for your arms. If you want to spread out or bend your fingers, you can use a heat gun to do so.

You will need 2 washers (it doesn't matter what size just as long as they fit on the screw without the screw going through) and 2 screws.

Place the washers on the screws and start the screws into the end of the arm bone, Position the arm into desired position and attach the screw into the end of the wooden dowel.

Repeat steps again to attach the other arm.

If you are positioning your arms in an upward position you may need to use some hot glue and/or duct tape to hold the arm. Place the tape around the dowel and arm (or just hold for a couple of minutes in desired position) then squirt hot glue all around the area where the screw, dowel and arm meet. Let cool.

Now your groundbreaker is ready to corpse!



The one thing about corpsing is that there really isn't a right or wrong way to do it. It's all about what you think will look good and how you want your groundbreaker to look. Every corpse is different, some have bones showing, some don't, you can fold the arms as if your corpse has been laid to rest or have the hands stretching upwards or outwards, had just crawled out of a grave or ready to chase someone down. Whatever character or mood your corpse has will be unique, which makes it addicting to keep making more!

Another thing to remember is that you don't have to only use batting with the latex for skin. Try using paper towels. And, with that being said try using different brands that have a different thickness. This will give you another type of corpse look.

OK, on to the corpsing!

Step 8 -

Now that your groundbreaker is ready to corpse you will need to either lay a large piece of plastic on the floor or use it to cover a table where you will be corpsing at. You will also need to have an area covered with plastic where you are going to be applying the latex to the batting as latex will get all over.

Now get your corpsing materials, you will need 1 paint brush, gloves and batting (I keep the batting in the plastic bag so that no latex accidentally gets onto it). Pour about 1/2 to 1 cup latex into your small bowl.

When you start to corpse you can begin on any area you wish but, I usually start from the head down. I do this because it is easier to make larger sections of "skin" hanging down from one area to another. Keep in mind you don't have to do all your corpsing in one session you can apply wet pieces to dry ones.

If you want a large area "wrinkled up" make many folds and creases.

Rip off a section of the batting, you may want to make it thinner, just pull apart into 2 pieces (this helps to use less latex). Place on the plastic covered area you have prepared to work on and using the paint brush apply the latex to the batting. It will stick and be messy. It will help if you make sure to have plenty of latex on the brush and start from the outer edge to the middle. Once you get the batting all wet with the latex, with a tapping motion "tap" the bristles down into the batting continuously all over the whole area. This will force the latex into the batting making sure it gets wet all the way through.

If you are using paper towels instead of batting brush on a layer of latex on the area you of your groundbreaker that you are working on. Then apply the paper towel making sure to wrinkle the towel as you are placing it on your groundbreaker. Next take the paintbrush and apply a coat of latex to the paper towel making sure that the latex is soaking into the paper towel saturating it. When you have the paper towel positioned as you like continue on to the next area.

When you corpse the neck, be sure NOT to have the "skin" go from the front of the jaw down to the collar bone! That will give your corpse a "turkey" look.

After you have "finished" corpsing and have your groundbreaker looking the way you like, let him dry for a couple of days before staining him.

Step 9 -
To stain your groundbreaker you will need the gel stain, paint brush, latex gloves, many paper towels and/or rags. And don't forget to once again lay down plastic where you will be working!
For Staining working outside works best, if you are not able to make sure you work in a well ventilated room and are able to have the windows open.

Staining is pretty easy I start in sections (your color will not be affected if it dries in some spots while you are working) just dip your paint brush into the gel stain and brush on, to get into all the little creases and crevices tap the bristles into the area. Then using the paper towels wipe off. If your towel is getting saturated go back over the area with a new one to make sure all the high spots get wiped off and are a lighter color. Repeat continuously until your groundbreaker is the way you like it, and let him once again dry for a few days, preferably in the garage as he will be a little stinky from the stain.

If you want your corpse to have hair,
When the stain has been allowed to dry bring groundbreaker inside. Grab your hot glue gun, some fake hair (you can use the special effect hair in the make up section of your favorite Halloween store, or a Halloween wig hair works too.)
Either using small dots with the hot glue onto the skull of your groundbreaker or a small line of hot glue apply small sections of hair.

If you can see the areas hot glue through the hair, grab some adhesive spray (available at you local craft store) and spray onto the hair you have already applied and then add some more hair on top where you sprayed, this will hide any spots you don't want seen.
Now all you have left to do is add eyeballs if you wish and if you would like, you can use craft paint to paint the teeth if you got any stain on them!

And finally you have your own groundbreaker, completely unique and all yours to display proudly on Halloween night!

