

The Bride

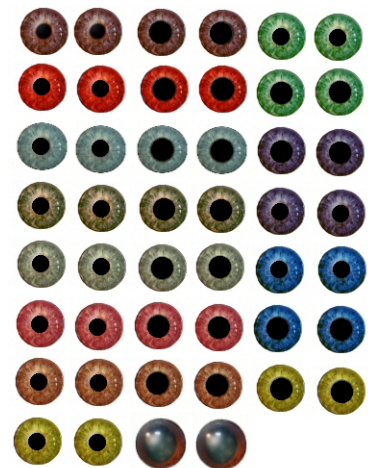
A tutorial by LaurieBeast from HalloweenForum.com

Let me start by saying what an amazing, creative adventure this sculpt turned out to be for me. This is my first anatomically correct sculpt and I learned mostly by looking at pics of faces. I sincerely hope the information provided here will help you with your sculpting project.

I started with a styrofoam wig head and cut out pockets in the eye area and cut off the mouth, chin, and neck with a small knife. I made the eyes using 1" wooden balls purchased at a craft store. Then I drove a 2" finishing nail into the ball for ease of handling. Next, the balls were painted white and when dry, I glued some printed irises downloaded from this site:

<http://www.hauntershingout.com/home/easyeyes.asp>

When applying the cut out irises, be sure to cut 3 or 4 slits from the outside to the pupil. This is necessary so that the prints lay flat against the round surface. First apply some watered down glue or use paper applique glue to the surface of the ball where you want. I used a small paintbrush to do this. Then I pick up the printed iris with the brush which now has glue on it and place it on the ball being careful not to tear or crease it. Then add a bit more glue and smooth it over the print. Now use the handle of the brush to gently press all the edges down sliding it from the center out. Set this aside to dry. Next a layer of clear nail polish was applied which not only adds shine, it also adds protection from all the smears that would come from the mache and paints. I just stuck the nails into a piece of scrap styrofoam.



Easy Eyes
HauntersHangout.com

For the teeth, I used an impression of my own made for me by my dentist. You can make your own teeth by purchasing the items found here:

<http://www.monstermakers.com/product/artificial-teeth-sets.html>

I used the tooth acrylic and made a copy of my teeth from the plaster mold the DDS gave me. I didn't bother with the gum acrylic because I wasn't going to wear these. I just used an air dry clay for the gums.





Next, I lengthened her neck by wadding up some newspaper and taping it to the bottom of the head. I also added that piece of neck that I had previously cut off to the bottom of this extension with masking tape.

Next, I started applying an instant mache product called Celluclay purchased at Michael's Craft Store. The Celluclay is mixed with water and produces a textured clay- like medium. I basically covered the entire head with a layer of this at about 1/4" thick. Since this stuff is pretty sticky, I kept dipping my fingers in water as I was working with it. Once that dried overnight, I added a bit more to define where her nose would be and added some more to the neck and forehead area as well as the temples and cheekbones. Then I tested the teeth for fit and added a chin.



I had to remove the chin and later reset the teeth because I had not set the bottom ones in at the correct angle. Next I started adding another product called Paperclay also purchased at Michaels. This is what helps to give her skin such a smooth surface and sands beautifully with drywall sanding screen. All her features will now be done with Paperclay. I like to put the eyes in now but they're not glued in...they just stay in place because of the size of the opening. I have approx. 15 coats of polish on the eyes added after I detailed with different colors using a teeny tiny brush with the polish applied after each color change. This was done over the several weeks this sculpt took to make.



Next, the teeth were inserted and the chin added. Also, the back of her head was built up using the newspaper and masking tape and covered in Celluclay. Then came the ears made entirely out of Paperclay and attached using a bit of water. Details were added including the tongue.





Her torso is made from a dress form covered with aluminum wire gutter mesh and three 1/4" layers of Celluclay both inside and out.





This is the point where her head is attached to the torso using tape and covered in Celluclay.

Once that dried, I completely covered the neck and torso in Paperclay and added detail. When that dried I covered the entire sculpt in a product called Sculpt-or-Coat purchased here: <http://www.sculpturalarts.com/>



Next came the stitches. I used craft wire and bent and inserted it into holes I drilled in the torso after the Sculpt-or-Coat and Paperclay wound slits had dried



Next she got a coat of primer purchased from the same supplier as the Sculpt-or-Coat.



Next, I prepared her head for hair. I ended up using faux fur purchased at JoAnn's Fabrics. First I glued some fine mesh netting to the edges of her front hairline. Then I added some fiberfill

stuffing and brought the netting over the fiberfill, glued the side and back hairline edges and twisted the back of the netting to hold it in place. This allowed for adjustment later on.



Then I added the white fur with a little tacky glue, and the black fur on top of that. I just kept pinning and positioning the fur, adding cuts and trimming off the excess. I used a combination of glue and handsewn seams to make it fit over the fiberfill and netting. Then I cut little slits in the black fur and pulled the white fur through the slits.



Her eyelashes and later on, eyebrows were applied using a push pin to make tiny holes. They were then glued in with a tiny bit of gel type Super Glue

I'll then paint on a product called Flat Plastic Varnish available from Sculptural Arts Coating at this link: <http://www.sculpturalarts.com/> to protect the entire sculpt. This is the same place that I purchased the Sculpt-or-Coat and Tough n White primer.



The armature for the arms are made using rain gutter wire mesh and electrical wire. I needed to do this with the armature on the stand so I could position them correctly.

I then draped some fabric on her to check for positioning and also added a temporary wire from the hand to the neck to help support the arm while it was being worked on.

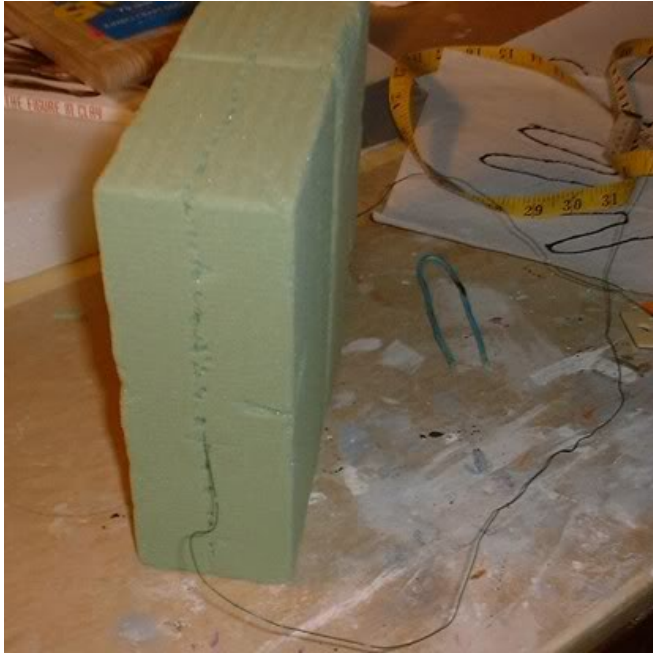
Duct tape, then Celluclay was applied and when thoroughly dried, I added the DAS clay on top of that.





When the DAS clay dried, I removed the arms from the stand to continue the process and here's what they looked like.

To make the hands, I used outlines of right and left hands as reference. Then I bent some wire to the approximate width and length of the fingers plus a little extra added to insert into the foam. For the palms and wrist, I just glued two blocks of dry floral foam with tacky glue and then cut that in half with a piece of thin wire. I traced the reference hand onto the foam and cut this out using a small knife and inserted the finger wire into it.





Next, I positioned the fingers and added the Celluclay and DAS clay as with the arms.





After the hands were dry, all the fine tuning was done....shaping, knuckles, acrylic fingernails, cuticles. I glued the fingernails on with super glue and then added a little skinny worm-like piece of clay around the edges to form the cuticles. Next, the hands were added to the arms. I inserted two U shaped wires at the wrist and inserted the hand into the wire that extended from the arm. Then positioned the hand and placed tape around that joint and covered it with Celluclay, let that dry, then covered it with DAS clay.

Finally, the last bit of sanding was done and two coats of Sculpt-or-Coat were added followed by a coat of primer and paint.



The stand was constructed of 3/4" galvanized pipe. A flange was placed in the center of two pieces of 3/4" plywood glued and screwed together. I also added some caster wheels underneath to help move this around.

The arms were then added after the head/torso was placed on the neck pipe using the wire that was originally part of the armature. Once positioned correctly, I used bolts and rubber washers on both the inside and outside to attach them to the torso.

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A final coat of Flat Plastic Varnish was then applied to the entire piece.