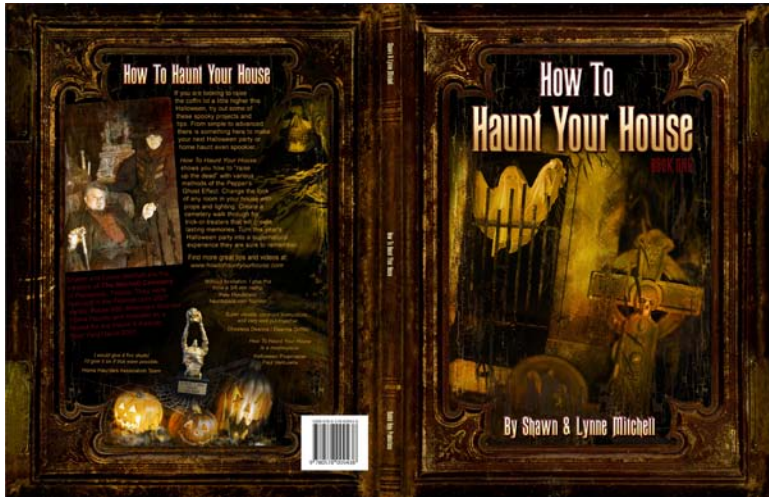


How to Haunt Your House



Pensacola, FL – March 2009—Husband and wife team, Shawn and Lynne Mitchell, have turned their modest home haunt, *The Mitchell Cemetery*, into a self-published book about Halloween decorating, prop building and special effects called, **How to Haunt Your House**.

With a fascination of Disney's Haunted Mansion, old black and white horror classics and movie special effects, the Mitchells created their own version of a Halloween haunted house and graveyard for over the past five years. What they learned along the way, they turned into their own how-to home haunt book. A lot of Halloween decorating books offer mostly projects for

children. **How to Haunt Your House** is geared toward the teen to adult age group and offers projects that range from simple to complex. Within the 98 page book are over 300 color photos, step-by-step instructions, tips and tricks for home haunters and inspirational photos of the Mitchell's past displays.

Readers will learn to create everything from Styrofoam props to special effects, like the Pepper's Ghost effect seen in the Disney's Haunted Mansion attraction. Learn how to make glow-in-the-dark candles made from PVC and hot glue. There are instructions for building your own mummy, scarecrow, or a drinking ghoul. A wide range of topics are also covered, everything from lighting, using fog machines, to creating a special entrance for trick-or-treaters and party guests.



Pete Henderson, hauntspace.com founder, says: "The content is amazing. Not only does the book offer a thorough index but the topics included in the first book start out on the ground floor in an easy to understand fashion. All of the content is illustrated with step by step instructions on how to achieve your goal. The book has pointers that outline all of the components of a prop and explains its features. The language is simple. I find this to be very important. Haunter talk can be understood by a person who has dabbled in this industry for a long time. A beginner should have the ability to navigate through the book and easily understand the lingo. This is the case here."

More information, additional online tutorials and resource links can be found on the website, www.howtohauntyourhouse.com. The website also features the Mitchell's past Halloween videos and photo galleries.

The Mitchell Cemetery has been featured in the 2007 FearNet series called, "America's Scariest Haunted Houses"... and was finalist for the 2007 Best Yard Haunt in the Haunt X Awards. **How to Haunt Your House, book 2**, is currently in production and will be available for October 2010.

How to Haunt Your House is a Print-On-Demand (POD) book and can be purchased online from LULU (www.lulu.com), Amazon (www.amazon.com) and Barnes and Nobles (www.barnesandnoble.com).



Tombstones look great outside or indoors this time of year. Create a variety of sizes and shapes for best effect. With one large sheet of Styrofoam you could get 4 or more size tombstones made at a fraction of the cost of buying equal sized props that are commercially made.

1 Transfer your pattern to the cut out Styrofoam tomb shape using carbon paper. If the transfer marks are not dark enough, go back over them with a marker.

Making Your Own Tombstone

Low Relief Style

You will need: 1 cutout Styrofoam tombstone, carbon paper, enlarged readable design (your own or one found online), hot paint gun, black permanent marker, hot cutting tool or knife, serrated knife, drywall compound (see page 17), brushes and wide craft paint (in colors of choice), paint brushes, latex gloves

2 Using a hot tool point, in this case, a soldering tool, go over the pattern lines. Heat melts the Styrofoam instantly, so you will need to keep the tool moving at a quick pace. For more accurate design work, you will need to cut the lines with an X-acto blade.

3 Using a mixture of drywall compound and gray color paint, called *Monster Mix* (see page 73), apply the mud with a brush to the entire surface of the tombstone. Be sure to cover all sides, letting each side dry completely, before moving on. No Styrofoam should be showing when you are done.

4 When the mud coat is completely dry, paint the raised surfaces with a darker, gray, craft paint and a wet brush. Some of the mud color can be left as is. This will help to achieve a more realistic "stone" color.



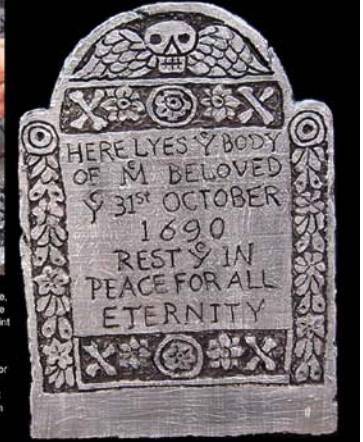
Note: Mix black and white craft paint to get gray color.

5 Once step 4 is dry, paint any carved or low surface areas with black, craft paint and a small brush. This will help the details to stand out.



6 Using a dry, wide brush and a small amount of white, craft paint, gently drag the brush over the tombstone surface. High surface details will catch the white paint and finish the "stone" look.

The "stone" look of our completed tombstone is perfect for any graveyard or Halloween setting. To give it an extra, spooky glow... spray it with glow-in-the-dark or blacklight hairspray (see page 24). Shine a blacklight in its direction and your ghostly tombstone really comes alive.



Bringing A Ghost to Life

Pepper's Ghost Using A Prop

You will need: a standing or suspended figure prop with white details that show up in blacklight, a sheet of Plexiglass large enough to reflect the prop, some black material or board plans for a backdrop, a blacklight, a second light source (does not have to be a blacklight), props or scene placed behind the glass, some cord to suspend the prop, a ceiling hook

In the Company

Suspended prop is hidden behind a large prop. Put black fabric or black plastic behind the prop and on the sides if needed. Point some blacklights at the prop, but positioned so they don't show in the glass. Position the sheet of glass so it is at a 45 degree angle to the prop, either right or left of the prop. Use stakes in front and behind the edges of the glass to hold it up. Use other strategically placed props or tree branches to conceal the stakes. You should be able to see the reflected prop in the center of the glass if standing in the viewer's position (usually behind a fence or obstruction). The goal is to control the angle the viewer will see the effect and how far away they will be from the glass.

Tip: It is dangerous to use real glass in a Pepper's Ghost effect. Someone could walk into it or break it. Plexiglass works just fine. Make sure you have a secure way of supporting it. Keep in mind that the wind may blow against it and could knock it down. Make sturdy supports wherever possible.

Using Indoors

Shown here: Stairs are cordoned off with hazard warning tape. A door-sized piece of plexiglass is placed on an angle at the top of the stairs in a doorway. Prop is suspended from the ceiling in a small alcove at the top of the stairs to the right. A blacklight is positioned on both sides of the prop, concealed from reflection with more black cloth suspended from the ceiling.

Other Materials

Glass on angle

Blacklight

Suspended Prop

Blacklight

This version of a Pepper's Ghost can be used indoors or out. Position the prop in front of a black background. Place one or more blacklights to the side or bottom of the prop so they do not have a reflection in the glass. The glass should be at a 45 degree angle to the prop and placed so the viewers can look into the glass and see the reflected prop. Other props or structures should conceal the prop and the blacklight. Behind the glass place more props or a scene setup for the "ghost" to appear in front of. A second light source should be positioned to light the scene, but not shine on the glass itself. Use a fence or obstacle to keep the viewers at a distance to the glass and keep the hidden prop out of sight.

In the room behind the glass, a sound activated lamp turns on and off as the sound of a woman mournfully crying plays on a tape player. This causes a viewer to look up the stairs and in the direction of the Pepper's Ghost effect.