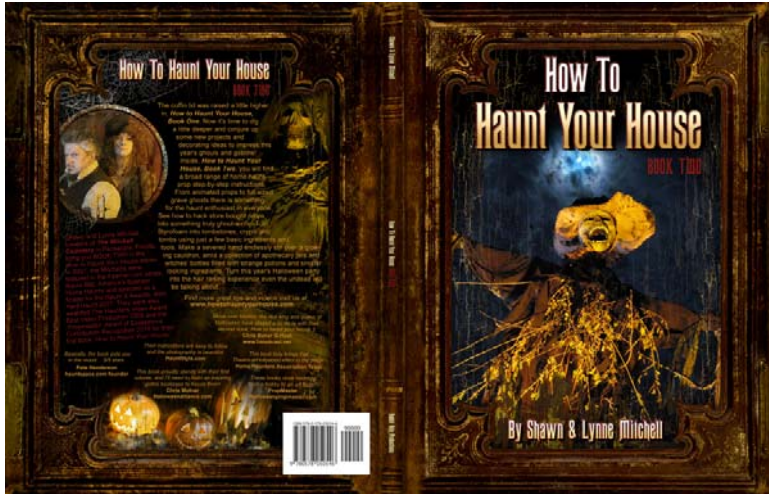


How to Haunt Your House, Book Two



Pensacola, FL – August 2010—Husband and wife team, Shawn and Lynne Mitchell, have written their second self-published book about Halloween decorating, prop building and special effects called, *How to Haunt Your House, Book Two*.

The coffin lid was raised a little higher in, *How to Haunt Your House, Book one*. Now it's time to dig a little deeper and conjure up some new projects and decorating ideas to impress this year's ghouls and goblins! Inside, *How to Haunt Your House, Book Two*, you will find a broad range of home haunt prop step-by-step instructions. From animated props to full sized

grave ghosts there is something for the haunt enthusiast in everyone. Readers will learn to create everything from a spider web covered spooky chandelier to simple motorized props that move. Learn how to make witches' potion bottles to creature cages. There are also instructions for building your own towering Gatekeeper, a scary Wolfenstein and a ghoulish Tomb Turner.

A lot of Halloween decorating books offer mostly projects for children. The *How to Haunt Your House*, book series is geared toward the teen to adult age group and offers projects that range from simple to complex. Within each 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.



Chris Baker, G-Host of Hauntcast.net, says: "Move over Martha, the real king and queen of Halloween have staged a cu de ta with their second book, *How to haunt your house 2*. I thought the Mitchell's would be hard pressed to top their first effort, but they have. This book is a must have for newbie haunters as well for experienced prop makers. It is visually stunning and worth the price just to have on your coffee table.

I spend an exorbitant amount of time looking at prop making tutorials and really appreciate how Lynn and Shawn break down the projects keeping things very simple. They cover all the basics from materials, hacking

store bought props, fencing, gates, tombstones, animatronics to faux wood and stone. The projects in this book will keep you busy for years and help you to create an Award-Winning home haunt. Take your haunt or Halloween party to the next level and buy both volumes."

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. They were also awarded The Haunters Video Award Best Video Production 2009 and the "Propmaster" Award of Exceptional Contribution Recognition 2010 for their first book, *How to Haunt Your House*.

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).

Painting Faux Metal

Ancient, weather-worn statues can add a layer of authenticity to the home haunt, both inside and out. The process uses only paint to transform everyday statuary into haunt-worthy accessories!

1 This statue was purchased at a home design center and was originally made for garden statuary. First, paint the entire piece with either metallic spray paint or brushed metallic craft paint. Let dry.

2 Using a sponge, make-up sponge, or bunched up cheesecloth, gently dab a mixture of dark green and black craft paint over the surface of the statue. Leave some of the metal paint showing through. Let dry.

3 Mix some dark green and light green craft paint with a good amount of water. Use a paint brush to dab along the top of the statue (in this case, along the hairline works best) so that the paint runs down the statue. Do this until you have several paint runs all around the statue. Try not to disturb the wet paint trails too much. Let them dry completely before moving to the next step.

4 Sparingly, dab a medium or light green on the highest points of the statue. In this case, around the dress edge, the base, and the highest points of the hair. This adds a faux corrosive look to the metal.

Completed Statue

Applying Paint You can use a variety of methods to apply paint: with cheesecloth, a paintbrush or with a sponge.

with Cheesecloth **with a Paintbrush** **with a Sponge**

You will need: black, white, dark and light green craft paints (or colors of choice), metallic spray paint or metallic brush-on paint of your choice, paint brushes, sponge, cheesecloth, or make-up wedge for applying paint, garden statuary prop.

Hacked! Bride

Store-bought Props Redone

Not only has this bride-to-be lost her head, but she has lost her mind if she thinks she is scary enough for the home haunt! Originally a store-bought prop, this headless bride was given a complete make-over. Now when this animated prop opens her eyes and calls out mournfully to her audience she will be worthy of the title, *The Headless Bride*.

Head Hack
Plain wig was removed. Face was painted with blue, black, red and white craft paints. Very large black circles were painted around the eyes. Lips were painted red. The cheekbones and neck were accented with black and highlighted with blue. Around the neck base was painted red. A piece of rubber tubing was hot glued to the bottom of the neck. Several strands of red yarn were also hot glued around the tubing.

Body Hack
Blue a small piece of spine bone (usually found in a bag of bones prop) to the top of the neck stump. The neck and hands are painted light blue. The dress has been torn open on one side of the chest. More prep bones were hot glued inside the exposed area. Tear several lengths of white cheesecloth and tie around the wrists. Drape some more cheesecloth strands around neck to hang down the front of the dress. Use brown and black craft paints around dress edge and in a few random places as shown. Drip some red paint around the neck and chest.

Before **After**

TIP: Most white objects or fabric will glow when exposed to blacklight. White that has been grunged up first will have a much creepier effect.

You will need: Tom cheesecloth, or any old, frayed cloth, white wig prop bones or rib cage parts, neck bone, red yarn, blue, white, brown, black, and red craft paints, sponge or make-up sponge, paintbrush, small piece of tubing, hot glue gun, glue sticks.

Put glue paper of lighting or neck bone in neck piece (shown red yarn) to come paint the look.



You will need: Large, oversized jars of various size, shape or color. Things to fit the jars with such as children's grow toys (made from a sponge-like material), feathers, plastic flasks, spiders, snakes, liquid markers, ect. Battery operated push lights for accent lighting. Optionally: Water, food coloring, jar labels or tags.

Apothecary Jars

What nightmarish horrors are stored inside these dust covered glass jars? Be it a long forgotten laboratory, or some strange, Victorian curiosity cabinet, the jars of collected specimens, experiments and unknown creatures will be sure to entice your visitors to peer inside for a closer look.

Not all jars have to be filled with liquid. Large, decorative flasks can look like a collection of cursed skulls, or magical parts of some mythical bird-creature, as shown above. Add some spooky lighting to complete the effect.

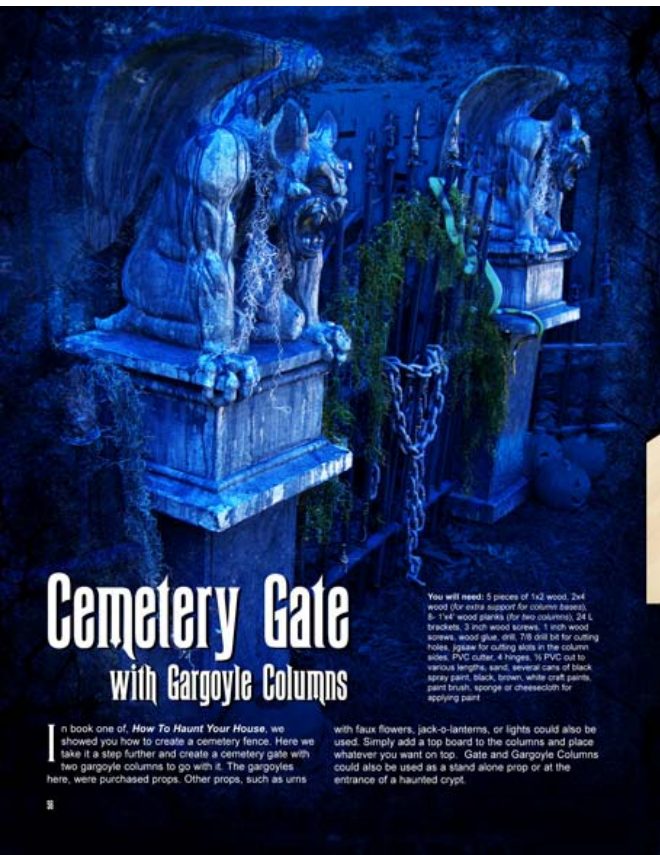


They grow and grow and grow...

Children's "grow" toys, made from a sponge-like material that triples in size when immersed in water, can be found as everything from dinosaurs, bugs, sea creatures, or even skeletons. These are perfect for Apothecary Jars, as they grow to fit.



Double the jar occupancy for greater effect.



Cemetery Gate with Gargoyle Columns

In book one of *How To Haunt Your House*, we showed you how to create a cemetery fence. Here we take it a step further and create a cemetery gate with two gargoyle columns to go with it. The gargoyles here, were purchased props. Other props, such as urns

with faux flowers, jack-o-lanterns, or lights could also be used. Simply add a top board to the columns and place whatever you want on top. Gate and Gargoyle Columns could also be used as a stand alone prop or at the entrance of a haunted crypt.

You will need: 5 pieces of 1x2 wood, 2x4 wood (for extra support for column bases), 6 1x4 wood planks (for two columns), 24 L brackets, 3 inch wood screws, 1 inch wood screws, wood glue, drill, 7/8 drill bit for cutting holes, jigsaw for cutting slots in the column sides, PVC cutter, 4 hinges, 1/2 PVC cut to various lengths, sand, several cans of black spray paint, black, brown, white craft paints, paint brush, sponge or cheesecloth for applying paint.



1 Attach 4 planks of 1"x4" together using 1 inch wood screws and L brackets. Set the four L brackets along the bottom higher than where the 2x4 will be placed. OPTIONAL: if creating a top for the column, duplicate the 2x4 trim around the top of the column. Offset the position of the top L brackets so the 2x4 will not go on top of them. Then cut a piece of 1"x4" plank, or other scrap wood, to fit on top of opening. Glue or screw in to place.

2 Measure out sections of 2x4 to fit around the base (and top, if needed). Use the 3" screws to attach to column.

3 If using a similar prop that is hollow, make sure the prop will fit over the column top.

4 Once your gate pieces are complete (see pages 58-59), stand the columns next to the gate ends. Mark out where to place 2 pieces of 1x2 wood so they can be attached to the gate end without overlapping the hinge hardware.

Wouldn't this even look great on it's own as a gargoyle pedestal?