



Flesh Mix

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For Halloween 2002, I wanted to do an "undead" theme, with angry corpses rising from the dead to seek revenge on those who had defiled their graves. You know, a nice cheery theme. :-) But to do this, I needed a way to make a few somewhat realistic looking corpses. And one thing necessary for making a corpse is to give it some decayed skin. So I did some research on the web, and then came up with my own wrinkle on making corpse skin.

The ingredients you will need are as follows:

- Water
- White glue
- Craft paint: red, blue, brown, black (I used Apple Barrel paint from WalMart)
- Cotton balls, paper towels, or something else to form the "skin"
- Item or form that you want to cover with skin (e.g., plastic skull, styrofoam head, wire hands, etc.)

First mix the water and white glue together. I use a base ratio of 1/2 cup glue to 1/3 cup water. You can increase the amounts depending on the size of the object you are covering with flesh, as long as the base ratio remains the same. For example, when I did my corpse heads I used 1-1/2 cup glue and 1 cup water, or 3 times the base ratio.

Next add the following to the mix: several drops of brown paint, two drops of red paint, one drop of blue paint, and maybe a drop of black paint. You can play around with the combination of colors, but this mix seemed to give me the dark, reddish-brown color I was looking for to simulate old, decayed flesh.

Once you have the color mix you want, you then start dipping pieces of your "skin" material into the mix, and placing them on whatever you are using as a form. If you are using cotton balls, they should be unrolled and stretched apart slightly before dipping them in the mixture. If using paper towels, rip them up into small, odd-shaped pieces and layer them over your form. Whatever you use, it is a good idea to squeeze out some of the extra mix after dipping the "skin" and before putting it on your form. This way it will dry faster and won't drip as much.

After covering your form, let the skin dry, highlight it with some paint if you like, and then spray it with a couple of coats of clear polyurethane, to give it some moisture resistance. And there you have it, a simple way to make corpse skin!

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