

Scarecrow Instructions

The following is some specific information (and some of my random thoughts) about how to get the best results with your "Scarecrow" make-up. I am going to assume that you have already read your Make-up Instructions booklet that goes over everything from applying, coloring and even removing your prosthetic. If you haven't read the Make-Up Instructions yet, then put this "Scarecrow" instruction tutorial down and go read the instruction booklet. Don't worry, I'll wait...



Okay, cool! Now that you've read -- or perhaps re-read as a "refresher course" -- the Make-up Instructions this will all make a helluva lot more sense. Ready? Let's go!

First off, you'll notice the "Scarecrow" is a very large prosthetic appliance, going way back to the ears, way down the neck and clear up into the top of the head. It's meant that way. You only "glue" it to your face until you get NEAR the hairline or at the edges and you don't glue it onto the neck at all -- you stop gluing just under the chin! Why, you ask? Good question, Scream Teamer. The reason you DON'T glue it down completely to the edges (besides the obvious hair areas) is because we WANT it to look like a burlap sack and the loose edges will move more realistically and give that effect! You don't glue to the neck because that part is going to be the "bottom of the bag" beneath where you tie the rope. Read on for details.

Now that you've got the prosthetic attached, take some burlap (super easy to find at any fabric store, some feed stores for those of you in rural areas, even in old barns...can you tell I grew up in the country?) and glue the burlap just to the edge of the piece -- about 1/2 inch (1 cm) in from the edge, using the same adhesive you used to apply the piece (spirit gum, pros-aide, etc.) Once it's attached all around the edges, you can figure out where you want to tie your rope (I just used a soft cotton rope I got at the same fabric store where I bought my burlap -- less stiff than regular rope or twine, but

those will also work). Once you know where the rope will go you can take a separate piece of burlap and glue it along the middle of the neck at the "rope line" and actually glue it INTO THE FOLDS that are sculpted into the piece! Then glue your burlap at the neck to the burlap you put all around the edges, cut it so it's all a similar length and fray the edges by pulling out little strands. Once you've finished the make-up and tied the rope, you will not be able to tell that the folds under the chin and the folds below the rope are actually two different materials! It'll look seamless! Pretty clever, huh? Don't worry -- this is really very simple and you don't have to be overly picky. It's SUPPOSED TO look like a rough burlap sack and it will! It's MUCH easier than it sounds. And burlap is SUPER cheap! You need less than a yard of fabric and it's only a couple bucks, if that. If you make a mistake gluing on the burlap, just take it off carefully with some rubbing alcohol and do it again. No stress!

As far as the make-up goes, you're trying to match the color of the burlap, but even if you don't get a PERFECT color match, don't worry because you can also color the burlap! In fact, by using browns for shadows you can actually "dirty up" the burlap to look older and it'll make it match better. You can even use shadows (whether with a brush or an airbrush -- either works as well) to shadow in the wrinkles on the actual burlap once you've tied the rope and it bunches up. By shadowing the actual burlap as well as the "folds" in the prosthetic, it becomes even MORE difficult to tell the difference! It's all part of the illusion! If your prosthetic is not quite as "warm" colored as your actual burlap, gently stipple a little yellow into it and it'll warm up nicely.

Once you have your make-up foundation on and have done some shadowing on both the appliance and the burlap to "tie them together" color-wise, you can go into some of the areas of the appliance



and draw very fine little, irregular "hash-marks" (think of Tic-Tac-Toe) to make the texture match your burlap even more. Do NOT over-do this part or you'll be at it for a loooooong time. It only should be done along the edges where the two materials meet, around the eyes to make your actual skin look like burlap and anywhere else you wish. If you DO do it all over, please do it in very random patterns so it doesn't look too painted. Once all of this is done and you powder the make-up, if the "hash-mark" textures look too dark or painted, simply take and "dry brush" with your base color -- meaning to use a brush with almost no make-up on it -- and lightly go over the darkest areas. The texture will still show

through just fine.

If you choose to do "stitches" like I did on the one for our website, all you have to do is glue down tiny pieces of yarn (color of your choice) and then put a bit of dark color (black or brown) at the ends of the yarn and a tiny bit along the sides to give the illusion that it's sewn on. It's really that simple! "Sewing" (the gluing of the yarn in the way I just mentioned) the piece and the actual burlap together helps to add to the illusion of it all being a burlap sack! The "straw" is actually a material called Raffia

(again, the same fabric store) that is used in every scarecrow prop during Halloween. It's inexpensive and you need very little. You could use real straw, too, if you wish.

At this point, you can choose to paint on whatever features you wish -- eyebrows, lips, lines around the mouth, a different colored nose...whatever you like. I used pictures of Ray Bolger in "The Wizard of Oz" for my primary reference. You could use anything you want. You could even glue buttons on or make a "rip" and "sew" it up. Your possibilities are endless.

The easiest way to make Scarecrow hat is to take black felt and roll into into a cone, glue it together and then make it all "raggedy", although we actually used a Professor McGonagall hat from the "Harry Potter Collection" we got at a costume store. You could also use a straw hat, a cowboy hat, a baseball cap...again, your possibilities are endless!

Have fun with the Scarecrow! I had a wonderful time sculpting this piece. The molding process necessary to make it was a real bear, but the result was worth it. I'm really happy with my "Scarecrow" and I'm sure you will be, too!

Be sure to send us pictures!!