

Halloween Carnival Ride - “Zombie Zipper”



I created this ride in response to Laura Carson's (Artfully Musing) challenge to create an additional piece for the Halloween Carnival. It resembles a Zipper carnival ride. It does not have all the movement of the actual ride, but when it turns on the central access point the cauldrons swing and turn. Please check out Laura's carnival with videos and tutorials - a fantastic project - at <http://artfullymusing.blogspot.com/p/haunted-carnival-event.html>



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NOTE: The measurements are based on using plastic cauldrons of a specific size and it was a very close fit using the measurements I captured in the steps below. Please check for fit as you go along and make adjustments as needed

Supplies - these are the items I used in my version

- 6 black plastic cauldrons (app 2 1/4” tall (without handle) x 2 3/4” wide - 3 1/2” tall with handle)
- 12 wide craft sticks (app 3/4” x 6”)
- 6 narrow craft sticks (app 1/4” x 7 1/2”)
- 5 mm skewers - 6 pieces app 5”
- 2 wood wheels with 1/4” center hole
- 1/4” dowel - at least 6”
- 2 knobs that fit on 1/4” dowel
- 12 small wheels or wood parts that fit over 5 mm skewer
- 3 pieces 12” x 12” chipboard (I used black so I wouldn’t have to paint the edges)
- 2 ATC Gothic Tombstones
- Small amount of moss
- 2 Skeleton Hands Food Picks
- Alcohol inks to color hands
- Wood Rectangle for base - app 6 1/2” x 9 1/2” (at least 6” x 9” on top)
- Cauldron filling - I used fall colored Mylar tinsel but anything can be used
- decorative paper
- foam core
- 6 washers with app 3/8” hole
- 6 washers with hole slightly bigger than 1/4”
- white glue
- strong glue (I used Beacon Quick Grip)
- Paint in desired colors
- Distress Ink for paper edges
- Copper Gilders Paste
- Alphabet die
- Glossy Accents

Images from Laura Carson (Artfully Musing)

- Ghosts from Halloween Carnival Rides Digital Download - cut 12
 - Vary sizes from 1 1/2” to 2”
 - Flip some horizontal to vary appearance
- 13th Hour Clock Purple from Halloween Carnival Digital Download - cut 4
 - Resize to 2.3” and cut out or cut with 2” circle punch
- P130721potions-12 (Transylvanian Bat Fangs) from Potions & Poisons Download - cut 2
 - Resize to 3” wide and remove central piece
- Beware Vampires from Carnival Rides Digital Download - cut 2
 - Crop to keep just “Beware”
 - Resize to 1 1/2” wide

Other Image - “Zombie Zipper” - need 2

- Create in MS Word or other word processing (or write by hand)
- Maximum size for words about 1/2” tall by 1 1/2” wide (I used Wide Latin font size 16)
- Overall size 7/8” x 2 1/4”

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Tools

- Crop-o-dile
- Scissors
- 1/4" heavy duty punch
- Saw or cutters to cut dowels
- Sandpaper
- Craft Knife with new blade
- Sanding tool
- Wood clothespins or other small clamps
- Optional - 2" circle punch
- Optional - small round file

Steps

1. Prepare Pieces

a. Images

- i. Cut out images
- ii. All images except ghosts - back with black cardstock
- iii. Ghosts
 1. Cut out ghosts
 2. Paint narrow craft sticks to match cauldron filling
 3. Cut into 12 pieces app 3 1/2" long
 4. Glue one end to back of ghost
 5. Cover back with white cardstock
 6. Trim white cardstock even with ghost on front

b. Cauldrons

- i. Add Gilders Paste
- ii. Pop off one side of handle, add large washer, reconnect handle

c. Craft stick supports (12 total)

- i. Paint as desired
- ii. Punch large Crop-o-dile hole no more than 3/8" from one end (centered) - go easy so stick doesn't crack
- iii. Cut four to 4 1/4" (I used a craft knife for this)

d. Zipper

- i. Cut 4 pieces of chipboard @ 2 3/4" x 8". Pay attention to the grain. You want the pieces to be stiff, so making sure you are cutting perpendicular to the bendable sde.
- ii. Paint edges if not using black chipboard
- iii. Use a 2 3/4" circle template to round both ends of all pieces
- iv. Sand edges if desired
- v. Cover two pieces with decorative paper to be seen from the outside (outside pieces) - ink edges if desired. On the plain side of each piece, write Side A (B) OUTSIDE.
- vi. Cover two pieces with decorative paper to be seen from the inside (inside pieces) - ink edges if desired. On one side of each piece, write Side A (B) INSIDE

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- vii. Punch a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole in the center (horizontally and vertically) of both pieces.
- viii. Use the zipper template to mark placement of popsicle sticks on the unfinished side of Side A INSIDE piece (just this one side needs to be marked)
- e. **Supports** (note basically the same as Laura's Ferris Wheel supports)
 - i. Cut 6 pieces of chipboard @ 4" x 12". Pay attention to the grain. You want the pieces to be stiff, so making sure you are cutting perpendicular to the bendable side.
 - ii. Paint edges if not using black chipboard
 - iii. Mark a center point for the $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole by measuring down $\frac{3}{4}$ " from one short edge and centered.
 - iv. Punch the $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole in each piece where marked. Note: If you have a drill and can make a hole through three pieces of chipboard at once, you don't need to punch individual holes
 - v. Now create the modified trapezoid shape
 - 1. Make tick marks on one short end, 1" in from each side.
 - 2. Make tick marks 2" up from bottom on opposite end
 - 3. Make a line to connect the tick marks
 - 4. Cut on each line (create 6 identical pieces)
 - 5. Round the top corners (and bottom corners if desired)
 - vi. Cover two pieces with decorative paper to be seen from the outside - ink edges if desired
 - vii. Cover two pieces with decorative paper which will be seen on the inside - ink edges if desired
 - viii. Make two support "sandwiches" by gluing 3 pieces together- Inside, plain middle and outside, making sure to keep the $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes aligned.
 - ix. Allow to dry thoroughly
 - x. Sand edges
 - xi. If you skipped making individual $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes in step (e-iv) drill them now.
 - xii. Test fit the $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel - it should be able to turn easily in the holes but not be too loose- if not use a round file to modify size until just large enough
- f. **Wood Pieces**
 - i. Cut 6 - 5mm skewers to length (cauldron supports). Length = 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " PLUS thickness of two popsicle sticks PLUS thickness of two pieces of chipboard PLUS thickness of small wheels. Better to have too long than too short. Mine were 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " long
 - ii. Paint all wood pieces as desired
- g. **Create stoppers** (used to prevent the cauldron from "wandering" too much)
 - i. Cut 12 chipboard $\frac{1}{2}$ " by $\frac{1}{2}$ " from scraps
 - ii. Punch large Crop-o-Dile hole in center
 - iii. Round corners
 - iv. Paint black if not using black chipboard

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2. Assembly

a. Zipper

- i. Step 1 - Side A INSIDE
 1. Place 6 popsicle sticks on inside of zipper piece you marked with the template
 2. Use strong glue to attach the popsicle sticks
 3. Allow to dry
- ii. Step 2 - Side B INSIDE
 1. With popsicle stick side of Side A facing down, align Side B INSIDE with Side A INSIDE (Paper sides are facing each other)
 2. Draw some guidelines to help with glue placement
 3. For each of 6 additional popsicle sticks:
 - a. Lay down a line of glue
 - b. Align the new Side B popsicle stick with its partner on Side A
 - c. Clamp with clothespin to hold in place
 4. Allow to dry
- iii. Step 3 - Complete Zipper Sides
 1. Using strong glue
 - a. ALIGN and attach Side A OUTSIDE to Side A INSIDE
 - b. ALIGN and attach Side B OUTSIDE to Side B INSIDE
 2. Allow to dry
 3. Use strong glue to attach a wood wheel to the OUTSIDE of both pieces, centered on the 1/4" hole
 4. Allow to dry
- iv. Attach cauldron swings (6)
 1. Temporarily fit 1/4" dowel through center of the zipper sides, using clothespins to keep it in place. DO NOT GLUE at this time
 2. Dry fit for each cauldron swing in this order:
 - a. Decorative wood piece
 - b. Go through first popsicle stick
 - c. Chipboard stopper
 - d. Large washer with cauldron hanging from it
 - e. Chipboard stopper
 - f. Go through second popsicle stick
 - g. Decorative wood piece
 3. When satisfied with fit and alignment with other cauldrons, glue each cauldron assembly in place (except washer holding cauldron so it can swing)

b. Attach Zipper to Supports

Halloween Carnival Ride - "Zombie Zipper"

- i. Dry fit first
 1. Add two washers to each side of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel
 2. Place the two supports on either side
 3. Add another washer
 4. Add a turning knob to each end
 5. Distance between the sides of the zipper at the central point should be the same as under the cauldron swings
- ii. Mark and cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel to length
 1. There needs to be only a tiny space in between the knob and the support - only enough so that the zipper can turn freely
 2. Allow for length of dowel inside of each turning knob
 3. Mark length
 4. Measure width between the two supports
 5. Rotate zipper and check to see if 3 or 4 pieces of foam core can fit between the lowest hanging cauldron and the base
 6. Separate assembly
 7. Cut off dowel to marked length
- iii. Create Step Assembly (note basically the same as Laura's Ferris Wheel steps)

3 Steps
 - 1 @ 4" by width from above
 - 1 @ 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " by width from above
 - 1 @ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by width from above

4 Steps
 - 1 @ 4" by width from above
 - 1 @ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by width from above
 - 1 @ 5" by width from above
 - 1 @ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by width from above

 1. Cover one side of each with decorative paper (note save some paper on the underneath steps - only a small section shows)
 2. Build steps from bottom up, centering each step and use strong glue to attach
 3. Center on base so the steps face the short sides
 4. Allow to dry
- iv. Glue assembly
 1. Center dowel in zipper
 2. Glue to zipper wheels (the dowel is fixed to the zipper)
 3. Allow to dry
 4. Add two washers to each side
 5. Place the supports
 6. Add another washer to each side
 7. Glue the knobs on the dowel (careful - don't glue to the support or the zipper won't turn)
 8. Allow to dry
 9. Glue entire zipper assembly to wood base

Halloween Carnival Ride - “Zombie Zipper”

c. Fill the cauldrons

- i. Add mylar tinsel or other desired filling
- ii. Add the ghost passengers
 1. Trim the popsicle sticks to length and insert the ghosts
 2. Make sure they fit within the handle of the cauldron or they will interfere with the cauldron’s ability to swing

d. Decorate

- i. Add the collage elements to the Zipper and supports
- ii. Create the Zombie elements
 1. Paint the ATC Gothic tombstones following Laura’s instructions for “Dodge a Zombie” game
Optional - Cut out “RIP” from orange paper using Tim Holtz “Typeset” die and attach and highlight with Glossy Accents
 2. Use purple, green and black alcohol inks to tint the plastic hands
 3. Cut a small piece of black foam core for in front of the tombstone
 4. Cut the plastic hand to length
 5. Cut a slit in the foam core
 6. Glue the hand in the foam core
 7. Glue tombstone to zipper support (I backed with black chipboard to make it stand out)
 8. Glue foam core with hand in front of tombstone
 9. Add moss around hand and to cover foam core
- iii. Add other embellishments as desired