

Halloween Chess Set Instructions – Grim Reaper

By Sheri A. Krohn~

Materials:

- Low temp glue gun
- White craft glue
- Seminole green paint
- Black paint
- Black fun foam
- Black felt
- Gray felt
- 1 – 3” length of 1/8” dowel
- 1 – 3mm black chenille stem, cut into 2 - 3” lengths, and 4 – 1 ½” lengths
- 1 – 1 ¼” doll head knob
- 1 - 7/8” Candle cup (1 ¾” tall)
- 1 - base: 1 ¾” wooden circles ½” thick)

For each Grim Reaper (make 1 for a chess set):

- 1- Glue the head onto the flat end of the candle cup using craft glue.
- 2- Paint the base seminole green, and the head and body black. Spray the base, and the body and head, with a clear matt fixative.
- 3- Cut out Grim’s feet from black fun foam using the pattern provided.
- 4- Using craft glue, glue the feet onto the base, lining up the toes with the front edge of the base.
- 5- Using craft glue or a low temp glue gun, glue Grim to the round part of the foam feet, so that the feet stick out the front, and the round part of the foam is basically lined up under the body.
- 6- Cut the hood out of black felt. Fold at the centerline indicated by the dashed line on the pattern. This will bring the *’s on the pattern together. Whipstitch the back edges of the hood together between the x and the *’s.
- 7- To make the hood fit around the neck better, weave a needle with black thread on it back and forth through the material along the neck edge (indicated by the dash/dot line on the pattern). Be sure to go through the seam you whipstitched, and along both sides of the neck. Gather the felt by bunching it along the thread. You might need to tie a knot in one end and pull on the other end until the hood fits nicely around the neck of the Grim. Glue the hood in place at the neck, using a low temp glue gun. Pull the thread out of the felt - if it is not glued into place. If it is, simply cut each of the ends off flush with the felt so they can’t be seen.
- 8- Cut out two sleeves from black felt using the pattern on the pattern sheet. For each sleeve, fold along the center dotted line shown on the pattern and whipstitch the two edges together from the center line, around the curve, and down the side, leaving the end open for the arm.
- 9- To make the hands, hold two 1 ½ inch long 3mm black chenille stems side by side, take the 3 inch piece of 3mm black chenille stem and wrap it once around the center of both of the two short ones, making sure that there is 1 ½ inches of

the long stem left to be used for the arm. The short stems are the four fingers. Bend them so they are in line with the arm stem, but pointing in the opposite direction. Then take the end of the long stem that you just wrapped around the short stems, and twist it so that it is perpendicular to the arm and fingers. Wrap it tightly around the four fingers once or twice and bring it underneath the hand so it's sticking out like a thumb. Now you just have to trim the lengths a bit with wire cutters so they look the right size for fingers and a thumb. Use your hand as a guide. You might want to smash the hand a bit with a pair of pliers where you wrapped the fingers so it looks nice and compact.

- 10- Make the second hand. You might want to wrap the fingers in the opposite direction if you're picky about making it match perfectly. But don't worry too much. If you smash both hands with pliers, they should be close enough.
- 11- Put a drop of craft glue on the end of one of the arms and carefully slide it up into one of the sleeves so that it goes the full length. Do the same for the other arm.
- 12- To make the scythe, cut out the blade on gray felt using the pattern provided. Place the 3 inch piece of 1/8 inch dowel on the fold line indicated on the pattern, and glue the two sides of the blade together using a low temp glue gun. Be sure to glue the dowel in place at the same time.
- 13- Place the dowel in the right hand of your Grim, and wrap his fingers and thumb securely around it. Then bend his arm at the elbow and glue his arm to his body at the shoulder so that the arm is holding the scythe with the end of the handle resting on the base near his right foot. Use a low temp glue gun.
- 14- Bend the left arm at the elbow at a 90 degree angle and glue his arm to his body at the shoulder, using a low temp glue gun. Then position his fingers so that he is pointing straight at whomever is in front of him!

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