

Halloween Chess Set Instructions – Skeleton

By Sheri A. Krohn~

Materials:

- Low temp glue gun
- White craft glue
- Pumpkin paint
- Black paint
- White paint
- Black felt
- 1 – 3mm white 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)
- 2 – 5mm round wiggle eyes
- 1 - base: 1 ¾” wooden circles ½” thick)

For each Skeleton (make 1 for a chess set):

- 1- Paint the base pumpkin, the head white, and the body black.
- 2- Glue the head onto the body, and the body onto the base, using craft glue.
- 3- Paint a skeleton face on the head using black paint. Make the eye sockets a bit larger than the 5mm wiggle eyes. An upside down heart shape works well for the nose, and a frowny line with hatch marks through it will look like teeth for his mouth. Use a sharpie for the mouth if desired. Spray with clear matt fixative.
- 4- Glue the eyes in place in the eye sockets you painted. Use craft glue.
- 5- 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.
- 6- 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 Skeleton. 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.
- 7- 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.
- 8- Now for the fun part! We’re about to make the hands. Holding two 1 ½ inch long 3mm white chenille stems side by side, take the 3 inch piece of 3mm white 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.

- 9 - 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.
- 10- 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.
- 14- Bend the arms so that they will look menacing when they are glued in place. When you are satisfied with their appearance, glue them to the body using a low temp glue gun.