How to Make a Scarecrow

Scarecrows were a familiar sight in farming areas of years gone by, but now they are coming back as a Halloween and fall-themed decoration. With a few old clothes and some straw, you can easily build your own scarecrow. Stick it in your garden or position it on your front porch when you're finished. Whether you use it to scare birds or just as decoration, your scarecrow will be sure to attract attention.
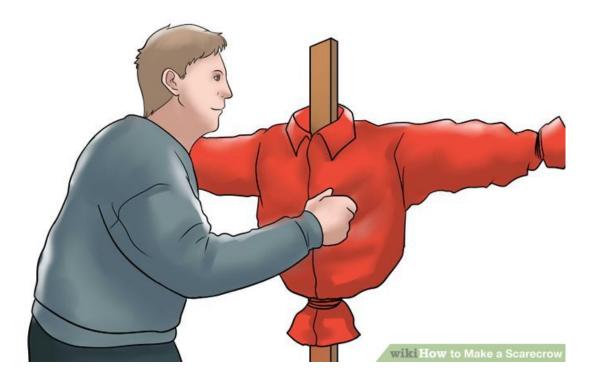
Making the Body

1

1

Build the frame. Begin by centering a 5 foot (1.5 m) stick near the top of a 6 to 8 foot (1.8 to 2.4 m) stick, rake handle or garden pole. This creates the shoulders of the scarecrow. Fasten the shorter stick in place using a screwdriver and screw, some twine, or hot glue.

2

Put the shirt on. Dress your scarecrow with an old plaid shirt, using the horizontal stick for his arms. Button the shirt up the front, then tie the arm ends and bottom of the shirt using twine or wire.

3

Stuff the shirt. Strategically stuff the shirt to fill out your scarecrow. Straw, hay, leaves, grass clippings, wood chips and rags are all acceptable stuffing materials.[2]

- Try to avoid using newspaper to stuff your scarecrow, however, as rainfall may cause it to become soggy and shapeless.
- Use extra stuffing to give your scarecrow a potbelly if desired.

4

Put the overalls on. Make a hole in the seat of the overalls for the vertical stick to pass through. Put the overalls on the scarecrow, placing the straps on the shoulders. Tie the cuffs with twine or wire. Fill out the legs of the overalls using the same stuffing as you used for the shirt.

5

Give him hands. Old fashioned scarecrows had straw sticking out the cuffs of the shirt sleeves, but to make a more realistic human form, you can use old work gloves or gardening gloves. Fill the gloves with enough stuffing to keep them in shape, tuck in the ends of the shirt sleeves, then secure with wire or twine.

6

Give him feet. Stick the cuffs of the pants into the tops of some old work boots, or other shoes. Secure using either string sewn into each component, or hot melt glue.

- Alternatively, try using double sided tape, such as carpet tape, to attach the boots.
- Whatever method you use, make sure the attachment is secure, or your scarecrow will lose his feet.

Making the Head

1

Using sack. A sack, used to protect trees, or carry potatoes and coffee beans, is perfect for making a scarecrow head. To make a burlap head:

- Stuff one plastic grocery bag full of other plastic bags until you have the right size for a head.
- Place the bag in the centre of a piece of burlap then cut a wide circle around it. There is no need to measure it or cut a perfect circle.
- Gather the burlap around the plastic bag, and place on top of the vertical pole (the scarecrow's neck) before tying tightly with twine or wire

2

Using a pillowcase. A pillowcase is another option for making a scarecrow head and is something which you are likely to have around the house. To make your scarecrow head with a pillowcase:

- Half fill the pillowcase with straw or the stuffing material of your choice.
- Pin the pillowcase with safety pins to prevent the stuffing from falling out the bottom, but don't close the bottom up entirely.
- Insert your scarecrow head onto the vertical pole (neck of the scarecrow).
- Push until the top of the pole is at the top of the pillowcase, right through the straw.
- Secure the pillowcase to the pole using twine or wire. Cut off the excess material and remove the safety pins.

3

Using other household items. The are any number of possibilities when it comes to making your scarecrow's head. If you're trying to keep the cost of building your scarecrow down to a minimum, just use whatever items you have lying around. Here are some ideas:

- **Tights.** Select a natural skin tone pair of tights. Cut the upper part of the leg off on one side, tie a knot in it, and fill it with stuffing, letting it taper to a "neck" before tying the other (lower) end onto the vertical pole.
- **Bucket.** Impale a bucket filled with dirt right-side-up on the scarecrow's neck, for an unconventional yet functional head.

Finishing Touches

1

Give your scarecrow facial features. You can give your scarecrow facial features using an endless array of materials. Decide whether you want him to look smiling and happy or grumpy and menacing. Here are some ideas:
- Draw on his eyes, nose and mouth using a black magic marker.
- Cut out triangular shapes from pieces of coloured felt for eyes and nose. You can sew them on or attach with hot glue.
- Use different sized or coloured buttons for eyes, nose and mouth. Sew on or attach with hot glue.
- Use bits of black plastic or pipe cleaner to make eyebrows. Slant them downwards to make an angry scarecrow.

2

Give your scarecrow some hair. Glue some straw to your scarecrows head to give the effect of hair. Don't worry about making it look neat, he's supposed to look scary, after all! Alternatively, glue an old wig to his head or use an old mop.

3

Accessorise. You can personalise your scarecrow by accessorising it any way you like. His most important accessory, however, is a straw hat. Use any old hat you have lying around and secure to his head with hot glue. Here are some other (optional) accessorising ideas:

- Tie a red bandana around his colour, or leave a bright handkerchief peeking out of his pocket.
- Jazz up his hat using some brightly coloured plastic flowers.
- Stick an old pipe in his mouth.
- Tie reflective or shiny ribbon to your scarecrow to add movement and reflect light.[2]

4

Finished.