

# Mystery Science Theater 3000



Gypsy Bot Building Guide

## Gypsy

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### The Bot Builder's Guide

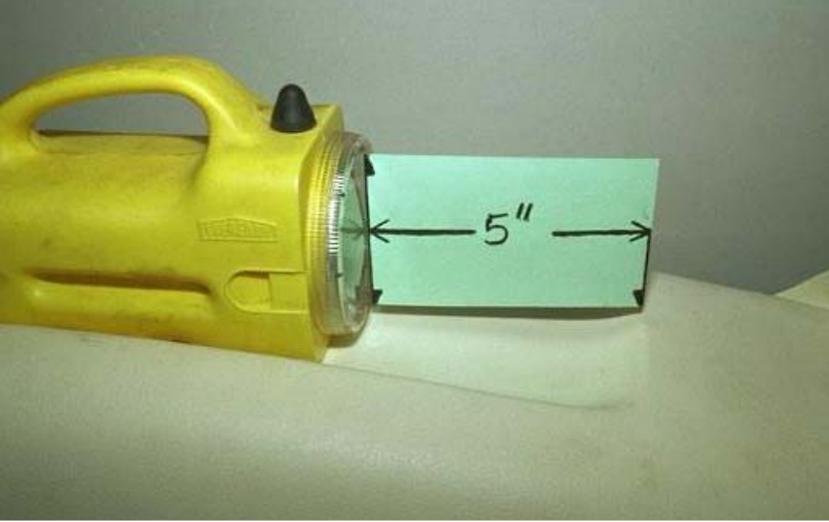
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This guide has been written in order to help guide you on your journey towards building a relatively accurate copy of MST3K's Gypsy. Included in this guide is a parts list of the major components that make up Gypsy and directions on putting her together. Keep in mind that although this guide will help direct you towards building Gypsy, these directions are not set in stone. Best Brains never release any sort of guide in building any of the Bots and per their own admission, they varied their construction with each copy of the Bot's they built.

In other words, use this guide, as a guide. Feel free to adjust and alter these directions as you see fit to construct your Gypsy. After all, in this case, its not the journey that's important, its the end result.

#### Required Parts:

- (qty: 1) Century Infant Love Seat
- (qty: 1) Eveready Rugged Floating Lantern
- (qty: 1) 24 inch length of 7/8" o.d. PVC for jaw
- (qty: 1) closet flange for base of head
- (qty: 1) reducer for closet flange including screws/nuts/washers for closet flange
- (qty: 1) spring for jaw and actuator string
- (qty: several) Screws for flashlight
- (qty: 2) 45 degree angles for 1 1/2" PVC
- (qty: 1) PVC cleaner and cement
- (qty: 1) 10 foot length of ridged drain pipe (black with no holes)
- (qty: 1) 10 foot length of 1 1/2 inch diameter PVC DWV (this will be white)
- (qty: 1) 1 gloss black spray paint
- (qty: 2) Testors spray paint #1631 (purple metal flake)
- (qty: 2) Testors spray paint #1639 (sapphire blue metal flake)



- 1) Take the flashlight and position it so that the very front edge of the flashlight is (5) inches from the start of the ridge.

Secure the flashlight by drilling small pilot holes in the outer shell and up into the flashlight, then install the included screws from up underneath the shell and into the flashlight.



- 2) Now, trim the inner liner that forms the lower jaw. Be careful, you only have one chance at this. Cut the liner at the indicated marker lines.



- 3) Position the lower jaw flush against the upper jaw. The lips of both these should line up in front.

Temporarily tape these together. Mark the pilot hole position on each side of head where the jaw hinge will be (using the jaw template). Drill a small hole through both layers of liner on each side of the head. Be sure to drill in at the same angle that the PVC pipe will be. You can now separate the two sections.



- 4) Cut the jaw PVC pipe on 45 degree angles on each end, these angles will be a mirror image of each other. Total length of pipe will be 18" inches long.

Drill out the pilot holes for the jaw using a 7/8 inch spade drill bit. If you don't have one, cut out the hole using the template, an x-acto knife, and a steady hand.

- 5) Temporarily join the two halves using the now cut PVC pipe. The jaw should swing smoothly. Drill a small hole in the edge of the lower jaw and in the back of the outer shell, these holes will be where the spring is attached.



- 6) Temporarily attach the spring.



- 7) Also, drill a **very** small hole directly behind the bottom lip. This is for the actuator string that will move Gypsy's mouth.

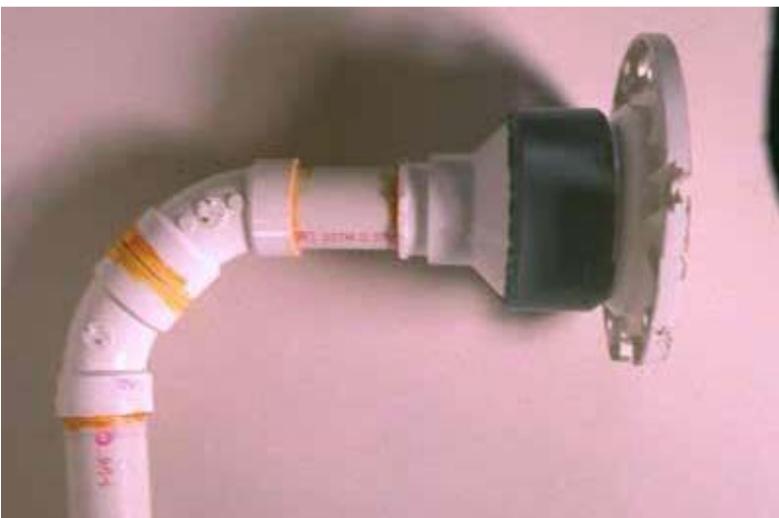


- 8) Cut off the bottom edge of the closet flange.





- 9) Center the closet flange on the back of the head and mark the four holes that are to be drilled out. Drill the four holes and attach the flange to the head using the included bolts.



- 09) Cut two separate lengths off of the 1 ½ inch PVC, one 1 ½ inches long, and one 4 ¼ inches long. The small one joins the two 45 degree angles together, and the other joins the angles to the reducer that attaches to the closet flange . Glue all of these together **except** the reducer to the flange. This should be just fit on snug for now.

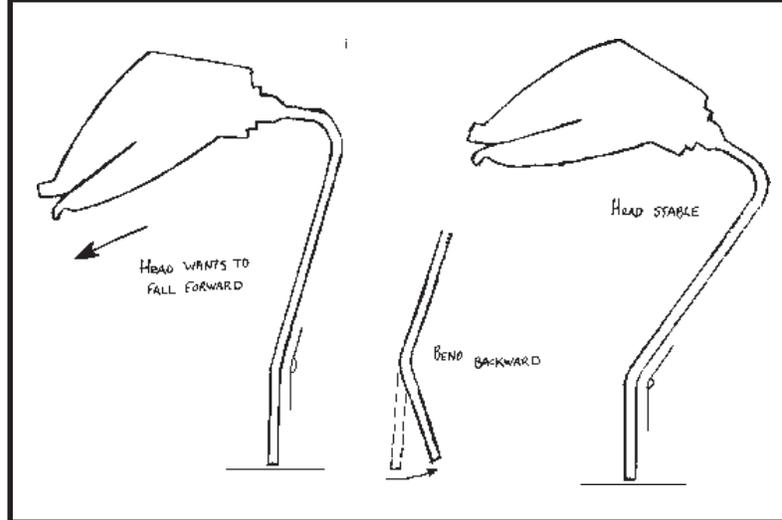


- 10) Cut the final length of the 1 ½ PVC to approximately 4 ft. long. Heat a bend in the base using a heat gun or a torch.
- 11) Assemble all of the parts temporarily, do not glue anything else together yet.

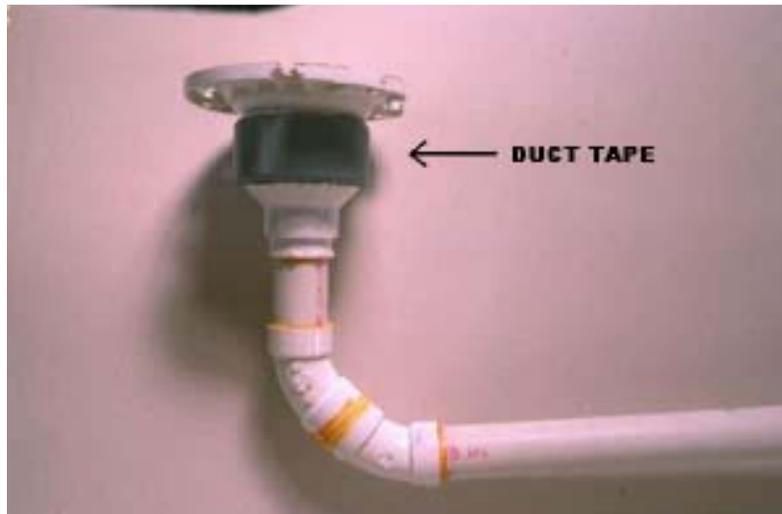
12) You may have to alter the bend one way or another so that the whole thing is balanced at the base, this is done by holding up the whole thing and re-bend the bend in the opposite direction that the head wants to fall.

13) When everything is balanced and aligned, cement the entire assembly.

*NOTE: PVC cement sets very quickly (approx. 10-30 seconds) so all glue joints must be aligned before the glue sets.*



14) Cut to desired length and attach the drain pipe. Use layers of duct tape around the reducer so that the drain pipe slips around it snugly. I find it is not necessary to glue this if it is properly snug, and it can also be removed easily for adjustments or repair. (See figure 13)



15) Now remove the whole neck assembly from the head assembly and disassemble the head assembly.

16) The entire neck assembly gets painted gloss black along with the 7/8 inch jaw PVC. The two head halves are more tricky. I've studied tapes over and over again and have determined that the head is actually painted with the blue metal flake first, then **ONE** very thin coat of the purple metal flake is sprayed on top of the blue basecoat. This gives the effect of the basic purple color but with a translucent blue appearance depending on angle of view.

Before beginning to paint on the actual body parts, it is recommended to practice on some of the extra or spare parts to develop a feel as to how the paint will best deposit and adhere to the various bot parts. Ideally, the paint should be allowed to dry for approximately 2-3 days.

17) Reassemble everything, this time gluing the jaw PVC to the outer shell only, with hot melt glue. Also, attach the pipe insulation onto the upper lip with hot melt glue.

18) Spray paint the inside of the flashlight lens with fluorescent yellow. One light coat should do.

That should just about do it. Except for maybe a few tweaks, you should be staring at a full size, fully workable replica of TV's Gypsy. Enjoy.