

Make a Flying Crank Ghost

This ghost prop was pioneered by Doug Ferguson of Phantasmmechanics, who made it public domain in 1997. It uses a slow motor and a simple system of pulleys to create an eerie, ghostly motion that literally stops cars in front of homes. Open source and cheap to make, it's become a haunting classic.

Parts for the Mechanism

- Aluminum angle, 3/4", 15' total length: 1/8"-thick angle for the central struts and 1/16"-thick angle for the crosspieces.
- Dayton motor, 115V such as the 3M096 from grainger.com, or perhaps a rotisserie motor; anything that gives 4 - 7rpm. Find 4 bolts that will thread into the motor or pass through the mounting holes.
- Inexpensive extension cord
- Junction box for your power switch
- Wall switch 110V and switch plate
- Wire nuts
- U-bolt, with 3/16" center hole to match the shaft on your motor
- 3 Eye bolts
- 3 S-hooks
- 3 Pulleys
- 3 Quick-links

To make the ghost fabric light up with a UV Black light, soak it in liquid laundry detergent such as Tide.

Additional Information and Detailed Instructions

<https://www.phantasmmechanics.com/fcg>

<https://makezine.com/projects/flying-crank-ghost/>

Caution: This project uses enough electricity to kill you. Please be careful. Electricity can be fun and safe if kept inside its insulating containers.