

HAUNTED TALK

Digital Decorations

Props Playing on Panels & Projectors

Eerie Elegance





Designing

Displaying

Disguising

Digital Decorations



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS

- Decide what you want to display
 - Is the effect triggered or atmospheric?
 - Any physical props involved?
 - Pepper's Ghost or other specific setup?
- After you know what effect you want, then find it or create it
 - Purchased Projections
 - Clips from Content
 - Filming Fun

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PURCHASED PROJECTIONS

- Search your Scene - You might find exactly what you're looking for already online!
- You may find others online selling their own digital downloads, like several Ghosts for Sale on the Paranormal Projections page on EerieElegance.com
- Other haunters might offer their work free on YouTube to fellow haunters, like EerieEleganceTM and Hatbox Ghost by Michael Potter <https://youtu.be/t1fZyfWhsPg?si=2CtcaDq6QqW9Wvi>



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PURCHASED PROJECTIONS

- The leading digital decorations seller is AtmosFX.com
 - Originally "AtmosFear" selling DVDs of Halloween ghosts & moving portraits over a decade ago, they expanded to multiple holidays as AtmosFX now with large portfolio of digital downloads as well as physical products.
 - Great place to start, since they also sell projection fabric, projectors, decorating discs, and even inflatable figures designed to work with the videos they sell.
 - Lots of thought & decent production values, vertical & horizontal formats provided for various use cases, can purchase a single video or an entire themed collection at a slight discount.

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PURCHASED PROJECTIONS

- AtmosFX Examples

Spaich
Scary
House
moving
portraits



Eerie Elegance Victorian Christmas Carolers

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PURCHASED PROJECTIONS

- Using Artificial Intelligence to create videos?
 - Eerie Elegance has no experience here...yet?
 - Eric is our NorCal Haunters resident generative AI expert, but so far generative video requires purchased credits even in premium software like Adobe Creative Cloud subscriptions.
- There are also ethical issues
 - using real people in AI videos without their consent, even deceased actors like Lugosi and Karloff?
 - A not-for-profit haunt probably doesn't have much risk using other intellectual properties, but beware if selling tickets?
 - Will AI companies allow copyrighted IP characters to be used?

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS CLIPS FROM CONTENT

- You can edit clips from any video content into a scene to display, like from movies, shows, theme park rides, ambient videos, or even online gaming videos. Some will be easier to edit than others, depending on your vision.
 - All the window projections for our Wizaring World Halloween 2025 were found on YouTube, either gaming videos, or fan-created ASMR CGI videos. We were surprised how many we found, but Harry Potter is a huge fandom.
- Making a film scene into believable window content is often harder than expected since the camera view doesn't usually stay exactly the same between cuts! This was especially difficult with the 1931 King Kong hand through window scene for our turret.



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS CLIPS FROM CONTENT

- You may have only a few frames of the exact viewpoint and need to extend timing
 - **Balcony Lab 2021**: Frankenstein's laboratory is filmed from so many different angles that I could use only a couple frames around the explosion to look like it was the lab location and not watching an edited movie
 - **Dracula Porch Greeter 2017**: There is only a single full body standing scene of Bela Lugosi's Dracula from the original 1931 film, so I painstakingly keyed out the black clothing from black background frame-by-frame, extending the clip with reversing & copying single frames, then dissolving into the flying bat to create a life-size porch greeter who cycled through 10 different quotes.



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS CLIPS FROM CONTENT

- Do you need a seamless loop? Maybe not...
 - If you have a long enough video, your guests will most likely not see the loop point, so if it dips to black or has a jarring jump, does it matter?
 - We have seen museums overseas using moving portraits that have an abrupt loop point as content restarts, so they must not think it matters?
 - However, if your video content is shorter than your guests will be watching it, you'll want to extend it to preserve your illusion.
 - If there is no natural loop point to repeat, copy the beginning of the clip, then add it to the end with a dissolve transition to hide the loop point. If you need to extend for timing, reverse a clip back & forth, then copy the pair of clips as needed.
 - Fading to black or a subject leaving the screen works well, but don't make your loop "dead time" between scene repeats too long or some guests might miss the scene entirely!
 - We made this mistake with our very first ghost projection in 2011 since we didn't want it repeating so often, but well over half our guests totally missed there was a ghost at all!

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS CLIPS FROM CONTENT

- More Examples of Clips from Content Created by Eerie Elegance
- **Movies & Shows:** For our Pensieve in Dumbledore's Office for Wizarding World Halloween 2025, I took all 4 Pensieve scenes from two movies and edited them together with extra clips of the smokey effect beginning & end to extend the loop. The most time-consuming editing was re-centering almost everything to see the faces through the center of the bowl, since the scenes were originally edited with extreme widescreen angles for unsettling effect.
- **Theme Park Ride Videos:** On YouTube I found someone's ride video stuck in front of the Hitchhiking Ghosts, so I removed the handheld camera wiggle adjusting positioning by keyframes, then found the loop point to stop the video. I posted my finished seamless loop on YouTube for other Haunted Mansion haunters to use in their own haunts. You may need shareware like YouTube Downloader to get a local copy to use with editing software.
- **Ambiance Videos:** ASMR & background ambiance videos are a big thing on YouTube, so you might find someone's CGI video perfect for your haunt, like our turret study, potions window & Great Hall for Halloween 2025.
- **Online Gaming Videos:** Since the Hogwarts Legacy game was released, so many people are filming the "ambient mode" with the playable character standing watching the scene unfold around them, then posting long videos to YouTube as background ambiance. Several of these were perfect window projections for our Wizarding World Halloween 2025, especially since they were long enough I didn't worry about a seamless loop.

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FILMING FUN

- Do you have original characters for your haunt?
- Do you have a specific scene in mind you cannot find?
- Do you have a specific setup like a Pepper's plus physical props?
- Can't find anything for sale or in any movies, shows, games, or online videos that works for you?
- Generative AI video still too expensive?

...never fear! Film yourself & your friends!



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FILMING FUN

- Fully Filmed

- If you are filming a moving portrait, maybe you have enough props to set a full scene. An easy seamless loop point is for the subject to start off-screen, walk into view, then leave again.
- Our Verdigris Saga moving portraits from 2012 were all filmed this way, with 2 of them featured again in our Haunted Mansion portrait gallery and 3 in the 2025 Leaky Cauldron pub portraits.



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FILMING FUN

- Black Backgrounds
 - If you're filming ghosts for projections onto transparent scrim, you'll want a black background anyway, so you can save yourself the background keying process and film against a black backdrop if you have the space.
 - Black non-woven weedblocker fabric quickly sewn into a 12ft x12ft curtain worked even underwater in a swimming pool in 2012, but you can purchase large backdrops online these days.
 - Be sure to light the subject from both sides to keep the backdrop dark. Our very first Gate Ghost in 2011 was filmed this way, plus 6 of our 2012 Verdigris Saga ghosts including our original pipe organ Pepper's ghost.



DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FILMING FUN

- Graduate to Greenscreen?
- Greenscreen aka background "keying" software has come a LONG way over the past decade! Even iMovie on iPhone autokeys now, and Zoom keys on the fly for video calls.
- There are several free video editors: <https://www.techradar.com/best/free-video-editing-software>
 - Except for editing basic social media videos in iMovie, I have not evaluated any of those programs personally, since I used Final Cut Pro on my Macs until 2016, then I've been using Adobe Premiere Pro professional video editing software on annual subscription ever since. If you plan on doing a lot of video editing, Illustrator & Photoshop, Adobe might be worth the money to you.
- You can find compact portable lighting kits including several medium size backdrops with collapsible structure online for ~\$100, but larger greenscreen fabric that can work for full standing figures will need a place to hang with as few wrinkles & drapes as possible, stretching all 4 directions is the best if you can, even pushpins to the sides can help enough. We keep our 12ft x 12ft greenscreen rolled on a 14ft sturdy length of conduit pipe in our garage.

DESIGNING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FILMING FUN

• "Keying" = Background Removal Tips

- For cleanest edge results, limit wrinkles and folds in the greenscreen fabric, and light the greenscreen separately from the subject since you key out only so much range around a single color
- Crop video as closely as possible around your subject so you have less color range to key.
- Your video editor may have settings to fine-tune the key effects so play around with what looks best in the preview.
- Different backgrounds are more forgiving so placing your final background layer under your subject layer while adjusting your key settings may help.
- Bluescreen vs Greenscreen depends what colors you are using on your subject. You may be able to use other background colors like a consistent color wall if your software lets you select your background key color. Black or white backgrounds are not usually used for keying since those colors are usually present in the subject.
- Be careful you don't key out pieces of your subject! Look closely at Scotty McLockhart's sleeve and you can see that the cuff has a shimmer as the keying process removes some fabric...oops!





Displaying Digital Decorations



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS

- Panels vs Projections?
 - **Video Panels** = Moving Portraits, Posters, Props, Window Scenes, Pepper's Ghosts
 - **Projections** = Transparent Ghosts, Singing Busts, Window Scenes, Pepper's Ghosts, Whole House
 - If you want a video life-size or larger, you'll need a projector!

DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PANELS

- Flat-panel TVs as video panels
- Relatively cheap & great for ambient but only mid-sizes
- Most cheap Roku TVs will play videos via onboard USB Media Player app from USB drive or via HDMI input
- Might be too bright even at lowest brightness setting & brightness might need to be adjusted every power on - can dim with black sheer curtains as scrim
- Not a seamless loop since will see a round arrow as the loop restarts, workaround by extended content time?
- Might need to jump through hoops since guided setup forces to join wifi & search for channels
- Use Store Display Mode then disable ads & turn off wifi otherwise you may get wifi alerts on screen
- Onboard videos not triggerable, however you can also use a triggerable media player to a TV as HDMI input, like our Doombuggy (this also solves the loop arrow!)



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PANELS

- old computer monitors?
- Monitors are more of a pain due to stands & cables, trickier to run low-voltage, plus need a separate computer or media player as input, but if you have a stash hanging around & the form factor works, you might as well use them.
- Spaich Scary House's moving portraits are computer monitors mounted behind a false wall. For larger video panels, many computer monitors have external brick power supplies and run on 12V. They do use a fair amount of power, so you need to be careful to use large enough wire for any 'extensions' at the 12V side.
- Eerie Elegance's 2012 Tower Ghost was an old monitor turned vertical behind a foam "stone" tower window cabled to an old iPhone looping the video. A black scrim over the monitor dimmed the LCD glow and screen glare.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PANELS

- Digital Photo Frames

- Available in smaller sizes than TVs
- So many choices now that play videos that you probably want to stick to one brand for your sanity, and hope the company stays around?
- Cannot input from another player so cannot trigger effects, but perfect for ambient content
- Play content from USB drive or SD card, sometimes can copy to onboard storage, some app/wifi, might need specific video format
- Key is finding model that will auto-play & loop without user input. Take advantage of free returns?
- Spaich Scary House's came with an 5v power brick, but he uses a USB->barrel connector to power it, which is what Glen did for our Leaky Cauldron Pub Portraits. Larger models may be hardwired AC.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Front Projection

- Front projection onto solid can be anything, bedsheet, shower curtain, tablecloth, wall, or props! Ideally no wrinkles (iron carefully testing first), stretching all 4 sides is ideal.
- Projection Mapping = Not just walls or screens, but you can project onto ANYTHING! spiders climbing gravestones, snowfall over an entire yard, lightning, Singing Busts, talking jack o lanterns, revealing invisible ink...
- Guests could walk through the projector beam, weather worries, directional with visible beam when looking back (even Disney!)
- Front projecting a ghost onto scrim will usually continue to the next hard surface behind the scrim revealing the illusion, but you might be able to add splash lighting to distract.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Rear Projection

- Easier to hide light spill toward viewer in foreground interest, especially transparent scrims for ghosts
- Window/garage rear projections are easier to protect equipment vs weather worries
- Hide the Hot Spot
 - The bulb will have a hot spot staring at the viewer unless you have the perfect projection fabric, and a scrim will always have a hot spot no matter what.
 - Placing your projector below or above the guest viewpoint will hide your hot spot, but you may need to keystone the projector position if the angle is too extreme.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Rear Projection Screens

- See-through "hologram ghosts" need transparent scrim plus a lighted scene behind
- Standard bug-control window screening can work at farther viewing distances, but it will be a dimmer image than a solid screen
- AtmosFX sells "Hollusion" fabric but same as cheap gray sheer curtains on Amazon since they fit most window sizes
- Same sheer curtains are also available in black if you need to dim panel screens or block reflections in Endless Hallways
- You can look for gray sheer bridal/prom fabrics by the yard (if you can find a local fabric store anymore?) but fashion fabrics by the bolt are max 58" wide anyway vs 50" wide curtains that can come 108" long



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Rear Projection Screens

- A rear-projected solid image needs a translucent screen: bedsheet, shower curtain, tablecloth, window blinds, etc
- “Holy Grail” is translucent for clear, crisp image without showing any hotspot.
 - Once I found some discount gray microfiber bedsheets that worked great, but not all microfiber sheets are the same weave, so you will need to test with your setup.
 - From testing swatches with our projectors, in 2016 I found perfect 10ft wide white waterproof “artist tent” fabric to make our garage screen, but that company no longer sells it.
- Amazon these days has listings for tons of front projection screens of many sizes, with grommet edges for easy hanging, some reviews mention rear projecting so I have one pending testing.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Projector Preferences

- By now you should have decided whether your effect needs to project from the rear or front and the image size, but what space do you have?
- Throw Distance is the distance from projector to surface for a certain image size. "Short-throw" means the distance is shorter between the projector & the image surface, fitting in tighter spaces or larger images at distance.
- Projecting black levels? Test your media content in your situation, since some models with advertised high contrast ratios still will not blend projected black to offscreen darkness, which is harder to hide your edges. You can try projecting onto a black screen or black scrim, but it's so much easier to find a good projector model & stick with it.
- You can look up specs like throw distance, contrast ratios, and reviews on ProjectorCentral.com as a guide, but those are aimed for home theatre enthusiasts, and specs won't tell you exactly how any specific model will work for your haunt situation.

DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Projector Preferences

- Projecting Black Levels Examples: Our first Pepper's Ghost was a supposedly short-throw Epson that still needed a mirror to extend the beam to get a life-size image inside my shed, but the image was so bright you could see the "black" trapezoid around the ghost even after we covered our screen surface with black fabric.
- A new projector still gave us grief with projecting Zero in 2013 but we could use the gate to hide edges of a solid gray screen. After we found BenQ short throw 1080ST & 1085ST models in 2014 with amazing black levels, over the years we have bought more of them used on eBay, carefully replacing bulbs as needed.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Projector Preferences
- Short-throw projectors often make placement easier for both rear & front projections, but not always
 - easier to hide inside under window level
 - easier to front-project without guests walking in front of the beam (Singing Busts)
 - easier for whole-house projections since most front yards aren't very deep.
- HOWEVER a cheaper normal-throw projector could hide better depending on your setup...



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Projector Preferences

- Our Halloween 2025 hedge projector pumpkin worked better as a small & cheap normal-throw projector
- Projector was hidden in a custom-built box under the front hedge pumpkin to project the face the perfect size on the big pumpkin
- Hedge prevented guests from breaking the beam.
- Black levels didn't matter due to the pumpkin color and plenty of light on the porch behind to mask any light spill.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Projector Preferences

- The same cheap projector was able to sit on the stairs with the Spiders Snakes & Candles image the perfect size for the door window and no black level issues.
- For the same effect in 2022, one of our more expensive short-throw projectors needed to be in the doorway, requiring moving the projector & stand to use the stairs or shut the door during our three weeks of full setup.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROJECTORS

- Projector Preferences

- Yes, that was a LOT of information!
- The good news is that projectors have significantly come down in price over the past 13 years, so decent models for smaller effects can be \$100 or even cheaper.
- Take advantage of free return policies like Amazon to test your setup until you find your perfect projector for your effect.



DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PLAYING

- Media Players for Panels & Projectors

- Except for TVs and digital photo frames with built-in players, you will need a media player for panels or projectors
- Spare laptops, DVD players, old phones or tablets? In 2012 we used old iPhones, iPads & old Mac laptops to run our projectors and monitors, but it was a fight of cables & connectors, and why has Apple been so stingy about allowing seamless looping video?
- In 2017 FrightProps sold a triggerable compact media player that was about the size of a small paperback book and wasn't a seamless loop after being advertised as such. Grrr!
- The 2018 AtmosFX-branded media player was better, very small with true seamless loop. From past AtmosFX blogs they resold the Sprite for a while, and it's still shown in their tutorial videos, but it is no longer on their current product list.
- By 2020 FrightProps was recommending Sprites by MedeaWiz, we tried a couple, and we've never looked back.

DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PLAYING

- More Media Players

- Atom compact media player is a cheaper option recommended by Spaich Scary House
- You can hook up either a button, pressure pad, or PIR
- Atom sells a push-button cable and a PIR cable, but you can easily make your own with a stereo 1/8 jack where the pins are 5V, Ground, and Signal. When signal is pulled high, it triggers, so easy to hook up to almost sensor/pad.
- Not sure if Atom players have the same playback options as Sprite like round-robin or random, but Atoms are half the price of Sprites
- Eerie Elegance started with 4 Sprites for Halloween 2020 for basic triggers, we gave 8 Sprites a workout coordinated & triggered by wireless DMX for Halloween 2021, and we have been pleased enough to keep buying more as we need more. Only one developed a flaky power port that will still work in a pinch, so they have been pretty reliable so far.
- The MedeaWiz team is also responsive to support questions and willing to work with you via email. (I had some frustrating audio sync issues on videos from 2022-2024, and the solution was to turn off Hardware Acceleration when using Adobe Premiere Pro)

DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PLAYING

- Using Sprite Media Players

- **Beginners** can plug & play simple scenes
 - loading an mp4 video onto an SD card or USB drive,
 - plug the media into the Sprite, connect an HDMI cable from Sprite to a projector/TV
 - connect AV stereo mini port to an external speaker if desired
 - turn everything on
 - maybe tweak a few settings onscreen using the Sprite remote
 - you'll have a seamless loop video auto-starting whenever powered on
- **Advanced** users can use the provided I/O port & connector plug to wire to a step mat, DMX accessory, IR break, or other trigger methods, change the Sprite settings for trigger mode, and load up to 10 video files in the Sprite naming format, then you can run a steady-state video until the trigger is activated that shows one of the other video files. The Sprite user manual explains the setups, and Glen is our resident expert on this.
- Both Sprite & Atom are compact enough to hide in a weatherproof electrical box along with a power strip, or tuck inside however you are hiding your projector from the elements.

DISPLAYING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PLAYING

- Using Sprite Media Players

- **Basic:** Looping video in a window projection = all our silent ambient window scenes for 2025 were Sprite + projector + HDMI cable + 2 outlet extension cord.
- **Simple Trigger:** We leave our Victorian Christmas Carolers projection in our balcony running 24/7 when we are out of town for Christmas so the step mat can trigger them "Step Here to Start the Singing" via AV out to a small speaker under the sidewalk hedge, with the speaker on a timer to prevent 3am accidental triggers.
- **Advanced:** Glen was able to run our entire Haunted Hollywood 2021 coordinated show from the laptop & big screen projector outside the house to Sprite media players with wireless DMX triggers at projectors inside the house, plus his program triggered 2 more Sprites with speakers for timed audio with Frankenstein & Wolfman animatronics.





Disguising Digital Decorations

DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS

- Unless you are showing a movie in your haunt (hey, you might have reasons!) you will want to blend your panel or projection somehow into your scene.
- Existing Edges
- Fabric Frames
- Foam Frames
- Fitting Frames
- Found Frames
- Plussing with Props



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS

- Existing Edges for Projections

- **Window** - This is the easiest for projections either solid or scrim, since you can hang a screen inside your window and rear-project your scene, changing between themes as much as you like!
- **Fence Gate** - Leave the gate open and stretch a scrim or screen behind the opening in the fence for a rear or front projection.
- **Greenery** - Do you have a couple trees or vines near a hedge? Stretch a gray scrim by hiding the side poles behind the greenery or tree trunks. Foreground props can combat light spill from rear projection, but beware to hide your hot spot.

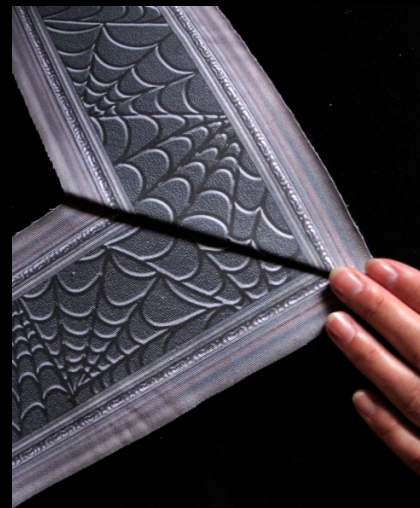


DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FANCY FRAMES

One of the most common video panel displays is a Portrait Gallery like the Haunted Mansion, so you'd need some Fancy Frames!

- **Fabric Frames**

- If your panel has a wider border like an older TV or monitor, printed fabric "molding" cut to size and attached with double-sided tape to the border can be an easily removable frame that does not block remote signals. I made several designs of these in original spooky styles and realistic carved frames back in 2012, but modern video panels have such a thin border now, there isn't much surface on front for tape vs the wider fabric flopping.



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FANCY FRAMES

- Foam Frames

- Carve a frame design from foam then paint. Some of our Verdigris Saga moving portraits had owls, dragons, pumpkins & grapes as themes.
- I was able to cut from a single thick sheet of foam so the frame pressure-fit over the video panel with no tape or glue required.
- Some of these did block IR signals but easy to lift the frame when needed since it was not permanently attached. Carving a hole in the design for the IR receiver wasn't wide enough to aim at any decent distances.



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FANCY FRAMES

- Fitting Frames

- The most professional look is to miter-cut wood or foam molding trim to fit your panel perfectly.
- This restricts you to what molding styles you find for sale, which are not usually skulls, spiderwebs, owls, or dragons.
- You can hot-glue a frame directly to the front panel edge, or use double-stick tape if the molding is lightweight enough and there is enough bezel edge around the screen.
- You can also mount the frame on a false wall with your panel behind an opening, like Spaich Scary House's portrait wall.



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FANCY FRAMES

• Found Frames

- I have found some spooky style blow-mold plastic frames with lenticular images that I have reused for smaller digital screens.
- Actual antique frames can be gorgeous and authentic, but they can also be expensive, often quite heavy, and difficult to find video panels to fit.
- Most video panels are now 16:9 aspect ratio where older frames are more 4:3 or other ratios, so bring a measuring tape to check before you buy.
- Since my endgame is a year-round digital portrait gallery in our Victorian home, I've been searching for antique frames that fit well enough with larger video panel sizes that can run on DC power to use low-voltage wiring, then I created decorative mats inside the frame edges by wrapping fabric over scrap cardboard to hide the digital differences.



DISGUISED DIGITAL DECORATIONS FANCY FRAMES

• Fair Warning for all Fancy Frames

- Be careful about covering the IR receiver red dot if you need to use a remote control for you video panel!
- Fabric Frames don't block IR signal, but foam, plastic & wood often block depending on the thickness.
- Sometimes just leaving enough space between the frame and the IR receiver will let the remote work at close range. You can cut a hole in your frame if your design allows, but the remote might need to be straight on to function since an angle would still block the beam.
- You might get lucky with some newer TVs that have Bluetooth remotes for most functionality but on/off is still IR.
- For our large wall TVs in our Victorian home, I cut custom frames from thin foam crown molding and tested that the remotes still worked fine, but the gold paint I used contained actual metal flakes and blocked the IR signal! :(

DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS FANCY FRAMES

- Fixing Fancy Frames

- Hot-glue works for lightweight frames if you don't block remote access and never need to change frames. Since these old digital photo frames have a side toggle switch and no remote, they were upgraded to perfectly-fitting 8"x10" Found Frames hot-glued to the panels in 2019 and are still stuck.
- For lightweight frames with enough bezel edge area you can use double-stick tape.
- Heavier frames can be tricky, since the panels are often not consistent shape on all 4 back sides, depending on placement of the speakers, ventilation, or mounting holes.
- Spring clips, bungee cords and screw eyes, even a block over the top so the frame hangs over the top panel edge can all work if you cannot permanently attach a heavier decorative frame to the video panel.



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROPS

- Plussing with Props

- Anything you can imagine!
- **Balcony Laboratory** - We hung a rear projection screen behind a table of practical props timed with the video loop of the lab explosion.
- **Tower Ghost** - Old computer monitor behind a foam stone castle tower, added black scrim to dim the LCD glow.
- **Herbology Classroom** - Giant vines & leaves outside hid where there was no projection screen inside the windows. Rear projected across the room on angle across right-angle screens.



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROPS

• Plussing with Props

- **Doombuggy** - We built our Doombuggy around a video panel, using a TV so we could leave it on HDMI and use a Sprite media player to trigger when a ghost would follow you home.
- **"Stone" archway** - Our Bela Lugosi video was originally a 2017 porch greeter with scrim poles hidden in greenery, then solid screen was stretched behind a plastic "stone" archway for 2021.
- **Magical Moving Wanted Posters** - TVs hanging behind a stage flat cutout and along the fence behind cutouts in brick wall printed vinyl backdrops



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROPS

- Plussing with Props

Moving Magical Me Book

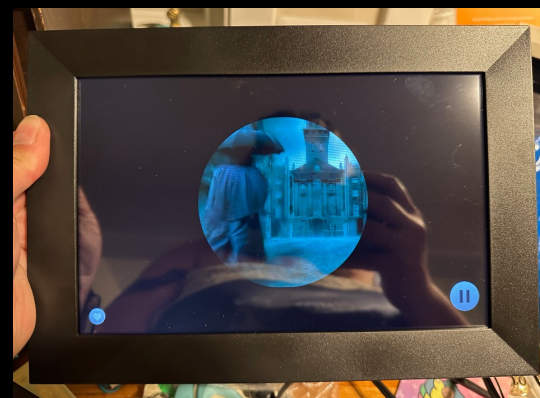
- I crafted a fake book from the video panel shipping box
- Attached a clear anti-glare page protector so the panel image looked inline with the book cover
- Resized the theme park video to fit the author portrait opening
- Displayed the book on an easel in our Diagon Alley bookshop, hiding the electrical cord through other books below
- Aimed spotlights in the scene so the rest of the cover blended with the backlit moving author image



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROPS

- Plussing with Props

- **Pensieve** - The smallest digital photo frame I could find barely fit under the largest clear plastic bowl I found. A smaller clear plastic bowl had a flat bottom with diameter matching the width of the photo frame, so I glued those together and painted with Drylok tinted gray for stone texture. I used a circle mask when video editing to re-center all the subjects so they would be seen through the bowl, but the same circle cut from felt set over the screen made sure no video panel glow escaped. Water in the top bowl sold the Pensieve effect to the Harry Potter fans.



DISGUIISING DIGITAL DECORATIONS PROPS

- Plussing with Props

- **Spirit Materializer** - For Halloween 2014 we built a giant steampunk device with reclaimed junk adorning foam panels painted like woodgrain & brass rivets, with lots of electrical relays, moving dials & lights all programmed to two video tracks. This "Spirit Materializer" device housed one rear projection of the staticky mad scientist broadcast in a porthole summoning a spirit medium through a vortex to lead party guests in a seance, bringing forth spirits laser-projected inside a crystal ball.
- **Pro Tip:** do not stage an elaborate, interactive seven-act mystery play while party guests are drinking alcohol.



Halloween 2014
The Story of Seven Spirits

DIGITAL DECORATIONS LINKS

• Helpful Links

- Free video editors: <https://www.techradar.com/best/free-video-editing-software>
- Cheap gray or black sheer curtains as scrim <https://a.co/d/0g1CKwb9>
- Screen for rear projecting <https://a.co/d/07iExpTV>
- Amazon link for Atom player <https://a.co/d/07tLOOYq>
- Amazon link for Sprite basic <https://a.co/d/0a38nSyA>
- Amazon link for Sprite 4K <https://a.co/d/09ul93oU>
- Small budget projector <https://a.co/d/0aARodd9>
- Spaich Scary House's video splitter <https://a.co/d/0b4bfiT3>
- Uhale photo frames <https://a.co/d/0ji2V1zf>
- AtmosFX <https://atmosfx.com/>
- EerieEleganceTM YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@EerieEleganceTM>
- Eerie Elegance Paranormal Projections <http://www.eerieelegance.com/ghosts.html>

Video Examples

See the EerieElegance™ YouTube channel
for the supercut video compilation
“A Decade Deep of Digital Decorations”

<https://youtu.be/pZowA0c1im0>

HAUNTED TALK

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