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clean living.*

MAKE: PROJECTS

Mad Monster Candy Snatch Game

Put the fun in “fun-sized” candy!

By **Bob Knetzger**

80

74

39

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80

Here's a classic toy reimagined for you to make just in time for Halloween candy-giving and party fun. It's the Mad Monster Candy Snatch game, which combines the nerve-wracking dexterity of the classic Operation game (*BZZZZZT!*) with a fun monster head-mounted candy dispenser. Make those little goblins earn their treats with this tricky game!

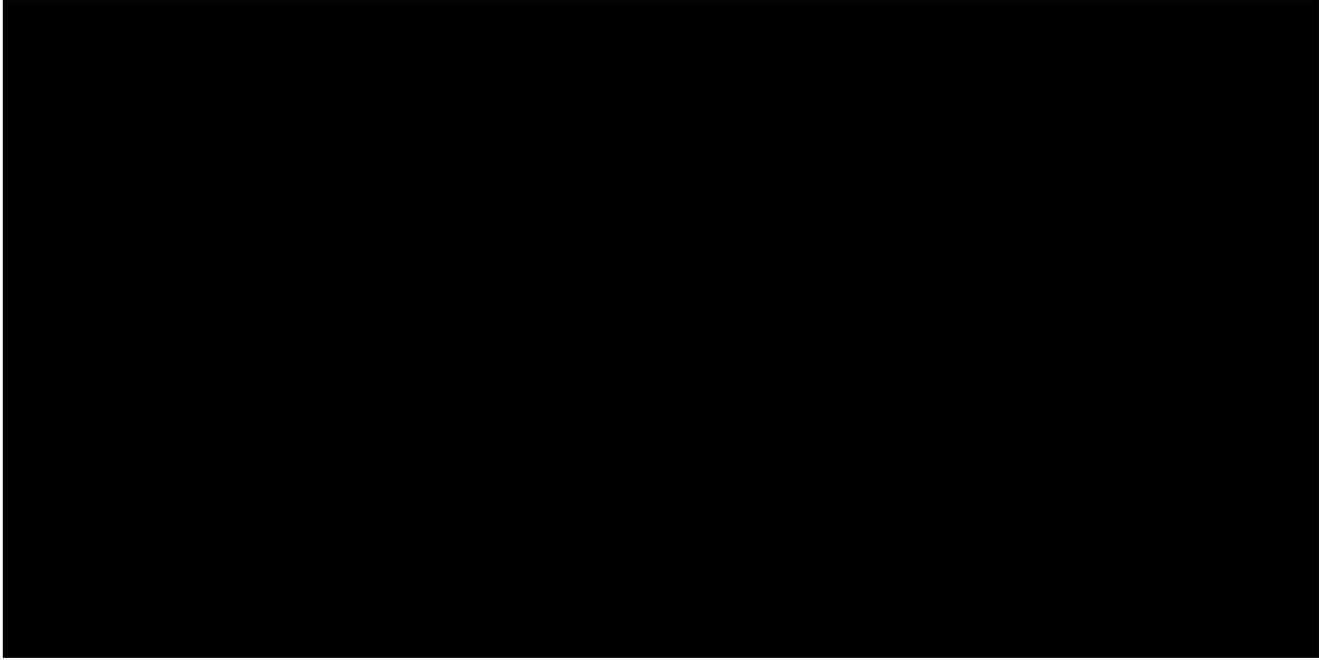
It's simple to make and you can customize the play to be as easy or difficult as you like. You can even personalize it with your own voice, choice sayings, and sound effects.

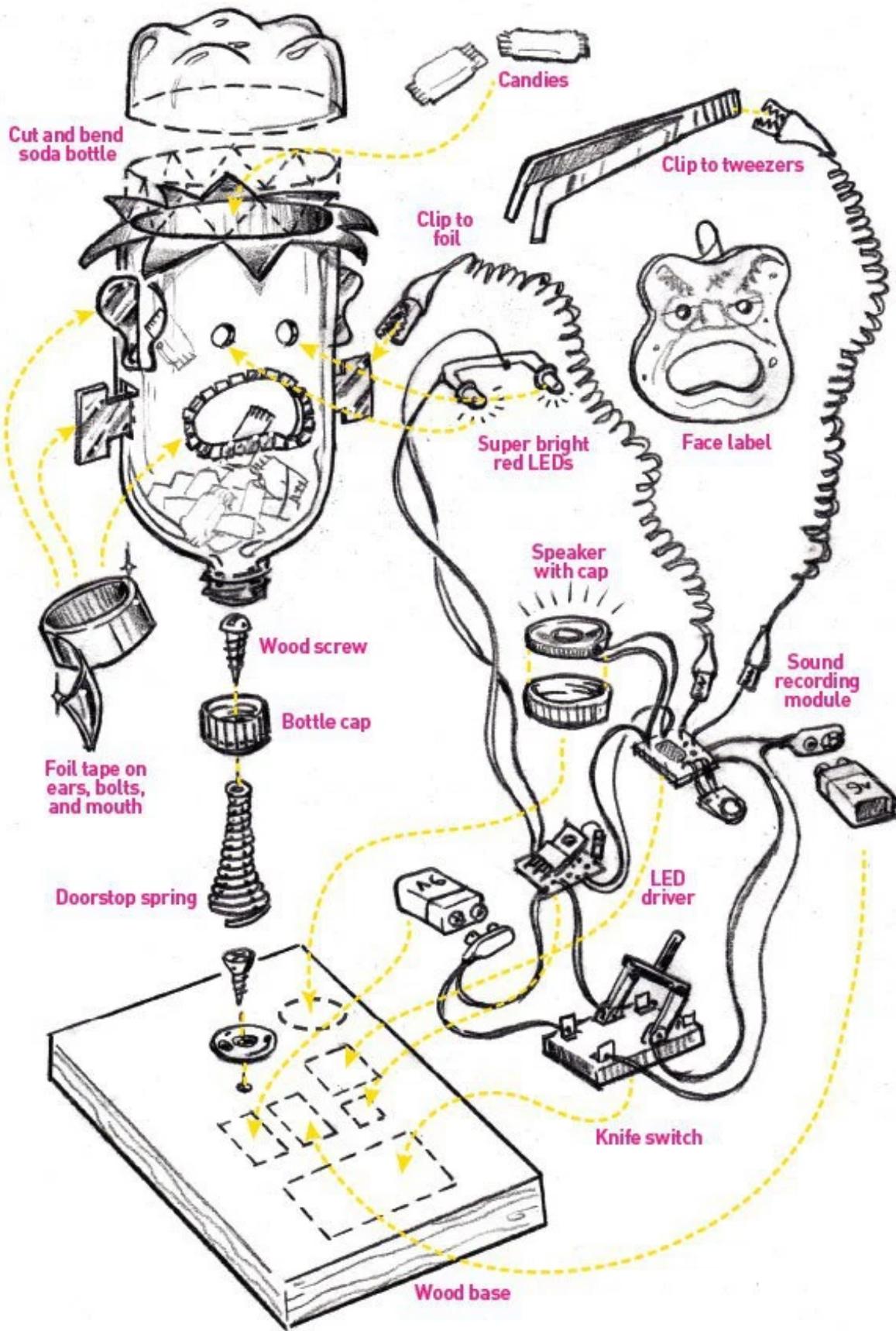


This article first appeared in *Make: Volume 41*.

The see-through green monster head is filled with fun-sized candies.

Do you dare to snatch a snack? Use the forceps to carefully reach inside its mouth. If you can maneuver out a candy, you've won a treat! But be careful – if you touch the side you lose! The monster wakes up with crackling, shocking sound effects and announces “YOU MAKE MONSTER MAD! YOU LOSE!” as his angry eyes flash red. No treat for you!





PARTS

Soda bottle, large, green-colored I used a ginger ale bottle

STEPS

PROJECT STEPS

1. Make the Monster's head
2. Make the base
3. Hack the sound module
4. Make the circuit
5. Mount components to board
6. Assemble the game

Doorstop spring Get the kind that has a tapering large-to-small conical shape for just the right amount of bendiness.

Aluminum tape not silver-colored duct tape – real metal tape!

Alligator clip jumper wires (6)

Tweezers, long

Knife switch, DPDT

RadioShack #275-1537

Sound recording module
RadioShack #276-1323

Wire

LEDs, super bright, red (2)

Power transistor, TIP31 NPN

Resistor, 220Ω

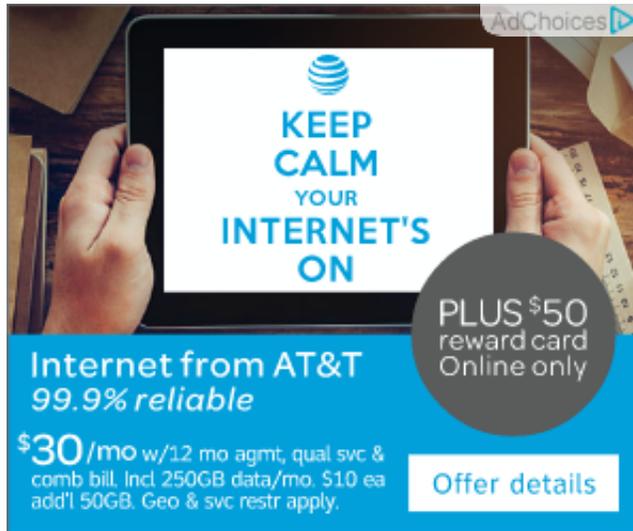
9-volt battery clip with leads

Perf board, small piece

Foam mounting tape, double-sided

Wood board, about 6"×10"×1" thick for the base. Anything will work: particleboard, plywood, or solid wood

ADVERTISEMENT



e

adhesive-backed,

plate

emplate

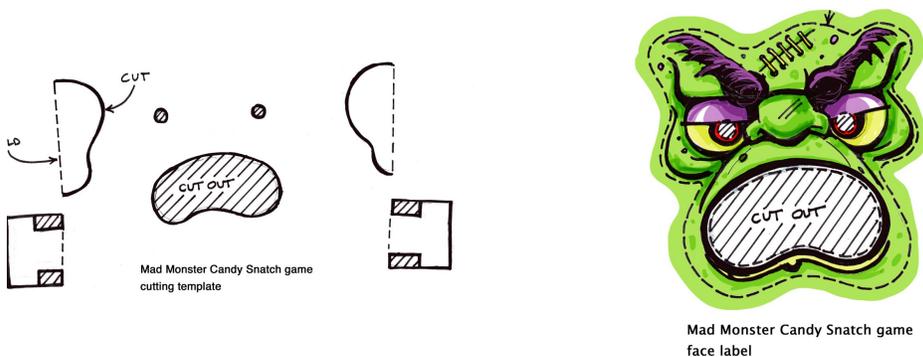
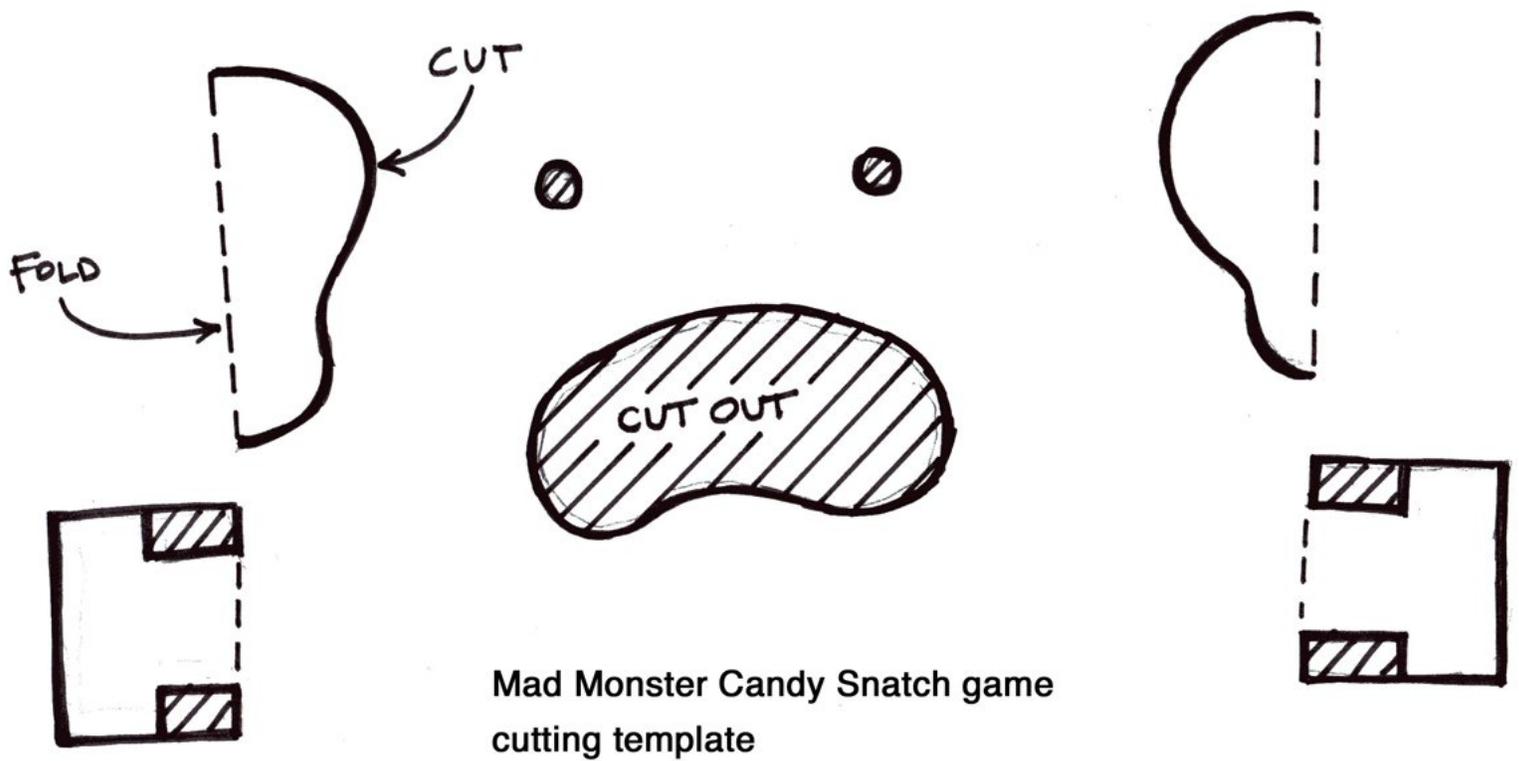
andies "fun size" mini

candy bars or any small wrapped

Step #1: Make the Monster's head

candy you can pick up with

tweezers



Empty the soda bottle and save the cap. Rinse it out and remove the label. Cut off the bottom of the bottle and cut points along the opening to form the monster's spiky hair; don't be too neat, he's a mess! Mask off the remaining part of the bottle (again, don't be too precise). Paint the jagged tips of the bottle with black spray paint. When dry, bend each of the triangular points outward to make the pointy "hair."

Download the cutting template. Print it on plain paper. Cut it out on the thick black dashed lines, and fold it over on the thin fold lines. Wrap the pattern around the bottle and using a black permanent

marker, trace the cut lines onto the bottle. Use a hobby knife to carefully poke a starting slot. Using a sharp scissors, cut along lines. Punch out the eyeholes with the 3/16" punch to fit the LEDs. Fold the ears and neck bolts at 90° so they stick out.

Cut a piece of aluminum tape 1/2"x6" and cut small slits 1/4" apart all along one long side. Then cut more slits on the other long side, alternating the cuts so you don't snip the strip all the way through. Then stick the tape to the inside edge of the mouth hole: Place the uncut center part of the tape along the edge, folding over onto the outside and inside of the bottle. It should create a foil-lined edge all along the mouth opening. Cut more pieces of aluminum tape and stick to both sides of the ears and neck bolts.

To finish the head, **download the face label**. Print it on an adhesive label sheet and cut it out along the dotted line, being sure to cut out the eyes and mouth too. Carefully center it over the holes on the bottle and adhere it to the outside.



BOB KNETZGER

Bob Knetzger (neotoybob@yahoo.com) is an inventor/designer with 30 years of experience making fun stuff.

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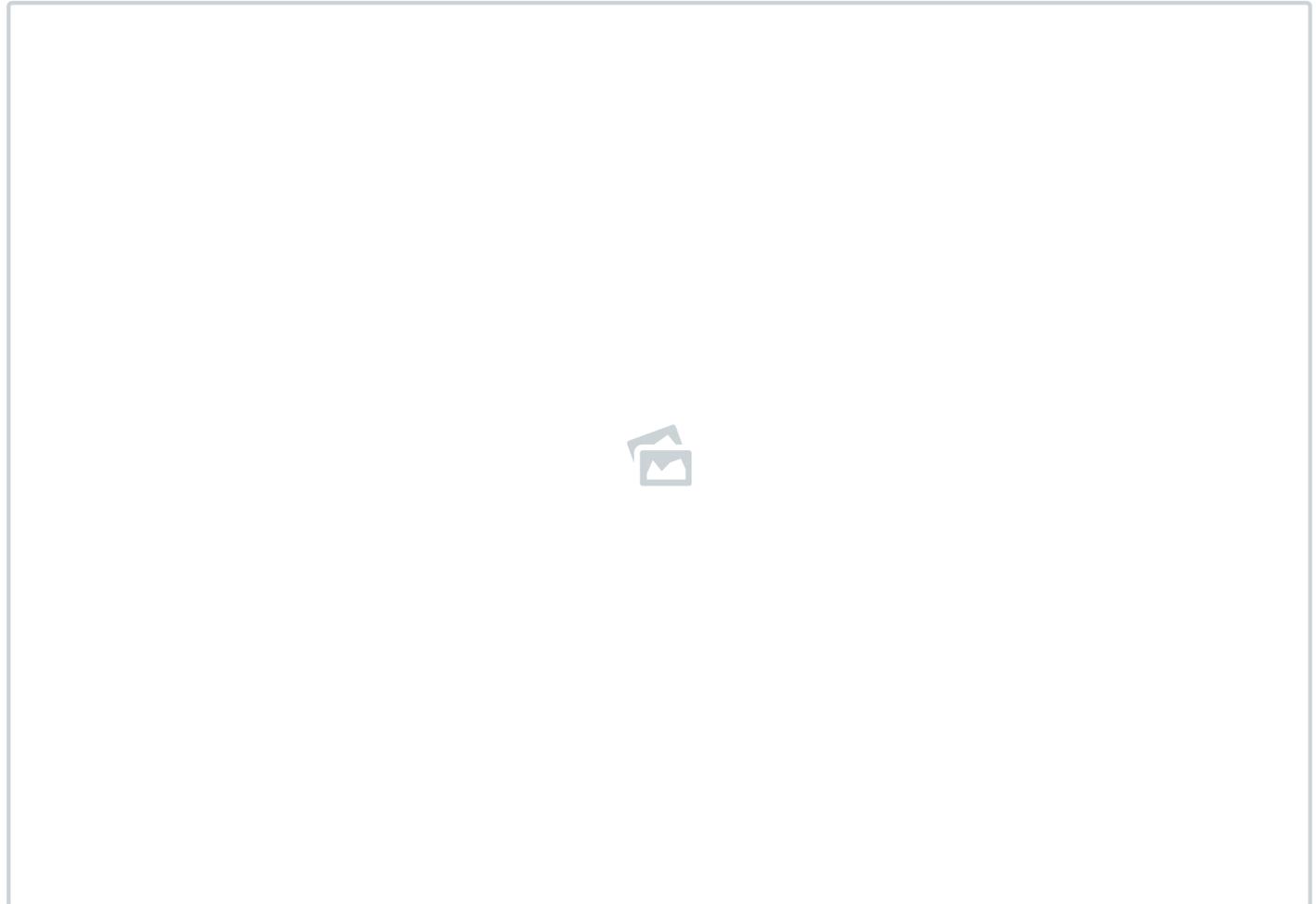


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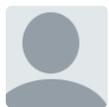


John Diehl · 2 years ago

Mad Monster Candy Snatch
Game at Girl Fest – great project !!!



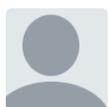
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Lalala · 2 years ago

Really excited to attempt this build. However, as a newbie to electronics, can you explain the function of the power transistor to me? Also, on the schematic, wouldn't the LED resistor come before the LEDs or is the power flowing the other direction?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



TexasMaker · 6 months ago

I work for a company (www.atec.com) that designs and builds aerospace equipment and we have an annual Halloween party with pumpkin carving contest. I made a version of this game as a pumpkin. For the transistor, I used P/N NTE56 from Fry's and I found push lamps at a dollar store

with 3 LEDs that I removed from the housings for the lighted eyes. I put foil around the mouth and a pie plate inside that I bent in half to prop up the candy raising the level up past the mouth. Worked great. First place. I have been a lifetime Maker, starting at age 10 with the Radio Shack 75-in-1 electronics kit, reading everything Forrest Mims III wrote on electronics and eventually an EE degree. Parents, please encourage your kids to make things by getting them the parts they need like mine did. We need more engineers with "the knack" for it that comes from hands on experience playing around with hardware. Thanks MAKE Magazine for motivating the next generation of hardware hackers. Link to video: <http://www.atec.com/2015/10/ha...>

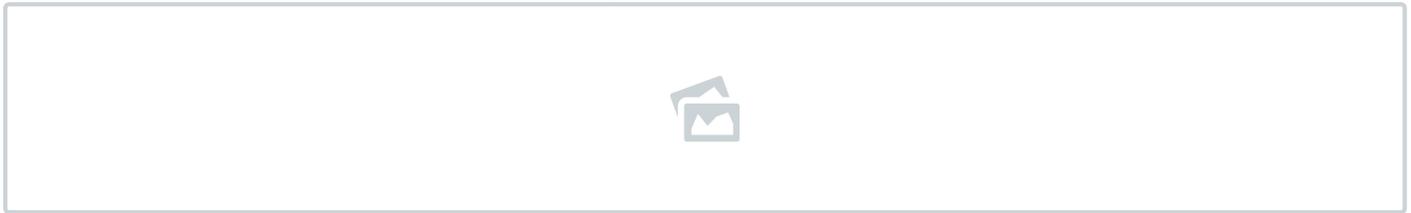


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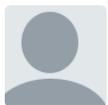


Living Institute For Education · a year ago

We didn't have all the parts, but that didn't stop our boys...they used their Snap Circuits kit to create the alarm. And we used Lego Minifigs instead of candy :)

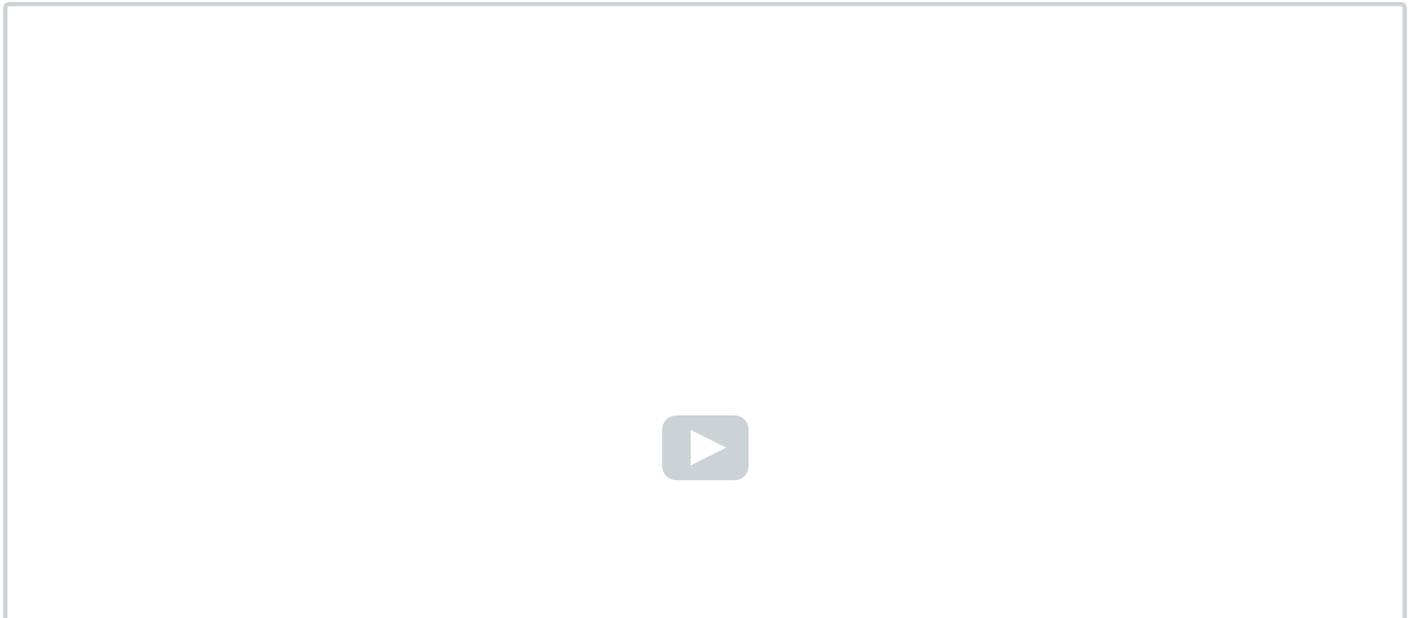


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Daymaker Lavon · 2 years ago

We made ours, thanks for all the help Bob!



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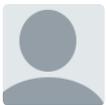
 **skbwolverine** · [→ Daymaker Lavon](#) · 6 months ago
Awesome!

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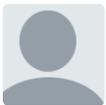
 **Jill Dawson** · 2 years ago
I have finally figured this out and have posted the solution to my blog. Thanks for the tip about the polarity of the speakers, Joe. <http://jillericksondawson.blog...>



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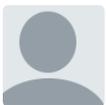
 **Cheryl Lustenberger** · 2 years ago
Where are the downloadable audio file you mention in the article? I've gone through the project page and can not find them. Thanks.

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 **MoxieMiniMakers** · 2 years ago
Household of new makers in over our heads! If anyone can explain a bit the things listed below by Jill, I am not certain what to solder/how to connect the resistor and B,C and E. Ideally someone can take up close photos of perf board (top and underneath?) and the led light parallel wiring on their completed project and I can copy at home. It appears I should cut off microphone from sound board and use those wires? Photos should answer most questions I think.

My six year old and I are bound to get better over time, but inspiration is not pulling this one off! We did get our sound board soldered and hooked up so the monster "speaks" when the tweezers touch the aluminum tape.

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 **Jill Dawson** · 2 years ago
I got through the gauntlet of soldering new wires to the switch pad, but I got lost when the directions said, "Add the power transistor to the perf board and after noting the E,C,and B legs, wire up the connections to the speaker, and then solder the connections to the dropping resistor and the two LEDs." Am I supposed to solder NEW wires to the speakers? The picture shows two sets of wires there. How do I determine the polarity; both of the wires connecting to my speaker are the same color. How do the wires then connect to the transistor? I know which leg is which

are the same color. How do the wires then connect to the transistor? I know which leg is which, but I don't quite understand where to go with just that information. Am I also supposed to solder the LED leads to the transistor? I am new to this, so I sincerely appreciate any suggestions for better understanding the schematic or this part of the written directions. Can anyone advise, please?

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Joe → Jill Dawson · 2 years ago

If you're using the Radio Shack Sound Module, on the speaker there is a faint "+" and "-" where the leads connect to the speaker....FWIW, In my build I bypassed the transistor altogether and added 2 wires to the speaker and sent them directly to my LEDs (with the 220 resistor in the middle of course)

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Jill Dawson → Joe · 2 years ago

Thanks, Joe. I'll give that a try if I can't get more explanation on the transistor. I just really want to understand the designer's intent.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Shannon · 2 years ago

Approximate cost? Time to make?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Ryan Ouradnik · 2 years ago

I did a remix of this. Made it a little simpler and added Scratch Software

<https://www.facebook.com/video...>

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