

4. Keep parts preserved until you're ready to stitch them together.

Avoid the danger of postexhumation rot by storing body parts on a snow bank or in a freezing underground dungeon until you have secured all the necessary pieces and have enough time to build the body properly.

5. Measure twice; cut once.

Measure your incisions and dismemberments twice before using your saw. The effort spent in ensuring that each cut is made exactly as you want it will save time by avoiding having to acquire replacement parts.

6. Stitch and rivet carefully.

The human body is an unimaginably intricate and delicate network of interlocking systems. Unless you are a trained surgeon, in which case your success rate at this task is at least 50 percent higher, you will be aligning these systems on a rough macroscopic level and then trusting the sheer power of violent electricity to fuse the messy bits together. Make your sutures tight and close together with a well-rated surgical thread, and solder the neck-bolted electrodes firmly into place, extending an inch into muscle tissue beneath the cauterized skin.

7. Watch the weather reports.

Wait for a raging thunderstorm. Pay attention to forecasts a few hours in advance—better to be doing your prep work before the rain starts.

8. Activate the body.

Strap your undead creation to a table with leather shackles. Position the table to face an open window. Using extra-long jumper cables, attach the monster's electrode bolts to the lightning rod affixed to the roof, wrapping them securely to the rod with heavy electrical tape. Wait for a lightning bolt to strike the rod, sending electricity surging through the wires and galvanizing the creature's nervous system into first reflexive and then sustainable activity. That is: life. *Life!*

9. Laugh maniacally.

Lean back, clutch at the sky, and cackle.

10. Relax and enjoy your success.

Nothing can possibly go wrong now.