

# One Handed Rod Controls

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When should you use a rod puppet? I have found that rod puppets have several advantages over other types puppets. They can be used to fit through small openings that a puppet with an arm attached could not. You can also use them to create very small characters that a hand could never fit into. I like to make ghosts as rod puppets - they can be very skinny or seem transparent, and with a black rod against a black backdrop your ghost can fly. This is also true for birds and insects as well. You are limited to the needs of you production and your imagination.

In the following diagram the puppet has been removed to show the inner workings of the rod control. This control was the first I ever designed. It allows side to side movement of the puppet's head as well as allowing the performer to control the puppet's mouth.

The mouth is made to hold itself in the *closed* position, in turn keeping the mouth string tight and the trigger in the upright position.

