

## Pumpkins

By Kathie Crisan

Photography by Debbie Ohm

Halloween brings about creative opportunities with vegetables—especially pumpkins. Here’s an easy project that magically transforms two dowels into funny-looking jack-o-lanterns. Have an adult help you cut the dowels, then enjoy painting and making faces on your pumpkins.



### What You'll Need:

- 3/8" dowel or 3/8" wooden stick
- Toothpick
- Tan raffia, 5-6" long
- Mini oak leaf punch
- Fall color paper
- Fine tipped pen (black)
- White gel pen
- Sandpaper
- Tacky Glue
- Thumbtack
- Pumpkin color paint
- Dark green paint
- Serrated knife or craft knife with sharp blade

1. Cut 3/8" dowel or stick (Illus. 1) to the size you want your pumpkin to be, about 1/2" long (Illus. 2) for the short one and 3/4" long (Illus. 3) for the tall one. Score the dowel or gently saw through it to get a clean cut.

1. 3/8" wide



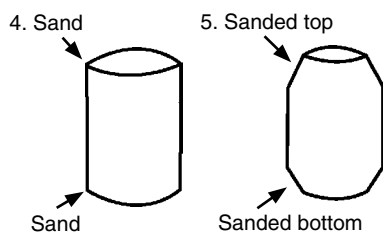
2. Short Pumpkin Height



3. Tall Pumpkin Height



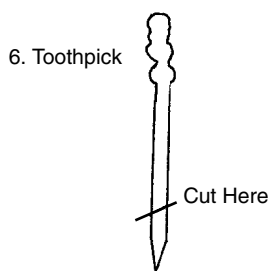
2. Sand around the top and bottom (Illus. 4) to round off the edges (Illus. 5).



3. Use the thumbtack to poke a hole in the top for the stem. Wiggle the thumbtack to make the hole a little larger.

4. Paint the pumpkin with the orange paint. Let dry.

5. To make the stem, cut about 1/4" from the bottom of the toothpick (Sketch 6). Paint it green and let it dry.



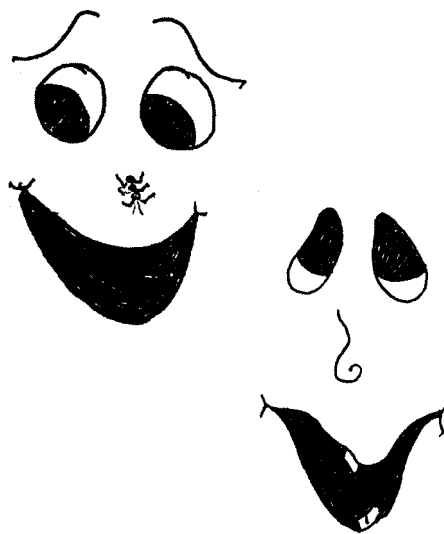
6. Put a drop of glue on the pointed end of the stem and put in the hole you made with the thumbtack in the top of the pumpkin. Let dry.

7. After paint has dried, tie raffia around the stem and make a bow

about 1/2" wide. Put a dot of glue on the bow so it does not come undone.

8. Make three fall colored leaves with the punch. (If you do not have a punch, just cut tiny shapes from the paper to look like leaves.) Add a drop of glue on each leaf and attach to the top near the stem under the bow.

9. Paint face with fine pen. Fill in the whites of the eyes with the white gel pen.



You can copy these faces or make up any faces you like. ■

*Kathie's business name is creations by kathie. She lives in Indiana.*