

Autumn Pumpkins

Designed by Jan Lewis



I wasn't happy with the pumpkin patterns that I found so I created one of my own. This is an intermediate pattern which includes working in the round, increases and decreases, provisional CO, and I-cord. I prefer the two circular method of knitting in the round, but you may use DPNs or Magic Loop if you prefer.

Materials and info:

Yarn - The pumpkins pictured used Plymouth Encore Worsted. Any worsted weight yarn will work though.

Needles - Size US 6 circular needles and size US 5 DPNs for I-cord or a size that creates a fairly tight fabric so stuffing doesn't show through.

Gauge - Not important

Size - smallish, but I will add instructions for larger ones when time permits

*Techniques -

I used a crochet provisional cast on, but if you prefer you can cast on normally and then pick up stitches around the bottom after stuffing.

KRL increase -

Backward loop increase

Directions can be found at <http://www.knittinghelp.com>

Body:

1. Using waste yarn cast on 30 stitches using provisional cast on of your choice.
2. Leaving a 10 inch tail and main color (orange) join and k2, p1 around. (30 sts)
3. K1, inc 1, k1, p1 around (40 sts)
4. K1, inc 1, k2, p1 around (50 sts)
5. Knit 4, p1 for appx. 4 inches.
6. K1, k2tog, k1, p1 around (40 sts)
7. K2tog, k1, p1 around (30 sts) (cut yarn leaving a tail to weave in)
8. Knit two rows with stem color (brown) and cut leaving 10 in tail
9. Put brown tail on a yarn needle and slip through stitches on needles and pull tight closing hole. Slip through stitches again to help secure it and remove needle. Weave in end.
10. Stuff pumpkin firmly, but not packed too tight.
11. Pick up stitches from provisional cast on and remove waste yarn. If you chose a normal cast on pick up 30 stitches along edge fairly evenly.
12. Thread orange tail on yarn needle and work through stitches and then start cinching it up. (If you need a little more stuffing now is the time to do it. You don't want it too firm for this next step though.) Thread through stitches again to tighten it up and close hole with a few stitches if necessary.
13. After you've cinched up the bottom squeeze pumpkin at top and bottom (making sure needle is in center of bottom) push needle through top and pull through. Squeeze pumpkin again and push needle back to bottom center creating a squatty little pumpkin. Careful not to lose your needle in the pumpkin! You can vary this part as you like for different effects. Secure end , weave it in.

I- cord Stem -

Using stem color (brown) cast 5 stitches onto one DPN and make an I-cord about 1.5 inches long or length desired. Bind off and sew onto top of pumpkin. Instructions can be found at knittinghelp.com

Leaf -

Leaf is done flat and I used the US 5 DPNs. I used backward loop for increases.

1. CO 2
2. K2, co 1 using backward loop
3. K3, co 1
4. K4, co 1
5. K5, co 1
6. K6 across
7. K6, co 2
8. K8, co 2
9. K10 across
10. K10 across
11. K2tog, k6, k2tog
12. K2tog, k4, k2tog
13. K2, k2tog, k2
14. K2tog, k1, k2tog, do not turn
15. Make appx ½ inch I-cord for leaf stem
16. End with a k3tog
17. Attach to pumpkin at base of stem.

That's it!

Notes:

Pumpkins are often wonky shaped so it's okay and even preferable if the stuffing isn't perfectly round.

I added a curl like those found on pumpkins by crocheting a chain (appx 3 in) and then (starting second chain from hook) doing 2 single crochets in each chain. Attach to pumpkin near leaf. You can also create the curl right on the end of the leaf stem before attaching it saving one step of sewing.

To make a larger pumpkin increase to 5 stitches in each rib and then knit 5, p1 in center segment to make it taller. Decrease one extra time on top.

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I hope you enjoy making it as much as I did! ☺
Jan Lewis