

Carving Out Pumpkins and Oranges

By Talitha C.



You need: Pumpkins of your choice (the little green ones are difficult to cut because of their thick peel), one lino cutter knife with a U-shape (that is the easiest one to use to cut rounds), a permanent marker to draw the patterns or write the words before you start cutting and some closet paper and nail polish remover in case you want to erase a mistake .



Then just draw or write whatever you like. Simple patterns like stripes and squares have no need to be drawn first, but hearts, curls, letters you may want to write before you start cutting. Don't think this carving out pumpkins is only for the experts... You can make it as simple or complicated as you like. Just stripes and points in different directions can be really beautiful.



Always take care that the hand which you use to hold the pumpkin or orange is out of the way so you don't cut in your own hand! Try to turn the orange/pumpkin while cutting round forms. (Just like you do when using scissors to cut forms out of paper.) Don't cut too deep into the

pumpkins. You will see that the pumpkins 'bleed' a little bit and have a sticky juice coming out while you cut. Your fingers may turn a little brown. Just wash and scrub your hands when you finish ☺



Afterwards you can remove the marker remains with the nail polish remover.



Oranges are a little more difficult to carve out, as they have a thicker peel. But just a line turning round and round the orange can be very nice and fresh. (You can also use other citrus fruits as citrons etc.

Some additional ideas

We don't celebrate thanksgiving in my country. But I think it is such a good idea to take one day a year to specially celebrate God's goodness and care and to thank Him for that. To make it more meaningful to your children you can let them draw things on the pumpkin for which they want to thank God. Depending on the age you or they can cut the forms out of the pumpkin.

The colorful jars for candles you can make with silk paper in all colors. Tear or cut pieces. Glue them on clean jars with a glue stick or wall paper glue. When dry, you can use thick gold paint/paste in little tubes to decorate more. When this is dry you can even paint the whole jar over with glitter paint. This paint dries transparently, so you only see the glitter. All sparkles and gives a joyful glow in the dark. This you can easily do with children.



Another idea is to give each guest a small pumpkin on his or her plate. On it you write 'Thank you Lord' and a Bible verse about thanking God. During the celebration each person can have a turn to read the verse and share their own thanksgiving to the Lord. After the celebration each person can take their small pumpkin home to remember to thank God.

These jars for candles are also easy to make. just take thin mettalic thread, thread some pearls, buttons or whatever you have. Give a twist after each or several pearls and put it around the jar.



The green variant of pumpkin...



These jars for candles you make with teabags. Leave the teabag to dry after using them. When dry, carefully open the bags, take the tea out and fold the paper open. Use wall paper glue to glue them on the jars. They give a warm glow in the dark. Maybe you can combine the technique written above and use dark brownish wooden pearls and buttons to make them more appealing by daylight too. Or just take some ribbon and make a lash around the top.

Have fun!!!