

DREMEL®

Jack-O-Lantern Carving

You don't have to be a skilled artist to create the most admired jack-o-lanterns on the block. Dremel® Rotary Tools, the maker of the Dremel Pumpkin Carving Kit, recommends the following tips and tricks to ensure truly impressive pumpkin carving results.

Getting Started

- **Choose a design before you pick the pumpkin.** Having a design in mind will help you select the perfect pumpkin with the right shape and enough surface area.
- **Know the best way to use your tools.** The Dremel pumpkin carving tool is not intended to cut through the pumpkin, but rather should be used on the surface of a pumpkin after it has been cut and cleaned out. Any activity that involves the use of sharp objects, including the Dremel Pumpkin Carving Kit, requires adult supervision.

Transferring Your Design

- **Use a template.** Use either a pre-drawn template – available for download on the carving templates page on the Dremel Web site – or make your own. Enlarge or reduce the template on the photocopier to fit the scale of the pumpkin.
- **Cut slits around the template to ensure a smooth fit.** Cutting small slits along the perimeter of the paper will help you wrap it around the curved surface of the pumpkin.
- **Avoid traced marker lines by using spray adhesive.** Start by applying spray adhesive on the desired carving area of the pumpkin. The template should then stay in place while you carve your favorite Halloween designs.

Carving The Pumpkin

- **Don't immediately remove the top of the pumpkin.** If you plan to carve a “translucent” design that does not cut all the way through the pumpkin's surface, leave the top of the pumpkin in place. Instead, cut the opening in the back of the pumpkin to insert a candle, or an electric candle if using an artificial pumpkin.
- **Use an ice cream scoop to clean out the pumpkin.** An ice cream scoop is the ideal tool for quickly and evenly cleaning out a pumpkin. Unlike your kitchen spoons, it won't bend.
- **Put the sharp knives aside.** Try using the Dremel pumpkin carving tool – the 6-Volt Dremel Alkaline Cordless rotary tool. The motorized tool features a rounded-edge cutter that enables Halloween enthusiasts to etch designs into the pumpkin's surface, making it an ideal tool for carving intricate designs.

Making Your Jack-O-Lantern Last Longer

- **Apply petroleum jelly to cut surfaces.** A thin layer of petroleum jelly will help seal in moisture and prevent the pumpkin from drying out.
- **Cover the jack-o-lantern with plastic wrap and store it in the refrigerator.** Refrigerating the jack-o-lantern until you are ready to display it will help it last for several more days.

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