ULTIMATE-PUMPKIN-STENCILS.COM

Congratulations Pumpkin Artist

You've just downloaded The Don Lafontaine Stencil



Tools you will need.

- A pumpkin (this is going to be really hard without one)
- Scissors, scotch tape and toothpicks
- A push pin or a small nail. Anything pokey is good
- Pumpkin saw or small jigsaw
- A good scoop to scrape the inside of the pumpkin
- A bowl to put those guts in
- Some mini wood-working tools (optional)
- a baking sheet... some salt... maybe a little melted butter. We'd hate to see those tasty little seeds go to waste. A nice reward for a carving well done

Alright DaVinci... Now let's get carving.

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Ultimate-Pumpkin-Stencils.com
and get great tips to make your pumpkin last longer.

Tips for Carving your Ultimate Pumpkin Stencil

1. Let's be careful using any knives or cutting utensils. Cut fingers can ruin the fun.

2. Start by cutting around the stem of your pumpkin to make a lid. Be sure to cut the lid at an angle, otherwise it may fall into the pumpkin. We like using a long scoop or spoon to get that gooey mess out of there. It does a great job, plus it's an easy way to scrape clean the inside walls of the pumpkin.
HINT: Try scraping the inside of the side you're going to carve, a little thinner. Not too thin... we don't want this pumpkin to shrivel up too fast.

3. Once you've cleaned out the guts, give the outside of the pumpkin a good wipe with a wet cloth to remove any dirt or debris. Then let it dry completely. Wet pumpkins makes for unhappy stencils.

4. To transfer your stencil to your pumpkin, cut off all the excess paper and tape just the stencil to your pumpkin. Use a pushpin or nail to poke through the paper and the skin of the pumpkin. Don't press so hard that you go through the pumpkin. Poke all the way around the shaded areas. Be precise. The closer you are to the original stencil, the happier you will be with your carving. Once the poking is complete, remove the stencil. Thanks stencil! You've been a lot of help!

5. Now you're ready to start carving! Woo Hoo! I know you want to tackle those big areas first. STOP RIGHT THERE! It's best to start from the middle of your pumpkin and work your way out. Cutting out smaller pieces first saves putting stress on thinner lines that attach big areas together. When you do get to carving out those larger areas, try breaking them down into bite-sized pieces. Trying to take out large areas in one piece is a recipe for disaster.

6. Want to try something cool? Some people like to peel just the skin off rather than completely carve through the pumpkin. This way when you're done, the candle will glow through the orange flesh. Plus, if you scrape the inside of the pumpkin thinner in places , you can achieve different glowing effects.
HINT: Try a combination of peeling and carving if you like. Peel first then carve out some of the pieces after. This may also help preserve those tough smaller lines from accidental 'cut-thrus'. Experiment with your carving. You're the Picasso of this pumpkin!

Some last words of pumpkin carving wisdom:

- Using a thinner blade, like a pumpkin saw or a small jigsaw, rather than a kitchen paring knife will allow you to carve finer details and puts less stress on the pumpkin while you're sawing through it.
Less stress = less toothpicks to hold it back together.
- We love using small, inexpensive wood-carving tools. You can get really precise, especially if you want to try peeling that pumpkin. You should be able to find some for very cheap at the hardware store.

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