

Pumpkins

by Deborah V. Gardner

Notes:

- This pattern can be knit with any size yarn. Use needles appropriately sized to the yarn, making sure the fabric is tight enough that the stuffing will not show through.
- Samples were made using Big Twist 100% Acrylic #05024 Pumpkin and Cascade 220 100% Highland Peruvian Wool. The small pumpkin was knitted using 1 strand of yarn and US 5 (3.75 mm) needles; the large pumpkin, 2 strands and 10.5 (6.5 mm) needles.
- Directions for a provisional cast on are given on the last page.

Gauge: Though not critical, here are the gauges based on the yarn and needles used for the samples.

Small: 5½ sts x 7 rnds = 1"

Large: 7 sts x 5 rnds = 1"

Sizes without stem (approximate):

Small: 4½" height, 6" diameter

Large: 6½" height, 8¼" diameter

Materials:

5 DPNs

16" circular needle

Crochet hook, same size as knitting needles

Yarn needle

Yarns of your choice: pumpkin orange and green

Waste yarn, smooth, same weight as base yarn

Stuffing



Abbreviations:

CO Cast on

DPN Double Pointed Needles

M1P Make 1 purl: With left-hand needle, pick up the strand between the needles from back to front. Purl in front loop.

MC main color

K knit

P purl

PB Purl in row below: Insert the right needle from back to front (just like normal purling) into the space below the next stitch, right under the purl bump. Purl as you normally would, allowing the stitch to fall off the left needle as usual.

Rinc Right lifted increase: Insert the right-hand needle in the right side of the stitch 1 row below the stitch on the left-hand needle. Lift it and place on left-hand needle. Knit in the front leg of the stitch.

Rnd Round

Linc Left lifted increase: Insert the left needle in the left side of the stitch 2 rows below the stitch on

the right-hand needle. Lift it and place on left-hand needle. Knit in the back leg of the stitch.

Using scrap yarn, CO 24 with provisional cast on. Divide between 4 dpns. With MC, knit 2 rnds.

Rnd 3: *Rinc, k2, p1, k2, Linc, p1* around (32 sts).

Rnds 4, 6, 8-10 and 12-14: Work in established pattern: knit the k sts and purl the p stitches.

Rnd 5: *K 3, Linc, p1, Rinc, k3, p1* around (40 sts).

Rnd 7: *Rinc, k4, Linc, p1* around (56 sts).

Rnd 11: Rinc, k6, Linc, p1, Rinc1, k3, M1P, k3, Linc, p1* around (76 sts).

Rnd 15: *Rinc, k8, Linc, p1, Rinc, k4, Linc, p1, Rinc, k4, Linc, p1* around (100 sts).

Rnds 16-18: Knit the k sts and purl the p sts.

Rnd 19: *K10, p1, k6, Linc1, p1, Rinc1, k6, p1* around (108 sts).

Body:

Work for 21 rows or desired length, knitting the knit sts and purling the purl sts.

Top:

Rnd 1: *K10, p1, k5, k2tog, p1, SSK, k5, p1* around (100 sts).

Rnds 2-3 and 5-6: Knit the k sts and purl the p sts.

Rnd 4: *SSK, k6, k2tog, p1, SSK, k2, k2tog, p1, SSK, k2, k2tog, P1* around (76 sts).

Rnd 7: *SSK, k4, k2tog, p1, SSK, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, p1* around (56 sts).

Rnds 8, 10, and 12: Knit the k sts and purl the p sts.

Rnd 9: *SSK, k2, k2tog, p1, SSK, k2, k2tog, p1* around (40 sts).

Rnd 11: Switch to CC1. *K2, k2tog, k1, SSK, k2, k1* around (32 sts). (By knitting the purl sts, the unsightly change of color will not show.)

Rnd 12: Lift st from row below and put on left needle, k tog with 1st of rnd (jogless jog); k2, p1, k3, p1; (k3, p1) 6 times.

Rnd 13: *SSK, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, p1* around (24 sts).

Rnd 14: *SSK, p1, k2tog, p1* around. (16 sts)

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Put yarn on needle and slip through live stitches twice, pulling stitches together to close hole. Cut yarn; weave in end.

Stem: With CC1, pick up and knit 6 (8) sts around the center. Knit for about 1". If desired, add a little bit of stuffing. K2 tog three times; cut yarn leaving a 12" length and slip through live stitches, pulling stitches tight. Weave in end.

Stuff pumpkin from the bottom. Remove waste yarn, placing live stitches on needle. If using a bulky yarn or two strands, you may wish to k2tog around, resulting in 12 sts. Cut yarn leaving a 12" length and slip through live stitches, pulling stitches tight. Weave in end.



Provisional Cast On

- Using a smooth yarn in a contrasting color, make a slip knot and place it on a crochet hook the same size as the needles. (Figure 1)
- With yarn in back of the knitting needle, bring the hook over the top of the needle (Figure 2), catch the yarn and pull it through the loop on the hook. (Figure 3) Repeat this step until the number of stitches desired has been cast on.
- Chain a few stitches. Cut the yarn and pull through the last chained stitch. When you are ready to unravel the waste yarn, this will be the end that you gently pull to remove the waste yarn.
- Figure 4 shows the completed cast on.

