

ITH Pumpkin Head Instructions



Instructions to make pumpkin heads for cloth characters

In-the-Hoop of your embroidery machine.

BALLYHOO
Creations

VIDEO TUTORIAL

A short video collage showing the pumpkin making process is available at:

<https://ballyhoocreations.com/product/pumpkin-doll-heads-package/>

Near the bottom of the page, there's a tab for Instructions and Video.

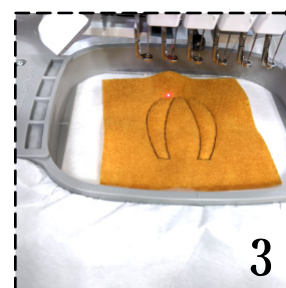
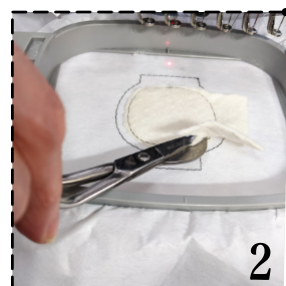
TOOLS & SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Embroidery machine
- Embroidery Thread and bobbin (40wt polyester thread is suggested, bobbin can be the same or use 60wt or 90wt bobbin thread if you like)
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Hemostats may be helpful for turning and stuffing smaller sizes
- 2 pieces of fabric, one for front and another for the back. The size should match the size of hoop you're using to stitch your chosen pumpkin size. See the fabric note on next page.
- Small piece of green or brown fabric to roll up for a stem.
- Thin quilt batting, felt or fleece to give the face a quilted look
- Cut-away embroidery stabilizer
- Water or heat soluble topper for the face
- Poly stuffing or other stuffing of choice.
- Hand sewing needle and strong thread for closing the pumpkin

INSTRUCTIONS

1. NOTE on fabric choices: This design was digitized for stretch fabrics but can be used on other fabrics too. Keep in mind, thick fabrics like felt may be difficult to turn right-side-out on the small pumpkins.

1. Hoop cut-away stabilizer.
2. STITCH COLOR 1 for a placement outline on the stabilizer (see photo 1)
3. Place a layer of thin quilt batting to cover the placement stitches
4. STITCH COLOR 2 to tackdown the batting
5. Cut away excess batting outside the tackdown circle. Be sure to cut away the excess at this point to avoid batting in the seams (makes it hard to turn right-side-out later) (see photo 2)
6. Place your front fabric, RIGHT SIDE UP, over the batting so it covers the placement stitches on the stabilizer
7. STITCH COLOR 3 to stitch the vertical lines on the pumpkin which creates a quilting effect (see photo 3)
8. Place water or heat soluble topper over the pumpkin. This will ensure your stitches look nice on stretchy or fluffy fabrics.
9. STITCH COLOR 4 to stitch the facial features of the pumpkin
10. Pull away the topper (see photo 4)



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11. Place the back fabric, RIGHT SIDE DOWN, to cover the front of the pumpkin
12. STITCH COLOR 5 to stitch the side seams. These are double stitched for a strong seam. (see photo 5)
13. Remove project from hoop.
14. Cut away excess fabric and stabilizer from the pumpkin. You can use the placement line on the stabilizer (1st "color" you stitched) as cutting lines. Do not cut off the neck or the top tab. (see photo 6)
15. Clip the inner corners on both sides of neck and both sides of top turning tab.
16. Turn the pumpkin RIGHT SIDE OUT. This is easy with stretch fabrics, but might be more difficult with stiff fabrics like felt on the smaller sizes. Be patient with turning.
17. Tuck the neck tab up inside the pumpkin. The neck flap for doll heads serves as a pocket to insert the doll's body later on.
18. Stuff the pumpkin from the open area at the top of the head. If you're going to insert something into the neck area (doll neck, pencil, dowel, etc) be sure to stuff both front and back of that neck area so the head sits straight. (photo 7)
19. Hand sew a running stitch around the open area at the top of the pumpkin, all the way around using short stitches and strong thread like upholstery thread. Don't pull the thread taut just yet.
20. (Optional) Use a scrap of green or brown fabric rolled up, and tuck it into the pumpkin head for a stem. (see photo 8)
21. Tuck the excess fabric of the top tab inside the pumpkin.
22. Pull the thread tight so that it closes in around the "stem" and closes the top of the pumpkin. Take a few more stitches through the stem and tie a knot.
23. That's it! You've created a pumpkin head! Feel free to smash them a bit to get a rounder shape.

