

# Knitted Stuffed Pumpkin

By [MakerKnit.com](http://MakerKnit.com)

I intended this pumpkin to be part of our autumnal decorations, but my daughter thought it made a better toy, so it didn't remain on display for long.

I made two versions using different yarns—one was 100% cotton and the other was a cotton/acrylic blend. Since gauge is not critical, you could substitute any worsted weight yarn you have on hand, which makes this a great stash-busting project. Also included with the pumpkin pattern are instructions for two leaves—one smaller, one larger—that you can add if you feel your pumpkin is looking too plain or could use a little more color.

## YARNS

Rowan Handknit Cotton (100% cotton; 93 yds/50 g), 1 ball each in color #350 Florence (orange) and #253 Tope (light brown), shown in top photo.

Knit Picks Comfy Worsted (75% pima cotton, 25% acrylic; 109 yds/50 g), 1 ball each in Sweet Potato (orange), Doe (light brown), and Peapod (green), shown in bottom photo, with larger leaf.

## NEEDLES & NOTIONS

US 3 (3.25mm), set of 4 dpns.

Stitch marker.

Darning needle to finish.

Poly pellets or fiberfill for stuffing (see **NOTES**).

## GAUGE

Not critical, but approx 6 sts and 8.5 rows = 1" in st patt.

## FINISHED SIZE

Approx 11.5" in circumference around middle and 4.5" tall from bottom of pumpkin to top of stem. (Size will vary depending on your gauge and how full you choose to stuff the pumpkin.)



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## NOTES

Please note that poly pellets are choking hazards for small children. If a small child will play with this pumpkin, consider using just fiberfill, or sew the pellets into a small pouch and place that sealed pouch in the pumpkin's bottom before stuffing with fiberfill. Also, if you want your finished pumpkin to be machine washable, make sure to choose machine-washable fiberfill along with similar yarn.

## INSTRUCTIONS

With orange yarn and leaving 6" tail for closing pumpkin bottom, CO 10 sts and spread them out over 3 dpns—3, 3, 4. PM and join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts.

Rnd 1: k.

Rnd 2: kf&b every st—6, 6, 8 (20 sts total).

Rnd 3: (k1, kf&b) to end of rnd—9, 9, 12 (30 sts total).

Rnd 4: (k2, kf&b) to end of rnd—12, 12, 16 (40 sts total).

Rnd 5: (k3, kf&b) to end of rnd—15, 15, 20 (50 sts total).

Rnd 6: (k4, kf&b) to end of rnd—18, 18, 24 (60 sts total).

Place st marker on Rnd 6 and leave it there. Begin st patt.

**Stitch Pattern:** \*k10, p2; rep from \* to end of rnd.

Follow st patt until pumpkin measures 3" from the st marker placed on Rnd 6. Before starting decrease rnds, sew up bottom hole by threading CO tail onto darning needle and gathering bottom sts. Cinch to close up hole; secure and feed tail to inside. Begin decrease rnds.

## Decrease Rnds

Rnd 1: \*k4, p2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (50 sts).

Rnd 2: \*k3, p2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (40 sts).

Rnd 3: \*k3, p1; rep from \* to end of rnd. Stuff bottom of pumpkin with pellets and/or fiberfill.

Rnd 4: \*k2, p2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (30 sts).

Rnd 5: \*k2, p1; rep from \* to end of rnd.

Rnd 6: \*k1, p2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (20 sts). Finish stuffing pumpkin.

Rnd 7: \*p2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (10 sts total).

## Stem

Switch to light brown yarn; k for 10 rnds then p for 1 rnd. DO NOT BO. Cut yarn leaving 6" tail.

Thread tail onto darning needle and pull through remaining 10 sts. Cinch stem closed, secure, and weave end to inside of stem.



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## Smaller Leaf

With green yarn and using 2 dpns as straight needles, CO 3 sts.

Row 1: kf&b, k1, kf&b (5 sts).

Row 2 and all even rows: p.

Row 3: kf&b, k3, kf&b (7 sts).

Row 5: k2, (k2tog) twice, k1 (5 sts).

Row 7: k1, (k2tog) twice (3 sts). DO NOT TURN.

Pass second and third sts over first st and off needle.

Cut yarn leaving 6" tail. Thread tail onto darning needle and pull through last st. Secure and weave in ends.

## Larger Leaf

With green yarn and using 2 dpns as straight needles, CO 3 sts.

Row 1: kf&b, k1, kf&b (5 sts).

Row 2 and all even rows: p.

Row 3: kf&b, k3, kf&b (7 sts).

Row 5: kf&b, k5, kf&b (9 sts).

Row 7: k3, (k2tog) twice, k2 (7 sts).

Row 9: k1, (k2tog) twice, k2 (5 sts).

Row 11: k1, (k2tog) twice (3 sts). DO NOT TURN. Pass second and third sts over first st and off needle.

Cut yarn leaving 6" tail. Thread tail onto darning needle and pull through last st. Secure and weave in ends.

## FINISHING

Sew leaf to top of pumpkin as shown in photo. Secure and weave in end.

## ABBREVIATIONS

approx	approximately	kf&b	knit into the front loop and then into the back loop of the same st	PM	place marker
BO	bind off			rep	repeat
CO	cast on			rnd(s)	round(s)
dpns	double-pointed needles	mm	millimeter(s)	st(s)	stitch(es)
g	gram(s)	p	purl	yd(s)	yard(s)
k	knit	p2tog	purl two sts together		
k2tog	knit two sts together	patt	pattern		



Photo: pumpkin with smaller leaf.



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