



## Signing Time Pumpkin Pattern Instructions

By Pumpkin Mistress Rebecca Overson

You will need:

- A pumpkin
- Masking Tape
- Scissors
- Pumpkin carving tools (sold in a kit at the grocery store) – includes a scraper, a poker and a small saw. Use these for the best results! If you don't have these, you can use a toothpick, a large metal spoon and a very small paring knife, but the results may not be as good.

Some of these patterns will take a lot of work and others are very simple. Make sure you are nearby to help your child!

1. Print out the pattern you wish to use.
2. Select a pumpkin that is the right size and shape for your pattern. Make sure the surface is clean and dry.
3. Cut the lid/hole in the **BOTTOM** of the pumpkin (rather than the top).
4. Scoop out the seeds and strings and discard (you could also plant or roast them).
5. Using the pumpkin scraper tool, scrape down the inside of the pumpkin where you are going to carve your pattern.
  - Scrape it until the entire surface on that side is about 1 inch thick. Don't scrape it too thin!
6. Tape the pattern on the outside of the pumpkin where you are going to carve.
  - You may have to trim the corners off of the paper so it will lay flatter on the pumpkin. Get the pattern as flat as you can and tape all the edges down.
7. Using the pumpkin poker tool, poke small holes on the lines provided in the patterns. This is how you 'transfer' the pattern on to the pumpkin.

**NOTE:** Do not poke all the way through – just puncture the skin of the pumpkin.

Poke as many (or as few) holes as you need to in order to follow the pattern once the paper is removed. The holes are going to show you

where to cut. If you are too careful in this process it will take a VERY long time, but if you are not careful enough you will not know where to cut.

8. Remove the paper and tape from the pumpkin. Keep it near you for reference.
9. Using the pumpkin saw tool, cut along the dotted lines.
  - The gray areas on your pattern are the parts that will be removed for the light to shine through. Be careful not to cut out the wrong part or the pattern won't work!
10. Once finished, light a small tea light or votive candle and set the pumpkin over it. Stand back and check out your artwork!!

Pumpkin Patterns by Master Pumpkin Carver Brent Overson