



PROJECT GUIDE -

HOW TO WOODTURN A "CARVED" PUMPKIN

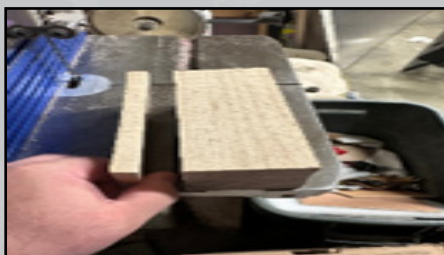
Get ready to bring some spooky fun into your workshop with this Halloween-themed woodturning project! With just a few basic tools and NOVA products, you'll be able to create your very own pumpkin decoration. Here's how:

MATERIAL AND TOOLS

- NOVA Lathe
- NOVA Live Center System
- NOVA G3 or SN2 Chuck with a 7/8" Flexible Drive
- NOVA Voyager or Viking Drill Press (optional for drilling starter holes)
- Basic spindle turning tools
- 1" Spindle Roughing Gouge
- 1/2" Standard Spindle Gouge
- 1/4" Detail Spindle Gouge
- Scroll saw or handheld coping saw
- 3" x 5" Spindle Blank of any type of wood (sizes may differ by preference)
- Wood glue

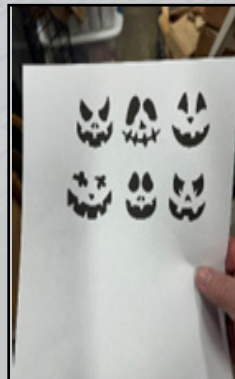
Instructions By: Jeff Hornung, Artist and Owner of The Walnut Log Studio and Supply
<https://thewalnutlog.com/>

Based on a original concept by Raleigh Lockhart and shared with permission.



1. Prepare Your Wood:

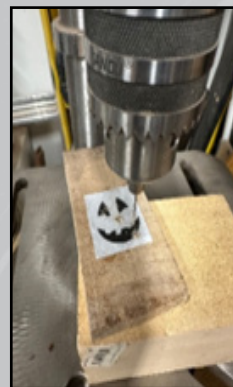
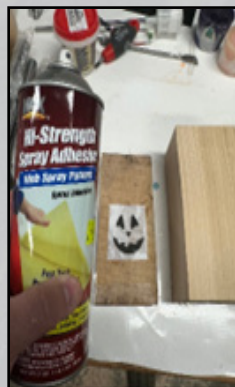
Start with a rectangular spindle blank, approximately 3" x 5". Cut a 3/4" thick slice off one of the 5" long sides of the blank. This will be used later for the pumpkin's face.



2. Create Your Pumpkin Face Pattern:

Draw your own face design or download clip art from the internet. Faces can be fun and spooky!

Ensure the face is appropriately sized for your project. In this case, 2" wide faces fit well on a 3" x 5" block.



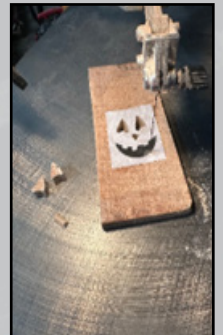
3. Cut Out the Face:

Once the glue is dry, drill starter holes into each of the face's openings (eyes, nose, and mouth). A hand drill or the NOVA Drill Press works well for this step.

Using a scrollsaw or coping saw, cut out the face openings by feeding the saw blade through the starter holes.

4. Glue the Face Back On:

Once the face openings are cut, glue the two pieces (the face and the main block) back together. Apply a good-quality wood glue, clamp the pieces, and allow them to cure according to the glue's instructions.



5. Mounting the Blank:

Mark the centers on each end of your blank.

Mount it between centers on your lathe using a spur drive, step center, or a chuckable drive center, like the NOVA Flexible Center. Rough out the blank into a cylinder.

6. Shape the Pumpkin:

Begin shaping your pumpkin, rounding over the ends to create a natural gourd or pumpkin shape. Take care to avoid removing too much material where the face is cut out.

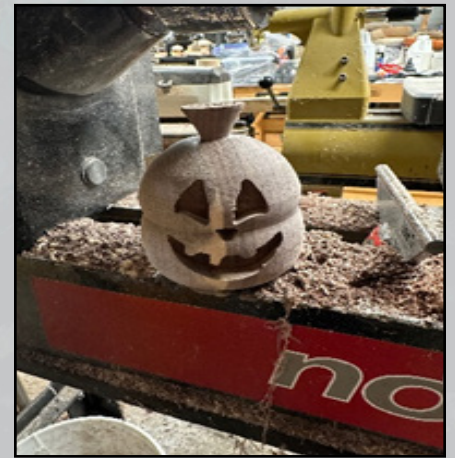
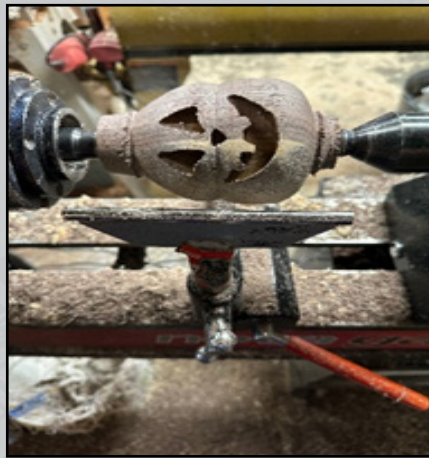
Tip: Shape gradually around the face to maintain its integrity while still achieving the desired pumpkin form.



7. Create Details:

On the bottom, reduce the wood to create an undercut that mimics the natural taper of a pumpkin base. On the top, shape a stem. You can taper

it or create a slight curve for a more whimsical look.



8. Final Touches:

Sand the pumpkin to your desired smoothness. For painting projects, you don't need to sand above 150-220 grit. Trim the waste from each end until you are

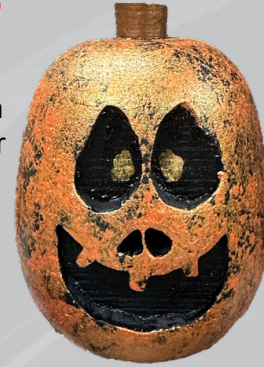
comfortable to remove the pumpkin from the lathe and finish by hand, especially focusing on refining the stem and bottom.

9. Painting and Finishing:

Begin with a base coat of black acrylic paint. Once dry, sponge on your primary color (e.g., orange or green).

After the main coat dries, use accent colors to highlight specific areas and give your pumpkin character.

Tip: Experiment with metallics for an extra touch of Halloween magic—Modern Masters Metallic paints in Burnt Orange, Pharaohs Gold, or Antique Bronze are great choices.



10. Face Detailing:

Once the paint on the body is complete, paint the face openings. You can either touch up the black areas or get creative

with contrasting colors, such as bright yellows or metallics for a glowing effect.

Pro-Tips from a Turner for Success:

- Face Design: Pre-plan your face shape carefully to avoid overcutting, which can weaken the structure.
- Clamping: Ensure even pressure when gluing the face to prevent misalignment.
- Color Combinations: Don't hesitate to mix colors for a fun, spooky finish. Layering different tones adds depth to the project.
- NOVA Tools: Make full use of the NOVA Flexible Center for precise work holding and the NOVA Voyager Drill Press for accurate starter holes when cutting out your face.



Get your NOVA Tools for this Project



SKU 5015 - Life Center System



SKU 9020
7/8th Flex Drive



SKU 48290/48291 - PRO-TEK G3 Chuck
SKU 23262 - PRO-TEK Supernova 2 Chuck



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