

Pumpkins

by Pamela Cox



Project Overview

Fall is here! This seasonal change brings, crisp air, colorful leaves, hand-picked apples and pumpkins! Pumpkins always decorate our front door steps lighting a path for Halloween trick-or-treaters. However, these uniquely crafted, embroidered pumpkins are sure to be decorating your home from the very first sign of fall until your Christmas decorations demand their appearance.

Fabric:

- 1 yd. orange cotton broadcloth (This yardage will yield several pumpkins of various sizes. Individual sizes of fabric pieces are provided within the directions)
- 1/4 yd. green-tinted Tulle, Netting, or Organza.
This yardage will yield several leaves.

Stabilizers:

Sulky® Soft 'n Sheer™

Tear-Easy™

Sulky® Fabri-Solvy™

Thread:

Sulky® 40 Wt. Rayon

Blue Black 942-1182

Med. Dk. Avocado 942-1176

Sulky® 40 Wt. PolyDeco – Orange to match your fabric



What Embroidery Designs We Used

Free download of the scroll and 3D leaf designs for members of Sulky's Embroidery Club: www.sulkyembclub.com
Membership is free – just signup!

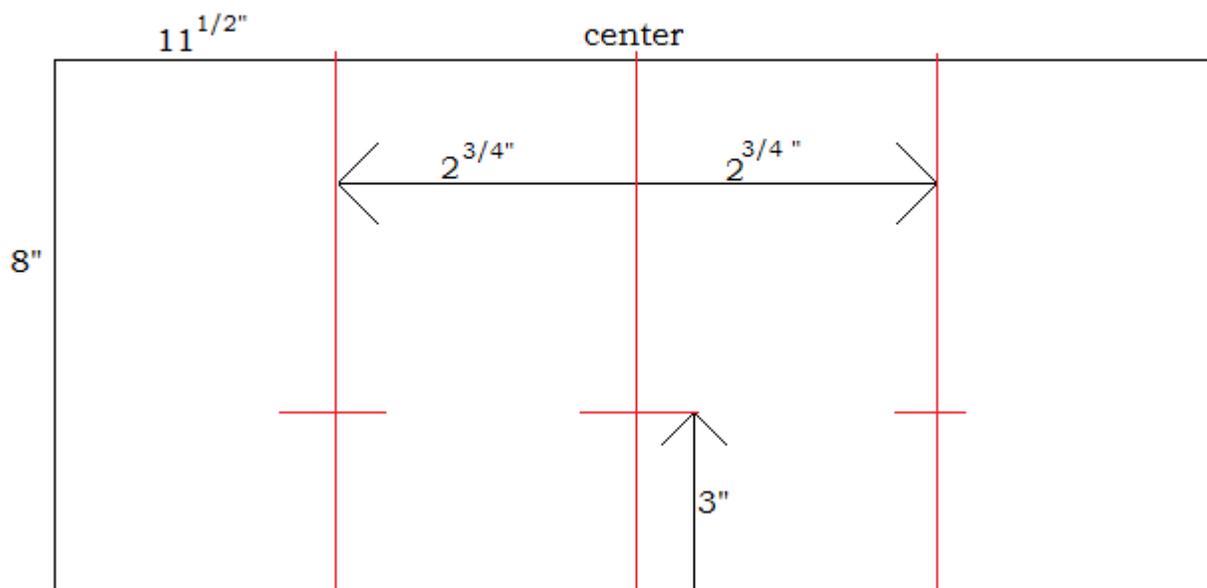
Supplies

- Polyester fiber fill
- **Sulky® KK 2000™** Temporary Spray Adhesive
- 12/80 Embroidery Needle
- Jute Cord – pumpkin “ribs”
- Flat Jute Cord - pumpkin stems
- Raffia-ribbon (optional) – additional “curls” / decorations
- Hot glue gun
- Metal yarn needle

Instructions

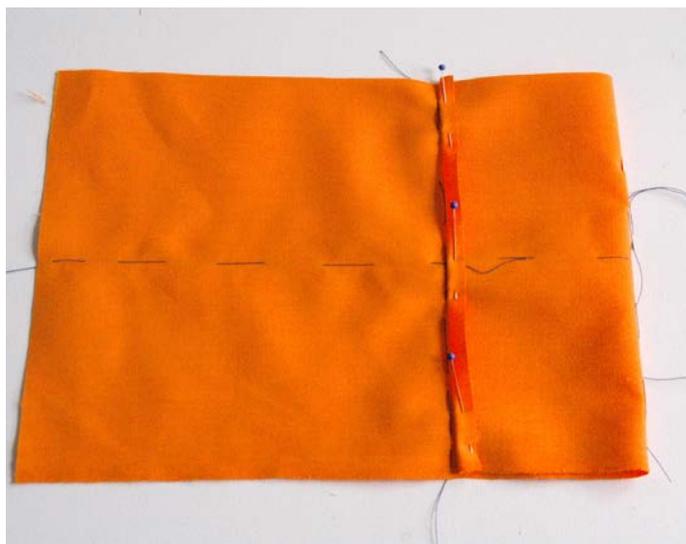
- Prewash and dry the broadcloth fabric, pressing out wrinkles.
- Please note that all steps are the same for any size pumpkin. The measurements presented are specifically for the smallest pumpkin, however, photos may reflect a different size. Any measurement which differs, depending on pumpkin size, has been printed in red. Refer to the end of the article for actual size requirements.

Small Pumpkin



Cut a rectangular piece of broadcloth **8"x11-1/2"**: Measure up from the bottom **3"** and mark a line either by hand-basting, or using an erasable fabric pen.

- Mark the vertical center of the rectangle. Divide the space on either side of the center in one of two ways: Measure over **2-3/4"** on each side or . . .



- Fold the outside edge towards the middle. Match the stitching seam to fabric center by folding back the seam allowance to touch fabric center.

Instructions



- Hoop a piece of stabilizer: Sulky Soft 'n Sheer™ or Sulky Tear-Easy™
- Download the **3" Scroll** design and transfer it to your machine.



- Spray the wrong side of the fabric with Sulky KK 2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive.
- After matching the vertical and horizontal centers of the design and hoop, press the sprayed fabric firmly onto the stabilizer. Baste within the hoop's frame or around the individual design for additional security if desired.
- Sulky Soft 'n Sheer, a sheer but strong stabilizer, cutting mat's grid, making it is easy to keep fabric straight and centered.



- Embroider the design three times, centered on the three markings. Once the stitching is completed, take the time to remove the excess stabilizer from the wrong side. Steam embroidered fabric face down into a thick terry towel.

- Trimming the excess stabilizer and threads in between elements, even if the wrong side will never be seen, releases fibers from any anchored stitches.
- Often any small puckers can be steamed out.

Instructions - continued



- With right sides together, machine stitch the back 1/4" seam, forming a circle. Hand baste along the bottom 1/4" seam allowance with long (3/8") stitches: Gather the bottom edge, but not in a complete tight circle.
- Distribute gathers keeping more in between the embroidered designs, rather than at their base. When satisfied, flatten the open circle and close either by hand or machine stitching.
- Stuff the pumpkin keeping the fiber fill **2"** from the top. Begin shaping the pumpkin while filling. The pumpkin should be firm, but still have a bit of "softness" remaining to allow final shaping with the Jute cord.



- Gather the top by hand basting **2"** down from the top edge.

Instructions - continued



- Once again, the gathers do not have to be drawn tight to close the circle.
- Pinch the fabric above the basting, wrap the thread around the base as close to the basting as possible, and tie or knot thread to secure. Keep stuffing below the tie-off. The fabric sticking up above the stuffed area begins to form the stem.



- Ribs of the pumpkin are formed by wrapping the Jute cord around the stuffed fabric, while “sculpting” it into more of a pumpkin shape during the process. The tighter the cord is pulled, the closer the top will be drawn into the bottom, providing more of a pumpkin shape.
- As in nature, no one fabric pumpkin will be exactly like another. Be willing to experiment, especially on your first attempt, in deciding how tight the cord should be pulled to achieve the final envisioned shape. Reposition the gathers both in between elements and in general as the pumpkin is “squished” keeping the embroidered designs as visible and intact as possible.
- The number of ribs, is completely an individual choice. On the small pumpkin sample, the Jute cord divides it into quarters centering the cord in between each design. The larger pumpkins will support more ribs. But it is totally up to you!

Instructions - continued

There is no set pattern that must be followed in forming the pumpkin ribs. The process can wrap and tie the Jute cord around the outside of the pumpkin (recommended for the largest size) or the cord can be a bit more anchored by “stitching” (recommended for the other two sizes)



- Begin with threading a long length of Jute cord, about **36"**, in a yarn needle. Tie a knot leaving a 2" tail.
- Bring the needle up from the bottom seam, all the way through the stuffed pumpkin poking it out of the fabric at the base of the “stem” towards one side of the center embroidery design. This will require really “squishing” the pumpkin from top to bottom to expose enough of the needle necessary to provide a solid grip.
- Pull the cord through the middle to the outside of the pumpkin.
- Wrap the cord around the outside of the pumpkin bringing it back up to the base of the stem along the back seam.
- Reinsert the needle into the stem’s base coming out to one side of the remaining designs

- Once again, wrap it around the outside of the pumpkin centering the cord in between the embroidered designs.
- During this wrapping process, tug the cord to shape the stuffed fabric into a “pumpkin”: flatter top with puffy ribs.
- Once satisfied, bring needle from stem base back down through the pumpkin to the bottom. Lace it underneath the first wrap and tie off.
- Cut excess cord.



Instructions - continued



The stem is formed by wrapping the extending fabric “stem” with flat Jute cord:

- Decide on the final stem height and thickness. Suggestions are at the end of the directions depending on pumpkin size.
- The length of flat Jute for any size stem/pumpkin is immaterial since the wrapping process can begin with the product still on its packaging card. The smaller pumpkin is wrapped **once**, aiming for a height of no less than **1”** but no more than **1-1/2”** which allows extra fabric to extend beyond the top of the stem’s roping.
- Begin the process approximately **1/2”** down from the **top** of the fabric stem with the cut edge of the flat Jute facing down, towards the pumpkin.



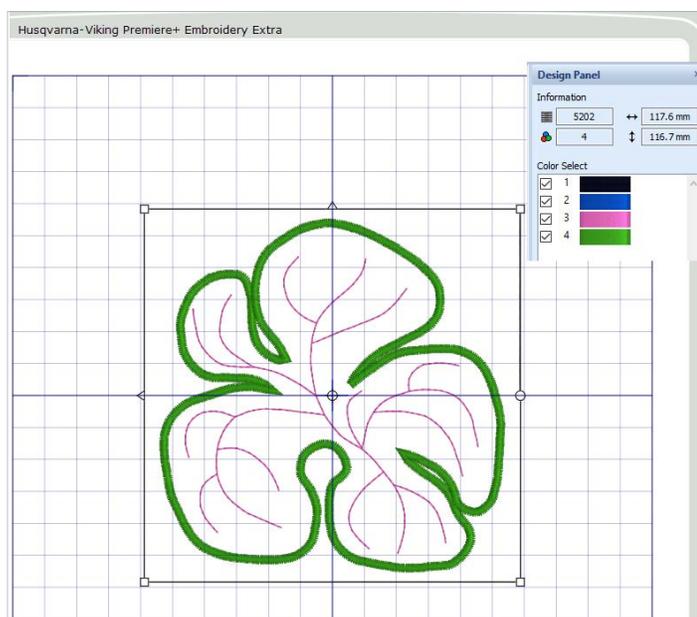
- Keeping the jute flat, wrap it tightly around the fabric, slightly overlapping outside the cord edges as you work your way down towards the stem base. Before cutting the flat cord end, place a small amount of hot glue at the base, preferably at the back of the pumpkin.

Instructions - continued



- Cut the flat Jute cord close to the glued area once the glue has been allowed to thoroughly cool/dry. Cut the excess fabric at the top of the stem even with the top of the flat cord. Be careful not to cut into the jute wrapping. It is best to take small snips cutting through single layers of fabric and to work from the outside, in towards the middle. This takes some time, but gives a better, cleaner end result.
- If top basting stitches show, they can be removed at this point.

Embroider a Leaf



Although the leaf design presents with several different thread colors/stops, only the one, chosen leaf-color needs to be threaded into the machine throughout the entire stitching process. This same color should also be used as the bobbin thread.



Helpful Hint

Do not attempt to change/combine colors in an editing program. The various colors are necessary “to tell” the embroidery machine to stop so another action, such as cutting or applying a fabric can happen prior to proceeding.

Instructions - continued



- Download the proper size leaf design and transfer it to the machine.
- Hoop a piece of Sulky® Fabri-Solvly™. Stitch color stop #1 directly on the stabilizer and remove the hoop from the machine.
- The stitched box shows the area that must be covered with the netting (Tulle, organza, etc.).
- Lightly spray the netting with KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive. Press the netting firmly to the stabilizer.



Helpful Hint

This is the one time that if an applique fabric was not perfectly smooth, allowing a wrinkle or pucker to show in the layers of fabric...let it go....it is okay!! We are aiming to produce 3 dimensional leaves! A wrinkle or two only adds to what is true to nature. It is all good.

- Lightly spray and secure a second layer of netting on top of the first. Stitch color stop #2, (cutting outline) and #3 (leaf veins). After both color stops have been stitched, remove the hoop from the machine and trim the excess netting from outside the stitching line.
- While trimming the netting from the front of the hoop, look at the backside and trim any jump threads as well.
- Return the hoop to the machine and finish stitching the design. Trim the excess stabilizer and any additional jump threads from behind the design.
NOTE: Save the excess stabilizer

Instructions - continued



- Remove the remainder of the stabilizer by rinsing in hot/warm water: While still wet, shape the leaf by turning up an edge or two, or folding to allow the leaf to sit up behind the stem. Allow the leaf to completely dry.

Additional Accents



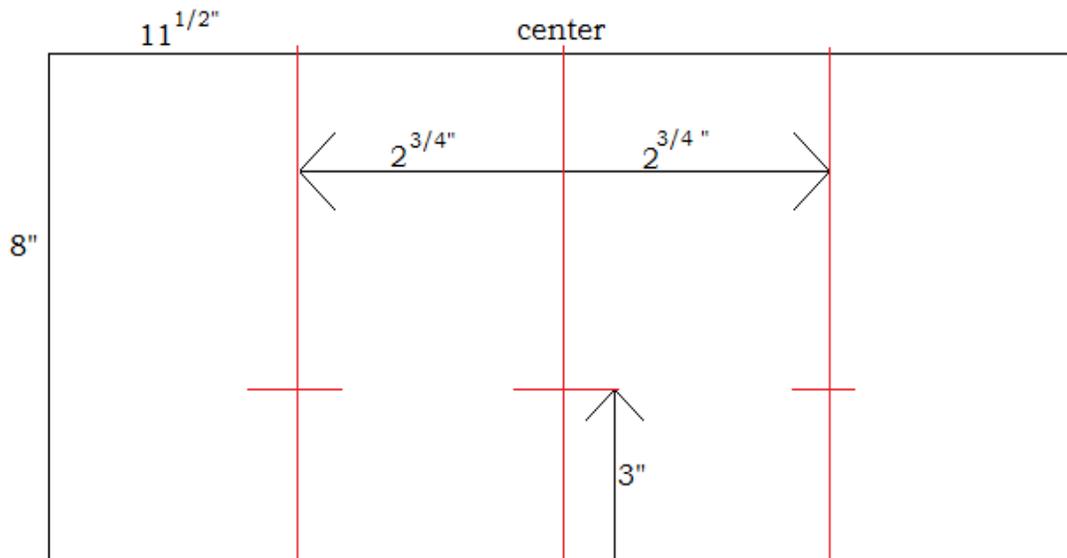
- If desired, cut a piece of jute cord or Raffia-ribbon for accent curls. Using the excess water soluble stabilizer that you saved, dampen a small piece into a paste.
- Rub it into a length of cord/ribbon, rinse excess and wrap the cord tightly around a small dowel, pen or pencil.



- Allow it to dry thoroughly. Curls can be kept very tight or lengthened out to open the curl.
- Drape a desired length around the stem base, tucking it under a wrapped segment of cord nestling it into the stem base.
- Place the leaf where desired and use a small dot of hot glue to hold in all in place.

Instructions

Pumpkin Measurements: **SMALL**

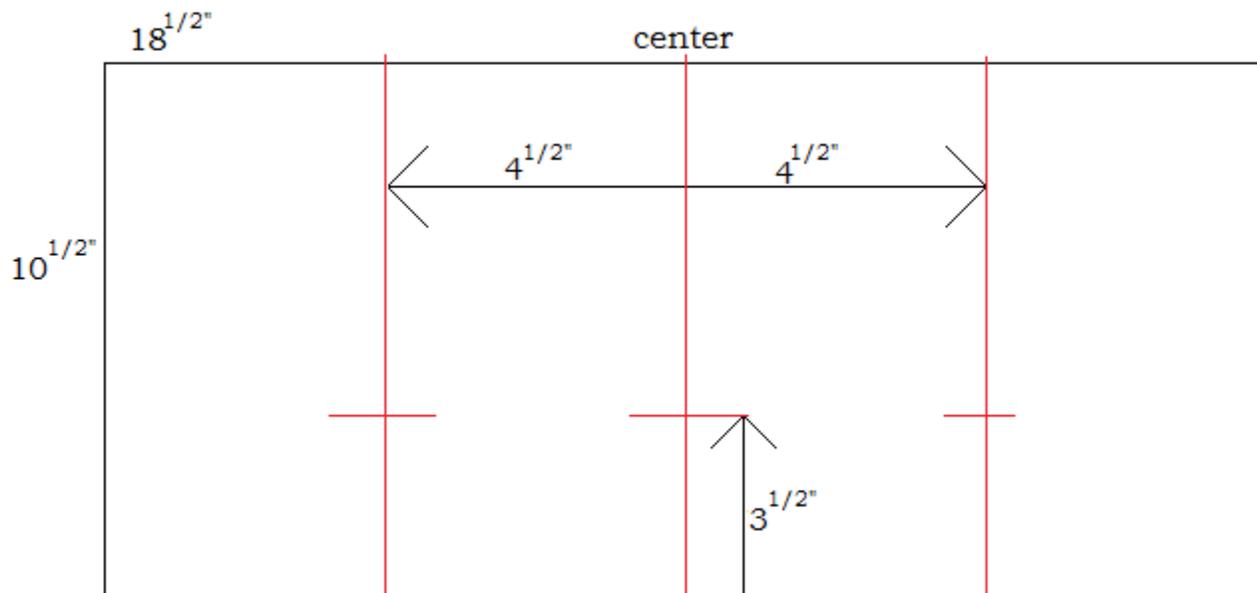


Embroidery Designs: **3" scroll and small leaf**

- Stuff below stem basting- **2"** from top edge
- **Rib cord length: 36"** dividing pumpkin into quarters
- Stem length: **1 - 1-1/2"**
- Stem thickness: One wrapping with process beginning at the top of the stem.
- Face the cut edge down into the pumpkin

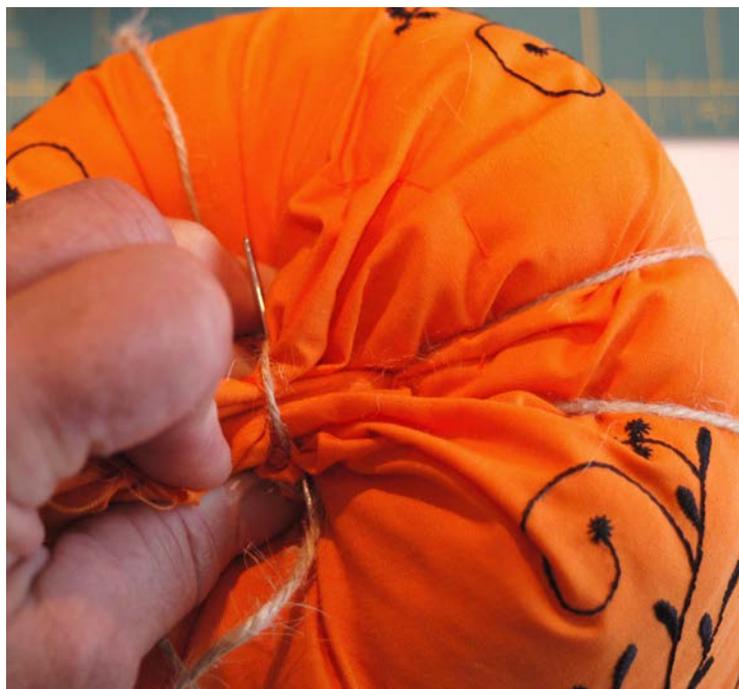
Instructions

Pumpkin Measurements: **MEDIUM**



Embroidery Designs: 5.25 final scroll and large leaf

- Stuff below stem basting- **2-1/2"** from top edge
- **Rib cord length: 90"** dividing the pumpkin into eighths-cord on each side of every design, leaving solid colored sections in between embroidered ribs
- Cord is wrapped around to form eight ribs. Again, no set pattern, but come up from the center bottom through pumpkin and out the base of the stem, to one side of a design.
- Wrap around, back towards bottom and back up to stem. It may not be necessary to secure it through the base every time, but rather when needing to "change direction".
- Weave through existing wraps on the bottom to help maintain a "center".



Instructions - continued

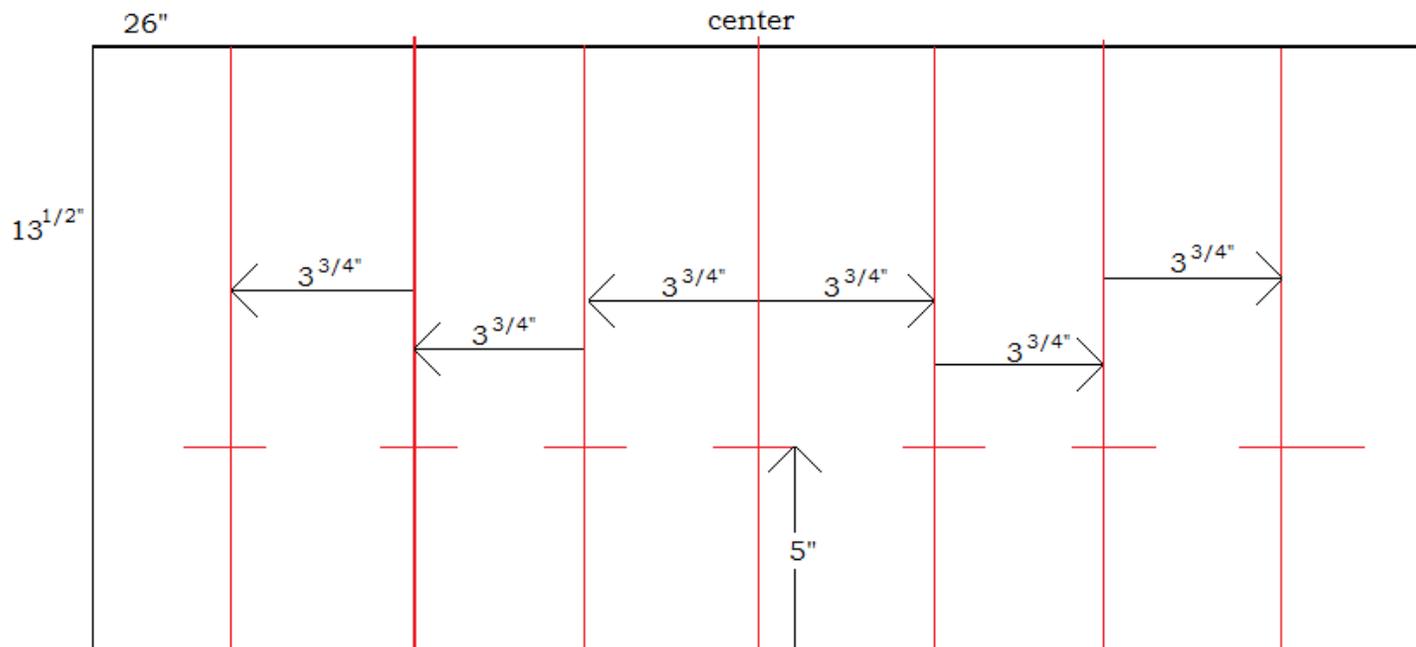
Pumpkin Measurements: **MEDIUM**



- **Stem length:** 1-1/2" – 1-3/4"
- **Stem thickness:** wrapped twice with the process beginning at the base of the stem. Face the cut edge up into the stem, travel up to the desired height and then back down, covering the first layer of flat Jute. Finishg at the stem's base.

Instructions

Pumpkin Measurements: **LARGE**



- **Embroidery Designs:** 5.25 final scroll and large leaf
- Stuff below stem basting- **4"** from top edge
- **Rib cord length: 100"** dividing pumpkin into eighths- with cord separating each embroidered rib. Wrap the Jute cord around the pumpkin, but still weave it under other ribs to keep centered. Tie off.
- **Stem length: 1-3/4" - 2"**
- **Stem thickness:** wrapped twice with process beginning at the base of the stem. Face the cut edge up into the stem, travel up to desired height and then back down covering first layer of flat Jute finishing at the stem's base.