

Michael Jackson "Thriller"



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Michael Jackson "Thriller"

- ☐ Cut Through
- ☐ Light Shadows
(shave deeply)
- ☐ Dark Shadows
(shave lightly)
- ☐ Leave Alone



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Instructions:

1. Use a poking tool or sharp nail to poke the design into the pumpkin's surface. Due to the detail, poke gently through the paper and about an eighth of an inch deep into the pumpkin skin, each poked dot beside the other while tracing each shape on the lines. When all lines have been traced this way, remove the paper pattern and rub a small amount of baking flour into the holes to make the design easier to see.
2. Next, use a utility knife, such as a small X-Acto blade, to precisely trace each poked line, cutting only about an eighth of an inch into the skin, not all the way through the pumpkin shell. Outlining with a blade will give the finished portrait cleaner cut lines and help you to smoothly shave out the shadow areas.
3. When carving any portrait, start with the eyes. Use a thin awl or nail to punch out the highlight in the eye first, then carefully carve out and shave the rest of each eye. Next, going inch by inch, carve then shave the areas along the eyes and nose. Cut out and shave the areas from the nose to the lips then carve and shave the areas between the lips and chin.
4. Now carve and shave the wrinkles on his forehead. Carve out and shave the areas on the left cheek and then the right cheek. The final areas to carve and shave are the highlights of his hair, shave the shadows along the edges of his face and then cut and shave the highlights of his collar and shoulder.

Hints:

1. It is easier to carve portraits on larger pumpkins... the bigger the better!
2. A sturdy, U-shaped wood gouge is the perfect tool to shave layers out of the pumpkin's thick shell, and an inexpensive pumpkin saw is the best way to get all the fine areas cut smoothly.
3. For shadow areas, the deeper you shave into the pumpkin's shell, the more light will shine through those areas. Adjusting the amount of pumpkin flesh you remove will change the shadows of a carved face. Shave in more deeply for lighter highlights (shown as a medium gray on the pattern), and just barely remove the pumpkin flesh to create a deeper shadow (shown as a dark gray on the pattern).
4. Remember portraits usually have a lot of thinly cut areas, so they will deteriorate more quickly than an average carved pumpkin, usually within a few hours! Wait to carve portraits until the day you want to show them off. Give your finished carving a spray of water using a spray bottle to keep the finer lines from drying out too quickly!
5. If you want a portrait that will last for years, carve into an artificial pumpkin instead. You should still use a small pumpkin saw to cut out areas, and a utility knife to outline each section, but instead of using a wood gouge for shaving the shadows in, use a Dremel tool with a jeweler's bit instead (these may be found at your local hardware store). Be sure to use an electric light with no more than a four watt bulb for lighting!