

Thomas Jefferson



Hints: It is easier to carve portraits on larger pumpkins. A sturdy U-shaped wood gouge is the perfect tool to shave layers out of the pumpkin's thick shell. And remember, portraits usually have a lot of thinly cut areas, so they will start to deteriorate much more quickly than an average carving. Wait to carve portraits until the day you want to show them off!

With any portrait, start with the eyes. Use an awl to punch out the highlight first, then carefully carve out or shade the areas directly around each eye. Next, go inch by inch, shaving and carving the areas around the mouth and nose. Follow this by carving or shading the highlights in the hair. Carve out the areas in the cheeks and forehead, carefully cutting larger areas into smaller sections to remove the pieces more easily. The final sections to remove or shade are the neck, collar, and shoulders.