

How to carve a Powercat Jack O' Lantern

To begin with, you need to pick out the perfect pumpkin. For the powercat pattern provided in these instructions it would be best to find a larger pumpkin than normal. You can reduce the size of the powercat pattern if you only find a medium-size pumpkin; although the smaller the pattern is the harder it is to keep the powercat carving strong for the life of the jack o' lantern. Find a large pumpkin that has a clean face that is fairly flat. The more curvature there is in the face of the pumpkin the harder it is to get a clean cut through the pattern.

Few tools are needed for the carving. A basic pumpkin carving set contains what you need: a couple saws of various sizes, a scoop, and a poker. Add in some masking tape and your powercat pattern printed out on plain printer paper and you're ready.



First, you want to cut out the lid of the pumpkin so that you can clean out the insides. When cutting out the lid do not cut straight down with the saw, or the lid will fall through to the bottom! Taper the saw down and in towards the middle of the pumpkin when you cut. Trim off the unnecessary material from the bottom of the lid. Remove all seeds and stringy wall lining for a smooth finish. Flatten the bottom of the inside of the pumpkin for a good base to place your candles or other light source on.

With the pumpkin hollowed out, next you want to tape down the powercat pattern to the optimal part of the pumpkin face. When taping down the pattern keep the paper flat against the pumpkin as to prevent distortion when transferring. Cutting slits around the outside of the pattern will help you keep the paper flat when taping down.



Now it's time to transfer the pattern onto the pumpkin by means of poking shallow holes into the face. Be sure to poke the holes just inside the edges of the portions of the powercat that are to be cut out. Poke more holes along edges with sharper curves so that you have a nice dotted line to follow when sawing the pieces out.

With the pattern transferred now the sawing begins. It's highly recommended that you start cutting out the smaller pieces, such as the ear and whisker, before cutting out the larger pieces. Gently pop out the cut pieces from the inside out with your finger. Inside edges may need to be cut further, so be gentle!

Thin bridges of pumpkin will be all that exist around the ear and whisker and will be very fragile by the end of the carving. The trickiest task of carving the pattern out is to keep your blade perpendicular, or straight up and down, to the surface of the pumpkin, even as the surface curves. If the blade curves while cutting the inner portions of the pumpkin wall will be cut out, thus weakening the fragile bridges of the carving.





With all pieces cut out of the pumpkin all that is left is a little cleanup. If the curve of the pumpkin face was great or the blade of the saw angled in or out you might want to gently trim the edges of the powercat wall to achieve a full pattern effect. Stringy inner wall lining may still exist, so you would also want to gently pick those out with your fingers. With that finished your powercat jack o' lantern is now complete! Set it outside on the porch or balcony and light it up with candles or oil lamps, step back, and marvel at your new-found pumpkin carving skills.

HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN WILDCAT FANS!



Powercat Template

