

# 12 Halloween Tricks & Treats from #MyFavoriteBloggers



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# **CRAFTY TRICKS**

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# No-Sew Fabric Pumpkin

by *Adrienne* from [Happy Hour Projects](http://HappyHourProjects.com)

This little project makes a great addition to your fall decor. It's simple, it adds a little autumn color to your tablescape or mantel, and best yet — there is NO sewing involved!



**Time:** 20 minutes

**Supplies:**

- 18" square of pumpkin-appropriate material. I used a rusty orange twill. This makes a smallish pumpkin, it's around 6" in diameter, so scale up as you like.
- 1 lb. beans.
- Scraps of felt for leaves and about 6 feet of coordinating yarn/string/twine.
- Scissors.

Optional but helpful in construction:

- Plastic wrap.
- Rubber bands.
- Hot Glue.





To make sure that my pumpkins last through storage, I wrapped the beans in a few layers of plastic wrap first. I didn't want to risk them getting moldy before next year.



Put your bag of beans in with the rubber band side on the inside, and draw the sides up, arranging your fabric so that it forms pleats.



Close the top with a rubber band. If you don't have any on-hand, you could tie it off with a piece of string also, but rubber bands are much easier to manipulate while you work.



Cut off your top to whatever stump-size you like the looks of. It's thick, so this step can be kind of tough, just use sharp scissors. I closed off with a second rubber band to keep it nice and gathered. Then I tied a bit of yarn around the bottom so I could begin attaching my felt leaves.



Cut some leaves to the shape you like, leaving a nice long tail so they can be wrapped into your stump for security, and over the top of the stump where yarn-wrapping isn't really practical. I am using brown yarn, so I made the brown leaf tail long and fat, because I want it to wrap all the way over the top of the stump with fabric to spare. Doing this will ensure I don't have ends



poking out at the top later.

Tie them on how you like them so that everything is secure - note how the brown leaf tail will cover over the stump.



I used my hot glue gun to glue the brown felt around the stump. If you don't have access to a glue gun, then wrapping the yarn firmly should also do the trick, but securing it now will make wrapping much easier without having to hold those edges down.



Then, I tied a bit of yarn underneath the leaves, and began wrapping the long end around the stump, wrapping upward.





When I got to the top of the stump, I wrapped it back downward, until I got back to the bottom, where I tied the yarn off with that loose end from the beginning. The leaves will hide this knot.



Then, I trimmed the ends.

And that's it! You can experiment with both bold and traditional colors to match your decor.



Adrienne is a working wife and mom of 2 kids. She blogs at [happyhourprojects.com](http://happyhourprojects.com) where the theme is tutorials and recipes that can be made in an hour or less. She has been crafting ever since she was a kid, making her own jewelry and pursuing creative locker decor.

Her style has evolved since then, but her passion for creativity has only grown. Adrienne can be found writing, sewing, quilting, baking and crafting with a wide variety of mediums. She enjoys day trips and date nights, has written several bad first drafts of novels, and hopes to instill a love of art and creativity in her children.

# DIY Happy Halloween Banner

by Kirsten from [One Tough Mother](#)



Every year our family hosts a BYOP Party (that's Bring Your Own Pumpkin), and I craft like crazy in preparation! There's a lot more Halloween decor and craft projects on the blog, so make sure you stop by when you finish this cute banner!

I'm going to show you how simple it is to create a beautiful banner for your Halloween party, and the best part is, there's no expensive diecutting machine necessary!

Start with several Halloween-y pieces of cardstock:



To create the main pieces of the banner in the shape of a basic tombstone, cut each piece of 12x12 cardstock down to 4x4 squares, then use a protractor to curve the top. (You could use a round can or mason jar lid, too.)





Here is what your pieces should resemble:



For the next layer, you are going to cut rectangles to add to each “tombstone”, and round the edges:

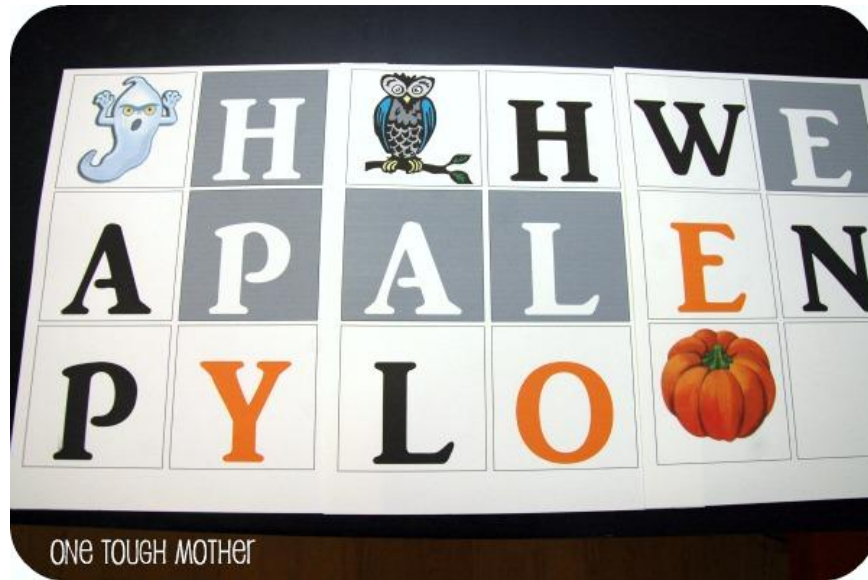




To create the top layer, cut cardstock into scalloped circles. The letters will go on these circles:



To create the letters, I measured my circles, then created a Word document to print all of my letters. This was a little tricky, but not too bad. I inserted text boxes in the size I needed, then typed each character in its own text box. Since some of my circles were black, I needed some of my letters to print in white. The gray background allowed me to see the letter so I could cut it out. The ghost, owl, and pumpkin are designs to be used at the beginning, middle, and end of my banner:



Carefully cut out each letter and picture then place it on its own circle:



To connect it all together, use twine or ribbon of your choice. Simply punch two holes in each piece, then feed a loop of twine through each hole and tie it in a knot:





At this point, it may be easier to hang the banner to add the finishing touches. To dress it up a bit, add pieces of Halloween ribbon and black and purple tulle:



And there you have it! Your very own Happy Halloween banner!



This is really simple and fun, too! Stop by One Tough Mother for more Halloween ideas, including all of the BYOP Party details!



Kirsten Thompson is the incredibly witty and often sarcastic voice behind One Tough Mother, where she shares fabulous crafts, home decor projects, and organization tips and tricks, as well as the occasional piece of her mind. Kirsten lives in her happy place where glitter and washi tape adorn every crevice, everyone has tattoos, and sweet tea flows like water. It's a fun little place, and you can join her on her crafty journeys and adventures in raising a tween daughter on her blog, One Tough Mother. Kirsten also likes to play on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.



# Halloween Centerpiece: Mod Podged Ornaments

by Amy from [One Artsy Mama](#)

So, I'm pretty sure that Little Crafter was just as excited as I was when we unpacked our box o' fun and saw all the different kinds of Mod Podge to play with! He was particularly excited that there was one just for kids, and told me we needed to make something with it. Well, **I do have a reputation to uphold as one artsy mama**, so how could I say no?



But what to make, what to make? I looked in my stash and found a few of those empty clear plastic ornaments you can get in craft stores around Christmas time. I also had some tissue paper on hand that happened to be good colors for the season. So, we decided to make a Halloween centerpiece featuring decorated ornaments. Since each ornament would be different, it would give us the opportunity to try out a number of different Mod Podge formulas.

The basic procedure for each ornament was the same. First, we ripped up our tissue paper.



Then, we applied Kids' Mod Podge to the surface of the ornament and Little Crafter placed the pieces of tissue paper wherever he wanted them to go. Once the entire ball was covered, we chose a type of Mod Podge to use on top and coated the whole thing to seal the tissue paper in place.



After drying, we could add embellishments like ribbon. If you were going to make a Halloween tree or hang them from the ceiling or light fixture, you could do that too, but since ours were going to sit in a bowl, we didn't actually need hangers.



Here's a closer look at each of our six ornaments. This one, "Mr. Punky," as LC likes to call him, is just orange tissue paper with a coating of Sparkle Mod Podge. We cut the face shapes from black felt and stuck them on while the Mod Podge was still wet.



This one uses purple and orange tissue paper and Sparkle Mod Podge.



For this one, we were going for a candy corn effect, so we used white, yellow, and orange tissue paper. This time, we played with the Super Gloss Mod Podge. It definitely came out shiny!



This one is simple; just purple tissue paper and Sparkle Mod Podge...can you tell we both love glitter?





The last two use the same color combo; purple, orange, and yellow, but one we did with Sparkle Mod Podge {right} and the other is Glow in the Dark Mod Podge {on the left}! How fun! You really need the coat the Glow formula pretty thick to get it to glow, but it's a fun effect! Impossible to photograph, though...sorry! You'll just have to try it for yourself...



I think my favorite part of the whole thing was the way Little Crafter insisted on spreading the Mod Podge himself, telling me, "That's MY job, Mommy. It is kids' Mod Podge, after all."

That's a verbatim quote. I love that kid.

Once our ornaments were all dry, we decided to arrange them in an orange bowl I found for a great price at Target. We filled it with dried black beans, then arranged our ornaments on top of them.



Here's how it looks if you turn Mr. Punky over...a little more subtle, but in my opinion, not quite as fun:



Either way, it's a quick and easy project, and cheap too! All you need are the ornaments which you can get for \$1 a piece or less, scrap tissue paper, and Mod Podge. This total project cost me less than \$10; not bad for a centerpiece.



So there you have it, my third project made from my box o' Mod Podge goodies! If you missed the others, be sure to check out the Mother Necklace and the Monster X-ing sign! Coming up next, a special piece of seasonal wall art! Stay tuned...

Happy fall, y'all!

 amy



Amy Latta, aka One Artsy Mama, created her blog as a place to create, share, love, and inspire. On her site, you can find DIY home decor, jewelry, crochet, and paint projects, as well as fun things she's made with her 5 year old Little Crafter. In addition to writing on her own blog, Amy also puts her English degree to work as a contributor for Somewhat Simple and Lucky Magazine, an editor for EngagedMarriage.com, and a Brand Coordinator for Looksie Square. When she's not busy wearing one of those hats, you can probably find her at Starbucks.

# Harry and The Mysterious Clicking

by Terry from [Write Create Connect](#)

Harry stood at the bottom of the creaky old staircase, looking up through the dust and cobwebs, and wondering how many spiders were hidden up there.

His friends were gathered around him, taunting and teasing him.

“He won’t go up there. He’s a chicken.”

“Yeah, Harry’s a scaredy.”

“Let’s go, he ain’t gonna do it.”

Harry could feel his heart pounding in his chest and a sweaty cold creeping up his back. His mouth tasted like metal, his nose was filled with dust, and he was fighting a tremble. His friends were right; he definitely did not want to climb up those stairs. But his friends were also wrong, because he was going to do it anyway.

He reached out and placed a hand on the railing, feeling the grime stick to his sweaty palm. He didn’t look at his friends, but as he made a serious show to go upward he heard someone gasp, and the rest of them became utterly still and quiet.

Harry wanted to be the big man in the group. He wanted to get to the top of those stairs and turn around and laugh, showing them all just how brave he was. He wanted to fall asleep tonight without feeling like he was odd and funny. But first, he had to climb those stairs.

Harry stepped onto the first riser. The wood shifted and groaned beneath him. He gripped the banister more tightly.

Harry took a big breath in and raised his foot up. He had the second step. One after another. He got halfway up before he heard it.

Click, click, click.

Harry stopped. He opened his eyes wider and strained to hear better. Click, click, click.

What in the world was that, he wondered?



His mind started making answers for him: It was a witch tapping her broomstick. It was a werewolf scratching his nails. It was a ghost clanking its chains.

Yikes. That really wasn't helping Harry's courage in any way. He took in another big breath and let it out slowly. He closed his eyes and imagined a bright meadow filled with daisies, and then he opened his eyes.

He could do this, he thought. Step after step.

Harry reached the top and turned back to look over his shoulder. His friends were gathered at the bottom, respect and disbelief on their faces. Harry had never been on the receiving end of such admiration. He felt light-headed and suddenly, just a little brave. He turned back to the clicking sound, forcing his wooden legs to move. I can do this. I can do this.

The uneven wood floor led into 3 doorways. Slowly, carefully, Harry opened the one to his left. He held his breath until he could see inside. The room was butter yellow with flowery drapes and a perfect little kitchen. A coffee maker, kettle, and teapot sat aside a tray with china cups, sugar, milk, and cream. He noticed that it smelled like lemons. He backed out of the room. Then he heard it again. Click, click, click.

Harry opened the middle door with a little hesitation and peered inside. Another surprise. This room was painted springtime green and had a lovely vase of tulips on a lace tablecloth. The small table was set for tea and the two small chairs were waiting for their company. Harry felt himself smile. What a shock, he thought, giggling. He couldn't believe that he was ever frightened of this old house. Click, click, click. Right, one more door.

Harry stood outside of the third door, butterflies dancing in his stomach. He knew that whatever was making that click, click, click sound was behind this door. He moved slowly, having some difficulty turning the knob with his trembling hands. As the door opened, Harry was shocked by what he saw. Click, click, click. In the middle of a pale lavender room sat a huge spider, knitting. Click, click, click went the knitting needles. Harry just stared, he couldn't move. A spider? Knitting? Click, click, click. His friends weren't even going to believe him. He didn't believe it himself.

Harry ran back to the top of the staircase and yelled down, "You guys really should come up here and check this out."

He returned to the spider. She smiled at him. He felt like he should say something, the silence was getting quite awkward. "What are you knitting?" he asked her.

“I’m making sweaters for little boys,” she sang. “Would you like to try one one?”

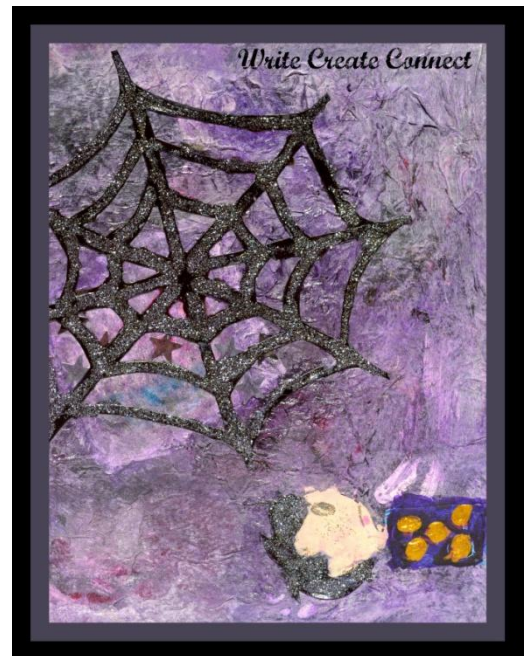
The spider held out a turquoise number with large gold circles on it.

That wasn’t what he was expecting. Harry laughed, “Sure.”

He popped his head through the top of the knitted tube easily enough, but then struggled to find the arm holes. The more he squirmed, the more entangled he became, until he fell right over, unable to move at all. Then he understood. His wide eyes snapped up to meet the spider’s eyes, as Harry realized that he had been duped.

“But the tea and the lace?” Harry whined. The spider laughed. “Harry, a spider is a spider whether it sits in a pretty room or not.”

Harry could feel the spider bite into his side and his head became drowsy. Just as he was starting to fall asleep, he heard his friends starting to climb up the stairs. He wanted to scream, “No, go back” but the cosy warmth of blackness was already taking him under. The last thing he heard was the spider snickering.



Terry is a writer, artist, and dog-lover. She is the creative spirit behind Write Create Connect, and hopes you’ll stop by when you need to laugh or feel supported. When she is not creating, you will find her with a glass of wine in hand, contemplating how she got banned from the doggy park.

# Little Pumpkin Pattern

by Kara from [Petals to Picots](#)



I love **autumn**! I love pumpkins and gourds and colorful leaves and mums ... I love all those burnt colors of reds and golds and browns ... and I love crocheting little autumn lovelies to decorate my home. And, of course, I love being able to share my patterns with you. I hope you enjoy this sweet little pumpkin pattern!

## Here's what you need:

- Orange and brown worsted weight cotton yarn
- G hook / 4 mm
- tapestry needle
- fiberfill stuffing or yarn scraps

Click [here](#) to reference the Crochet Abbreviations Chart.

Finished pumpkin measures approx 2½ in. high and 10½ in. in circumference.

## Pumpkin

Using orange, create a magic ring.

**Round 1:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), 6 sc in ring, join — 6 sts.

**Round 2:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join and in each st around, join — 12 sts.

**Round 3:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in next, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in next, rep from \* around, join — 18 sts.

**Round 4:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, rep from \* around, join — 24 sts.

**Round 5:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, rep from \* around, join — 30 sts.

**Round 6:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 2 sc in same st as join, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, \*2 sc in next, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, rep from \* around, join — 36 sts.

**Rounds 7 through 11:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), work 1 sc in same st as join and in each st around, join — 36 sts.

**Round 12:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, rep from \* around, join — 30 sts.

**Round 13:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, rep from \* around, join — 24 sts.

**Round 14:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, rep from \* around, join — 18 sts.

**Round 15:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog, 1 sc in next st, \* sc2tog, 1 sc in next st, rep from \* around, join — 12 sts.

**Round 16:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog around, join — 6 sts.

\*\*Stuff pumpkin with fiberfill stuffing or yarn scraps.\*\*

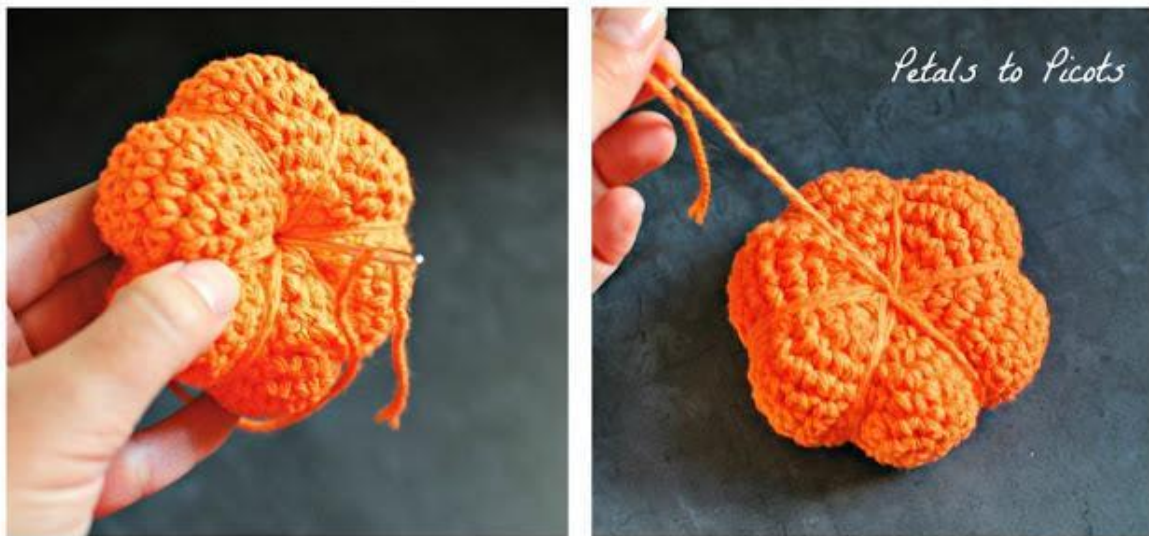
**Round 17:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), starting in same st as join sc2tog around, join — 3 sts.

Fasten off leaving a tail of about 48 in.

To create a pumpkin shape, use a tapestry needle to pull the tail through the center of the pumpkin, wrap the yarn around the side, and pull back through the center. Give a gentle tug to make a slight indent. Repeat this five more times to create evenly spaced indents around the



pumpkin. If desired, you can go around again, working over the same yarn indents until you get the result you want.



### Stem

Using brown, create a magic ring.

**Round 1:** Ch 1 (does not count as st), 6 sc in ring — 6 sts.

**Round 2:** 1 sc in first st and each st around — 6 sts.

**Round 3:** 1 sc in first st and next 4 sts, Sl st in last — 6 sts.

Fasten off leaving a long enough tail to sew stem to pumpkin. Sew stem onto pumpkin.



My name is Kara, and I am a wife and stay at home mommy to three great kids. Petals to Picots is my creative space and my place to share my passion for crochet. I have met so many amazingly talented women since I first started on this path, and they just continue to inspire me and help me grow. And I hope to get to know you as well!

# Ghost Headband

by Kadie from [7Alive All Livin' in a Double Wide](#)



## Supplies

- googlie eyes
- hot glue gun
- ribbon
- wooden dowels
- headband blank (found at most crafting stores) If you can't find a blank you can use a skinny headband from any store.
- white felt
- scissors
- straight pins
- cookie pan

I am going to show you how to get your ribbon curly first. Take your white ribbon, one skinny and one thicker, and wrap them around your dowels. The smaller the dowel the tighter the curl will be. Use a straight pin at each end to hold the ribbon in place. Run the ribbon and dowel under water until very wet. Place on the cookie sheet and put in the oven at the lowest temp.



We are going to start wrapping our headband while the ribbon is drying in the oven. Take your handy dandy (blues clues anyone?) glue gun and glue down the end of your ribbon to the end of the headband. I use 3/8 inch ribbon. You can use whatever color you like. In the first photos I used the same white ribbon that I made the ghost out of. Here I thought a purple would be nice. I like to wrap over the raw end so it doesn't fray. Now just wrap around the entire headband.





I don't glue anywhere but the ends. If you want to use more glue go ahead. Just make sure it doesn't ooze from in between the ribbon.

When you get to the other end glue the ribbon down on the inside of the headband. Then fold over the ribbon end and glue it to it's self. Then you are going to wrap that around and glue it to the inside of the headband. Now you have a nice ribbon wrapped headband with no raw edges.



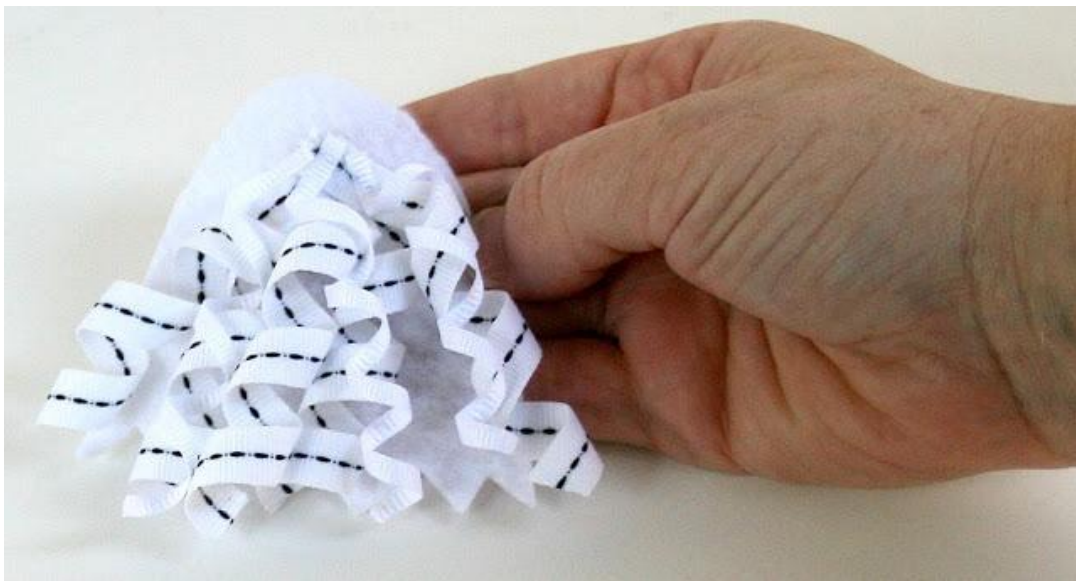
Now to make the ghost to go on it. Take your white felt and cut a very simple ghost shape.

By this time your ribbon should be dry. It takes about 20-30 min. depending on how hot your oven is and how wet your ribbon was.





After it has cooled, take it off the dowel. Cut it into strips long enough to cover your ghost shape.



I put the thicker ribbon on first and then filled in with the thinner ribbon.

I trim down the felt at this point. Leaving just enough space for the eyes and bow.



Use a little bit of hot glue to tack down the white felt to the headband. Now you just need a cutie patootie to put it on.



Hi there! I'm Kadie I run the blog [7Alive All Livin' in a Double Wide](#). Where I share my love of crafting, DIY, crochet and kids crafts. You can [learn more about us here](#).

# 20 Punny Halloween Costume Ideas

by Lauren from [The Thinking Closet](#)

This is what happens when you wait to create your Halloween costume until the last minute:

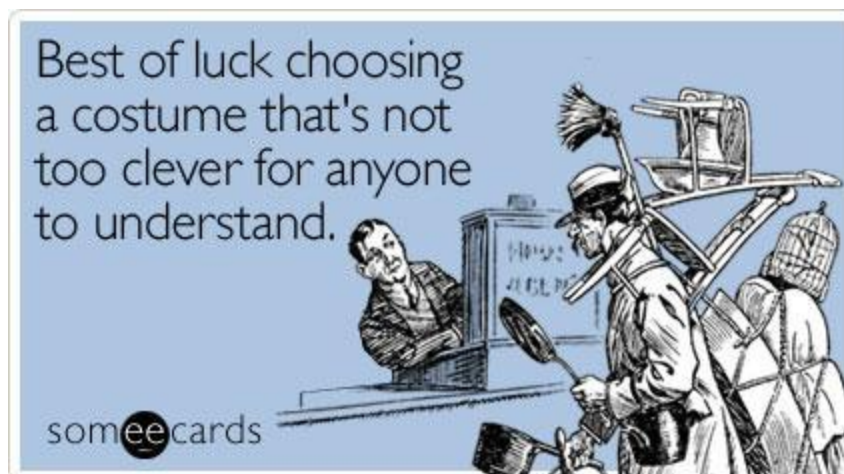


These are our “tough” faces. Intimidating, I know.

Get it?! We’re **The Black-Eyed Peas!** Just a bit of black eyeshadow and Ps cut out of duct tape paper (yes, they sell duct tape in 8.25” x 10” sheets!)...easy peazy.

I actually find punny Halloween costumes quite funny; I love that they require a wee bit of brain power to understand. (Step aside, “sexy nurse.”) I also think my father’s sense of humor has rubbed off on me. He has a knack for inserting puns into any and every conversation, and I love him for that. (Update: In fact, I love him so much, I made him a punny shirt!)





**{Source}**

Here's a round-up of 20 other family-friendly Halloween costumes inspired by literal interpretations of the words. Many of them would work for adults *or* kids and can be created with items you have lying around the house (great for last-minute). I hope they bring you a chuckle or some inspiration as you plan your next costume. B.t.w. I \*starred\* my fave five.

1. **Mail Order Bride**

2. **\*Ceiling Fan**

3. **Iron Chef**

4. **Bottle Neck**

5. **\*Binders Full of Women**

6. **Spelling Bee**

7. **Cat Burglar**

8. **\*Under the Weather**

9. **\*Firefox**

10. **Rachel Ray**

11. **Capsized Ship**

12. **A Hunger Game**

13. **Facebook**

14. **Candy Wrapper**

15. **\*Farmer in the Dell**

16. **Cereal Killer**

17. **Blue Screen of Death**

18. **Dunkin Donuts**

19. **Gang Green**

20. **Holy Cow**



Hi friends! I'm Lauren, and I blog over at [The Thinking Closet](#), a place for letting your creativity splish, splash, and spill. Through tutorials on my latest home decor project or beginner sewing exploit or furniture upcycle, I aim to empower my readers to try new mediums...and have a lotta fun along the way. Life's too short not to! For a smile or a spark of inspiration, please stop on by anytime. The closet door is always open....

{ And [here's a good place to start.](#) }

# Mason Jar Pumpkin Candy Jar

by ChiWei from [One Dog Woof](#)



I admit it took me a couple of tries to flesh out my ideas for this craft, since I wanted to incorporate some crafty trends in this project, but still keep it functional. I tend to like the really unique, slightly weird crafts, but this time around, I wanted to use the ever-popular twine/mason jars/burlap and give it a basic rustic feel. It totally doesn't match the decor of my house, but you just gotta try something different every once in a while, you know? And you know what, it ended up really cute, and holds enough chocolate Halloween candy within easy reach of post-dinner (or anytime) snacking, so I'm pretty pleased! Here's how you can make your own little "autumn" (or rather, "awesome") goody jar!

## Supplies:

- small mason jar – *a few bucks*
- jute twine – *\$1 from the dollar store*
- scrap of white burlap – *\$3/yd*
- decorative leaf – *\$3 for a sprig of fall decor*

- 20 gauge jewelry wire – *a few bucks*
- wood stick – *free!*
- hot glue gun, of course!

**Instructions:**

1. Saw off the bottom of your wood stick so it's somewhat flat – it'll make it easier to glue onto the mason jar lid.
2. Create a few wire curls by wrapping 20 gauge jewelry wire around a thick pen or marker. Make some small ones or big ones – whatever floats your boat!
3. Create the top of the pumpkin by hot gluing the wire curls and a leaf to the wood stick stub. Wrap some jute twine or string around the whole ensemble to keep it in place. You can also glue it the twine in place for extra hold.



4. Glue the decorative stick ensemble to the top of the mason jar lid.
5. Glue the lid to the to the mason jar rim. This was a little tricky, so I just put a few dots of hot glue in enough places to hold it somewhat together.





6. Wrap the entire lid in jute twine, hot gluing the twine to the lid as you go. It's a bit slow and a bit tedious and requires quite a bit of hot glue, but that's what crafting is!

Boom, your lid is done!

7. Cut a circular piece of white burlap that can be gathered around the mason jar.

8. Gather the fabric around the mason jar and secure it with more jute twine. I used a taut hitch knot that I've used in other posts, like my diaper tricycle tutorial, to secure the burlap, then wrapped more twine around and tied it with a regular square knot.



9. Take a few minutes to clean up the pleats in the burlap – make sure they're all facing the same way, reduce bunching, give it a little puff on the bottom – you know, stage it!

10. The best part – fill it with candy. Sneak a couple pieces while you're at it!



ChiWei Ranck is the crazy and quirky creative mastermind at One Dog Woof. Her blog showcases unique crafts, crochet projects, the little bit of home DIY projects she's managed to capture on camera and the occasional hot topic, where she airs her humble opinion, or three. She admittedly has too much clutter in her house and dislikes tchotchkes, so her projects and tutorials tend to be either functional, giftable or edible, and not just sit-around-able. ChiWei lives with her husband, their dog, and their 1.5 kids (1 + 1 on the way), but since you can't just hop on over to hang out in her hammock, you can find her at her home on the internet, One Dog Woof.

# Easy Chevron Pumpkin Décor

by *Melanie from It Happens in a Blink*

Anyone have a little one obsessed with Halloween? I guess the combination of candy and dressing up like a princess is hard to beat. She also likes decorating our house for Halloween, something that I unfortunately do not have much time for these days. I did manage to create this easy Chevron Pumpkin decor using an existing frame. My Silhouette made it simple and quick.



## Supplies:

- Card stock for background
- Chevron card stock for pumpkin
- Glue
- Frame
- Vinyl

Begin by cleaning the frame thoroughly. Cut the background card stock the size of the frame opening. Cut out a pumpkin shape in the chevron card stock. I used a cut file that I purchased from the Silhouette store, but you can use any stencil. I just tried to chose a pumpkin shape that



had a few openings to allow the orange background to show. Glue the pumpkin in the center of the background paper. Insert the image on the paper into the frame. Close frame opening.

Cut out 'Happy Halloween' onto the vinyl. Be sure to measure the frame and cut the words the right size the first time! Again, I cut my words with the Silhouette to make it easy.

Apply the vinyl to the front of the frame. Use it on a wall or in a tablescape or mantel!



When she's not chasing her daughter or triplet boys, Melanie blogs over at [It Happens in a Blink](#). She is a recipe creator and seamstress who savors craft time after all the kids are in the bed. Her favorite crafting tools are her sewing machine, Cricut, Silhouette, and oven (oh, yes, the oven can be a crafting tool).



# DIY Monster Mugs

by Sarah from [Repeat Crafter Me](#)



Most of you know I love making owl-themed projects but if you've been following me for awhile you know I also have a soft spot for cute little monsters :) And now that Halloween decorations are starting to pop up in stores, I thought it was a good time for another monster project. So let me show you how to make your own Monster Mugs! Good for anytime of year but especially cute for the Fall/Winter seasons.

You only need two materials:

- White Mugs
- Pebeo Porcelaine Paint (and a paint brush!)



I purchased my mugs from the Dollar Store. Yes, only \$1 for each mug! Now unfortunately the paints were a little more pricey. I found mine at [Blick Art Materials](#) but I am told you may be able to find them at some Michaels stores as well as on Amazon. You will want to make sure you buy the paint colors and a Pebeo black paint marker.

First you will want to wash and dry your mugs. Then I used a Crayola washable marker to lightly draw on the faces on each mug.



I painted the main color in the background first. Then when that was fairly dry (about 30-40 minutes) I used my black paint pen to trace over the mouth and eyes. The Pebeo website says that you do not want to paint on the inside of the mug where food will touch.

I let my mugs dry for 24 hours and then popped them in the oven at 300 degrees for 30 minutes for a heat set finish. They are now permanent and dishwasher safe! If you are worried about your mug cracking, put it in the oven at room temperature and allow it to heat up with the oven. Then after it has baked, let it cool with the oven as well. I didn't have any trouble with my Dollar Store mugs.



Don't feel like making monsters? So many possibilities for painting your own mugs with a unique design, name and more! Why not the most out of your paint and make personalized mugs for a teacher gift or better yet, for holiday gifts?! Fill them with candy or a special treat as well!



I'm Sarah, the crafter, crocheter and crockpotter behind [Repeat Crafter Me](#). Thanks to my wonderful, hard working husband, I am able to stay at home with my two preschool age boys and my newborn baby girl! I have a passion for crafting and crocheting and offer my patterns and tutorials for free! Occasionally I will show you a new crock pot recipe as well :) I hope you enjoy everything you find here and please feel free to repeat after me!  
♥, Sarah



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# **TASTY TREATS**

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# Pumpkin Ice Cream

by Tara from [Suburble](http://Suburble.com)



Now that Fall is here, people are starting to talk about warm sweaters, and warm soups, and wreaths made from bunches of fallen leaves.

It also means that people talk pumpkin. Carving pumpkins, pumpkin soup, pumpkin spice lattes (yum)...

But pumpkin ice cream?

Our house recently gained an ice cream maker, and because I get myself all worked up about new things, I decided to try Pumpkin Pie ice cream.

I know that not everyone loves pumpkin pie – it's a love it or hate it situation. But Pumpkin Pie Ice Cream is a crowd-pleaser! It's a dessert that my kids gobbled up happily (and even licked the bowl)!

An alternative to the traditional pumpkin pie — this dessert is a crowd-pleasing treat, and is quick to make in the ice cream maker!

## **Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 cups whole milk (2% can be substituted, but ice cream will be less creamy)
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 3/4 cups pumpkin puree (unsweetened; not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 2 1/2 cups heavy cream (or whipping cream)
- 1 tsp vanilla

## **Instructions**

1. Whisk together milk and sugar until dissolved
2. Add pumpkin and spices and stir
3. Add cream and vanilla and stir until smooth
4. Turn ice cream maker on; add mixture to bowl
5. Let mix until thickened (about 20 minutes)
6. Serve with gingersnaps, whipped cream, or with a fancy pumpkin decoration (see post)
7. Store remaining ice cream in an air tight container in the freezer

## **Notes**

Every ice cream maker has a different capacity - do not overfill your maker. The mixture will expand as it freezes.

Adapted from Cusinart Recipes.

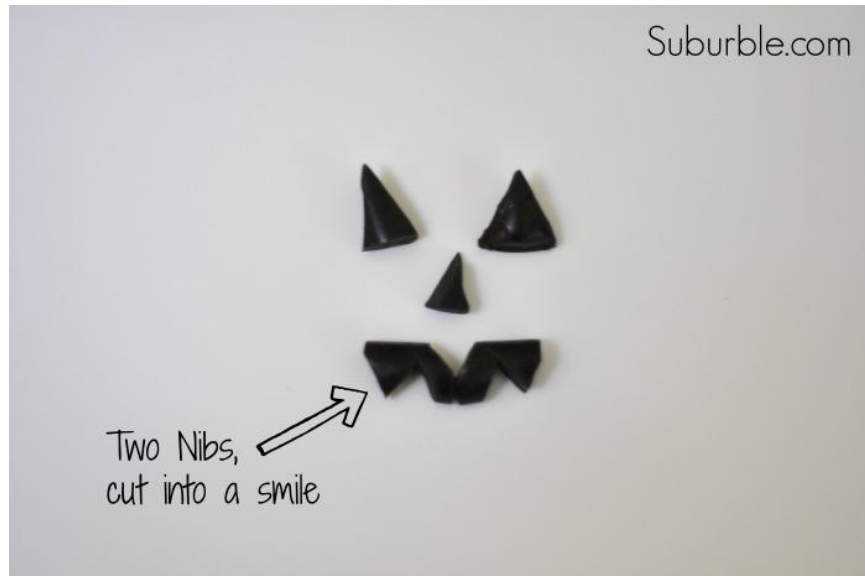


While I typically use golden sugar in recipes, I opted to use dark brown sugar in this recipe. I even love the look of it – so much more “autumn” than the yellow sugar we normally use.



To make the “jack-o-lantern” pumpkin face, you need black Nibs and a pair of clean kitchen scissors.





Cut little triangles out of the Nibs to make the eyes and the nose. It took me a little while to figure out how to make Jack's smile, but after I placed two Nibs next to each other, I realized that I could carefully cut out a happy little grin.

I loved eating the scraps. Black licorice is just so good... (Don't even get me started on Allsorts. Those are my weakness!)



Scoop out a portion of your delicious Pumpkin Pie Ice Cream, and then quickly arrange your jack-o'-lantern's face.

Put a Nib in the top as your stem, and garnish with a mint leaf or two.

And you've got a festive little dessert that is entirely edible! Ain't he sweet!?!?



You'll have to work fast, though. Jack tends to get a bit melty if you ignore him.

Of course, this made the kids laugh even harder.

"My pum'kin is melting, mommy!"

For the grown-ups who don't need their dessert to smile back at them, there is this garnish:



A couple of gingersnaps make for a delicious crunch alongside the sweet and spice of the ice cream.

This ice cream is a delicious way to bring in fall, without having to bring in the heavy pastries and cakes (not saying I don't love those desserts, but it's nice to have a change).

Try it and see. You know you love the Pumpkin Spice Latte – why not have it for dessert?



I'm Tara, and I blog in a little corner of the internet called [Suburble](#): it's the mishmash of a suburban life with a talkative, sarcastic mama. I love to try new things, craft, bake, and explore the world with my two partners-in-crime: my daughters. My absolute favourite thing to do is to have a good laugh with friends; that is the intent behind Suburble. Even if the project ends up as a gloopy, paint-spattered mess, you know that I (and most likely the girls) will have had a good time. Come and visit us — see what hijinx we're gotten ourselves into!

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# The Black Widow Martini

by Adrienne from [Happy Hour Projects](#)

This raspberry and citrus flavored martini is a great addition to any adult Halloween party — or any occasion where you're looking for some spooky "spirits"!



## Ingredients

- 1 oz. Absolut Citron (or your favorite citrus vodka)
- ½ oz. Cointreau
- ½ oz. Chambord
- ½ oz. Blue Curacao
- ¼ oz. Cuervo Gold Tequila
- 3 oz. sour mix
- Fresh Raspberries (optional for garnish)



## Instructions

1. Add all ingredients to a shaker tin with ice, and shake until chilled.
2. Strain into 8 oz. martini glass.
3. Optional – drop in 2-3 fresh raspberries to garnish. For extra Halloween fun, add a plastic spider ring to the rim of the glass.
4. Serve and enjoy!



Adrienne is a working wife and mom of 2 kids. She blogs at [happyhourprojects.com](http://happyhourprojects.com) where the theme is tutorials and recipes that can be made in an hour or less. She has been crafting ever since she was a kid, making her own jewelry and pursuing creative locker decor.

Her style has evolved since then, but her passion for creativity has only grown. Adrienne can be found writing, sewing, quilting, baking and crafting with a wide variety of mediums. She enjoys day trips and date nights, has written several bad first drafts of novels, and hopes to instill a love of art and creativity in her children.