

Cindy's Rustic Pumpkin Pin (approx. 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1/2" thick)

1. trace the pumpkin pattern and cut it out – grain lines are best if vertical. Use basswood 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1/2" thick.
2. draw the lines for the division of the segments and base of stem
3. Use a V tool to deepen the division lines. I go over it a few times to gradually deepen it. I also lay my V tool over more to one side then the other which helps to open up the V even more. This helps to define the shape of the segments.
4. Use a V tool to define the base of the stem
5. Using a shallow gouge or knife start to shape the outer segments of the pumpkin. Remember the center of the pumpkin is the fattest part, so gradually shape it so it's thinner at the outer, top and bottom edges. My bottom edge was not very thick. My stem ends up about 1/4" thick. Also remember that this is a circle, so imagine a line half way through the horizontal and carve from this center line towards the top & bottom to carve it smoothly.
6. I purposely do not carve it perfectly smooth. It looks more like flat plane carving. I like the more rustic, organic look. Carve it smooth if you like. If you have any rough spots sand them. Use a belt sander to sand the back smooth if you didn't when you cut it.
7. I cut the leaves from 1/8" Baltic birch
8. To finish it:
 - I used Delta Ceramcoat Tangerine. I painted 1 coat over the entire pumpkin, let it dry then lightly sanded it. Wipe off the dust. Paint a 2nd coat. Do not paint the back (or at least not where you will glue the pin). I don't varnish the back either.
 - Paint the stem 1 coat of Forest Green – some of the tangerine will show through. Paint the leaves the same green.
 - Spray with Deft satin or semi-gloss and let fully dry
 - Antique using the medium of your choice. Make sure it darkens the crevices and wipe most of it off the high points. This gives it more depth.
 - Speckle using a toothbrush and thinned black or dark brown paint
 - Spray 2 more times with Deft
 - Drill 2 tiny holes near the base of the stem
 - Use about 6" of green 22g-28g wire and attach the leaves then curl the wire to look like tendrils
 - Attach the pin or magnet to the back

