

Yarn Pumpkins



Materials

- 21 pieces of orange yarn, cut to 36 inch lengths
- 2 ounces of white glue
- 1 balloon (12 inch size), blown up half full
- 1 brown pipe cleaner
- 1 green pipe cleaner
- Fork - to be used with glue.

Instructions:

1. Start by blowing up your balloon about half full. The bigger you blow the balloons, the more yarn you'll need. But the smaller you blow them, the more egg-like the shape will be. It's a balance.
2. Cut out about 21 pieces of yarn about 36 inches long. If you make your pieces of yarn too much longer than that, they'll get tangled when you soak them in the glue.
3. Tie one of the pieces of yarn to the end of the balloon. Open one of your kitchen cabinets and hang the balloon from the handle. It's way easier (and cleaner) than trying to manipulate the balloon when it's lying on a flat surface.
4. Pour the glue into a small bowl. It takes about a 2-ounce bottle of glue per yarn pumpkin.
5. Dunk one of the pieces of yarn into the bowl of glue, and swirl it around gently with a plastic fork to get it completely covered with glue.
6. Hold the end of the piece of yarn with your fingers, then gently run it between the tines of a fork to remove the excess glue. This will method will leave enough glue on the yarn to hold its shape once it dried, but not so much glue that it was dripping everywhere.
7. Take the glue-covered yarn strand and press the end down somewhere (it works best to start at the top or the bottom of the balloon) and wind it around the balloon, making sure the press down the ends of the yarn to secure them when they're in place. Repeat with the remaining pieces of yarn.
8. When you're done, find somewhere to hang the yarn-covered balloons to dry. The balloons will drip glue as they dry, so place an old towel or newspaper down underneath.
9. It will take a full 24 hours for everything to dry. This time allows the glue to fully dry out and the yarn to take on the shape of the balloon.
10. This next step is CRITICAL. You need to make sure you press your fingers down under the yarn to detach the glue from the balloon - around the entire surface of the balloon. It's a little tedious, but if you don't do it, the balloon will pull the yarn to the inside as it deflates and it may ruin the shape of your pumpkin.
11. Make a very small hole in the balloon close to where the knot is (it won't pop if you cut it near the knot). You want the air to leak slowly so you can detach any yarn that you might have missed as it shrinks.
12. Pull the deflated balloon out through one of the openings in the yarn.
13. Make the pipe cleaner stem and vine by wrapping the pipe cleaners around your baby finger. The stem is just a spiral and can be tucked into the yarn



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