



STRING ART PUMPKINS

MATERIALS & TOOLS

- Crochet Thread - Orange "Pumpkin" #30157543 or White #77524587 for the pumpkin
- Crochet Thread - Green "Myrtle Green" #30157539 or white for the leaves and vine
- 15" Latex Balloons - White #30149654, any color can be used
- Stiffy Fabric Stiffener #30150168 or Mod Podge #77501689
- Cup to rest balloon on to dry
- Thin paint brush
- Orange and green paint* (if using white crochet thread)
- Scissors
- Brown cardstock for the stem
- Raffia #30147008 for the bow
- Low temp Glue Gun & Gluesticks
- **Optional:** 1" foam brush #30100057 for applying Stiffy/Mod Podge



Good to Have:

- Plastic/vinyl disposable gloves

Extras:

- Glitter
- Leaves, 100 ct. Cool White Firefly Lights #30202972, Garland or stringing material, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Take the balloon and blow it up to about 6". Tie a secure knot.



2. Leaving a short tail, start to wrap the crochet thread around the balloon. Have the thread crisscross over each other.



3. Turn the balloon every so often so that the thread goes in different directions. Make sure to cover the balloon evenly.



4. After the balloon is completely wrapped, tuck the end of the thread under a strand and tie off.

INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)



5. Take the thread covered balloon and cover all the threads with Stiffy fabric stiffener. Make sure the coating goes through the threads completely. You can apply the Stiffy with a foam brush or with your hands.

TIP: Wear disposable gloves when applying the Stiffy/Mod Podge.



6. Place the covered balloon on a cup or something similar for drying. It usually takes a few hours to completely dry.

Optional: You can sprinkle glitter on the wet piece before drying.



7. Since the Stiffy has also glued the threads to the balloon itself, it is important to separate them, or the final shape may get distorted when the balloon is deflated. Loosen the threads from the balloon by pushing the rounded end of a paintbrush through the holes in the threading. This pushes the balloon inwards and separates the thread from the balloon.



8. Deflate the balloon by cutting off the knot. Pull the balloon out with a pair of tweezers or scissors. If an area was still stuck to the balloon, it may pull the threads out of shape. Stick a chopstick or scissors inside to reshape. If you used white crochet thread, you can paint it with orange paint and let dry.



9. To make the leaves and vines, wrap a balloon with green crochet thread following steps 1-8.



10. Cut into the thread ball and cut out shapes like leaves.



11. If the threads are still a little damp and flexible, it will be easier to shape the leaves. You can also dampen by blotting with a wet paper towel. Shape the leaves by turning under the edges and creating folds. Set aside to dry.



12. Cut strips from the thread ball about 1" wide. Fold the long edges towards the center and twist to make the vines.



13. Take a 1" x 2" strip of brown cardstock and crumple it. Unfold, then roll into a tube for the stem. Glue ends to keep rolled.



14. Find a hole at the top of the orange thread ball. Stick the stem in and glue in place. Place leaves and vines around the base of the stem and glue in place. Make a small bow with the raffia and glue to the base of the stem.



15. **Finishing touches:** Make a group of pumpkins in different sizes and cluster together in a basket or tie up like a garland and add firefly lights. Or, make them cutesy by adding a jack o' lantern face with felt or foam pieces.