

Jack O' Lanterns! (Source: Dremel)

- * Use an ice cream scoop to clean out the seeds and flesh. It won't bend as a spoon might.
- * Submerge the pumpkin in water overnight before you carve it. The pumpkin will absorb some of the water and firm up, becoming easier to carve.
- * Soak the finished jack-o'-lantern in a bucket of water to prevent shriveling. Then remove it and dry it thoroughly to prevent molding.
- * Apply petroleum jelly to the cut surfaces to keep the pumpkin from drying out.
- * Cover the jack-o'-lantern with plastic wrap and store it in the refrigerator when it's not on display.

For the carving-impaired (Source: Better Homes and Gardens)

- * Stud a pumpkin with star-shaped sequins held in place with pearl-topped straight pins.
- * Use paint pens to draw stars in a variety of colors and sizes all over a pumpkin. Top off your pumpkin by curling a metallic pipe cleaner around a pencil and slipping it over the stem.
- * Hollow out enough of a medium pumpkin to make room for a soup can. Use the can as a vase to hold an arrangement of fall flowers, leaves and twigs..