How to make a modeling clay pumpkin

Materials: Ordinary non-drying modeling clay: orange, green; a board; a blunt plastic tool.



1. Roll an orange ball

Knead the orange clay and roll it between your palms using circular movements. Save the green piece for the stalk.

Check: A smooth orange ball without deep cracks.

Fix: Warm firm clay in your palms, knead it and roll again.



2. Flatten the ball slightly

Set the ball on the board and press gently on top with your palm. Stop when it is a little wider than it is tall.

Check: A squat rounded shape that does not roll away.

Fix: If it becomes a pancake, gather the edges, roll a ball again and press less.



3. Make a top dimple

Support the sides and press the pad of your finger gently into the top center. Do not push through the body.

Check: A small dimple with rounded edges and an intact bottom.

Fix: Bring the edges of a deep hole together, smooth them closed and press more lightly.

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4. Mark the pumpkin ribs

Draw a shallow curve from the dimple down one side with the blunt rounded tool edge. Turn the pumpkin and repeat about six times.

Check: Rounded ribs between grooves, without cracks or cuts.

Fix: Smooth a deep groove closed with your finger, then make a new one more lightly.



5. Roll a short stalk

Knead the green clay and roll a short thick cylinder. Flatten its base against the board and set it beside the pumpkin.

Check: The stalk is shorter than a third of the pumpkin height, with a flat base.

Fix: Shorten an overly long stalk and roll it gently again without thinning it.



6. Attach and check

Place the stalk base in the dimple, press gently and smooth its lower edge onto the orange surface. Lift the pumpkin from underneath and set it down.

Check: The stalk holds without a gap at its base; the pumpkin stands and stays whole.

Fix: Remove a loose stalk, knead its base and press the whole contact patch down again.

Try independently: Without the pictures, make a wider pumpkin with a short stalk. Choose how lightly to press the grooves and how to attach the stalk. Set it down, then lift it from underneath: does it stand steadily and does the stalk hold?