

Braided Pumpkin

A present to you from Sandy Kub!

Make a 7" or 10" braided pumpkin (not counting stem height) by braiding wool strips over wire. Attach stem, leaf, and curly vine to decorate!
*For left opening or right opening braiders.



Skills: You must know how to braid, to make a T-Start, and braid double corners.

Supplies

- Wool strips – 1.5" wide for 10" pumpkin; 1.25" wide for 7" or 5" pumpkin
- 16 gauge wire
- Darning needle (sharp tapestry needle)
- Lacing cord
- Needle and thread, scissors
- Wool scraps for stem and leaf
- Stuffing for stem
- Hot glue gun (to secure stem)
- Paper-coated floral wire (for vine)
- Sewing machine (to zigzag leaf)
- Wire cutters

Instructions

The instructions are divided into 3 parts:

- Braid the pumpkin ribs over wire
- Assemble the ribs
- Embellish (stem, leaf, curly vine)

1. Braid the Pumpkin Ribs

- a.** Cut 5 pieces of 16 gauge wire
For 10" pumpkin: five 24" pieces
For 7" pumpkin: five 20" pieces
For 5" pumpkin: five 14" pieces
- b.** Find the center of each wire, and make a slight bend. See photo.

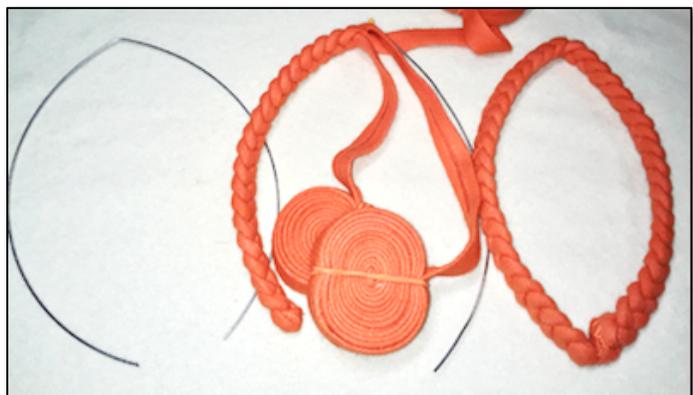
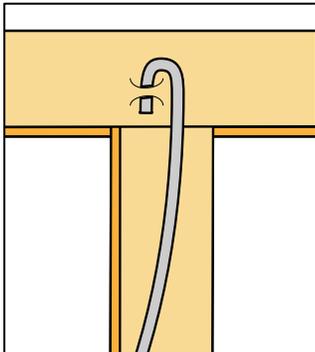


Photo: shows the bent wire, and braiding over the wire to create a set of two ribs.

NOTE: When braiding with wire, the wire is carried within the center of the braid and is not visible on the outside of the braid.

One side of the braid is worked normally; the other side of the braid has an extra step to place the wire within the braid.

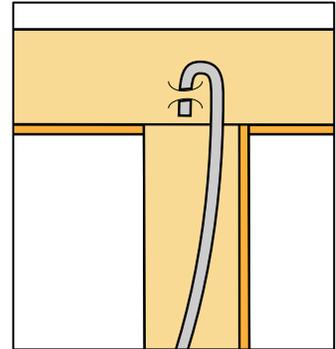


c. Make a T-start.

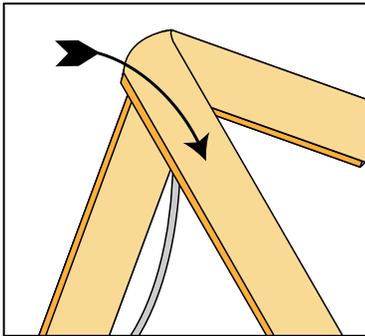
d. Bend the end of one wire to create a small hook. Stab the hook into the fabric just above the spoke of the T.

**Left opening braiders (LO)
see diagram left.

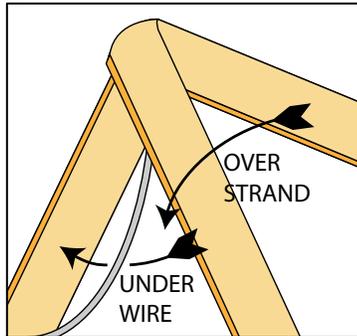
**Right opening braiders (RO)
see diagram right.



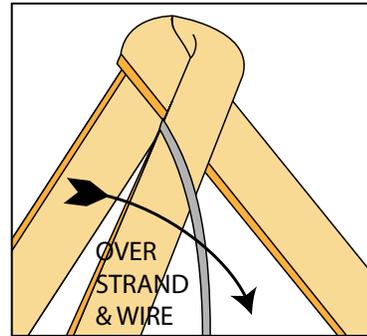
LEFT OPENING BRAIDERS (LO):



e. LO: Fold the upper left strand over to cover the wire.



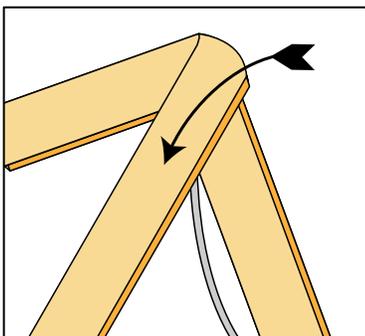
f. LO: Braid the right strand OVER the middle strand and UNDER the wire.



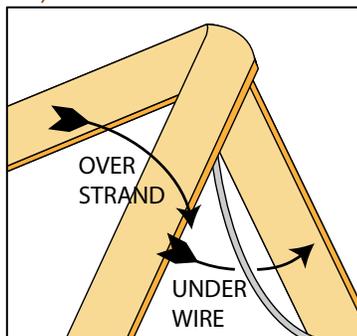
g. LO: Braid the left strand OVER the middle strand plus the wire.

h. LO: Repeat steps f & g until you reach the bend in the loop.

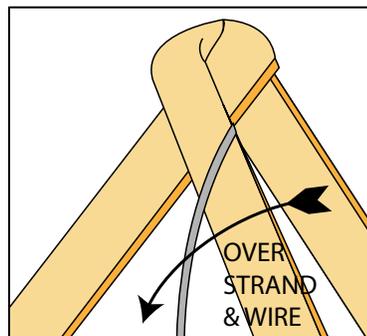
RIGHT OPENING BRAIDERS (RO):



e. RO: Fold the upper right strand over to cover the wire.



f. RO: Braid the left strand OVER the middle strand and UNDER the wire.



g. RO: Braid the right strand OVER the middle strand plus the wire.

h. RO: Repeat steps f & g until you reach the bend in the wire.

i. Braid a **double corner** (DC) at the wire's bend.

When you reach the bend in the wire, make a double corner at this site.

LO will braid Right, Right, Left;

RO will braid Left, Left, Right.

Note that the FIRST loop of your double corner will not include the wire; the second loop of the double corner will go OVER the first DC loop's strand and UNDER the wire.

j. Finishing the set of ribs: Braid until 1" from the end of the wire. Secure the three ends together with either a blunt ending OR cut the ends and stitch them together behind the T-start.

k. Secure the wire by bending into a hook and hiding it.

l. Sew or lace the two ends of braided wire together. This region will be the top of the pumpkin and will be hidden by embellishments.

m. Repeat for four more sets of ribs.

2. Assemble the Pumpkin Ribs

a. Put the bottom together.

Line up the 5 sets of ribs, looking at the double corners (DC). Lace the second loop of each of the 5 DC, and pull tight to close. Knot, and bury the ends. See photo right.

b. Put the top together.

The top of the pumpkin is formed by either lacing the ends together or using a sharp tapestry needle and puncturing the junction of each pair of ribs. Pull tight, and knot the lacing. Be sure to keep the pairs in the same order as the bottom. Bury the lacing.

The hardest part is bending and spacing the ribs to form the shape of the pumpkin. It can be tall and skinny or short and fat – your choice.



Photo: the bottom of the pumpkin, where 5 double corners are laced together.

3. Embellish (stem, leaf, curly vine)

Stem: Sew and stuff a stem: essentially a wide tube, narrower at the top. Add a wire to bend the stem to your liking. Cut a small snips along the bottom edge to splay out over the stitching (see photo). Secure to top of pumpkin with hot glue.

Leaf: Cut a leaf shape out of wool. Zig-Zag a wire (18 gauge green wrapped floral stem wire) onto the leaf to be able to bend and shape the leaf. Hot glue in place.

Vine: Wrap an 18 gauge paper wrapped floral stem wire around a pencil to form the vine. Glue in place.



Photo: the top of the pumpkin, with stem, leaf, and curly vine

HAPPY HARVESTING!
Sandy Kub