



WORK PROJECT

JACK O' LANTERN

Scale 1" to 1'

By SHARON AKIN

Sharon's Unicorn Miniatures

Spokane, Washington

© 1980

Materials: 1 portion orange-colored bread dough (recipe below), sufficient to cover 1" styrofoam ball
1 1" or smaller styrofoam ball
X-acto knife
Acetone or fingernail polish remover

Roll the bread dough between two sheets of waxed paper to 1/8" thickness. Wrap carefully around styrofoam ball and trim away excess with X-acto knife. Roll wrapped ball between hands to get uniform shape and thickness. Use back of table knife to make 8 indentations from the top to the bottom of the ball evenly. (First mark in half, then in quarters, then in eighths.) DO NOT CUT THROUGH DOUGH. Glue on small twig for stem of Jack O'Lantern.



(ILLUSTRATION 1)



(ILLUSTRATION 2)



Allow to dry for two or three DAYS. Air dry only — do not bake.

After drying, cut out face with sharp pointed blade of X-acto knife. Cut "lid" of Jack O'Lantern next, just like you do a regular-size pumpkin! Remove "lid" and set aside.

At this point, take the X-acto knife and carefully make cuts in the styrofoam, and dig out as much styrofoam as possible. Styrofoam remaining on the "lid" should come away with no difficulty.

When as much styrofoam as possible has been removed from inside of the Jack O'Lantern, pour in a LITTLE acetone or fingernail polish remover. This will dissolve the remainder of the styrofoam. If you swirl the liquid around the interior of the now-hollow Jack O'Lantern gently, it will coat the interior with the dissolved plastic. The acetone or nail polish remover will then evaporate. (This is a rather messy process, and must be done over the sink or LOTS of newspapers. Acetone will dissolve many finishes and substances, so DO be careful. Acetone and fingernail polish remover are flammable also.)

Replace lid of Jack O'Lantern and allow to dry thoroughly away from heat. The interior of the pumpkin should look like the real thing and should be ready for display. It may be drilled for lighting, either with 12-volt or 3-volt (for battery pack).

BREAD DOUGH RECIPE: 3 slices of OLD white bread without crust, crumbled
3 tablespoons of white glue (Elmer's or other)
1/2 teaspoon of glycerine (available at any drug store)

Mix all together. If too sticky, add a LITTLE more crumbled white bread. If too stiff, add a BIT more glue. Knead until smooth, and store covered in the refrigerator. Color with acrylic paints by kneading in a bit of paint until the color is as you want it. This makes enough for many projects, and will keep for 6 weeks in the refrigerator. It air-dries rapidly, so only take out what you know you are going to use.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!