# Crafty Pumpkins

## Materials Needed

Fabric – velvet, ultra suede, wool, cotton, users choice

Strong thread

Hand Needles – Medium and large

Fiber stuffing

Stem – real or not

Fray check – if using velvet or other loose weave fabric

Glue gun (and glue)

Optional

Weights - such as BB’s or rice

Decorations – feathers or crystals (E6000 type glue for decorations)

Thimble – if working with ultra suede or other heavy fabric

## Instructions

1. Cut a circle of fabric. If a loose weave fabric, use fray check on the edge.
2. Thread a needle with a thread color that’s close to the fabric color.
3. Make a running/basting stitch about ½ inch from the edge of the fabric all the way around the perimeter of the circle of the fabric. Anchor the thread well.
4. Start pull on the thread to gather up the fabric. Add a layer of stuffing. Add weight material. Add more stuffing. Continue to gather the edges together until thread is tight and stuff to your desired firmness.
5. A “hole” will be visible when the fabric is completely gathered up tightly. Start to grab pleats of the fabric with your needle to stitch the belly button shut completely. It may be helpful to knot off the thread periodically as you do this process.
6. Knot off the thread. Optionally, you may want to now change to a longer needle and take one or two stitches in the bellybutton and out the bottom of the pumpkin and then back up again from whence you came. This will flatten the shape of your pumpkin and help it to sit. Knot off the thread again.
7. Stem – If using a real squash stem, make sure it is completely dry. Smaller stems can dry out on their own with enough time. Larger ones will need to be put in a low heat oven for an hour or more (depending on the size of the stem) to completely dry out. Use the hot glue gun, preferable on the cool setting if you have it, and glue the stem on the pumpkin. Can stop here if desired. Resist the urge to lift by the stem.
8. Decorating with Feathers – Arrange feathers by sticking them into the natural folds of the pumpkin to make sure you have enough and like the appearance. Then start removing a few feathers at a time, stick the end of a feather into the E6000 glue and then back into the pumpkin fabric fold. Continue with all feathers.
9. Decorating with Crystals – Arrange crystals on the pumpkin until you achieve the desired look. Glue crystals on with E6000 or heat set with a small iron.