1. CARVE OUT TOP

Carve a circular opening from the top of your pumpkin. Cut the lid at an angle so the outside diameter is larger than the inside. This prevents the top from falling into the pumpkin when it shrinks.

2. CLEAN AND SCRAPE

Clean out the seeds and strings using a large spoon or or ice cream scooper. Scrape inner pulp away from the area you plan to carve until the pumpkin interior wall is about 1" thick.

3. ATTACH PATTERN

Trim the pattern and tape it to your pumpkin. Make pattern fit smoothly by folding the paper as needed. Tape the folds in place.

4. TRANSFER PATTERN

Use a sharp awl, needle tool or T-pin to transfer the pattern, poking along the outlines. When the design is completely transferred, remove the paper pattern.

5. CARVE DESIGN

Use a sharp, straight-edged knife to cut, carving away from yourself. Start with the features closest to the center first and work outward. For tight corners, pull the saw out and reinsert to change direction. Use an X-Acto knife for details and the tip of a potato peeler to make small circles and curves.

6. LIGHT IT UP

There are many candle-free options. Check stores for color-changing strobe lights, battery-operated tea lights and rainbow LEDs that are made specifically for pumpkins. If using a candle, select a votive or pillar candle placed on a plate large enough to catch any drips.

7. SNAP A PHOTO AND SHARE

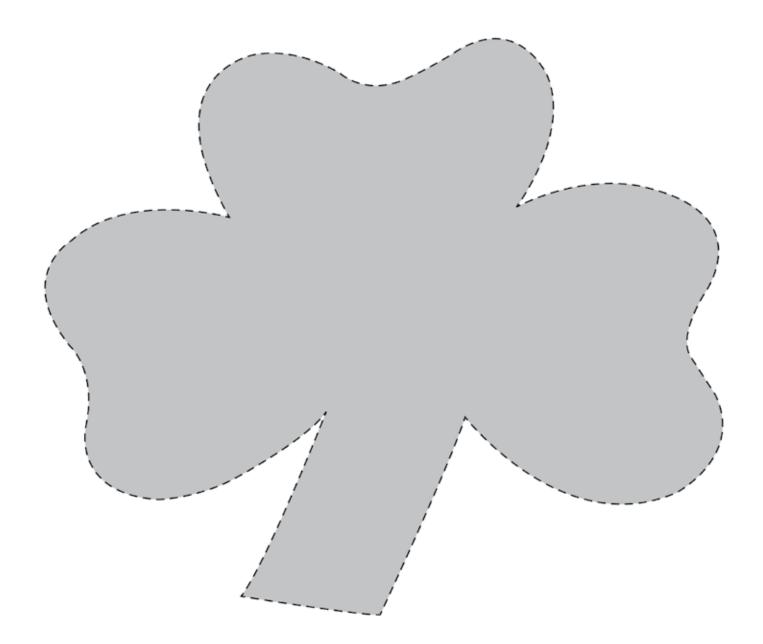
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