



papier-mâché pumpkins

The stairway in an entry hall serves as the perfect landing spot for a set of handmade paper jack-o'-lanterns in graduated sizes. For safety, these beaming faces are lit from within by battery-powered lights. A single sheet of tissue pasted inside diffuses the light and hides the working parts; floral wire and tape make optional stem and tendrils.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED Balloons, glass jars, wheat paste, tissue paper (in orange and yellow), paintbrush, clothespins and clothesline, small scissors, craft knife, floral wire, cotton balls, floral tape, pencil



1 Begin by blowing up a balloon and tying it off. Rest balloon on an empty jar. Dab wheat paste on a small section of the balloon and drape a strip of orange tissue paper vertically from the balloon's crown to its knot. Using the paintbrush, apply wheat paste evenly over the strip. Add another strip so that it slightly overlaps the first, and brush on more paste. Continue around the balloon until it is covered completely. After two layers of orange tissue, apply two layers of yellow.



2 Using clothespins, hang covered balloons on the clothesline by their knots. When they are completely dry, pop each balloon by snipping with scissors as you hold the knot. Remove the balloon through the hole around the knot.



3 To cut a lid, make an incision in the lid with a craft knife. Finish cutting out with scissors. Remove a small circle from the other end to create a base. Mark and cut out eyes, nose, and mouth. On the inside, cover these holes with a single layer of tissue paper (apply paste to edges of tissue before positioning). For the stem, push 3 different lengths of floral wire through the knot hole in the lid. (Stuff a cotton ball in the underside of the hole; secure with floral tape.) Wrap each piece of wire in floral tape, and then wrap all 3 pieces together to create the base of the stem. Wrap the free ends of the wires around a pencil to resemble tendrils.