

Thanksgiving - Pumpkin, Sunflower, Corn

This is a nice project for Thanksgiving that takes two meetings to complete. If desired, the corn or milo (sorghum) could be eliminated or substituted.

Materials needed:

1. 1 x 4 pine/spruce x 8 3/4" for base.
2. 9" x 8" x 1/4" AC plywood for pumpkin.
3. 2 1/2" x 3/4" x 3/4" wood for brace on back of pumpkin.
4. 12 - #20 biscuit joiners (for sunflower petals)
cf. www.woodnshop.com, Part # 508086.
5. One wooden disc (1 1/2" diam.),
cf. www.craftetc.com, SKU#622191.
6. One 3" diam. wood circle (1/8" to 1/4" thick)
cf. www.craftparts.com, item ST0300/C
or cut from 1/4" plywood or 1/8" veneer.
7. One 3/16" dowel x 4" for sunflower stem
8. One small ear of corn (dry), 5 1/2 - 6 1/2" long.
9. One grain sorghum head (or teasel or cat tail).
10. 2 - 1 5/8 to 2" sheetrock screws for attaching corn.
11. 2 - 1" sheetrock screws for attaching pumpkin.
12. Battery operated screwdriver or dill.



Before the Meeting

1. Cut out pumpkin on a band saw.
2. Cut 3/4 x 3/4 stock to 2 1/2" and drill 2 #8 countersink holes for screws.
3. Glue 3/4 x 3/4 x 2 1/2" stock to back of pumpkin (so it will be ready to mount after painting).
4. Cut base then drill 1/4" hole for grain sorghum and drill two #8 countersink holes for screws, then sand on bench sander.



Assembly at the Meeting

1. Use white glue to attach 6 biscuit joiners onto the 3" diameter wood disk as shown in figure 1.
2. Add 6 more biscuit joiners (petals) to the flower by gluing each biscuit between the other 6 "petals" (fig. 2).

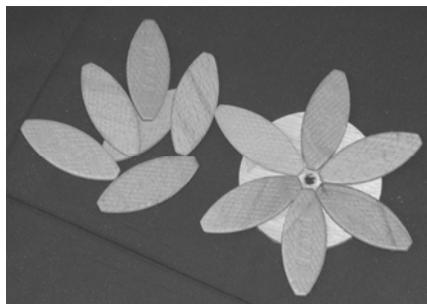
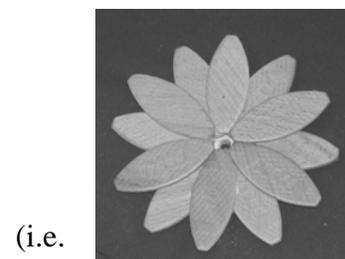


Fig. 1. 6 biscuit joiners (left).
Partially assembled flower with 6 petals.



(i.e.)

Fig. 2. Nearly completed sunflower with 12 petals (without center disk).

3. Paint wooden nickel (center disk for sunflower) black and let dry.
4. Paint pumpkin orange.
5. Paint the sunflower stem (3/16" dowel) green and let dry.

Wait about 15 min. so sunflower/glue is nearly dry. Then:

6. Carefully, paint the petals yellow and let dry until next meeting.

Before the next meeting:

1. Paint the pumpkin stem green. If the boys paint these at the next meeting, they will be wet when they attach the pumpkin to the base and it is likely that they will get the wet green paint on the pumpkin, sunflower and/or the base!.

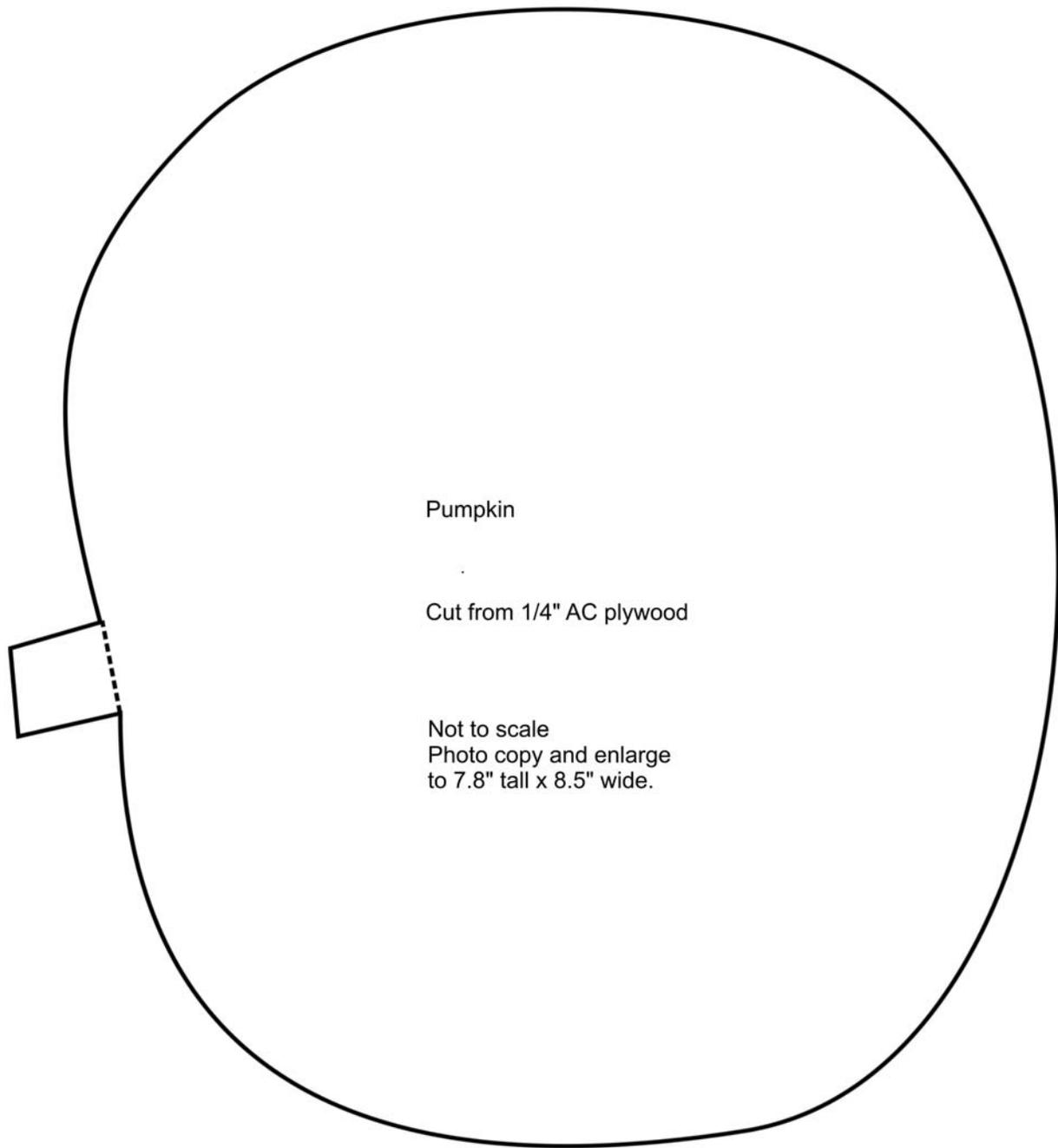
Next Meeting (2nd):

1. Attach the pumpkin to the base using 2 sheetrock screws (1") with a rechargeable drill/screwdriver. Boys really enjoy working with these battery operated tools!
2. Attach corn to base using 2 sheetrock screws (1 1/2" - 2") with a power screwdriver. This is a little tricky. You will need to assist the boys in getting the corn squarely on the base.
3. Attach the grain sorghum head by gluing it into the 1/4" hole. Trim the stem to fit or add bits of toothpicks (if the hole is too large).
4. Lay the project on its back (so the sunflower will not slide off when it is glued on!)
5. Glue painted, center disk onto sunflower.
6. Glue green stem onto pumpkin under sunflower (see photos).
7. Glue sunflower onto pumpkin so the stem is under the petals (see photos).
8. Print a sheet of labels on a computer, then seal the front side with clear mailing/package tape before cutting apart. Use a glue stick to attach the label to the front of the base. You might use this Bible verse:

**Always give thanks for all things in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20
Happy Thanksgiving 2010! Gruver Boys Clubs (etc.)**

Next Meeting (3rd):

Each boy can take their project home and they can deliver the 5 extra projects to elderly people in their community. Be sure to call the elderly persons on the day of the visit so they will stay up and have the porch light on. Take the boys to get some ice cream after the delivery.



Pumpkin. **NOT TO SCALE!** Copy and enlarge to 7.8" tall x 8.5" wide. Cut from 1/4" AC plywood. Paint pumpkin orange and paint the stem green.