Pumpkin Diorama with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Pumpkin Diorama
(light perky music) (light perky music continues) (upbeat light music) (upbeat light music fades) - Hey, everybody. Welcome to "Creativebug." We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and this is my first time being live in our new studio, so I'm excited to be here with you all. Thanks for tuning in because we're live. That means you can write in and ask questions which I always love and appreciate. Maybe if you've been watching Creativebug over the years, you might know that I'm a super Halloween fan, and I'm really excited that Halloween stuff is creeping into the retail space and in Windows and in bookstores. And so, I'm gonna show you a pumpkin diorama. These pumpkins are kind of like new to the scene in the last couple of years. They're a faux pumpkin. You can carve into them and you can cut them open and build dioramas. So we'll give you a little sneak peek of one I've already made. I'm gonna tilt it this way so the C cam can see it and maybe Devlin's camera can see it too. So you can really create anything inside your diorama. You can put little stuffed animals in here. You can put battery-operated tea lights in here. You definitely don't wanna put any actual open flames, but just like any other diorama, the sky is the limit. So this could be as little or as fabulous inside as you want. I have a ton of supplies in front of me. Just gather what you have. Pick Halloween colors. You may wanna do this all monochromatic. I'm working with a white pumpkin. You could choose to do like all whites and metallics and silvers. The most fun part or the beginning of the fun is actually opening up this pumpkin, and you can carve into it pretty easily. But cutting into the pumpkin, I found a little bit challenging. I thought the best way to get into this guy was with a hammer. So definitely, adult supervision required for this. I'm just gonna pound away, and I love the jagged opening it gives you. That's what I'm going for. So here we go. (hammer thuds) All right, so you can see that there's about quarter to a half inch opening. (hammer thuds) Sorry, not an opening, a quarter to half inch skin, and it's consistent, which makes it easy to carve. (hammer thuds) (hammer thuds) (hammer thuds) It might look like I'm having too much fun which might be true. I'm almost there. (hammer thuds) (hammer thuds) All right, I'm just gonna pour that out. I don't need any of those bits. And you just create an opening. You can have it be asymmetrical like this one, I could continue. You wanna be careful that you don't destroy and totally decimate your pumpkin. So something like this is good, and I actually wanna paint the inside. So I'm gonna use a baby wipe to just get out any debris that by hammering I caused. Baby wipe is one of my most favorite craft tools. I always have these on hand. (package crinkling) and like I said, you can fill this diorama with anything. We're gonna start by painting a layer using this really awesome paint that Plaid makes. I'm gonna show you guys in a minute. and then I'm actually gonna build a little scene, and I'm gonna use some paper witches from my Halloween Paper Witches class which is deep in the Creativebug archive. It's a class we filmed a long time ago, and if you are new to Creativebug and haven't seen many of our classes, if you use the promo code Halloween, then you can get a 30-day free trial and one class to keep forever which would allow you to download the PDF for these witches. Okay, I think that's good. Let it air dry for a minute and then I'm gonna use this paint. You can paint the inside with anything. We're going for this kind of distressed look, so it's not gonna be perfect. What I love is this brushed metal paint by Plaid. It works really good on actual pumpkins. Like I could paint this whole thing with this brushed metal paint. I could actually paint a real pumpkin. Another paint that they make that I love is the

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

color shift, which works really well on curved services. I was just at the Plaid offices last week, and I gotta play with these in-person in their craft room. They were painting pumpkins, and I was like, "Oh, that's so awesome." So I thought I would use it on the inside of my diorama. I'm gonna go with the brushed metal and this color is copper, brushed copper. I'm using a little paper plate here for my palette, and I want really loose brush strokes, so I'm gonna use a sort of battered and beaten hardware store brush. I love these. I use them in a ton of things. So, hopefully, you guys can see. (brush rustling) Now, of course, it's a little tricky to see because I'm inside this enclosed thing (brush rustling) and I'm doing really loose brush strokes, maybe, is that helpful? It looks kinda like flames which is cool. (brush rustling) The very base of this diorama, I'm gonna cover, but you can paint it if you want. Let's start with this light color and then we'll add a little bit of that black, so that gives you kind of like a cool, fiery ombre, (brush rustling) like that. And let's do a little bit of this color shift. This is black flash. This color is awesome. It's black and when you twist it, or it's painted around a curved surface, it has like a gold undertone which is awesome. I put my paint down on my little lady here that I've already colored. It's fine. Use a baby wipe and get that paint off as long as it hasn't dried. All right, so we're gonna come back in with the black, and we're gonna go right over the copper. I'm not worried that it's not dried yet. Start with the base. I'm actually gonna rotate it this way 'cause I find that easier and just brush that down. And it's mixing with my copper. So I'm getting this like cool, blended effect, kind of as like if you think of those old illustrations of like witches around a cauldron, that's kind of what we're going for. Use a little bit more of this black. (brush rustling) All right, so you could go further with that painted effect. I'm happy with that. I don't even have to wait for it to dry to start moving on to creating my scene. Now, if you go to your local JOANN store, they have these great little miniature things. Of course, they're not going to disappoint. So during the Halloween, all of the little miniatures are Halloween-themed which is awesome. I really love this spooky tree. You could use this on a mantle or wherever you're making a little Halloween scene. I, of course, am using it in my pumpkin. There are some other little figurines like the stack of pumpkins, this witch sitting on a book, little skulls, and other little guys. These little plastic spiders came with my cobwebs. I have some cob webbing here. I've got these great rolls of like a sort of like a tool. This one has glitter. Those are things that I can be using in my diorama, but I'm gonna start by placing my tree because this is kind of gonna be the anchor of my whole scene. I don't like to do things symmetrically, so I'm gonna probably put him off to the left or right. So for this, I'm gonna be using some hot glue, really on a base that I've just painted and something that's this 3D and kind of large. Then I want to have hot glue, and let's actually just make sure that he actually fits in this pumpkin. Yeah, he does. Great. It's a good thing to check before you got the hot glue on. These pumpkins, these faux pumpkins, come in all sizes. I even have a little baby one downstairs. It'd be cute to paint the outside of that one and pair it. I'm just going to place him in there and probably just slightly to the right of center. You can see he's kind of curled inside of that pumpkin. And then my other main focal point besides the tree is gonna be one of my paper witches from my Halloween Paper Witches class. This has a ton of images that you can download in the PDF, and they're kind of Victorian and sweet in nature, but we're gonna turn them into witches. I printed out the PDF and then I photocopied it on cardstock, so it's a little bit rigid. You can see I picked her and I painted her, or sorry, colored her in with colored pencil and now, I need a pair of scissors to cut her out. She's not gonna be the full thing. You can see she's very tall, and she would be as big as my tree. I'm gonna leave a couple of inches at the bottom, so that I can glue her. And then, I'm literally just gonna cut away things I don't want like those flowers. I don't need that. I don't even need her arm. I'm gonna cut in toward her face. And I do wanna leave a little bit of the top of

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

her head because we're gonna glue some roving or yarn onto her to create hair. And you can see I've also taken a colored pencil and just kind of using gray, dulled this down. I don't want something black and white. I wanna put other embellishments on top of it. I really just want this to be kind of a witch form. Here's our roving. If you've never used this, this is kind of, can be wool, or I think it can even be sometimes synthetic. This is what yarn's actually made out of. I like it for making fluffy hair on paper dolls. It's really awesome for that. Or clothes pin dolls. If you've seen our Clothes Pin Doll class, it's one of my favorites. So you can just take a little bit off, or if you have yarn at home, you can use yarn, and you can kind of play with what her hair might look like. We're gonna glue it down using the hot glue. And I think I was originally gonna go orange because I have a thing for redheads, I love redheads, but black would look cool. She could be a raven-haired beauty, but because I'm using the white pumpkin, I think I'm actually gonna go with the white. So I'm gonna just add a little hot glue, not a ton. This stuff is really hot. It's industrial hot glue which works the best. And I have a little toothpick here, so that I can press down the roving and not burn myself, but I wanna kind of sculpt this first. I can also trim it. Let's see. - [Director] Courtney, can you remind the folks at home what we're making and also that we're live? - Hey, guys, welcome. If you're just joining us, we're live, which means you can write in and ask questions. And I am making a Halloween diorama inside of a faux pumpkin. And what I'm working on right now is making the little paper witch that's gonna be part of the focus of my diorama. So I like this, all of her like crazy poofy bangs. That's pretty awesome. You can, like I said, kind of sculpt the roving to make her hair. I can trim it, but I actually like, it's kind of wind swept. She looks like her hair is like a puff of cloud. We could also make her a witch's hat. Maybe, I wanna make a glittery witch's hat. Have a bit of scrapbook paper here. A witch's hat is just a really tall triangle. Let's see what that looks like. Ooh, I love that. That's really pretty. It's the right kind of proportion for her. It's nice and tall. So we'll add a little bit of glue here. Use that hot glue, place that down. Just make sure everything is aligning nicely. I might wanna do another little bead of glue here, so that this stays down. I can kind of twist the roving over. - [Director] We have our first question. - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Director] Christina wants to know, "What did you use to cut the pumpkin?" - Hi, Christina, welcome. Thanks for writing in and asking a question. And you asked me, "How I cut my pumpkin." And the secret is I didn't cut it. I used a hammer, honestly, honest to goodness, I just used a hammer and kind of started in the center and broke out pieces. Actually, love the jagged look of that, and I found it much easier. I was kind of a little bit afraid I would cut myself trying to really dig into that pumpkin. They're easy to carve, but to actually cut an opening was a little tricky. So I found the hammer was like the safest and best thing to use. Good question. Remember, because we're live, if you guys have questions, feel free to write in and ask. Okay, I like that. I'm probably gonna fold the bottom inch or so. And that's how she'll stand up. She might be a little tall now that I've added the witch's hat. So let's actually fold about two inches. This is gonna get covered by whatever I decide to put on the bottom. She's kind of in the foreground. See? (laughs) There she is. So before I glue her in, I might wanna add a few things to kind of dress up her outfit. Remember, I said we have this really cool tulle comes, you can buy tulle by the yard. It's like kind of what you would make ballerina costumes out of, but they sell it at JOANN on these spools because they're great for gift wrap, and they have some fun ones with glitter and some other things. I like this one because it's very fabric-like. It's like much easier to scrunch, and I might just wanna use it to make part of her costume here. So same thing, I'm gonna do a little bead of hot glue. I really like using the hot glue because it sets up very fast, and it's pretty permanent once it dries. So I'm crimping it over and using my toothpick to put press things into place. You can, of course, use other trims and ribbons. If you have scrapbook embellishments, you

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

can use that. Okay. Of course, things are gonna stick to my fingers also. I'm actually gonna trim away some of this. I just wanted to get it down and then you can come back in. This is not where there is hot glue, and you can trim some of that away. Just make sure you have a sharp pair of scissors. Okay, and you can leave this like her dress could be flowing outta the front of the pumpkin. I'm actually gonna trim it a little because remember I'm folding back that last two inches, and this is where she's gonna get glued in. I could put a spider on her too. I think the scale of that is a little big. Also, have some sequins. I'm always looking for an excuse to use sequins because I love them, but I don't sew that much. So I have a little dish of sequins. Maybe let's glue a sequin right in the center. So this bodice feels a little more finished, just the tiniest bead of hot glue. And then we'll place that, and you can kind of use your toothpick to maneuver it into place and press it down until the hot glue sets. You could use other ones in her hair, too, if you wanted. Or add one to the top of her witch's hat. She's like a white witch. She's a wise wizened witch. All right, so I think she is gonna go in here and do I wanna add any of these other little elements? These little pumpkins could be fun in here. I think using these little three-dimensional critters are really fun, especially if you don't have time to make your paper witch and you just wanna put something that you already have and create kind of a new little diorama out of it. That would be an awesome use for these. I think I'm gonna put these aside because I really do like my paper witch, and I'm gonna use her, but maybe I'll use this skull that also comes in that little miniatures line 'cause I think fits with my theme of my pale pumpkin and my pale witch. - [Director] We have our next question. - [Courtney] Yes. - [Director] Myrna wants to know, "What brand is that glue gun?" - Hi, Myrna. Okay, good question. So I was anti-hot glue for a long time. I did a ton of crafting with my mom, and I felt like hot glue the minute it dried, you could just peel it away and it was totally worthless. And then I started working for Anthropology and I used to do windows and the hot glue gun became my best friend. But the key is getting one that is a high-temperature, hot glue gun. This one is by Arrow and it's from the hardware store. Craft stores now are great about having really high temperature hot glue guns. They are very hot, so if you burn yourself or you get hot glue on your finger, it is no joke. It's pretty painful. You can wear some kind of glove. Like I said, that trick of using the toothpick to kind of place things will spare your fingertips a little bit. So I totally recommend them if you're gonna work with hot glue, but they are very hot, so be careful. Good questions. All right, I'm gonna glue her in and then we're gonna decorate around her. Just a little bit of hot glue. I would say something like a tacky glue could work, but you do have to wait for things to set up. I'm not that patient in this particular project. My alternative to hot glue would be something like a really heavy-duty glue dot. Those does work great. So I want her pretty close to the front because of the perspective. So hopefully, you can see that I'm just pressing down that hot glue. There she is. Now, we're gonna just add a few little other elements, things that you can use. You could actually use more roving. I like these cobwebs. You can just trim off a little bit and they become instantly spooky and actually, they'll like stick straight onto the pumpkin because we have that jagged edge. So you can play with decorating from inside to out. You can trim off anything that's needed there. If you're really patient, you can get inside, back inside here and string it onto your tree. You could, of course, you could have added this before you added your tree to your diorama, something like that. I also really love using moss, so this is not something you'll find in your Halloween aisle. This is something you'll find in the plant gardening section where they sell floral wire. But I love these packets of these kind of collections of different textures and colors. Green and purple, I mean, those are Halloween colors, so let's use some of this. This Spanish moss that's been dyed purple is pretty awesome. I really love this lichen. It's pretty spooky and it's working with our kind of monochromatic colorway here. So I'm

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

gonna add some hot glue carefully on the base of my diorama and then carefully place some of this moss. I find it easier than gluing the back of the moss because the moss is pretty porous. So I'm just literally letting some hot glue drop into there, and I think we'll do some spongy moss in the green. Again, if you're not sure, you can use the tip of your, you can use the tip of your toothpick, or you can even go in with your scissors. That works also. Let's see how she's looking. I like this kind of spilling forward. So let's add a little bit of this, and we'll have it creeping out too. If you want, you could put a little hot glue there, or we can just put it right onto. - [Devlin] Hold one second. Sorry, I'm having difficulty with the camera. - If you guys are live, this is the fun part of live. We might be having some issues with one of our cameras. No big deal. Let's see if you guys can see from up here. So I'm adding lichen. - [Director] All right, you're back. - [Courtney] Good? Devlin, you're good? (chuckles) Devlin's being a champ. He's fixing the camera. All right, so we're just adding these little elements kind of spilling out. We've been building our diorama inside of this faux pumpkin. Do we have another question? - [Director] Yes. Marsha wants to know, "Where did you get the pumpkin?" - Oh, Marsha, great question. I got all of these faux pumpkins at my local JOANN. They come in a ton of sizes from little ones to bigger ones. I really liked the fun white ones and then your traditional orange ones, and you can carve them. They were a little bit hard to cut into, so I actually took a hammer to get this opening. All right, I like how that's looking. You might need a little extra glue because these are natural elements. They're not really bending in the way that maybe some of our artificial elements would, so I'm just gonna hold that down, a little bit here. Doesn't wanna bend as much and that's fine. Okay, so I'm liking the inside of that. I don't wanna over-complicate it when I probably give this to my mom 'cause she's a Halloween fanatic. I'll probably put a little tea light in there. I do wanna remind you that you cannot use an open flame with this. You have to use a battery-operated tea light. So I like the way that looks. I wanna draw some attention to the outside of the pumpkin, and I really liked these crafty spiders, so you could paint them, you could glitter them. I use that same really cool color shift. That black color is called black flash, so it's black when you look straight at it, but on curves, you can see this gold highlight. I painted my craft spider with that, and I'm gonna glue him to the top so you can see my paint marks. - [Director] We have our next question. Phil is wondering, "If I can't find a pumpkin, what else could I use?" - Phil's asking, "If I can't find a pumpkin, what else can I use?" Your traditional shoebox. Didn't you make a diorama as a kid? That was like my absolute favorite. I'm actually thinking of making a diorama of like this perfect library that's in my head that I wanna build someday, and to make it come to life, I think I have to build a diorama first which I will do in a shoebox. So you can make a diorama in anything. Anything that has a little bit of depth. You could use a shadow box. I actually have a Shadow Box class on Creativebug. You could check that out. I've made many Halloween shadow boxes. Those are really fun. But just use any box, any leftover box. I mean, you could cut up a macaroni and cheese box and make a tiny diorama. People make dioramas in Altoid tins. That would be fun. Good question. All right, I think she's shaping up nicely. Oh, I have this little skull. Where do we wanna put that skull? This could be right on the edge here, but this is really delicate because it's like an actual lichen from a tree. So this may not hold the weight of this. This is like a cast resin. It's pretty solid. So I could nestle it back. I could also attach it up here. Oh, my god, what if that spider had a skull? Is that so creepy? That might be kinda creepy. I don't know. What do you guys think? Skull spider or skull inside of the pumpkin? - [Devlin] I'm into the skull spider. - [Director] I vote spider. - Okay, the crew here is, was louder than you guys. You guys didn't chime in soon enough. They're saying skull spider. so here we go I might actually, because there's a really small ridge here, I don't wanna drip any hot glue. I'm gonna put hot glue here. All right. And because this is heavy, this little skull is

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

heavy. I am gonna hold it just while the glue sets up because it is very likely to tumble off. Once the glue is set up, then it'll be super sturdy. Oh, my god, this is so funny. This is totally unanticipated. I didn't know that I was going to put skull onto the spider. - [Director] So we've got a lot of responses about that, and they're all saying spider. - Great. Thank you guys for chiming in. I guess skull spider was the way to go. Sometimes, a few heads are better than one, so it's nice to know that you guys are behind me with the skull spider here. I kind of think that's like the showstopper. It's like more interesting than the witch, but the witch is really cute. I love making paper dolls, so the paper witches is really fun. Maybe we should continue the spider theme. I've got these two little plastic spiders. I can just literally nestle those in here. They don't even have to be glued down. And then if I don't like them, I can change them later. All right. I think that might be done. Oh, did you see that it jumped out? Like it literally jumped out. I'm not even kidding. I hope you all saw that. - [Director] It's haunted. - [Courtney] It's really jumping out. It doesn't wanna be in there. Oh, creepy. Okay, we're gonna set that one aside. Let me show you this other one that I made earlier. Same principles. We kind of did similar things here just so you could see a few interpretations. Here, I'll hold 'em here. So we've got our same witch. She's a different one, but it's the same concept. She's a raven-haired witch. She does not have a hat in this case, but she does have a little sequin star. Her dress is actually this bit of really cool paper napkin I picked up at JOANN. I loved the paper napkins. I loved that they were painted like watercolor, so I tore up that, made that her dress, painted the back in the same way, used a similar tree. I cut a double-sided little moon out of the scrapbook paper and hung it using a bit of embroidery floss. I also used some of that fun moss and lichen. In this case, I did the spider with a glitter spray paint, and then I used some of the tool to tie a bow on top. Oh, the last thing was I used a little bit of a doily and a sponge brush, like for stenciling. And just using paint, created this pattern around the opening just in a few spots. You could also use like a brush stroke and do some more distress marks around here. You could really play with it. What I love about doing these kinds of pumpkin shadow boxes, like I said, Halloween is my absolute favorite holiday. I inherited that from my mother. She's a Halloween fanatic, and I love making Halloween stuff and giving it to her. It's not something I would necessarily put in my own house, but she loves it so much. It gives me a nice excuse to make some fun Halloween things. - [Director] It's okay. - So if you are a Halloween fanatic like I am, I would recommend trying this out. Of course, like Phil asked, "What else can you do this in?" You could take all of these same principles and put them into a shadow box if you wanted. But there's something so fun about having a special little decoration that you pull out for a specific holiday. This could be not mistaken as anything else. This is definitely not a Christmas decoration. It's a Halloween decoration. I think we have a couple other questions which I will answer? - [Director] Brianne says, "She can't wait to make this. She's wondering about the Shibori in the background. Is that a new class that's coming up?" - Oh, excellent question. Hi, Brianne, nice to see you. Thanks for joining us. This is actually a Shibori-African. It's a little Shibori technique which is Japanese, but it's an African cloth. It is indigo dyed. We don't have any specific plans for that, but I'm glad you said something because we will put it on our list. We're always looking for the next and best thing to offer you guys. So it could be a live shoot, or it could be something in the future coming. If you are interested in fabric dyeing, we have some great fabric-dyeing classes with Kristine Vejar from a "Verb For Keeping Warm." Those are already on the site. You can check those out. I know you're already a loyal Creativebug customer. You can also check out Fabric Painting with Anna Joyce, and if you are new to Creativebug and you have no idea what I'm talking about and you have no idea who those amazing artists are, then use the promo code, Halloween, and you can get one 30-day free trial, one as in one month, and one class to keep

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

forever. Thanks for joining me for today's Shadow Box. I hope you'll give it a try for the Halloween that is soon approaching. It's one of my most favorite things to do for the season. (light perky music) (light perky music continues) (upbeat light music) (upbeat light music fades)

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026