

HARVEST PUMPKIN KNIT BASKET

Complete Digital Knitting Pattern

Confident Beginner | Super Bulky Yarn | Worked Mostly in the Round

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY - NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED

A sculpted, open-top pumpkin basket with eight knitted lobes, a dense I-cord handle, five leaves and a short stem.

1. Digital Download Notice

This file is a digital knitting pattern for making the pictured-style pumpkin basket. It is not a finished basket and no physical item will be shipped.

All measurements below are calculated design targets. Finished size can vary with yarn thickness, needle choice, knitting tension, shaping, and blocking.

The reference design is an open-top pumpkin-shaped basket. No stuffing is required in the finished project.

Finished Measurements

Feature	Design target
Body width at widest point	28-30 cm / 11-11.8 in
Body depth	27-29 cm / 10.6-11.4 in
Body height to top rim	18-20 cm / 7.1-7.9 in
Top opening diameter	21-23 cm / 8.3-9.1 in
Flat base diameter	18-20 cm / 7.1-7.9 in
Visible handle arc, rim to rim	43-49 cm / 16.9-19.3 in
Handle rise above rim	15-17 cm / 5.9-6.7 in
Total height with handle upright	33-37 cm / 13.0-14.6 in
Leaf length	8-10 cm / 3.1-3.9 in
Stem height	6-7 cm / 2.4-2.8 in

Difficulty: Confident beginner. You should be comfortable knitting in the round, working simple increases/decreases, purling in the round, knitting a small I-cord, and sewing pieces neatly.

2. Materials and Tools

Item	Recommended amount / specification
Orange yarn	300-350 m / 328-383 yd super bulky (CYC #6), smooth plied yarn; enough for body, rim, handle and 2 attachment discs
Olive green yarn	40-50 m / 44-55 yd super bulky (CYC #6) for 5 leaves and stem
Main needles	8 mm / US 11 circular needle, 60-80 cm cable; use magic loop or DPNs for the small centre rounds
Detail needles	6.5 mm / US 10.5 DPNs for handle, stem and attachment discs; DPNs may also be used for leaves. 6.5 mm / US 10.5 straight needles may be used for leaves only.
Notions	Tapestry needle, scissors, measuring tape, 5-10 locking stitch markers, pins or clips
Optional support	One 18-19 cm / 7-7.5 in removable stiff felt or flexible plastic-canvas base disc
Optional handle core	About 48-50 cm / 19-20 in soft 4-5 mm cotton cord, only if extra handle firmness is desired

Gauge

Main body gauge: 9 sts and 13 rounds = 10 cm / 4 in in stockinette in the round on 8 mm needles, measured relaxed without stretching.

Gauge affects the finished basket size. A looser gauge makes a larger, softer basket; a tighter gauge makes a smaller, firmer basket. Decorative pieces are worked on the smaller needles for a denser fabric; exact secondary gauge is less important than matching the stated finished dimensions.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	Bind off
BOR	Beginning of round
CO	Cast on
DPN(s)	Double-pointed needle(s)
k	Knit
p	Purl
kfb	Knit into the front and back of the same stitch; increases 1 stitch
k2tog	Knit 2 stitches together; decreases 1 stitch
ssk	Slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both to left needle and knit together through back loops; decreases 1 stitch
k3tog	Knit 3 stitches together; decreases 2 stitches
rnd(s)	Round(s)
RS	Right side
WS	Wrong side
st(s)	Stitch(es)

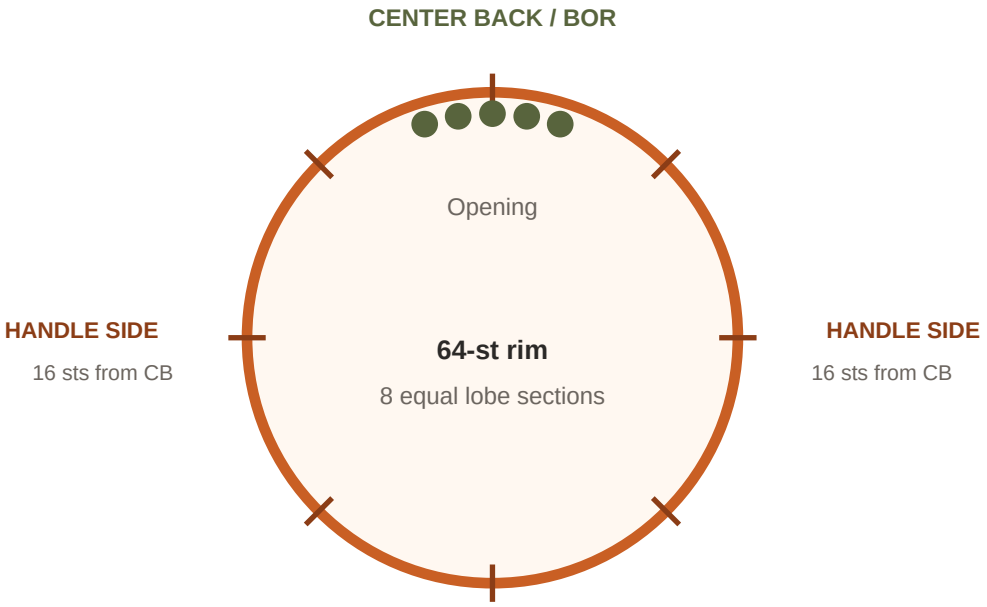
3. Construction Overview

The basket is worked from the bottom centre upward in one continuous piece. The base expands to 56 stitches, then the side wall grows to 80 stitches and is divided into eight equal pumpkin sections. One purl stitch at the start of each section forms a visible groove guide. The top is reduced to a 64-stitch opening and finished with an applied 3-stitch I-cord rim.

After the rim is complete, the eight groove lines are gently tensioned from the inside to deepen the pumpkin lobes. The handle, five leaves, stem and two orange attachment discs are knitted separately and sewn on.

Orientation: BOR is permanently treated as **center back (CB)**. Center front (CF) is 32 rim stitches away from CB. The two handle side points are 16 rim stitches from CB in either direction. If left/right wording is used, it refers to the finished basket with CF facing you.

Assembly order: body -> I-cord rim -> groove sculpting -> handle -> handle discs -> leaves -> stem -> optional removable base support -> final shaping.



Before the I-cord bind-off, place locking markers at CB/BOR, CF (32 sts from CB), and the two side points (16 sts from CB in either direction). Transfer each marker to the corresponding I-cord segment as that rim stitch is consumed.

4. Main Basket Body - Base and Lower Shaping

Yarn: Orange. **Needles:** 8 mm. CO 8 sts. Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist. Place BOR marker. Leave a 20 cm tail; after several rounds, use this tail to close the tiny cast-on centre neatly.

Rnd	Instructions	Count
1	kfb in every st around.	16 sts
2	k all sts.	16 sts
3	*k1, kfb; repeat from * around.	24 sts
4	k all sts.	24 sts
5	*k2, kfb; repeat from * around.	32 sts
6	k all sts.	32 sts
7	*k3, kfb; repeat from * around.	40 sts
8	k all sts.	40 sts
9	*k4, kfb; repeat from * around.	48 sts
10	k all sts.	48 sts
11	*k5, kfb; repeat from * around.	56 sts
12	k all sts.	56 sts
13	*p1, kfb, k5; repeat from * 8 times.	64 sts
14	*p1, k7; repeat from * 8 times.	64 sts
15	*p1, k3, kfb, k3; repeat from * 8 times.	72 sts
16	*p1, k8; repeat from * 8 times.	72 sts
17	*p1, k4, kfb, k3; repeat from * 8 times.	80 sts

At the end of Rnd 17 you have 8 lobe sections of 10 sts each: 1 purl groove stitch followed by 9 knit stitches. The first purl stitch remains aligned with BOR/CB.

5. Main Basket Body - Fullness, Upper Shaping and Rim

Rnd	Instructions	Count
18-31	For each round: *p1, k9; repeat from * 8 times.	80 sts each rnd
32	*p1, k3, k2tog, k4; repeat from * 8 times.	72 sts
33	*p1, k8; repeat from * 8 times.	72 sts
34	*p1, k3, k2tog, k3; repeat from * 8 times.	64 sts
35	*p1, k7; repeat from * 8 times.	64 sts

Mark the four physical landmarks now

- **CB:** the BOR purl stitch.
- **Side point 1:** 16 sts from CB in one direction.
- **CF:** 32 sts from CB.
- **Side point 2:** 16 sts from CB in the other direction (equivalently 48 sts from CB in the same counting direction).

Applied 3-Stitch I-Cord Rim

Do not BO the 64 body stitches. With the smaller 6.5 mm needle if convenient, use cable cast-on to CO 3 new sts immediately before the next body stitch.

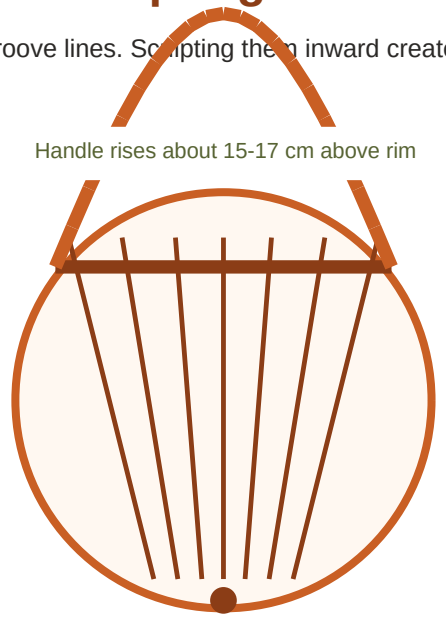
I-cord bind-off cycle - work 64 times: k2, ssk (the third I-cord st together with the next live body st), then slip the 3 stitches from the right needle back to the left needle purlwise without turning. Pull the working yarn gently across the back before repeating. Each cycle consumes exactly 1 body stitch and leaves 3 I-cord stitches.

After 64 cycles all body stitches are consumed and 3 I-cord stitches remain. Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm tail, thread through the 3 stitches, pull snug, and sew this end invisibly to the beginning of the I-cord. Transfer the CB, CF and side markers to the matching points on the finished rim as you work.

The finished I-cord should look rounded rather than stretched. If the opening puckers, loosen the tension of the I-cord stitches before securing the join.

6. Pumpkin Groove Sculpting

The purl columns identify all eight groove lines. Sculpting them inward creates the deep segmented pumpkin shape visible in the reference.



Grooves run from base centre toward the 8 rim channels

How to tension each groove

- Cut eight orange strands about 55-60 cm / 22-24 in long. Work from the inside of the basket so the shaping yarn remains hidden.
- For each groove, anchor one orange strand securely at the original cast-on centre on the inside of the basket. Run the strand radially across the inside of the base, taking small hidden catches through the backs of the stitches, until it reaches the first purl stitch of that groove at Rnd 13. Continue upward through the backs of the purl-column stitches from Rnd 13 to the rim. Keep the radial base path aligned with the same groove so the indentation runs continuously from the base centre to the rim.
- At the rim, pull only until the outside groove becomes clearly indented while the rim still stays round. Secure the strand to the inside of the I-cord rim with two small stitches and bury the tail.
- Repeat for all remaining seven purl columns. Use the same tension on every groove. Do not pull so hard that the opening collapses or the side wall folds sharply.
- Shape the eight knit panels outward with your hands after all grooves are secured. The widest area should sit slightly below the mid-height of the body.

Visual target: eight even, rounded lobes; a flatter base; a narrower upper rim; and vertical grooves that line up with the eight purl columns.

7. Handle

Make 1. Orange yarn, 6.5 mm DPNs. The handle is a dense 6-stitch I-cord so it keeps the thick rounded look of the reference.

Rows	Instructions	Count
Cast on	Leaving a 35 cm / 14 in tail for sewing, CO 6 sts. Do not join in the round.	6 sts
1-84	k6. Do not turn. Slide all 6 sts to the opposite end of the DPN, pull working yarn firmly across the back, and k6 again. Continue this exact action for every row.	6 sts each row
Finish	BO all 6 sts, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in tail for sewing.	0 live sts

The knitted handle should measure approximately 50-54 cm / 19.7-21.3 in before attachment. With 2.5-3.5 cm / 1-1.4 in of each end overlapping the outside wall, the visible rim-to-rim arch will be approximately 43-49 cm / 16.9-19.3 in.

Optional anti-stretch core

For a firmer carry handle, thread a 48-50 cm / 19-20 in length of soft cotton cord through the centre of the I-cord before attachment. Keep the core slightly shorter than the knitted handle so the yarn, not the cord, forms the visible ends.

Handle placement

Pin one handle end to the outside wall at each side marker, immediately below the rim. The centre of each handle end should align with the purl groove at that side point. Let 2.5-3.5 cm / 1-1.4 in of each handle end overlap the outside wall below the rim. Confirm that both overlaps are equal and that the handle arch is centred over CF/CB. Sew each handle end securely to the outside wall with several strong horizontal and diagonal stitches through the I-cord and dense body fabric. Keep the attachment compact and below the top I-cord rim so the handle end and securing stitches can be covered neatly by the orange attachment disc.

8. Leaves

Make 5 identical leaves. Olive green yarn, 6.5 mm needles. Work flat in stockinette. Leave a 25 cm / 10 in tail at the cast-on edge of every leaf for sewing.

Row	Instructions	Count
CO	CO 3 sts.	3 sts
1 (RS)	k3.	3 sts
2 (WS)	p3.	3 sts
3	kfb, k1, kfb.	5 sts
4	p5.	5 sts
5	kfb, k3, kfb.	7 sts
6	p7.	7 sts
7	kfb, k5, kfb.	9 sts
8	p9.	9 sts
9	k9.	9 sts
10	p9.	9 sts
11	k2tog, k5, ssk.	7 sts
12	p7.	7 sts
13	k2tog, k3, ssk.	5 sts
14	p5.	5 sts
15	k2tog, k1, ssk.	3 sts
16	p3.	3 sts
17	k3tog. Cut yarn and pull through final stitch.	1 st

Gently roll each leaf between your fingers lengthwise so the edges curve slightly downward. Do not hard-block flat; the soft curl helps the leaf cluster sit naturally over the pumpkin rim.

9. Stem and Handle Attachment Discs

Stem - Make 1

Olive green yarn, 6.5 mm DPNs.

Rows	Instructions	Count
Cast on	Leaving a 25 cm / 10 in cast-on tail for sewing, CO 6 sts.	6 sts
1-10	k6; do not turn. Slide stitches to the opposite DPN tip, pull yarn across the back, and repeat.	6 sts each row
Finish	Cut yarn leaving 20 cm / 8 in. Thread tail through all 6 live sts and pull closed.	0 live sts

The cast-on end stays at the bottom and will be sewn into the centre of the leaf cluster. Do not stuff the stem; the dense I-cord fabric provides enough structure.

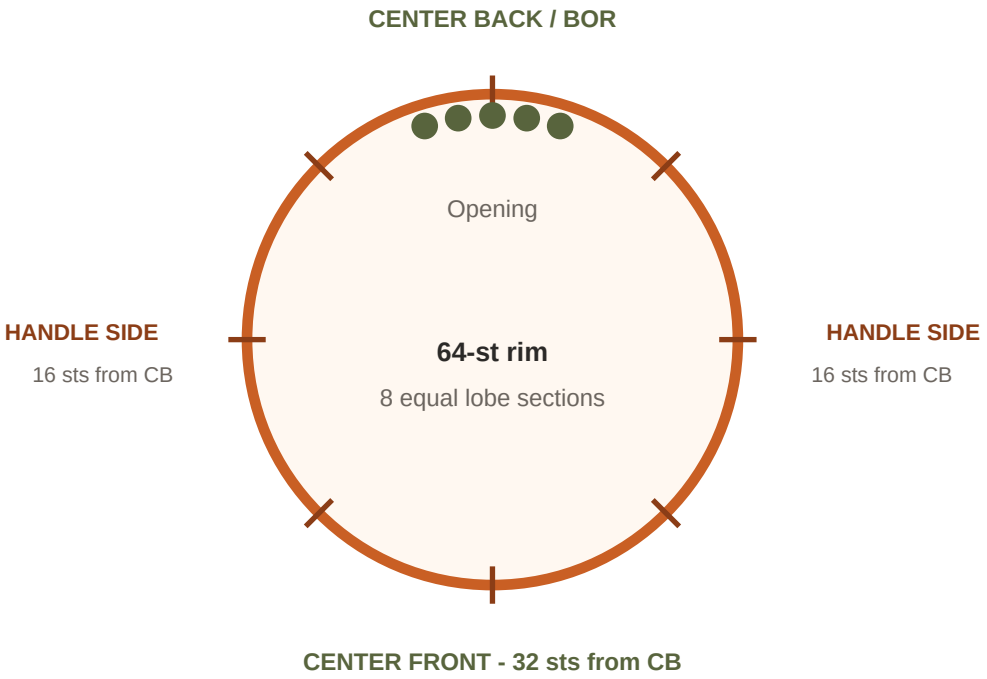
Orange Handle Discs - Make 2

Orange yarn, 6.5 mm DPNs or magic loop. Leave a 30 cm / 12 in tail for sewing.

Rnd	Instructions	Count
CO	CO 6 sts; join in the round.	6 sts
1	kfb in every st.	12 sts
2	*k1, kfb; repeat from * around.	18 sts
3	k all sts.	18 sts
Finish	BO loosely. Use the cast-on tail to close the tiny centre hole.	0 live sts

Each disc should cover the outer handle attachment stitching and visually echo the rounded orange tabs in the reference.

10. Placement Map and Assembly



A. Attach the handle

With CF facing you, the handle ends sit at the two side markers: each is exactly 16 rim stitches from CB. Pin both ends to the outside wall of the basket, compare the arch from the front and back, then sew securely as described in the handle section.

B. Add the two orange discs

On the outside of the basket, centre one disc over each handle attachment. The disc centre should lie directly over the side purl groove. Sew around the outer edge of the disc with small hidden stitches, catching body fabric without sewing through the entire basket wall. Bury tails inside the wall.

C. Place the five leaves

The leaf cluster belongs at the **back half of the opening** so the basket stays usable. Use CB as the centre. Position leaf bases at approximately CB itself, 4 rim stitches to either side of CB, and 8 rim stitches to either side of CB. The five leaf tips should fan outward: one toward the back, two toward the back-left/back-right, and two diagonally toward the front-left/front-right.

Overlap only the lower 1.5-2 cm / 0.6-0.8 in of each leaf onto the rim/body. Sew the leaf bases down firmly but leave most of each leaf free so it can lift naturally.

D. Attach the stem

Centre the stem directly over CB at the middle of the five leaf bases. Using the reserved cast-on tail, sew the cast-on edge of the stem in a small circle through the leaf bases and rim. Keep the stem upright or leaning slightly back; do not pull it down into the opening.

E. Finish the base

Close the original cast-on centre neatly with the starting tail if you have not already done so. Bury all tails. If extra stability is wanted, place the optional 18-19 cm removable stiff felt or plastic-canvas disc flat inside the base; do not permanently trap it unless you want a fixed insert.

Keep the front half of the opening clear. The handle may stand upright or fold forward/back for storage.

11. Shaping and Support

No permanent stuffing is used. This is an open basket, not a stuffed plush item. The pumpkin silhouette comes from dense gauge, eight vertical groove lines, the narrower top, and hand shaping.

- Set the basket on a flat surface and press the centre of the base gently downward so the base sits evenly.
- Push each of the eight knit panels outward between the purl grooves. Match the fullness from one lobe to the next.
- If the upper wall collapses, insert the optional removable base disc and temporarily fill the basket with clean folded towels for several hours while shaping. Remove the towels afterward.
- Do not over-stretch the rim. The opening should remain circular to slightly oval and large enough for practical use.
- If your yarn permits blocking, follow the yarn label. Use only gentle shaping; avoid flattening the lobes or leaves.

Final Visual Checklist

Check before considering the project finished
■ Eight lobes are clearly visible and similar in width.
■ All eight groove lines run continuously from the base centre to the rim.
■ Base sits flat without a sharp cone or large centre hole.
■ Top opening is even and the I-cord rim is not puckered.
■ Handle ends are opposite one another and overlap the outside wall by equal amounts.
■ Handle arch is centred and not twisted.
■ Five leaves are present and fan around the back-centre stem.
■ Stem sits at CB and does not obstruct the front half of the opening.
■ Both orange attachment discs fully cover the handle stitching.
■ No loose yarn tails, visible knots, or open gaps remain.

12. Troubleshooting

Issue	Practical fix
Basket looks too cylindrical	Retension the 8 groove strands a little more, working evenly. Push the knit panels outward after each adjustment.
Top opening is too tight	Loosen the applied I-cord rim slightly at the tight section. The rim should sit on the 64-st opening without drawing it inward.
Top opening is too loose	Check that Rnds 32-35 were completed and that Rnd 34 ended with exactly 64 sts. Gently tighten the groove strands rather than pulling the I-cord itself.
Base cups upward	Relax the centre and lower groove tension. Flatten the base by hand; add the removable base disc if desired.
One lobe is smaller	Check the groove on each side of that lobe. Unequal sculpting tension, rather than stitch count, is usually the cause after knitting is complete.
Handle twists	Remove or loosen one end, lay the handle flat with the I-cord columns aligned, then repin both ends before resewing.
Handle stretches	Use the optional cotton-cord core, or resew a slightly longer section of each handle end against the outside wall for more support, keeping the attachment concealed beneath the orange attachment disc.
Leaves curl too much	Gently dampen and pin only the leaf bases and centre areas; keep the pointed ends slightly dimensional.
Stem leans sideways	Add two or three small hidden anchoring stitches from the lower stem to the closest leaf bases.
Visible holes between stitches	Use a denser gauge on the recommended needles or one needle size smaller if your yarn is unusually thin. Avoid over-stretching the fabric during sculpting.

13. Printing and Customer Notes

- This is a DIGITAL DOWNLOAD knitting pattern. No finished basket or physical item is included.
- For printing, use 100% / Actual Size. Colour printing is optional; all instructions remain usable in grayscale.
- Finished dimensions are design targets and may vary with yarn, tension, needle size, shaping and blocking.
- The pattern is written for personal handmade creation. You may sell small quantities of finished baskets you personally make, but do not copy, redistribute, upload, resell or translate the pattern file or pattern text for redistribution.
- If substituting yarn, choose a smooth, firm super-bulky yarn that can hold an open basket shape at the stated gauge.
- Store the basket uncompressed when possible so the handle and eight sculpted lobes keep their intended shape.

PATTERN SUMMARY

Piece	Quantity	Key count / size
Main basket body	1	64-st rim; 80-st widest body; 8 lobe sections
Handle	1	6-st I-cord, Rows 1-84
Leaves	5	17 rows each
Stem	1	6-st I-cord, Rows 1-10
Orange attachment discs	2	18 sts at widest round
Optional base insert	1	18-19 cm removable disc

Final design target: a rounded orange pumpkin basket with eight pronounced vertical lobes, a thick arched knitted handle, olive leaf cluster and short stem, with an open and usable top.

End of pattern