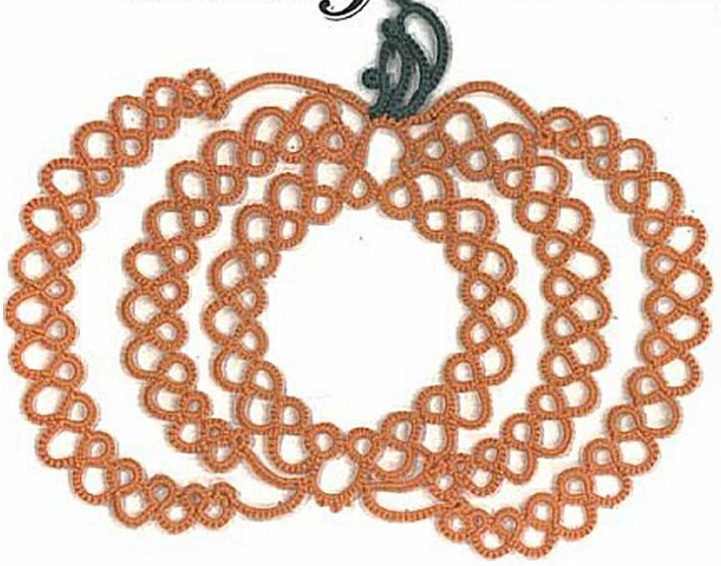
Mary's Pumpkin



Abbreviations:

Ch	Chain
Cl	Close
CTM	Continuous Thread Method
D	Double stitch
J	Join
P	Picot (in this design, picots are small, for joining only)
R	Ring
Rw	Reverse work
T & c	Tie and cut

R&C Ring made of 5d (double stitch), p (picot), 10. p. 5d, cl &. Ch 12d.

This is a design worked by Mary for Mary, so it. very definitely, simply, just has to be

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Pumpkins are round and smooth, so this tatted pumpkin has very few picots. other than for joining. By working one bridging chain and one split ring, it can be worked from stort lo finish in one poss.

Unless there are two balls of orange thread available, wind one extra bobbin wilh orange thread before beginning. The stem will require about one and a half yards of green to be substituted for the chain thread when needed. Start with one shuttle and boll thread wound continuous thread method.

This pumpkin is worked in five parts, a center, inner curve, outer curve, outer curve reversed, inner curve reversed.

The number of r&c can be varied in the center or on any curve when making more than one pumpkin. The only rule is to remember to increase or decrease the same amount for each curve on a side. The r&c do not even have to be lhe same on both sides. Nature produces many lopsided pumpkins, why can't the latter?

Now to start the pumpkin:

CENTER

R&C. x8. Total of 9 rings.
9th Ch: (4d, p), x2, (2 d, p), x2, 4d. p, 4d.
Rw.
R&C. x8. Repeal 9th chain. J at basse of first r, t & c. *Do this only if not doing the bridging chain.*

If desired, the last 4 d can be worked as a bridging chain. The first ring of the next R&C will then be worked as a split ring: 10 d, p, 5 d/5d, ct. OR: (after c & t, using CTM:)

INNER CURVE

R&C x9.

Decrease sequence:

{Repeat R one more time, ch 10 d.
R of 4 d, p, 8 d, p, 4 d, cl. Ch 9 d.
R of 3 d, p, 6 d, p, 3 d, cl. Ch 8 d.
R of 2 d, p, 5 d, cl.}

Ch 12. J to first p of center, flip or turn the work to the right once.

OUTER CURVE

Ch 16. Repeat decrease sequence {}, but reverse order.

R&C x10. Repeat decrease sequence, ch 29. Now start carrying the green thread within the d to hide the end. Ch 8 d. J to next p of center.

Switch to green thread for chains here as the ball thread. Work all the stem d with green thread, using both orange threads as core threads. Work the small rings with green also. The end of the green thread can be carried within the ch for 7 or 8 d.

STEM

Ch 21 d. R of 7 d, cl.
Ch 3 d, p, rw.
Ch 16 d, j to next center p, flip work to the right.
Ch 11, j to p on stem, r or 5 d, cl, rw.
Ch 5 d, rw. R of 7 d, rw.
Ch 7 d, j to next center p.

Repeat **OUTER CURVE**, but reverse order. J to last p of center (this leaves 3 small p open at 'blossom' end of pumpkin), flip work to the right once.

Repeat **INNER CURVE**, but reverse order, j to last p of center, t & c.

As already mentioned, this is a versatile design, easily adapted or changed to make a variety of pumpkins in lots of shapes. The long chains can be adjusted to any needed or desired length. Try making a lopsided pumpkin by reducing the R&C on one side and increasing on the other.

Class Notes & Comments

Mary said she was going to use this design to teach a class. I have tried to create a design which looks like a pumpkin, but also incorporates basic tatting with a few accomplished techniques. However, the techniques do not take long and can be substituted for a t & c. Wrapping the orange threads to make the stem green was a bit of a challenge, but again the challenge does not last long, the green ends are easily buried, and it does add interest and polish to a great pumpkin. Have fun creating your very own pumpkin patch this fall!