Yoderbilt

EST | GREENHOUSES | 2011

DIY PROJECT

Terracotta Pumpkins





I had a friend tell me about the terracotta pumpkins that were trending from the Pottery Barn, so I started researching DIYs to make my own version. I found tutorials that used different techniques to get the effect. I found one that was my favorite, Cuckoo 4 Design, and did my own spin on it.

Getting Started

Materials needed to paint the faux terracotta pumpkins:

- plastic pumpkins or Jack-o'-lanterns – *I purchased mine from Lowe's*
- baking soda
- acrylic craft paint
- Kilz spray primer
- Paper towels
- 2 small bowls for mixing with a lid
- craft paint brushes *(I like the brushes over the sponges)*
- piece of cardboard
- painter's tarp or plastic tablecloth
- mixing spoon

©Yoderbilt 2023

STEP 1

Remove any electrical cords and light bulbs (if applicable)

The pumpkins I purchased had an electrical cord coming out of the back that I removed prior to painting.

STEP 2

Make sure the pumpkins are clean

I used an old rag to make sure the pumpkins did not have any dust on them.

STEP 3

Place the plastic pumpkins on a flat surface on a piece of cardboard or cardboard box

Spray each pumpkin with Kilz spray. Allow to dry. I did some touch-up spray on my pumpkins because there were a few spots that had some orange color still showing a bit.

Important: I tried skipping this step from another tutorial I saw and it did not go well. I highly recommend not skipping.





STEP 4

Mix your paint colors and then add baking soda

After the primer is completely dry, it is time to paint the pumpkins. I mixed 2 paint colors (one darker and one lighter).

Darker color: I mixed equal parts orange, white and brown.

Lighter color: I mixed equal parts orange, white and brown and then added a little extra white to lighten a bit.

I had a little less than 1 cup of paint for each color after mixing. I then added approximately 3 tablespoons of baking soda to each color.



STEP 5

Apply two coats of the darker color

Paint the first coat of the darker color and allow to dry. Then, add the second coat of the darker color and allow to dry.



STEP 6

Apply two coats of the lighter color

When I added the lighter paint, I did not cover the dark color completely, but allowed it to show through. I think this give it more of a look of the terracotta texture.

©Yoderbilt 2023



STEP 7

Thinly dry-brush white paint over pumpkin

After completing the painting steps above, it is time for the final touch. It takes very little white paint to add the white wash. Please note, if you think you have added too much white, then go back and add a bit of the lighter or darker paint again. It is a very forgiving project and looks better if you just have fun with it.

I hope you enjoy this project. If you try it, please send pictures to info@yoderbilt. We would love to see your finished project.

The Yoderbilt Greenhouse featured has gone through renovations by the owner.

©Yoderbilt 2023

The Final Product







