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## Extreme Pumpkin Carving: 20 Amazing designs from Frightful to Fabulous

*Vic Hood, Jack A. Williams*

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**Vic Hood, Jack A. Williams : Extreme Pumpkin Carving: 20 Amazing designs from Frightful to Fabulous** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Extreme Pumpkin Carving: 20 Amazing designs from Frightful to Fabulous:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good for technique but limited examples  
By Customer  
The examples and carving techniques shown in this book are excellent and well detailed. Two carving styles are demonstrated. The first uses straight knives such as a pocket knife, and the second utilizes wood carving tools. My disappointment with this book was in the limited scope of examples. When I think of pumpkin carving I think of Halloween. While there are two witches as examples in the book, there are also 2 Santas and the rest are a mixture of folk faces, such as those resembling trolls, gnomes, and the classical representative of the West Wind. Heavy, exaggerated male faces dominate. I would have greatly liked to see more Halloween themed ideas inclusive of skeletons, cats and ghosts. The

book provides photographs of actual carved pumpkins, then "patterns" of those same faces, supposedly for the reader to use for their own carving. My idea of a pattern is a line drawing that can be transferred onto a pumpkin or gourd face, then detailed as you carve. The patterns provided are heavily shaded pencil drawings taken directly from the photographs, and not, I think, very helpful to use. The pumpkins in this book are only carved - not hollowed out to allow the placement of a light inside. I personally think one of the charms of carving pumpkins are the different shades of light and texture you get through the skin once you light it from inside. Overall this book is great as you see the work of a master carver and his different techniques. If you are unfamiliar with textural carving, this book is a great reference. If you already have a grasp of the work involved in carving and want instead to get inspired to do Halloween themed pumpkins, check out the other pumpkin carving books available. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. My neighbors all raved about my pumpkins thanks to this book. By Zach Johnson I got this book for halloween this year. Read through it in a short sitting, and had a clear view of how to create relief style pumpkin sculptures in no time. I had some background many years ago in highschool pottery classes doing sculpture, and the techniques detailed in this book easily recapped each of the basics and then advanced into the more skilled techniques. I highly recommend this for anyone with little to no sculpture background. The draw backs I found with this book are that they focus heavily on how to accomplish the effects with typical knife. Then they transition in to using more specific tools. The issue being that they spend far less time detailing the technique with the specific/advanced tools, it would have been better if they keep the same level of technique details for the advanced tools. Also on the subject of advanced tools, the author provide the list of tools he uses (which have been built over many years specializing in the space). There is very little time spent on talking about what tools are used or suggestions of locations to get ahold of them. I have found that getting ahold of tools that fit the task have been hard to find and better descriptions or sources would be extremely helpful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. they're very simple and probably good for beginners wanting to venture out. By Kindle Customer "Extreme" is a very loose use of the term although these pumpkins designs are a little beyond the typical jack-o-lantern designs, they're very a bit too simple but probably good for beginners wanting to venture out beyond typical pumpkin carvings. Not very creative but possibly a fun way to cover one side of a pumpkin for some less creative folks. I was looking for more of a challenge in 3-D sculpting.

A new twist on classic holiday tradition: Learn to carve three-dimensional faces and scenes in pumpkins using tools as simple as kitchen knives or as complex as gouges and chisels. This is a perfect book for woodcarvers who are looking for new and inexpensive ways to celebrate Halloween. Its also a great book for Halloween aficionados who are looking for a new way to have the best pumpkin carvings on the block.

From the Back Cover Amaze Family and Friends-Take Your Pumpkin Carving to the Extreme! Halloween has become one of the most popular holidays in the U.S., and carving the family pumpkin is a life-long tradition for many. In Extreme Pumpkin Carving by Vic Hood and Jack A. Williams, you'll learn how to create the most amazing, never-before-seen designs to astound your Halloween guests. Extreme pumpkin carving applies relief carving techniques commonly found in woodworking and stonework to pumpkins. Starting with solid pumpkins (no hollowing is necessary!) extreme pumpkin carvers use simple household knives or woodcarving tools to create fantastic faces and scenes in the flesh of the pumpkins. Inside, you'll find a complete resource for extreme pumpkin carving-whether you're a beginner or a seasoned carver. Getting started: including the history of Halloween and how to select the right pumpkin Step-by-step instructions: using readily available household knives or woodcarving tools Extreme pumpkin patterns: nearly two dozen fantastic designs to review and practice With relief carving, you'll be able to add form to your pumpkin carving by creating actual cheeks, lips, eyebrows and more-instead of just cutting out solid shapes. This gives you an almost endless opportunity for creativity and unique expression, resulting in a one-of-a-kind Halloween pumpkin that will be the talk of the neighborhood! About the Author Vic Hood is the president of a unique building corporation, Leatherwood, Inc., which specializes in historic restoration. As a restorationist, Vic has been responsible for the restoration of several presidential houses, national landmarks, national monuments and house museums. He started carving in 1991, concentrating on carving full-size human busts for which he has won 83 awards, including several Best of Show awards. His most treasured honor was to be selected to create a Christmas ornament for the White House in 2001. Vic is one of the founders of the Leipers Fork Carving Club in Leipers Fork, Tennessee. Vic studied carving under John Burke and Larry Rogers for several years before becoming a carving instructor himself. He currently teaches classes on carving the human bust at several major workshops around the country and at individual club workshops. Due to Vics experience in competitive pumpkin carving, he was invited to be the featured pumpkin carver at the 2003 Gentry Farms Pumpkin Festival. Vic, along with Jack Williams, co-authored Carving Found Wood, published by Fox Chapel Publishing Co., Inc.