TREADLE & SPOOL

Stuffed Fabric Pumpkins

scrap-bin decor, no fussy techniques, endlessly giftable

from the sewing room at Granny Plants

What's inside:

- Three sizes — small, medium, and large — from one simple pattern
- The gather-and-cinch method that makes real pumpkin ridges
- Uses fabric scraps, rice or poly-fill, and a twig or cinnamon stick for the stem
- A whole harvest table centerpiece from an afternoon of scraps

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Beginner-friendly — no template needed, just a circle and a running stitch.
Quilting cotton, corduroy, or felt all work beautifully.

Materials & cutting

You’ll need, per pumpkin:

- One fabric circle: 8" across for small, 11" for medium, 14" for large
- Poly-fill or dried rice/beans for weight, enough to fill snugly
- A twig, cinnamon stick, or wine cork for the stem
- A small scrap of green felt for a leaf (optional)
- Strong thread (upholstery or doubled regular thread) for gathering

Cutting:

Trace a plate, bowl, or compass circle onto your fabric at the size above and cut it out.

Sewing it up

1. **Sew a running stitch around the edge.**
   With strong thread, sew a running stitch about 1/4" from the raw edge, all the way around the circle. Leave long tails on both ends — don’t knot yet.

2. **Gather slightly and fill.**
   Pull the thread gently to start gathering the edges inward, leaving a small opening. Stuff the circle firmly with poly-fill or rice until it’s nicely rounded and dense.

3. **Cinch it closed.**
   Pull the gathering thread tight to close the opening completely, and knot securely. You’ll have a rounded fabric ball with a slightly puckered top and bottom.

4. **Create the ridges.**
   Thread a long needle with strong thread. Starting at the center bottom, push the needle up through the center top, then back down close to where you started, pulling snug to create one ridge. Repeat this 5-6 times evenly around the ball, pulling each stitch firm, until you have pumpkin-like segments.

5. **Add the stem.**
   Push your twig, cinnamon stick, or cork into the center top where the stitches meet, adding a dab of hot glue if it needs help staying put.

6. **Tuck in a leaf.**
   Glue or stitch a small felt leaf at the base of the stem for a finishing touch.

Granny’s notes:

Group all three sizes together for an instant centerpiece — no vase required.
Rice-filled pumpkins have a nice weight and make good paperweights or shelf-sitters.
A Treadle & Spool label tucked into the bottom seam makes these lovely as gifts.