Alcohol to Gold Leaf

Your step-by-step guide to prepping, painting, and gilding a stunning seasonal centerpiece.

Follow this simple method to ensure your painted stripes and metallic accents look absolutely flawless. Grab your supplies and enjoy a relaxing afternoon transforming a simple gourd into a breathtaking work of art.



Key Project Details

70%
Rubbing alcohol concentration

1 pad
Saturated cotton per medium pumpkin

1 hour
Chalk paint undercoat drying time

1/2-inch
Angled brush size for organic curves

1/4 inch
Gap between brass upholstery tacks

15 mins
Wait time for liquid sizing

The Decorating Step Card

1. **Prep the Rind** Wash with a damp microfiber cloth, then wipe with alcohol until the surface is matte and dull.
2. **Paint Base and Stripes** Apply a white chalk undercoat. Once dry, paint vertical stripes ending exactly in the natural creases.
3. **Press the Brass Tacks** Press brass upholstery tacks along a single prominent rib to create a deliberate, tailored focal point.
4. **Gild the Stem** Apply sizing, wait until tacky, and use bamboo tweezers to press gold leaf into the crevices.
5. **Seal the Finish** Apply a clear matte acrylic sealer spray outdoors to protect against moisture and prevent tarnishing.

Fix Paint Bleeds Easily

If a color bleeds, do not panic. Wait for it to dry completely, then gently dab a tiny amount of your white undercoat over the mistake to erase it.

Matching Supply List

- [ ] Damp microfiber cloth
- [ ] 70% rubbing alcohol and cotton pads
- [ ] Matte white chalk paint
- [ ] Terracotta and cream acrylic paints
- [ ] 1/2-inch angled brush
- [ ] Brass upholstery tacks and a tiny sewing needle
- [ ] Liquid sizing, gold leaf sheets, and bamboo tweezers
- [ ] Clear matte acrylic sealer spray

Check Before You Craft

- ○ Ensure the heirloom gourd sits perfectly flat on your dining table.
- ○ Verify the base coat feels room temperature and dry to the touch.
- ○ Check that the liquid sizing feels tacky before applying gold leaf.
- ○ Brush away all loose, floating gold flakes before applying the sealer.

Adapt To Your Pumpkin

Find your row: **Your Pumpkin's Traits**

Your Pumpkin's Traits	Your pick	Why
Slick, waxy rind	Wipe with 70% alcohol	Strips invisible wax for paint adhesion
Thick, stubborn skin	Poke hole with sewing needle	Prevents brass tacks from bending
Bumpy, uneven surface	Use flexible angled brush	Hugs curves without paint bleeding

Project Notes

Your beautifully embellished creation is now ready for weeks of stunning seasonal display!