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(54) PUMPKIN CARVING KIT

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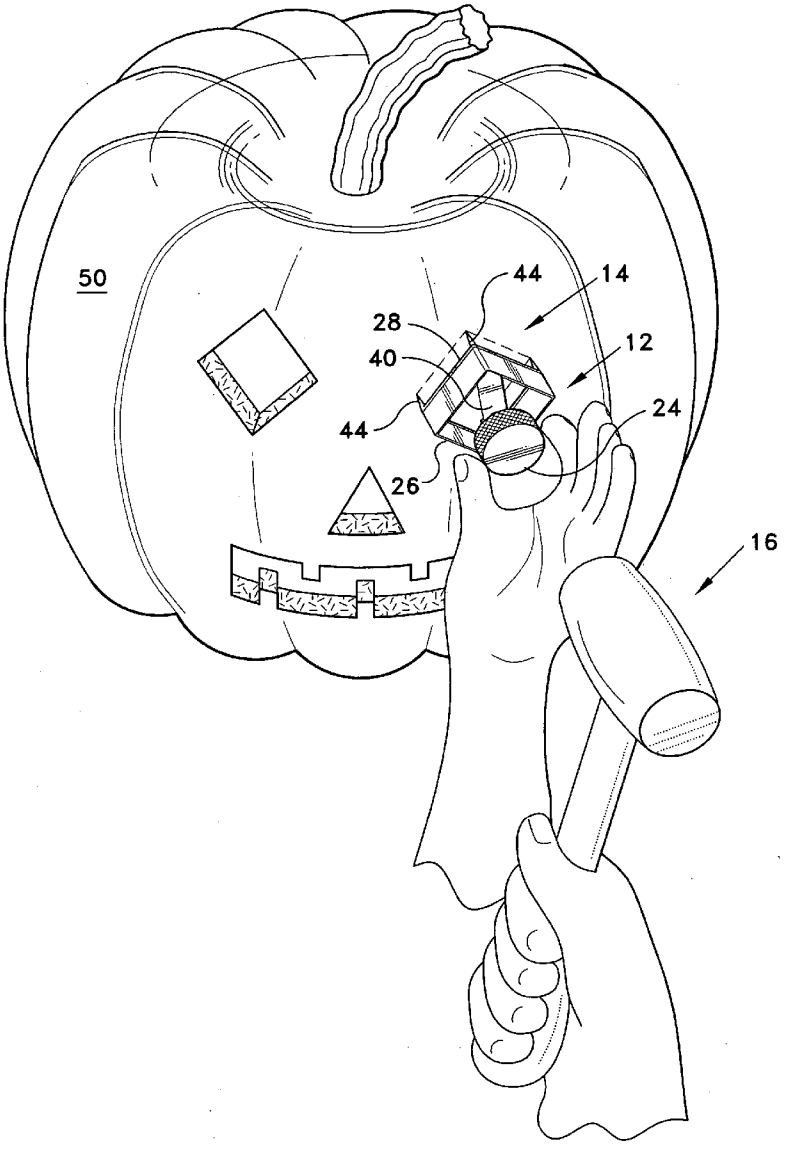
(57) ABSTRACT

The pumpkin carving kit for carving shapes into pumpkins includes a knob and templates, which are used to form face shapes on a pumpkin. The kit may include a striking mallet and a scraper. The knob has a threaded connector extending Therefrom. Each template has a sharp bottom rim defining a cutting edge and a top rim. The top rim has a retention strip extending across it, and a threaded hole situated within the retention strip for receiving the threaded connector of the knob. Stabilizers are attached to the bottom rim of the template. The template is placed on the surface of a pumpkin, and the stabilizers steady the template against the pumpkin surface. The front surface of the knob is then struck either with the mallet or with the user's hand, forcing the sharp bottom rim of the template to pierce a shaped hole into the surface of the pumpkin.



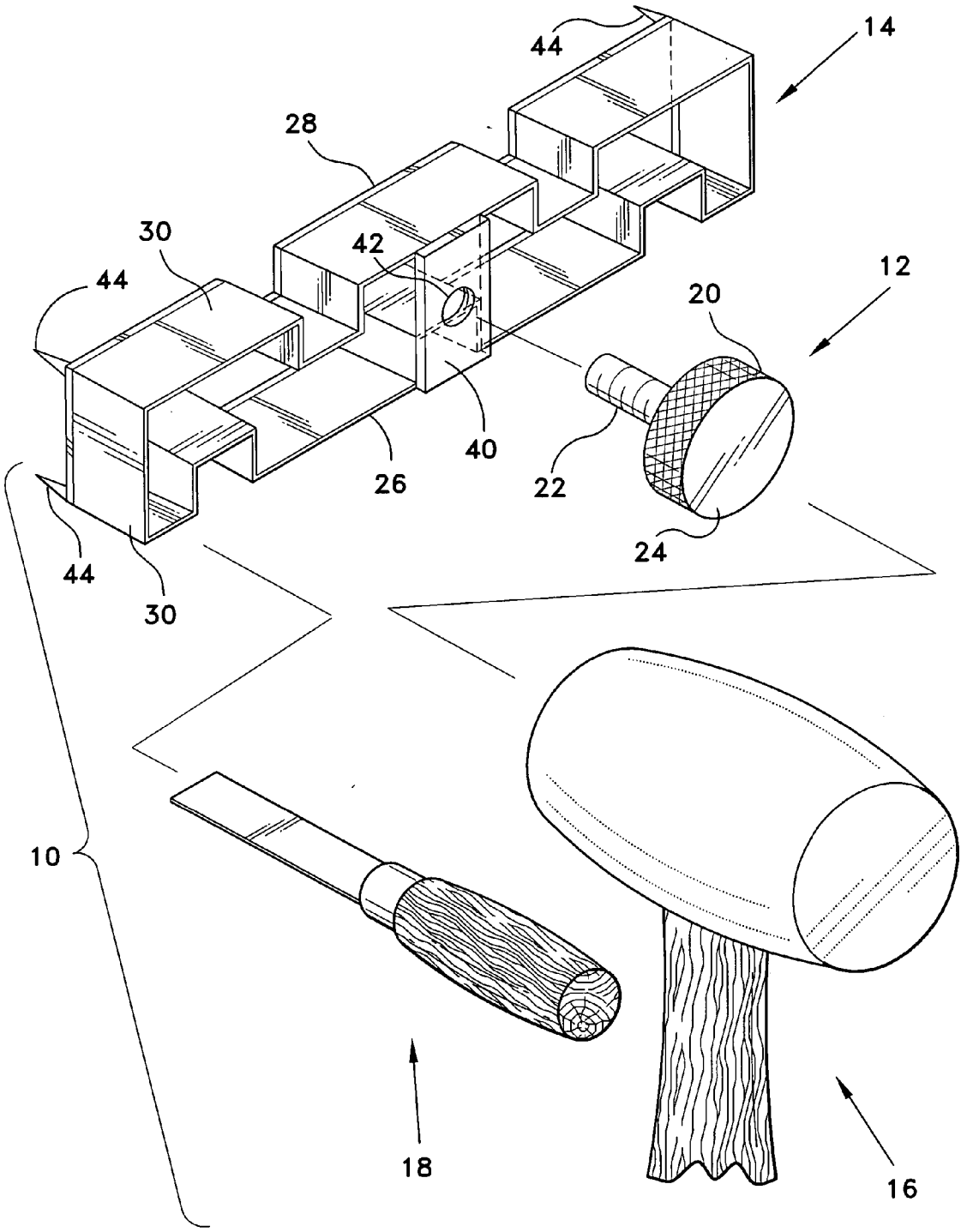


FIG. 1

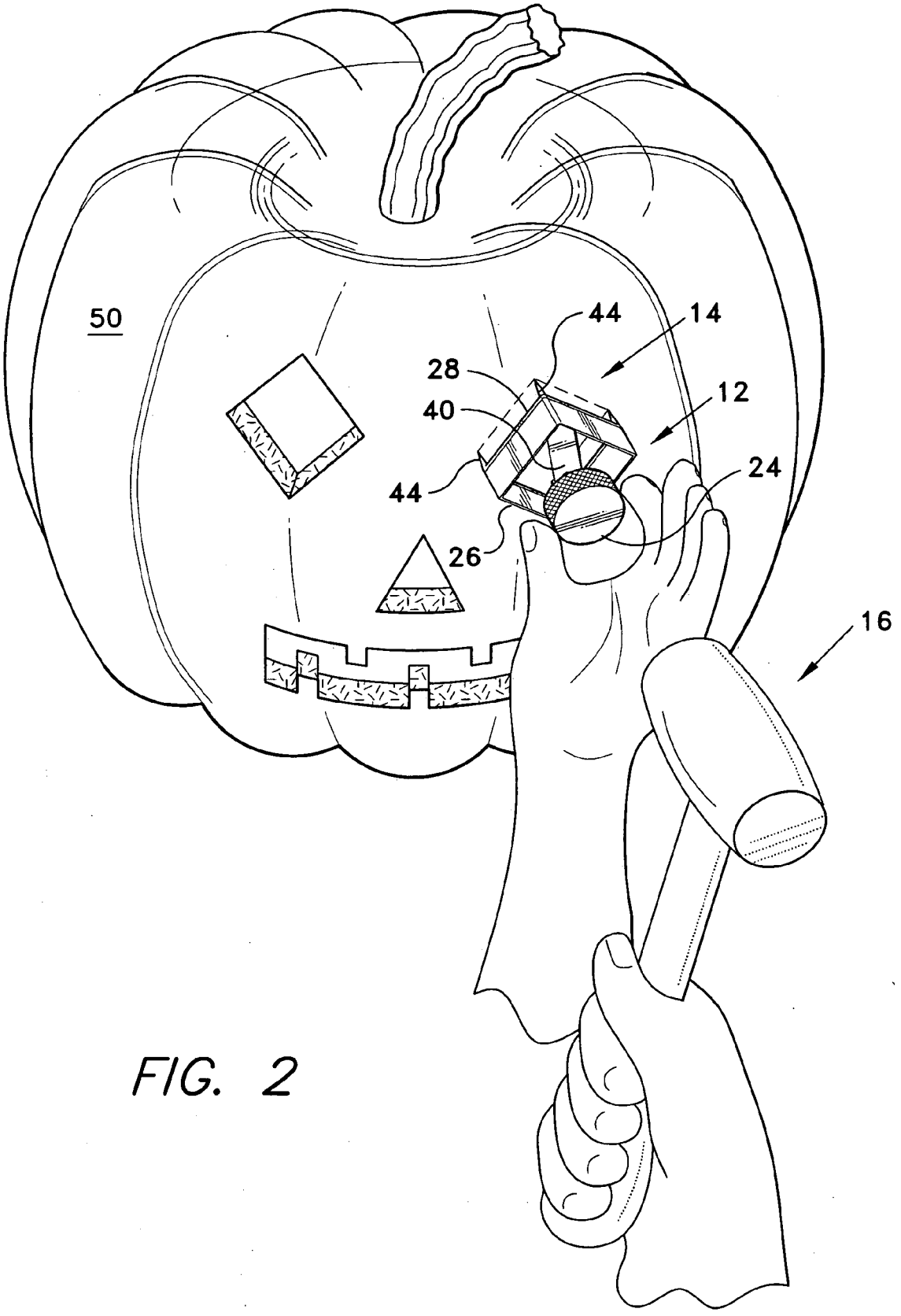


FIG. 2

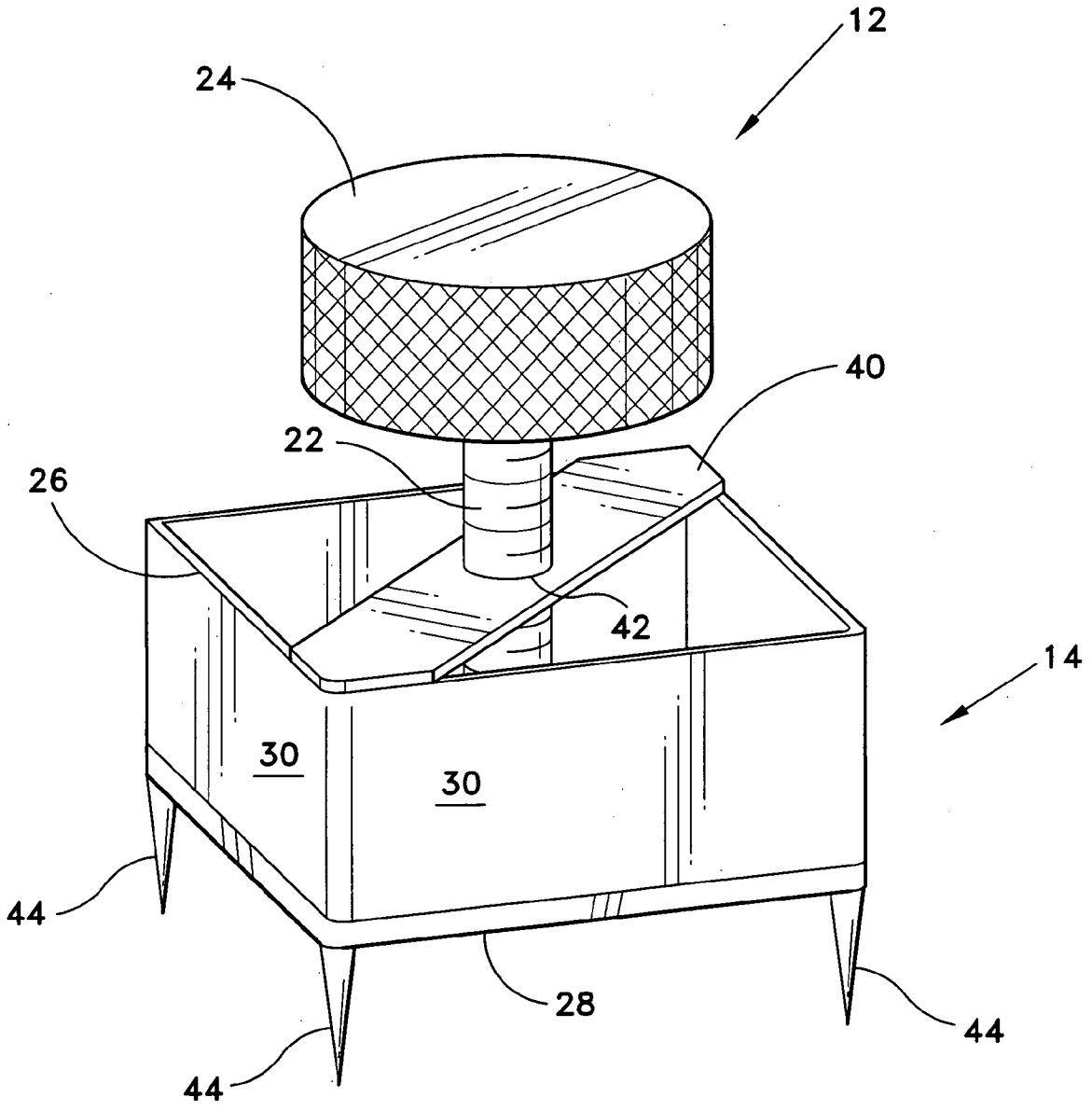


FIG. 3

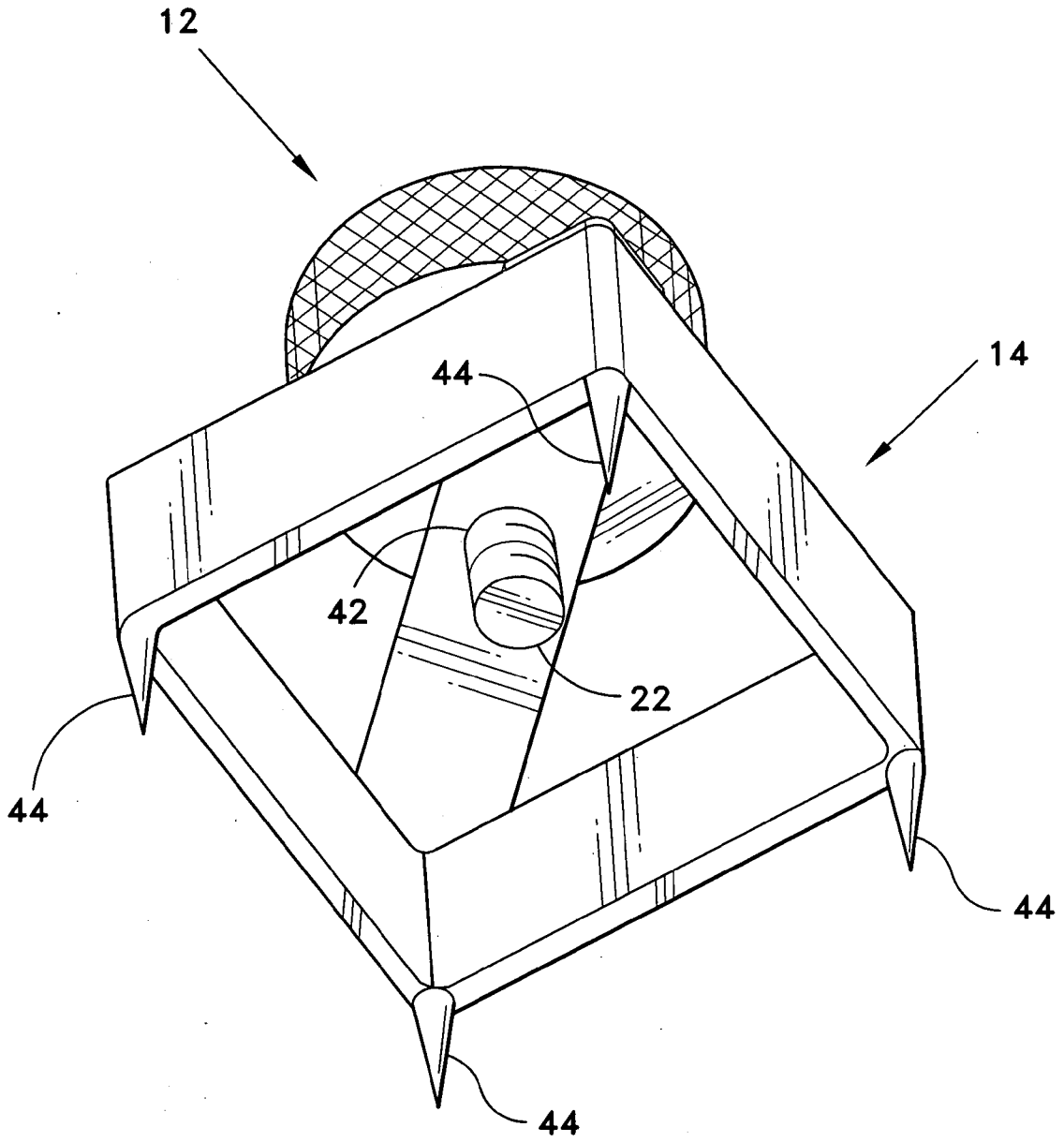


FIG. 4

PUMPKIN CARVING KIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to cutting/carving tools, and particularly to a pumpkin carving kit.

[0003] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] Carving devices have been used for years at Halloween to cut faces into pumpkins. As the popularity of Halloween has risen greatly in the last century, a great variety of devices have been created to carve into the tough pumpkin shell. One of the most popular carving devices is the serrated knife. While the knife is effective in cutting into the shell, it is not necessarily the best option for carving the pumpkin. The serrated knife usually has a dull edge so that it can be handled by children without causing harm. But the dull edge also makes it more difficult to cut into the shell. Additionally, knives are harder for small hands to grip and push through the pumpkin surface.

[0005] A more effective and easier method of carving pumpkins is the use of templates to create shaped holes in the pumpkin shell. Some devices allow users make the shapes by pushing templates through the surface with the palms of their hands. Other devices employ mallets to drive templates into the pumpkin. Still other devices have a handle that attaches onto multiple templates, allowing for a variety of templates to be used for cutting into the pumpkin using the same handle.

[0006] However, these devices do not necessarily provide the most effective method of carving shapes into pumpkins. They may not allow for multiple shapes to be easily cut into the shell. In addition, many devices trap pumpkin pieces within the inside of the template or other cutting device and are difficult to remove from within the template. Therefore, there is a need for a carving kit that makes multiple shapes in a pumpkin, is easy to manipulate, and allows a user to easily remove trapped pumpkin pieces from within the cutting device.

[0007] U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,885, issued Sep. 1, 1987 to T. Albanese, describes a pumpkin carving apparatus. Various housings are included that are each shaped differently, for example, as eyes, noses and mouths. Each housing has a boss with internal threads into which a handle is removably threaded. The housing with the handle is then pushed into the pumpkin surface, cutting a shape in the pumpkin.

[0008] U.S. Pat. No. 6,578,710, issued Jun. 17, 2003 to B. Brown et al., describes a pumpkin carving kit including pumpkin carving dies, a tool for driving the die into the pumpkin, a scoop and a scraping tool. The carving dies are shaped differently. The die is placed against the pumpkin shell and struck with the driving tool. The scoop and scraping tool scrape out the insides of the pumpkin so that the carving die may extend within the pumpkin shell.

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 5,778,541, issued Jul. 14, 1998 to R. McClung, describes an electric-powered pumpkin carver. Blades of varying sizes and shapes may be inserted within the electric handle of the carver. The carver is used to carve into the surface of a pumpkin. Additionally, the carver has a safety lock.

[0010] Other patents describing pumpkin carving devices include U.S. Des. Pat. No. 337,703, issued Jul. 27, 1993 to D. Fox, Sr. (pumpkin cutter set); U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0056373, published Mar. 27, 2003 (interchangeable head carving tool); U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0035744, published Feb. 26, 2004 (pumpkin decorating kit); U.S. Pat. No. 376,136, issued Jan. 10, 1888 to A. Burrowes (punch); U.S. Pat. No. 2,720,176, issued Oct. 11, 1955 to R. Babbitt (mold with interchangeable product dislodging devices); U.S. Pat. No. 2,990,615, issued Jul. 4, 1961 to W. Ohler (fruit and vegetable coring tool); U.S. Pat. No. 4,296,659, issued Oct. 27, 1981 to C. Nauman (jack-o-lantern forming method); U.S. Pat. No. 4,828,114, issued May 9, 1989 to J. Bardeen (pumpkin carving kit); U.S. Pat. No. 5,687,484, issued Nov. 18, 1997 to M. Hahn (pumpkin carving knife); U.S. Pat. No. 5,933,968, issued Aug. 10, 1999 to A. Solomon (pumpkin cutter); U.S. Pat. No. 6,058,610, issued May 9, 2000 to I. Leang (decorative food cutter); U.S. Pat. No. 6,209,434, issued Apr. 3, 2001 to O. Kim et al. (paper sheet decorative punching device); U.S. Pat. No. 6,342,175, issued Jan. 29, 2002 to B. Brown et al. (method of carving shapes in a pumpkin shell); U.K. Pat. No. 840,057, published Jul. 6, 1960 (an improved press knife); and International Pat. No. WO 01/43990, published Jun. 21, 2001 (pumpkin decorating kit and method using light guiding pegs).

[0011] None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed. Thus, a pumpkin carving kit solving the aforementioned problems is desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The pumpkin carving kit is a kit for carving shapes into pumpkins. The kit includes a knob and a plurality of hollow templates defining cutting blades in shapes that are used to form the face of a pumpkin. The kit may additionally include a striking mallet and a scraper. The knob has a threaded connector extending therefrom. Each template has a sharp bottom rim defining a cutting edge and a top rim. The top rim has a retention strip extending across it, and a threaded hole situated within the retention strip. The threaded hole receives the threaded connector so that the knob and template are joined together. Stabilizers are attached to the bottom rim of the template.

[0013] The template is placed on the surface of a pumpkin, and the stabilizers steady the template against the pumpkin surface. The knob is then struck either with the mallet or with the user's hand, forcing the sharp bottom rim of the template to pierce a shaped hole into the surface of the pumpkin. A pumpkin piece generally becomes lodged into the template. When the knob and template are pulled out of the pumpkin and the knob is unthreaded, the pumpkin piece may be removed by pressing the piece out of the template. The user pushes the pumpkin piece out by pressing down on the space between the top rim of the template and the retention strip. Additionally, if the pumpkin piece remains stuck within the template, the individual can use the scraper to scrape the piece out.

[0014] Advantageously, the pumpkin carving kit allows for a variety of shapes to be created on the pumpkin surface. Further, the knob provided with the kit allows the user to more easily and comfortably push a template into a pumpkin, carving a shaped hole in the surface.

[0015] These and other features of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a pumpkin carving kit according to the present invention.

[0017] **FIG. 2** is an environmental, perspective view of the pumpkin carving kit according to the present invention.

[0018] **FIG. 3** is a perspective view of the pumpkin carving kit according to the present invention as seen from the top.

[0019] **FIG. 4** is a perspective view of the pumpkin carving kit according to the present invention as seen from the bottom.

[0020] Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0021] The present invention is a pumpkin carving kit, designated generally as **10** in the drawings. The kit **10** includes a knob **12** and a plurality of templates **14**, which define cutting edges having shapes that are used to form the face of a pumpkin **50**. The kit **10** may additionally include a striking mallet **16** and a scraper **18**. Each template **14** is adapted to receive the knob **12**. The knob **12** is threaded onto the template **14**, and the template **14** is positioned on the surface of a pumpkin **50**. The knob **12** is then pushed into the pumpkin by hand or struck with the mallet **16**, forcing the template **14** to pierce a shaped hole into the surface of the pumpkin **50**.

[0022] Referring first to **FIG. 1**, the knob **12** has a body portion **20** and a threaded connector **22**. The body portion **20** of the knob **12** has a flat front surface **24**, which is struck either by the mallet **16** or by a user's hand. The threaded connector **22** extends off of the knob body portion **20**. The body portion **20** may have knurled edges to aid in threading and unthreading the knob **12** from the template **14**. Each template **14** is a different face shape, for example, an eye, a nose or a mouth. Each template **14** is hollow and has a top rim **26**, a bottom rim **28**, and sidewall(s) **30** extending between the top rim **26** and the bottom rim **28**. The bottom rim **28** is a sharp surface defining a cutting edge used to pierce a pumpkin shell. Each template **14** has a retention strip **40** extended across the middle of the top rim **26** of the template **14**. The retention strip **40** is preferably a flat, rigid metal strap. A threaded hole **42** is situated within the retention strip **40**. The threaded hole **42** is capable of receiving the threaded connector **22**, allowing the knob **12** to be threaded onto the template **14**. Stabilizers **44**, e.g., sharp pins, extend off of the bottom rim **28** of the template **14**.

[0023] **FIG. 2** shows the knob **12** and a template **14** joined together and set upon the surface of the pumpkin **50** (note that the shapes defined by the templates **14** in **FIGS. 1 and 2** are different and exemplary only, the number of template **14** shapes encompassed within the scope of the present kit **10** not being limited). Once the knob **12** is threaded onto the template **14**, the user places the template **14** on the surface of the pumpkin **50**. The stabilizers **44** position the template **14** onto the shell of the pumpkin **50** by piercing the shell of the pumpkin and the user strikes the flat front surface **24** of the knob **12**, pushing the sharp bottom rim **28** of the template **14** through the shell of the pumpkin **50**. The user may strike the front surface **24** of the knob **12** with the mallet **16**. Additionally, the user may strike the front surface **24** of the knob **12** with the user's hand. The template **14** extends through the surface of the pumpkin **50** and cuts the shape defined by the template **14** out of the shell. A pumpkin piece generally becomes lodged into the template **14**. When the knob **12** and template **14** are pulled out of the pumpkin **50** and the knob **12** is unthreaded, the pumpkin piece may be removed by pressing the piece out of the template **14**. The user pushes the pumpkin piece out by pressing down on the space between the top rim **26** of the template **14** and the retention strip **40**. If the pumpkin piece remains stuck inside the template **14**, the scraper **18** may be used to scrape the piece out from within the template **14**.

[0024] **FIG. 3** shows a top perspective view of the knob **12** and the template **14**. The stabilizers **44** extend off of the sharp bottom rim **28**. The threaded connector **22** is threaded into the threaded hole **42** in the retention strip **40**. The retention strip **40** is made of a strong material, such as steel, so that the strip **40** does not bend or warp when the knob **12** is struck on the front surface **24**. The template **14** is hollow and contains a top rim **26**, a sharp bottom rim **28** and sidewalls **30** connecting the top rim **26** and bottom rim **28**.

[0025] **FIG. 4** shows a bottom perspective view of the threaded connector **22** inserted within the threaded hole **42**. The knob **12** becomes locked together with the template **14**.

[0026] The pumpkin carving kit **10** may be used on a variety of fruit or vegetables.

[0027] It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiment described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. A pumpkin carving kit, comprising:

a knob having a body with a flat front surface and a threaded connector extending from the body opposite the front surface; and

at least one template defining a shape adapted for carving a feature of a pumpkin face, the template having a top rim, a bottom rim, and a sidewall extending between the top rim and the bottom rim;

a retention strip extending across the top rim, the strip having a threaded hole defined therein, the threaded connector of the knob releasably engaging the threaded hole of the retention strip in order to temporarily attach the knob to the template.

2. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, further comprising a mallet, the mallet having a head dimensioned for striking the front surface of said knob.

3. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, further comprising a scraper.

4. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein said at least one template further comprises a plurality of stabilizers extending from the bottom rim, the stabilizers being adapted for piercing a pumpkin shell in order to keep the template steady when driving the template into the shell.

5. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein said at least one template is hollow.

6. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein the bottom rim of said at least one template is a sharp surface defining a cutting edge.

7. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein the retention strip is a flat metal strap.

8. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein the retention strip is made from steel.

9. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein said at least one template comprises a plurality of templates, each of said templates defining a different shape.

10. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein said knob has knurled edges.

11. The pumpkin carving kit according to claim 1, wherein said stabilizers comprise sharp pins.

12. A method for carving shapes into a pumpkin surface, comprising the steps of:

providing a template having at least one sidewall defining a pumpkin face feature, the sidewall having a top rim, a sharp bottom rim defining a cutting edge, a retention strip extending across the top rim, and a threaded hole defined within the retention strip;

threading a knob having a flat surface and a threaded connector into the threaded hole;

striking the flat surface of the knob; and

piercing the pumpkin surface with the bottom rim of the template.

13. The method for carving shapes into a pumpkin surface according to claim 12, further comprising the step of striking the flat surface of the knob with a mallet.

13. The method for carving shapes into a pumpkin surface according to claim 12, further comprising the step of scraping a pumpkin piece from within the template with a scraper.

14. The method for carving shapes into a pumpkin surface according to claim 12, wherein the template has a plurality of stabilizers extending from the bottom rim, the method further comprising the step of driving the stabilizers into the pumpkin surface in order to steady the template while performing the piercing step.

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