

Gourd Art
Diane West

Equipment/Supplies

Hardshell Gourd, approximately 6-8" diameter (the gourd should be cleaned per the attached instructions **prior to the class**).

Mask/respirator

X-acto knife #2, with pointed blade

X-acto knife saw blade (#27) (note: this blade will not fit in the #1 X-acto knife)

Old spoon or clay tool (for cleaning inside of gourd)

½ round file (approx ¾" x 8")

Sandpaper (150 gt)

Pencils

Erasers

Kleenex/paper towels

Water dish

Small paint dish

1" paint brush (cheap brush for painting inside of gourd)

Tape measure (cloth is preferable)

Scissors—for cutting paper

Contact paper (1', to make patterns)

Acrylic craft paint (cream/off-white, black and metallic copper)

Small **natural** sponge (approx. 1-2")

Awl or **sharp** ice pick

Woodburning tool if you wish to use woodburning on your gourd

Please call instructor if you have any questions regarding these supplies or cleaning of your gourd (Diane West, 625-4488)

We will discuss additional supplies and decorative items that you may wish to use to complete your gourd. Decorative items (beads, Hong Kong grass, philodendron leaves, pine needles, date palm fruit stems, waxed linen, sinew, leather, feathers, etc.) can be purchased in art/crafts store or the instructor will have some that have been packaged in smaller amounts to purchase.

Gourd Art Fundamentals

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Page 2 (2007)

It is necessary to have a **cleaned** hardshell gourd ready to work on for the first class. A gourd can be purchased from the instructor or from an art/crafts store or gourd farm. If you wish to purchase a gourd from the instructor, please call 625-4488 to make arrangements. Instructions for cleaning are below.

Exterior Cleaning

The cleaning process is messy and can be time-consuming but it is an essential part of creating a finished gourd with which you will be pleased. Many gourds will have obvious black mold on them while others may appear perfectly clean and shiny. Although the gourd may appear very clean, the waxy, cream-colored skin still must be removed to enable any paint/dye to adhere/penetrate the surface. There are several effective methods of cleaning.

- Soak the gourd in water in which you have mixed a small amount of bleach or disinfectant and dishwashing detergent. Cover the gourd with a towel that has been dampened in the water. After 30 minutes or so, scrape the exterior of the gourd with a kitchen knife (non-serrated) to begin removing the waxy skin. After you have removed all loose skin with the knife, scrub the gourd with a copper scouring pad to remove small pieces of skin. Repeat this process until the surface of the gourd is free of all skin.

OR

- Wrap the gourd in a wet terry towel (bleach & dishwashing detergent) and place it in a black plastic bag in the sun for several hours to loosen the skin. Scrape the gourd with the knife and scouring pad as described above.

Sandpaper (150 grit) can be used to remove small, stubborn pieces of skin, but care must be taken not to scratch the gourd surface. Scratches may be visible when you paint the gourd and also can cause dyes to run in these scratches.