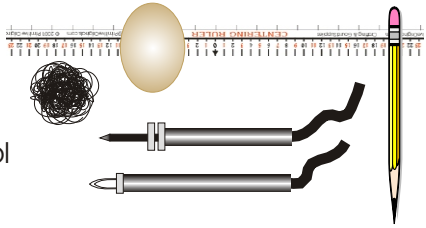




BEGINNING WOODBURNING

Beginners- When you have decided what you plan to woodburn and have penciled in the part you plan to burn first, here's how I recommend you begin.

MATERIALS:

- woodburner w/ knife-like tip
- sharp pencil, eraser, steel wool
- clear flexible ruler (optional)



The best results making fine lines on a gourd are achieved with a woodburner of the quality of Detailmaster™ or Burnmaster™ where you can grip the handle close to the tip like a pen. These machines have adjustable heat (variable temperature control). A good beginner tip   is a blade-like one. A flexible ruler can also come in handy for drawing straight lines. Fine steel wool is used to remove soot from your tip and from the gourd.



You can still achieve comfortable results with a regular long-tipped woodburner that is a handle that plugs into the wall. Your lines

will be much bolder, and since there is no control on the amount of heat, you must compensate by using a quicker, lighter touch. Unfortunately, only an adjustable burner can be used with PyroPaper™ (special translucent paper you can draw or print on and woodburn through).

TEST YOUR EQUIPMENT

If you are new to woodburning, I recommend that you practice a lot on scraps of gourd. Choose a pen, and allow it to heat up. Make a few practice lines to test the temperature. If it smokes much or burns too dark or deep, turn the temperature down (if you are able). Practice speed and pressure until you can achieve the slimmest, cleanest lines possible. Make straight lines by pulling the woodburner towards you. If you're not accustomed to your burner, you may find that the tip seems to catch or skip. Don't dismay- this will disappear as you learn the right pressure and speed!

