

## Basic Pen and Ink

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A pen and ink drawing is a series of marks put on paper (or in our case, a gourd) to resemble something the eye can recognize. The best way to begin is to become comfortable with the pen by practicing different strokes. When you become comfortable with the pen, you are ready to begin.

The Pen most recommended by Pen and Ink artists is the KOH-I-NOOR RAPIDOGRAPH Refillable Technical Pen, the most widely used size is the .30 (yellow band). The best ink to use for a gourd is KOH-I-NOOR 3080-4 Universal Ink, Waterproof Drawing Ink for Paper and Film, Black India. For colored inks use FW Acrylic Artists Ink. Always clean the pen after use following manufacturer's instructions.

Many different patterns can be used. Copyright free Clipart is great. Also coloring books and photographs can be used. Lightly transfer the pattern to the gourd using a wax-free, oil free transfer paper (I prefer Loew-Cornell). Transfer only the main lines, leave details for later. Now using the pen you will draw over the transferred lines. The ink dries very quickly, let it set for a few minutes. Using a soft eraser and a light touch, go over the drawing erasing the transfer lines. It might look smeared so keep going until it is clean. If you prefer to do your own drawing, use a regular lead pencil with a light touch.

If you desire to add color, this is the time. You can use paint, pencils or even leather dye. When painting, I use an acrylic diluted to a wash or a little thicker. For colored pencils, I prefer Prismacolor Pencils, either the regular pencils or the water color pencils. I do not recommend the oil pencils as they are hard to use with the pen.

Now you are ready to ink the details of your picture. Remember where your light source comes from, and you will add dimension to your drawing. By changing the size, volume and arrangement of the pen marks, you can create the appearance of texture, highlights and shadows. There are basic techniques used in doing this: dots or stippling, contour and parallel lines, scribble and wavy lines, crisscross and crosshatching lines. Remember, the more you practice, the easier it will become.

For further information and easy learning I recommend the book First Steps Series. Drawing in Pen and Ink, by Claudia Nice; published by North Lights.

The main thing to remember is HAVE FUN!!