

Mother Of Pearl In Gourds

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If you happen to open a gourd that is filled with soft, fluffy, off-white "cotton," pull the fiber out gently with your hand. There will still be soft remnants clinging to an otherwise nice hard mother of pearl finish.

What to do? Very carefully scrape away the soft fibers, and underneath the dullness is hard shiny mother of pearl. In places, it may not be perfectly smooth. It may have been gouged or coming off in layers, still pretty, but a looking a bit fly-away and imperfect.

Mix one part Elmer's glue to two parts water, and paint the inside with a foam brush. Doing so will put a hard finish on the softer white parts, tacking them down so they are not prone to further damage. The glue mixture will dry clear and shiny just like the "good" mother of pearl with no discoloration, and now you have a true gem on your hands.

Note: I cut open about fourteen of these this year. I had seen the mother of pearl before on rare occasions but never a gourd filled with the soft cottony fiber.

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