

## **Transfer Of Patterns To Gourds**

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To transfer a DETAILED pattern to a gourd you might try the following procedure. Reproduce the pattern on a copier. Now mark this copy as "FRONT". Next, turn the pattern over and trace the pattern on the back of the copy. Again, put this reverse design on the copier and reproduce that with 3-4 copies. Cut and tape one of these REVERSE patterns to your gourd. With a very large tip called a "shoe" inserted into your wood burner, burn the pattern onto your gourd much like using a small iron.

To make great parallel lines on your gourd place some putty on a small board that you can then set your gourd on to steady it. Make sure the plate isn't going to interfere with the pencil stand. Pull the pencil stand near and adjust the height. Place the pencil on the gourd and turn the gourd slowly, holding the pencil lightly. Re-adjust the height for the next line and continue. Try and make all of your parallel horizontal lines in one setting, if possible.

For great geometrical patterns purchase patterns at a stationary store and place those under plastic so you can trace them. Place masking tape on the plastic over the desired pattern and trace the pattern onto the tape. Gently pull the tape from the plastic and place precisely on the gourd. Gourds being cylindrical or spherical in shape, you may have to adjust the tape slightly. Lightly (at low temperature) burn the pattern through the tape. Now pull the tape and continue with your wood burning of the pattern.

Use GRAPHITE tracing paper under your pattern and trace directly onto the gourd. You may have to cut your paper to fold around the gourd.

Use material from a roll of GLAD – Press and Seal plastic sealer. Place the material over your pattern and trace over the pattern. Pull the plastic from the pattern and place on and around your gourd. This material is GREAT as it will stretch to the shape of the gourd. Make sure the material is well placed and pressed down. Lightly wood burn the pattern (on the lowest control setting) and pull all of the plastic back off of the gourd. You can now continue wood burning or use the pattern for painting, pen and ink, or any of a variety of crafting processes.

Much of this information was graciously shared by Betsy Davis Parker, outgoing President of the Illinois Gourd Society, at Helen Thomas' Gourd Fest 2008.