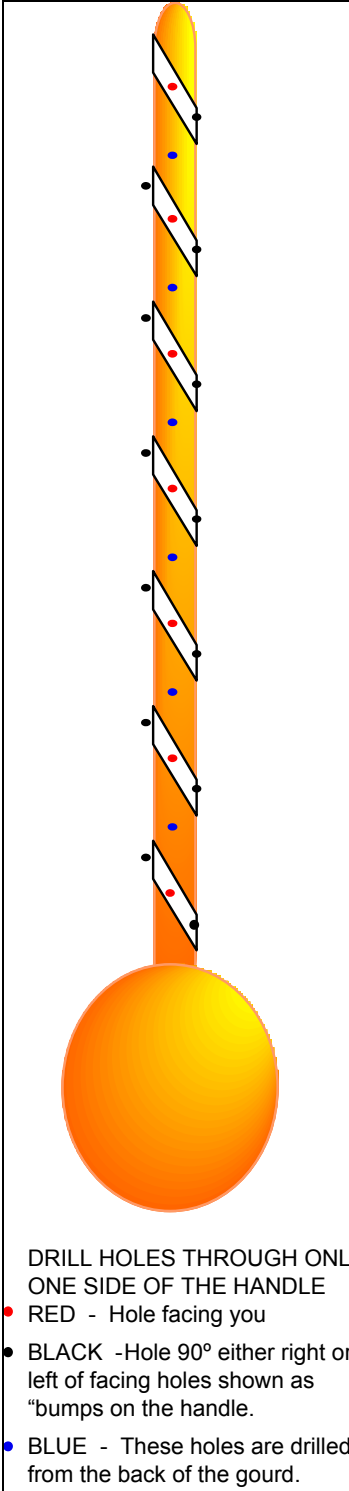


## Rainstick Project

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Date: 25 Aug 2008



Requires one short handle, long handle, or extra long handle gourd. The rain stick can be made from the whole gourd or the handle can be cut off just above the bulb.

Items required: Cloth tape and a small drill with one 1/32" bit and one 1/16" bit.

Any materials you might want to use to craft the rainstick after construction is finished.

If leaving the bulb in place, a tool to clean the bulb

1. If leaving the bulb, drill or saw a hole in the bottom of the gourd to clean the bulb. You might also try and clean more of the handle, however, it should be sufficiently hollow for the purposes of the rainstick.
2. If removing the bulb, saw it off and see if the handle needs any cleaning and determine whether you can do the cleaning.
3. Measure your toothpick to size the drill necessary for this project using a scrap piece of wood. Generally you would use either the 1/32" or a 1/16" drill bit.
4. Use a cloth tape to wrap around the gourd handle. Tape at one end and wrap around the handle to the end of the tape. Spiral the tape around so the hole drilled from one side will be approximately two inches (diagonally) from the next hole drilled 90° around the handle. IMPORTANT: Drill through only one side, NOT all the way through the handle.
5. Continue the drilling all along the handle approximately every two inches on the diagonal to the end. If necessary, remove and re-position the cloth tape.
6. Starting at one end - put a small dab of Elmer's wood glue in a hole. Insert a toothpick through each hole to lodge against the opposite side of the handle.
7. Allow sufficient time for the glue to dry in ALL holes.
8. Use a curved fingernail clipper to clip the excess of the toothpick close to the handle surface. Use sand paper to level the toothpick to the surface of the handle.
9. It is best to load your rainstick with small glass beads, large aquarium sand, or copper BBs, or use your imagination.
10. Place a temporary closure over the end of the handle or over the hole in the bulb and try the stick by turning it end-to-end.
11. If the stick sounds right, place permanent closures over the holes.
12. You are now ready to craft your rainstick.

NOTE: If you use a larger diameter gourd you may need to use larger sticks - like kabob sticks or other skewers in place of toothpicks.