

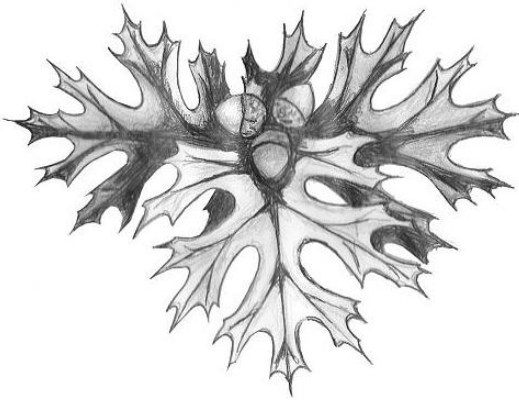
## Oak Leaves Your Way – Free Tutorial

The student will burn a design on the gourd with wood burning pens, stain the gourd, and etch with a rotary tool cutter. The oak leaf cluster design will be applied to the student's choice of gourd. Depending on the student's choices the gourd may or may not be completed. The design can be placed on any type of gourd (lamp, box, or bowl) and expanded to suit the gourd artist.

**INSTRUCTOR PROVIDES:** Tutorials, patterns, transfer paper, pencil, red pen, memory ink, ink applicators, scissors, tape, and sanding tools.

**STUDENT SHOULD BRING:** Adjustable wood burner, a small ball tip pen, a skew tip pen, a rotary tool with a ball cutter (Dremel, Freedom or similar tool). A clean small to medium gourd any shape - cut or uncut. The design works well on cannon ball gourds or small pear shaped gourds.

### Oak Leaf Cluster

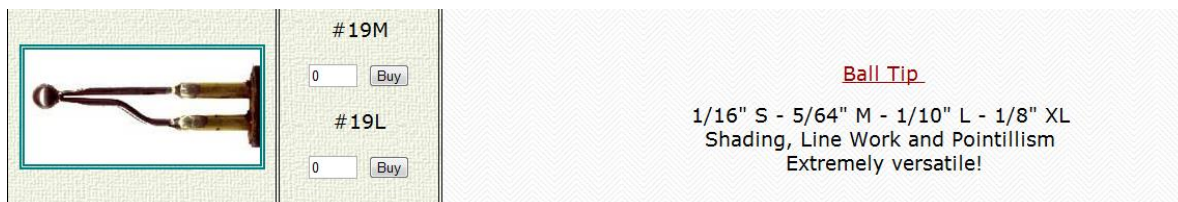


1. Trace the design to the desired location on your gourd. Use the RED pen to trace over the pattern. (add extra leaves if desired)

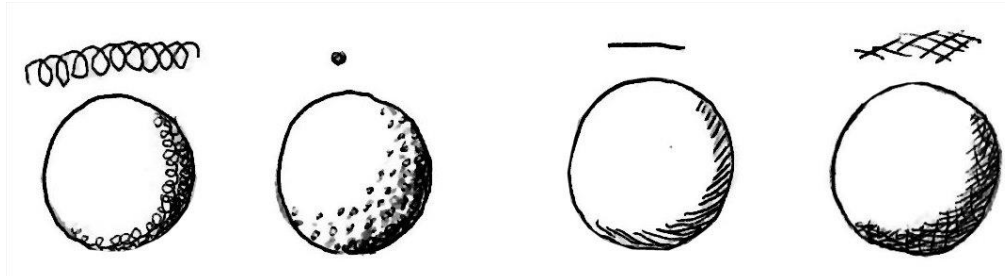
2. Using a skew tip pen burn the outline of the leaves, veins, and acorns. These burn lines will lightly cut into the surface of the gourd skin. The curved shape of the pen blade will allow you to make tight turns at the leaf points.



3. Using a ball shader pen darken the shadows and shape of the leaves and acorns. The shading will scorch the gourd skin, but not cut into it.



4. The shading can be done using any of the traditional ways to create shadows. I'd like for you to try circular motions. Increasing the heat or slowing your hand movement will darken the shading.



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5. (If you have chosen to ring the neck of the gourd with oak leaves those patterns should be drawn on the gourd and burned before proceeding to add ink dye coloring.)



6. Using ink dye, you may or may not choose to **LIGHTLY** dye the leaves.  
It takes very little ink dye to add color. Use it sparingly.
7. Using Memory ink dye you may color the rest of the gourd up to the outline of the leaves.

8. Heat set the ink dyes.



9. Using a carving tool with a ball shaped bur **LIGHTLY** etch an area around the oak leaves.

10. Spray the gourd with a fixative that preserves the light color of the gourd pulp: Plaid ® Patricia Nimocks™ Clear Acrylic Sealer - Matte.

How to apply heat to draw on a gourd surface:

1. Do not bear down on the burning pen. Let it glide on the surface.
2. Start at a low heat for drawing on a gourd. If you see smoke you are probably too hot for drawing
3. Make long lines by turning the gourd and holding your hand fixed location.
4. Begin new lines in a darkened area of the gourd.
5. End a line by lifting the pen like a plane taking off from the ground.
6. DO not stop before lifting the pen or you will create a dark dimple.
7. Vary the darkness of a line or shading by varying the heat, speed of movement, or repeatedly going over that area.
8. Gourds have a lot of surface trash that should be cleaned from the pen point using leather or light sanding paper. I use leather. The sanding paper will shorten the life of the burning pen.

The way that you use the tool changes dramatically when you use it to carve or accent carvings. Lighter duty burning tools may not hold up under the high heat used in gourd deep relief carvings. Carving with heat creates lots of smoke.

You can find suggestions for carving and burning on my new website: [www.georgiagourdguy.com](http://www.georgiagourdguy.com)

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