

Gold 'n Color Peacock



Power carving class for intermediate or advanced students: The subject is an art deco peacock relief carved into a gourd then finished with either gold leaf and/or Gourdmaster metallic inks. The background will be painted with black acrylic paint. The student must be familiar with their carving tool.

The instructor will furnish patterns, transfer paper, cutting burrs, heat guns, hairdryers, ink applicators, metallic ink, glue, and “simple leaf”. The instructor will loan: inverted cones, Dermal 109 (1/16 w3/32 shank) and Dermal 110 (5/64 w 3/32 shank); Structure tooth ball cutter, round diamond cutter. Pack of ink micro applicator/mini brushes; simple leaf sheet.

(Burr suggestions: http://georgiagourdguy.com/Carving_Bur_Suggestions.html)

The student must furnish a Dermal type tool with flexible attachment (not battery), 3/32 and 1/8 collects, dust mask; thick upright gourd – 5” to 7” diameter gourd (1/4 to 3/8 inch thick) – cut or whole; paint brush, water container, and red ball point pen.

Total Required Materials and Supplies:

- A Dremel or similar rotary tool with flexible shaft attachment and power cord (not battery operated)
- HSS bit or structured cutter to remove gourd skin
- Safety – dust mask and ear plugs
- Paint brush and stipple brush
- Transfer paper, pen, and fine point black marker
- HSS Inverted Cone Cutter to outline design
- Sand paper and/or drum sander – if needed
- Black acrylic Paint.
- Gold leaf, glue (heat activated), and leaf varnish
- Water based ink dye and applicators
- Hairdryer or heat tool
- Spray sealer



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Carving Technique: The rotary cutter turns in a clockwise direction - Hold the carving tool like a potato peeler using a three point finger position. If you are right handed, the cutter should be moving toward your body. If you are left handed, the tool will move away from your body. When cutting small details, you can hold the carving tool like a pencil.

Hold the gourd firmly in your lap with one hand and the rotary tool in your other hand. Support the gourd firmly on your knees. Sink the cutter into the gourd until the tool is riding on the shank of the cutter.

THEN move the gourd under the cutter – DO NOT move your cutting tool over the gourd. You will have MORE control by holding the cutting tool in one position and turning the gourd under the cutter.

When working on the broad outlines – (NOT fine details) use an inverted cone or cutting wheel, MOVE or TURN the gourd NOT the cutter - Make **LONG** continuous strokes NOT little short strokes. Use the thumb of the hand holding the cutter be your guide and support for the cutting head.

RIGHT Handed – rotate the gourd toward your body. **LEFT Handed** - rotate the gourd away from your body. Practice on a scrap piece of gourd. When you carve fine detail – hold the cutting tool like a pencil or paint brush.

Step One: Determine the location of the design by drawing a center line on the front of the gourd (horizontal and perpendicular). This intersection will be the location of the center of your pattern.

Step Two: Select a pattern and draw it either directly on the gourd or using transfer paper. If you use tracing paper and pattern then make a small pilot hole with an awl to use as a guide for any re-drawing needed. DON'T put the transfer paper upside down. Darken traced design with a fine point black marker.

Step Three: Mark the gourd surface areas where the gourd skin will be removed. In the pattern – it will be the dark area. The light area represents what will remain. The gold leaf or metallic ink will be applied to this raised section later.

Step Four: With the inverted cone - make the longest cuts around the frame first. Decide how you plan to cut the pattern – so that there will always be a solid gourd surface under the cutter shank. Use the inverted cone to outline the whole design that will be covered with gold leaf. There should be a shape edge where the top of the cutter outlined the design.

Step Five: Mark the gourd skin surface to remove. Use a with a structured tooth ball or cylinder cutter to remove skin. DO NOT cut deeper than the deepest level of the inverted cone. Use a 1/8 or larger cone diamond cutter or HSS cutter and lightly stipple the background area where you removed the outer skin.

Step Six: Remove all pencil marks and dust. Clean up any of the sharp edges with an Exacto knife. Paint the recessed areas with flat black Acrylic Paint – Blow Dry or Heat Set. Do not paint the raised area that will be covered with Gold Leaf.

Step Seven: Make sure the paint is dry – If you desire, stain the rest of the gourd with acrylic or ink stain. Blow Dry

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Step Eight: Cover your work area with wax paper. Apply metallic ink or gold leaf. The gold leaf glue is heat activated. It is clear, non-sticky, and uses water clean-up. Apply glue with a micro brush to the areas that you plan to cover with gold leaf. Activate the glue using an embossing heat tool for 30 seconds. Cover the glue area with the gold leaf. Tap gold leaf in place using a stippling brush. Dust off gold remnants.

Alternate Step Eight: Apply the water based metallic ink with a micro brush to the design using the micro brushes provided. Dry with blow dryer or heat gun.

(The brave of heart may use both coloring methods **if** time allows.)

Step Nine: Spray with clear finish to seal the gourd and gold leaf.

NOTE THE PATTERNS ARE DIFFERENT

Short gourd pattern



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Tall gourd pattern

