

ZIPPER GOURD

MATERIALS:

Gourd	Paint	Duragrit 3/16" cut off wheel or similar	Heat gun
Pencil	Formula 49		Hair dryer
Fine marker	Cosmetic pads	Duragrit 1/8" grain of wheat bit	Sand paper
Glue dots	Ruler	or	Wax paper squares
Tracing shapes	Scissors	Small diamond ball	White glue
Wet ones	Zipper	Small paint brush	Toothpicks
Math compass	Masking tape	Brush for varnish	Mask
Memory dyes	Dremel	Varnish	Rubber gloves

DIRECTIONS:

Preparing Gourd:

- Clean outside of gourd.
- Remove top of gourd, clean inside, sand smooth.
- Draw desired design on outside of gourd with pencil. Remember that fairly straight lines are easier to carve than tight circles.
- When you are happy with your design, go over the pencil lines with fine marker.
- I did not have you paint the inside of your gourd. When you are carving on the outside of the gourd but not going all the way through, it is best to leave finishing the inside of the gourd until after all carving is completed. In this way, you can hold your gourd up to the light to check how deeply you are carving. If you can see the light easily through the gourd, you are going too deep.

Preparing zipper:

- Using sharp scissors, trim away the excess material next to the actual zipper. You want to cut right next to the edge of the metal zipper.

Carving:

- You need to wear a mask at all times while carving.
- You may want ear plugs also. They allow you to hear voices, but not the dangerous sounds from the machines.
- When carving with a wheel bit, you need to make sure that the bit has dug into the gourd all the way before you start to carve along your line. Hold your carver with a full hand grip so the carver is held by your 4 fingers. Your thumb will be bracing your hand on the gourd. The carver will be almost parallel to the gourd. As you carve, let your thumb slide along the gourd, helping to guide your hand. Keep that bit fully in!
- Carve all your lines, moving right to left (towards you) with your carver. Remember to check from the inside of the gourd to see if you are carving too deeply.
- Please note that the duragrit bits will not cut you; do not be afraid of them. They can go either way, forward or back.
- After finishing carving the lines, I like to turn my gourd, and carve the same line from the other side. This will make the groove a bit wider, and will straighten out the sides. If you are like me, you will have one side shaped in more than the other. Carving from both sides corrects this.
- Now you will use the diamond ball or the grain of wheat bit. Change how you hold your dremel. For this bit, you want to hold the dremel like you would a pencil, so it will be closer to vertical.
- Turning the gourd so you have the carved line vertical, use this bit to open the groove a bit more, and to go a bit deeper. Again, make sure you check from the inside to see if you are going too deep.
- Use a small piece of zipper to see if it fits inside the groove you made the way you want it to. If it is not as deep as you want, carve your groove a bit deeper.
- Blow or brush along all the grooves to make sure you have removed all the gourd dust.

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Finishing outside of Gourd:

- Use the Memory Dyes to finish the outside of your gourd.
- Formula 49 will help you dilute the colour to get just what you want.
- A small paint brush works well to make sure you get the dye in the groove.
- Remember that it does not take much dye to cover the gourd!
- Heat set the dyes.
- Varnish.

Finishing inside of gourd:

- Paint the inside of the gourd.
- Make sure you paint the top edge of the gourd too.
- Use hair dryer to dry the paint.
- Sand lightly where the inside is rough.
- Wipe out all dust particles.
- Paint the inside and top edge again.
- Dry with hair dryer.

Adding Zipper to design:

- Cut a piece of the zipper to either fit in your design, or if it is a continuous design, cut a piece no longer than 6" to begin with.
- Run a thin line of glue along the bottom of the groove where you will be placing this piece of zipper.
- Use the toothpick if needed to spread out the glue. The small paintbrush would work also.
- Starting at one corner, place the zipper into the groove.
- When in place, use your fingers to press it in as far as it will go.
- Run your fingers along the zipper a few times, to make sure it will stay in place.
- Continue adding pieces of the zipper along your design. The joints will not show as long as you trimmed the ends neatly.
- Use the tape to hold the zipper in place. Tuck under one end of the tape ¼" (to make it easier to take off) before placing over the zipper.
- Leave to set.

Adding Zipper to top edge:

- Cut the zipper to fit the top edge of the gourd.
- Put glue on part of the edge, add the zipper, tape in place, and continue this way until you finish adhering the zipper.
- Go back along the zipper and make sure it is properly in place. Adjust if necessary.
- Leave to dry.

Gourd samples using zipper technique by Barbara Bellchambers.

