



Gourd Basket Weaving



Supplies: dyed needles, gourd, colored waxed linen, alcohol ink, book of inspiration
Photos by Rachel Courtney

One last class



Rachel Courtney

Gourd Basket Weaving combines many activities that I enjoy: Painting with alcohol ink, basket weaving and using power tools. You can also add in gardening or shopping on Etsy — either way is a fun way to acquire a gourd. Oh, and you could also add beading! Chad Yenney and I received these whole, dried out gourds on Monday and got

to work. We dipped them in bleach water to clean off any caustic mold, cut off the tops, cleaned out the guts, sanded and pre-drilled nine of them for our class on Wednesday. I even made sure to check that a needle with thread would be able to go through the pre-drilled hole without any trouble.

On Tuesday, I used one of the tops (or hats!) to practice my technique; and on

Please see GOURDS, Page 14



Practice makes perfect! Here Rachel Courtney samples techniques on the hat (a.k. top) of a gourd. The following day, she made her demo piece from the bottom of the same gourd shown on the facing page.



1). Washing gourds in bleach water then rinsing them off. 2). Marking cut lines on the gourd. 3.) Chad used a jigsaw to cut the gourds open. 4). The inside of this martin gourd is full of seeds.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Courtney

Gourds

From Page 13

Wednesday, I was able to start on the bottom of a gourd as my demo piece in class.

A complete stranger saw my basket weaving classes on my business Facebook page (@prettynicecreations) and offered me

her collection of dyed pine needles. She had moved on to other art projects and knew I was offering classes and would share them. After reading more in my basket weaving book, I saw that you can't re-wet dyed needles because they will bleed and lose color - so these baskets used dried needles. At first I was skeptical, but it seemed to work just fine. Because you are only making big

curves (along the edge of the gourd), the pine needles don't break.

The group of 6 did an amazing job. One of my friends asked, "How do you create these opportunities for people to make high-quality art after one class?" I was so pleased with the question — because I

Please see GOURDS, Page 15



1). Cleaning out the gourd innards. A quick scraping removes the seeds and some of the cellulose. 2). Chad sands the edges and insides of the gourds. 3). Using a stencil to mark holes to drill. 4). Drilling holes in the gourds.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Courtney

Gourds

From Page 14

totally agree that each piece is absolutely gorgeous. My answer is that I pick activities which yield results and allow students to be successful and they are all very talented artists!

I also made sure to bring my lightbox to class. When photographing something like this, it is so important to have great lighting and a non-distracting background. If you plan to sell your creations, I highly recommend this (very reasonably priced) investment.

This was one of my last classes in the

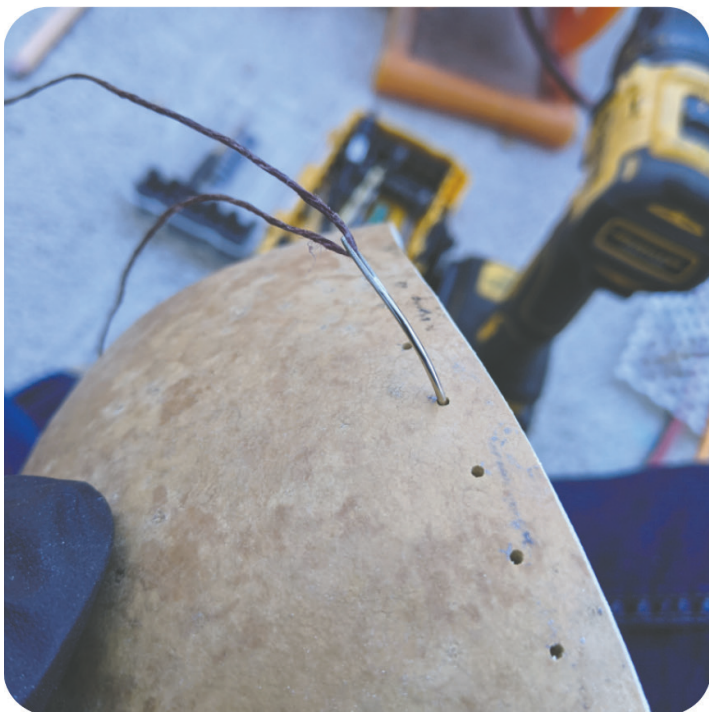
Please see GOURDS, Page 16

Own a lightbox

It's so nice to have a lightbox because you just never have a nice, clear background. I'd highly recommend this one! Basically you pick a good background, plug it in, turn on the light and take a picture! Here is mine from Amazon.

[SAMTIAN-Photography-Background-Brightness-Advertising/dp/B01N2OH2D3](https://www.amazon.com/SAMTIAN-Photography-Background-Brightness-Advertising/dp/B01N2OH2D3)

Turn to Page 17 to see her students' work



1) Testing to make sure a needle goes through the pre-drilled hole along with the doubled waxed linen. 2). The inside of a warty gourd — includes seeds and a loofah-like material. 3). The outside of a beautiful warty gourd. 4). A sliced martin gourd — temporarily put back together.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Courtney

Gourds

From Page 15

area. In the first week of October, my husband Joel, my dog Kara and I will be moving to Broomfield, Colorado. My dad and stepmom moved there

a little over 18 months ago, following my two sisters who left for Golden, Colorado to go to college. It will be so nice to be living near my family, especially my sisters whom I have never lived close to.

Continue on to see Rachel's students' work.



Joel, Rachel and their dog Kara will be moving to Broomfield, Colorado in early October.



Danica Mito





Jan Cook Mack



Kristen Hosey



Fellow guild member Mary Madsen



Marya Madsen (Mary's daughter)



Rhonda Yenney