

## Faux Beading Instructions

Start by drawing a horizontal line around the gourd in the area you want to do your faux beading. I use anything I can find that is the right height I need to rest my pencil on and then just turn the gourd until I have a line all the way around. Woodburn that line.

Next you draw concentric lines working above and below the starting line. There are some folks who can do this free-hand, I can't. I have a drafting template I got at Staples that has various width small rectangles on it. I set one edge on my starting line and then use the upper edge to draw my subsequent lines.

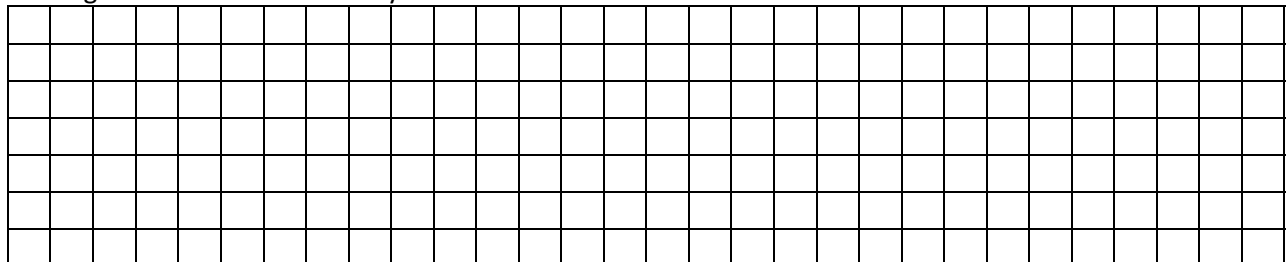
You'll find it works best if you don't draw any more than 2-3 lines at a time before you woodburn them because you'll smudge your lines and have to re-draw them.

The number of lines you ultimately draw and woodburn into the gourd really depends on 1) the size of your gourd, and 2) the complexity of the pattern you want to faux bead. There are several bead loom patterns available for free on the Internet. Just Google Bead Loom Patterns if you want to work from a pattern. You don't have to have a pattern – start simply. More on that in a minute.

Once you have all of your horizontal lines burned into the gourd you need to use the same size spacing to draw vertical lines around the entire gourd. What you are doing is building a grid.

Don't worry if your lines are not completely straight or if your burner results in hot and cold lines. Once you get your beading done, it won't show anyway. In other words, don't sweat the small stuff.

Your gourd will look like this if you've done 7 horizontal lines:



### Starting your beading.

Now the fun starts and there are no rules.

Use Scribbles or Puff Paints, available at most hobby stores in the fabric painting section. Squeeze out a small mound of paint onto a plate, tile, index card, plastic container lid, anything will work. Don't squeeze out too much at one time because they dry quickly.

Using a toothpick, pick up your first color and simply dab the dot of paint into the square on your gourd and begin your design. The toothpick works best once it has a little bit of paint built up on it but don't let it get too loaded with dried paint or your dots will continually increase in size. You want to try and achieve relatively even sized dots of paint in your pattern. Just wipe the toothpick if it starts getting too thick with paint. If you get a glob of paint that's just too big or smears over your lines, just let it dry and then take an Xacto knife and scrape it off.

You may want to start with a diamond design that you repeat all around the gourd. **Don't count** – it just wastes time. Just keep going and when you get to where you are going to join the diamond pattern, just adjust it. You may need to add a space between the 2 diamonds to make it fit. It won't show when you are done unless someone is actually going to go around the gourd and count, which they won't. The eye can only see one side of the gourd at a time.

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Move to your next color selections. Work in small sections to allow the paint dots to dry and avoid smudging them.

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If you have 7 horizontal lines you can use up to 7 different colors  
If you have 5 horizontal lines you can use up to 5 different colors  
The color selections are up to you. You can use less colors and repeat colors to fill your grid. Your imagination is the only limitation.

You may want to burn in a border line top and bottom of your grid and use acrylic or gourd dyes to color that band.

When you're all done, brush on 2 coats of PolyAcrylic. It seals piece and also prevents any of your paint dots from being damaged.

### **Sample Designs**

