

# Carved Gourd Bowl

By Emily J. Wallace

Emily Wallace lives on a 5-acre farm where her mother-in-law started a gourd garden. Intrigued with the odd-looking vegetables, Emily learned she could make unique artwork and bowls from them. Since then, she has converted a part of her land into her gourd-crafting area. She was on HGT show 'That's Clever' and the carved bowl was her project.

## Materials and Tools:

Gourd	stain or leather dye
dishwashing soap	wood burner
Pencil	handheld rotary tool with carving bit
flexible ruler	spray polyurethane
gourd saw	paint brush
gourd scraper	shoe polish applicator
decoupage medium	Create a measuring device from pieces of wood block and wood dowel rod (right).



## Steps:

1. Clean the outside of the gourd in warm soapy water.
2. Mark the area to cut off the top of the gourd with a pencil inserted in a measuring device (made from wood blocks and a wood dowel (see photo above) ) to keep the pencil level. Cut off the top with a gourd saw.
3. Clean the inside of the gourd using a gourd scraper.
4. Paint the inside of the gourd with brown acrylic paint. Let dry.
5. Coat the inside of the gourd with decoupage medium. Let dry.
6. Apply stain or dye to the outside of the gourd using a shoe polish applicator. Wipe the excess stain with a paper towel.
7. Draw a design on the outside of the gourd in pencil, using a flexible ruler for measuring.
8. Burn the design on the outside of the gourd over the pencil lines using a wood burner.
9. Carve desired areas of the gourd bowl with a handheld rotary tool.
10. Coat the outside of the gourd bowl with polyurethane spray.