



Wood Burning

Basics



***A Complete Step By Step Guide To Get Started
In Pyrography With Easy To Follow Instructions
And Projects***

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WOOD BURNING BASICS

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CHAPTER ONE

The Art Of Wood Burning



Wood burning also called pyrography is the art of decorating wood or other materials utilizing burn marks emanating from the controlled application of a heated object like poker. The term pyrography indicates writing with fire and it can be practiced utilizing dedicated pyrography tools, or utilizing a metal implement heated in a fire

In other words, wood burning (pyrography) employs heated tool such as a soldering iron to softly etch designs on a wood surface.

A wood burning tool can be used to create different kinds of art from a simple embossed wood shape patterns to a more advanced quotes, drawings, and portraits.

If you can eventually draw your design with a pen, then you can as well do same with a wood burning tool.

Wood Burning Tools

1. Wood burning tool with temperature control



2. Wood burning kit plus stencils with temperature control



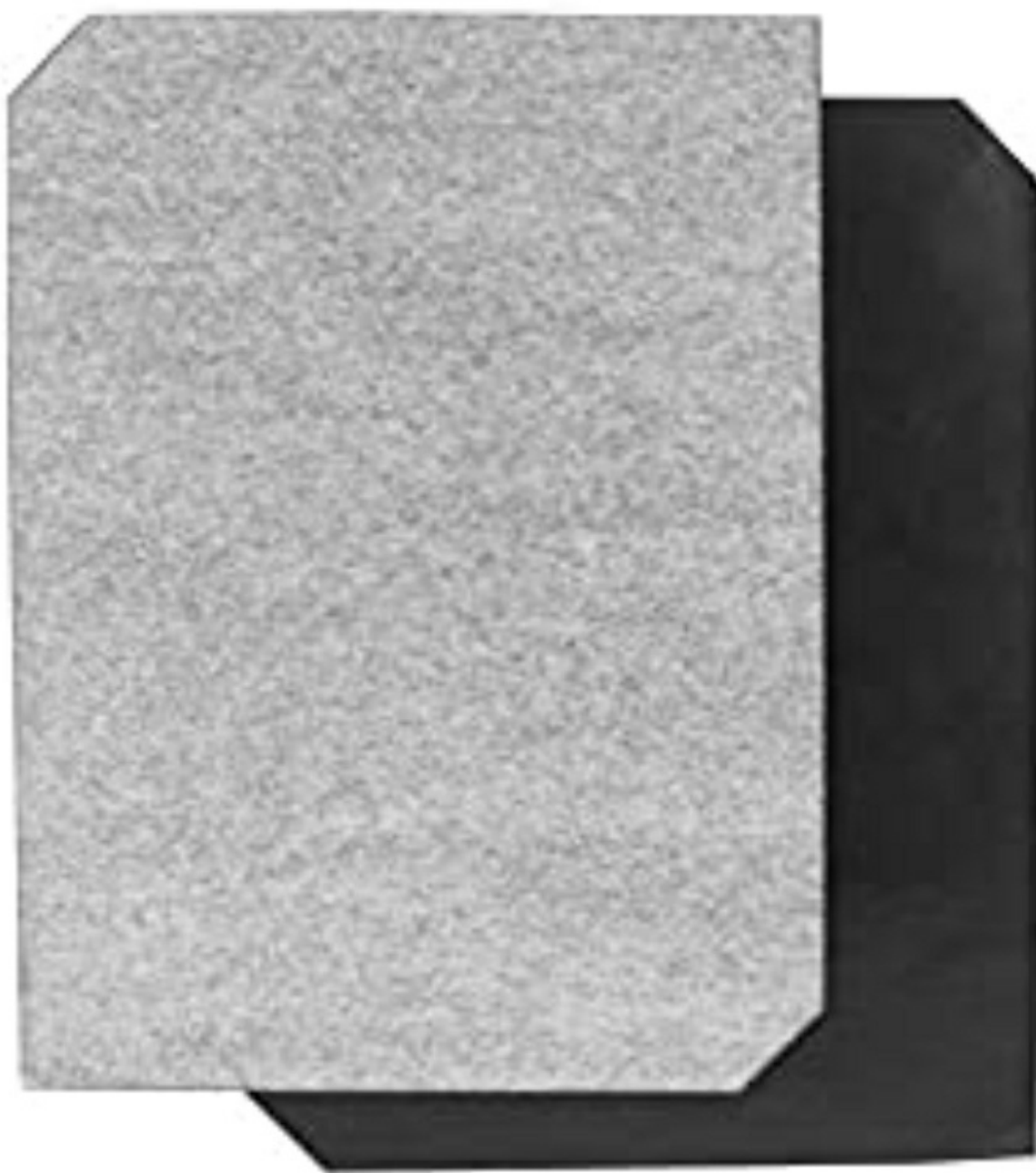
3. Needle Nose Plier



4. Sandpaper



5. Black Carbon Tracing Paper



6. Unfinished Natural Wood Slices



FEATURE OF A WOOD BURNING TOOL YOU CAN USE, OTHER SUPPLIES AND SAFETY MEASURE

In choosing the type of wood burning tools to use, you need to consider the following features;

Temperature control

On/Off switch

Stand to hold the hot pen

Comfortable handle/grip

Some of the wood burning tool kits come with accessories or you buy them separately like;

Style tips – have different shapes and thicknesses

Alphabet tips – such as the upper and lower case letters.
You used it to press shapes into your wood.

Stainless steel stencils; it is use with pencil beforehand; some are made for the purpose of tracing with wood burning tool.

Other Supplies

Wood; soft, light, smooth, fine grain wood.

Work space protection

Sand paper; 320 grit

Ceramic tile; where you can rest your hot wood burning tool.

Needle nose pliers in order to change your tool tips.

Pencil and eraser

Transfer paper

Safety Measure

Respirator mask

Electric fan

Heat resistant gloves

Sealants (Optional)

Clear-drying polyurethane

Spray lacquer

Spray matte polyurethane

CHAPTER TWO

Setting Up A Safe Work Area

First and foremost, Plan out your project so that your work space is safe and functional.

The electrical cord for your wood burning tool should be plugged into a nearby switch so that you can move freely.

Have a ready spot where you can rest your hot tool when you pause your work and when you are completely done.

A fire resistant surface such as ceramic tile will make a good base for your tool.

Strictly follow the safety instruction that comes with your tool and avoid any contact with flammable materials.

It is proper to guard your kids and pets away from your work area.

CHAPTER THREE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of wood can you use for wood burning?

If you desire your work or design to appear nicely, select a soft light-colored wood with a very smooth surface and least wood grain.

Some options that you can pick include:

Poplar

Pine

Basswood

Aspen

Birch

The wood must be natural, not a processed wood with preservatives or any kind of synthetic materials.

Tree stems and branches and finished lumber such as plywood (non-synthetic) are all fair to use.

Do you know if a wood burning tool works on other surfaces outside wood?

Yes, a wood burning tool works on other surfaces like;

Paper

Leather

Gourds

Canvas

Horn

Cotton

Tree bark

Antler

Bone

Cork

Do I need to sand my wood first?

Yes, it is very proper you sand your wood in order for your wood to have a smooth surface. The smoother the surface of your wood becomes, the simpler it is to draw designs on it using your wood burning tool.

Do I need a particular pattern?



This depends on your talent as an artiste and what you desire to produce.

There are many books with patterns and designs that you can get online. Please, check the copyright restrictions and permissions.

Once you print out the particular design you want, size it with your wood if it matches, and transfer your design to your wood surface with a tracing paper.

You can also transfer laser printer images with the aid of a hot iron.

To do a freehand drawing is very simple; use your pencil to go for it. Use your eraser to take away any not needed lines when you are done

How do you handle a wood burning tool?



A wood burning tool is a thick pen and you cannot put your fingers near the tip of the pen because of its hotness. The wood burning tools have a built-in barricade to protect your hand from the heat.

For you to start, get a piece of wood and do your practice.

Switch on your pen, allow it to warm up for some minutes in order to reach full heat and then start your drawing.

Try to burn different designs like geometric shapes, curves, animals, straight lines, people and anything of your choice.

Which wood burning tips work best?

Generally, the bullet tip is recommended as one of the best wood burning tip.

This is because it is blunt but very fine and it does not catch in your wood.

How do I change my wood burning tool tips?

To safely change your wood burning tips in a situation when your tool is hot, use a needle nose plier to gradually remove your hot tip and put your tip in a cool water in order for it to cool off.

Since your tool is still hot, attach your new tip with your needle nose pliers.

Do I need to seal my wood burning art?

It is your choice if you want to apply paint, stain, or sealant. The old method was to rub stain on wood.

You can use acrylic paints to fill the design with colors. This is mostly done for children's projects.

If you desire to seal your wood, a spray lacquer, clear drying polyurethane, or spray matte polyurethane will work well. Please, follow the instructions on your product labels.

Can I do pyrography indoors?

Majority of the artists prefer to do their work indoors. Some of them do wear a respirator mask, use protective gloves (in order to avoid burns), and turn on their fan in order to prevent smoke.

CHAPTER FOUR

Wood Burning Project

1. Wood Burning Sign



Before we start, these are the required materials you will need;

Wood burning kit

Painter's tape

Needle nosed pliers

Transfer paper

Pencil or ball point pen

Board in the right size for your project

Printed design

Ceramic tile where you rest your hot wood burner

PREPARING TO WOOD BURN

Type and print out the design you desire.

Place your design on your board and tape the top edge firmly to your board.

Cut your transfer paper and place it under your design paper.

Firmly hold your design paper and trace carefully your design by the use of a dull pencil or ball point pen etc.



Once you are done tracing your first letter, check to know if you are applying the right amount of pressure in transferring your design.



Continue the process until you are done transferring all the words to the wood.



READY, SET, WOOD BURN
you fill.

Do your outlines first before

To outline your letters always move in a downward direction toward yourself.

Rotate your board as needed in order to keep on wood burning your outline.

To achieve a very fine line utilize the standard tip.



Once you are done with your design outline, use your needle-nose pliers to change your tip to a similar rounded-tip as you can see below.

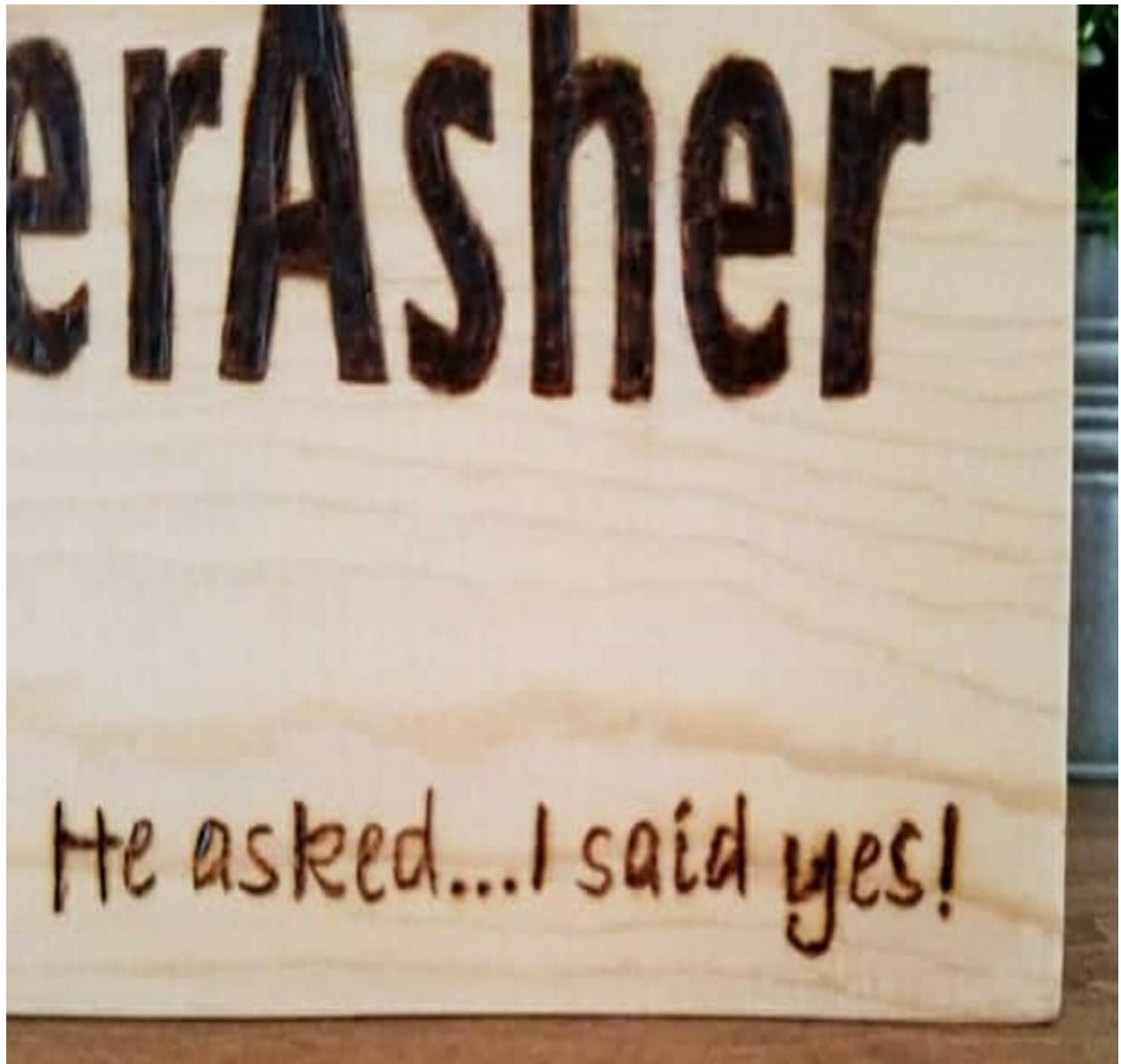
Use “coloring” motion to skim your surface in order to burn and then fill in your outline.



Keep on with the coloring motion until all your letters in your wood burning sign are well filled in.

This may take you some time and you can still burn over areas a second time if need be.

Your tool will be hot so be careful in handling it.



You can do this particular sign for a sister or a friend who just got engaged as a little surprise package for her with balloons and flowers.



2. Wood Burning A Rolling Pin



Materials needed:

Wood rolling pin

Transfer paper

Printed design on paper

Needle nose pliers

Red/white baker's twine

Wood burning kit

Cork trivet

STEP 1: DESIGN THE WORD YOU WANT ON YOUR ROLLING PIN.

Determine the word you want on your rolling pin, the font and then print it out. If your rolling pin is wider than your printed paper split your words on 2 pieces of paper and then tape them together ensuring the words are well lined up.

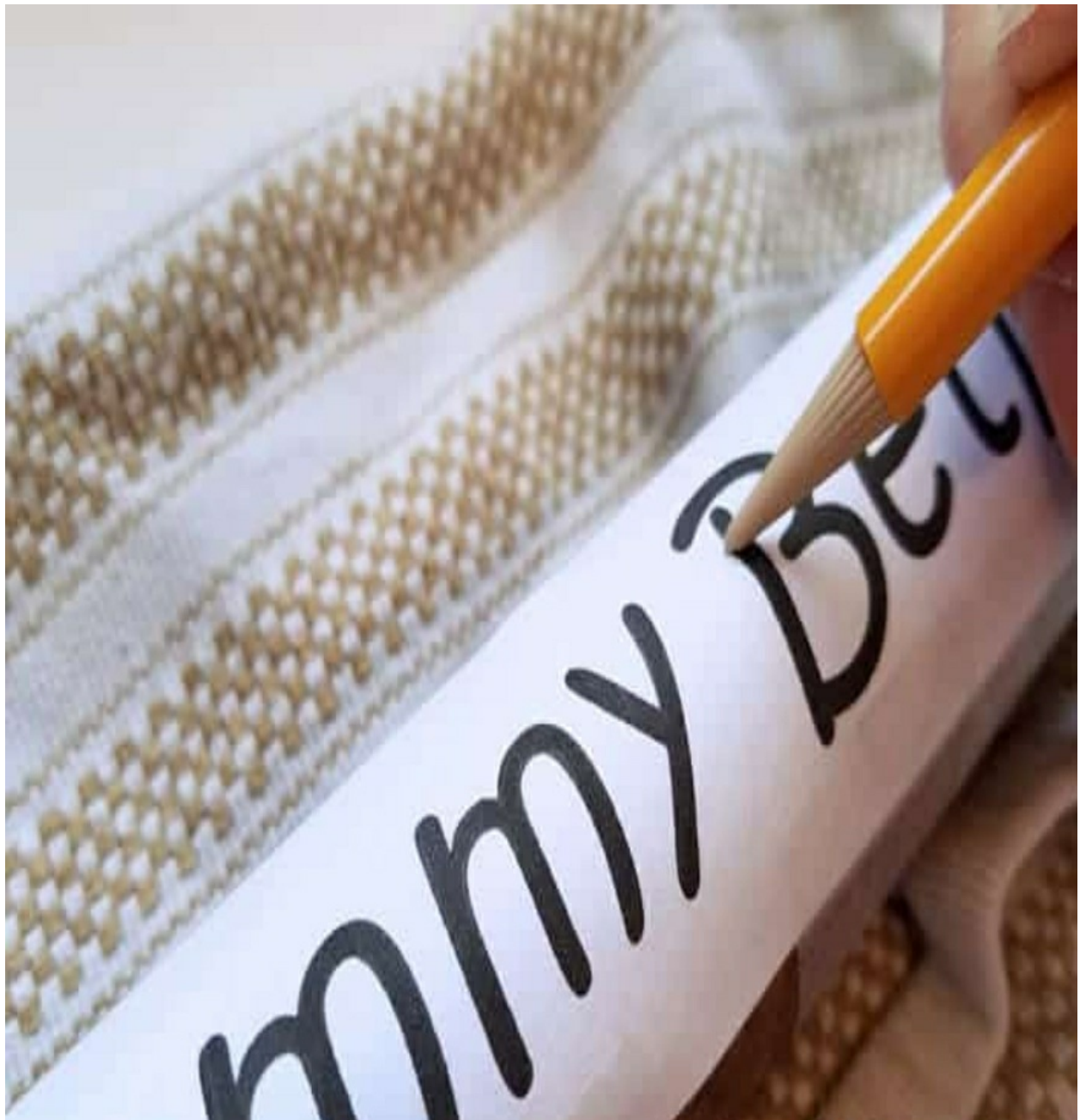
Cut out the words so that there is no much extra below or above.

STEP 2: TRACE YOUR DESIGN ON YOUR ROLLING PIN.

Place your transfer paper on your rolling pin, and then tape your printed design over it.

Trace the outline of your letters carefully with the end of your pen. Mechanical pencil tip will work very fine.

Lay your rolling pin on a cloth or towel so your rolling pin does not slide.



Lift up your printed paper and transfer paper carefully and check to see that all the letters and lines are properly traced.



If you notice that some spots are not well traced, simply drop your paper and trace over those spots again.

PREPARE TO WOOD BURN YOUR ROLLING PIN

STEP 3: GET SET TO BURN.

Fold a towel to rest your arm while you do your wood burn in order to keep your hand steady as you work.

Start by outline your letters. You can do your practice on your scrap board before you diving into your project in order to get it right.



After all your letters has been outlined, turnyou're your wood burner and allow it cool a bit and the change your wood burning tip in order to do your filling.

Use a needle nose plier to change to a different wood burning tip.

Burn the insides of your letters carefully that you outlined.





Wrapped your baker's twine around the handle of your rolling pin so that you can hang it at any spot in your kitchen.



Small Home Soul



As you have seen this project now, begin to search for wooden rolling pins that you can wood burn and offer to your baker friend as a gift.

3. Wood Burning A Picture Of A House



Materials needed;



Wood burning pen

Tape

Carbon paper

Wet paper towel

Design to wood burn

Sandpaper

Choose your design



For you to find design to work with, you can google what you want from the internet.

Prepare your wood



We recommend the use of soft wood because it burn at a very low temperature, while hard wood will need a very hot pen. In preparing your wood, you have to sand it.

Place your design on your wood



Tape your design to your carbon paper and then to your wood.



Carefully trace your design



Carefully trace the outline of your design with a pen



Once you are done tracing, your work will look like this

Burn your outline



Use your pen to follow your carbon line you traced on your wood.



Your outline is fully completed.

Start shading to complete your project



Use your shading tip to fill the spots that need to be fill according to the look of your design.

4. Wood Burning A Cutting Board



Materials needed:

Wood burning set

Unfinished cutting board or you can make your own board

Mineral oil

Special wood burning tips, it's optional







First and foremost,, use your table saw to rip your boards to same width, lay your wood out in a particular pattern. I use the curly and hard maple wood and turned the wood edge for a thick board. Clamp, glue, and let your glue dry for some hours.



Sand all sides of your board.



STEP 1

Screw your wood burning tip to your wood burning tool, plug it to your switch and allow it to heat for some minutes. Sketch out your design with your pencil. I use ramekin to trace a circle on one end of my board.



STEP 2

Touch your wood burning tool to your board carefully, use your pencil marks to guide yourself.



STEP 3

If you desire to change your tips, use needle nose pliers to take out the hot tip and put back new tips.



Repeat same process. Though I used a slanted and leaf tips for this particular project but you are free to use any tip of your choice.



STEP 4

Apply a coats of mineral oil to your board in order to seal it.



5. Wood Burn A Spoon



Materials needed:



Wooden spoon

Wood burning tool

Assorted wood burning tips

Notebook for your sketching

Pencil

Instructions for your project:



Step 1: Drawing Your Design

Start by sketching out your design.



Step 2: Draw On Your Spoon

The next step draw on your spoon the pattern you want with a pencil.



Step 3: Start To Burn Your Spoon

Start burning your spoon using the pencil mark as your guide.



Step 4: Pay More Attention To The Top Handle Of Your Spoon

Ensure to pay more attention to the top handle of your spoon, since it is the first part to see. Erase any pencil marks you did not burned over. Wash your

spoon, and see how nice it will look.



Great job.