

PYROGRAPHY (Drawing by Fire) by George McClure

The art of burning a design or pattern into wood, gourds or leather using heated one-temperature or variable temperature wood burning tools.

Pyrography designs and patterns include almost any thing you wish to use.

Systems for Woodburning:

A. The one temperature tool that heats to one setting high. It comes with several interchangeable tips.

B. The variable temperature woodburners include a base thermostat for a wide range of temperatures from very cool to extremely hot, also available with interchangeable tips.

Steps to create a woodburned item:

1. Pick out a picture or freehand draw out a picture. 2. Use copy machine and copy the picture on a clear sheet material. I use "Create See Through" labels from Office Depot and it is the Avery brand. 3. Once you have copied the picture on the see through paper, peel off the backing and put the picture on the piece you want to burn it on. 4. Use one of the two burning systems to burn the design or pattern on the material you are using.

5. When you are finished burning you will need to clean the see through material off the finished product. (I use professional strength "GOOF OFF") You can purchase most of these products at our local Home Depots or Lowes and probably at most paint stores. 6. Be SURE you use rubber gloves and paper towels. Use small amounts on your paper towels. Make sure you are in a well ventilated room or outside in the open air. You can use alcohol and paper towels but sometimes it causes it to smear.

Safety Tips:

1. Never use treated or sealed wood for pyrography. Burning treated wood can produce toxic fumes. 2. Many pyrographic techniques produce little or no smoke. 3. If needed use a fan pointed away from your work. 4. Work in a well ventilated room. 5. Always turn off your burner when not working. 6. Always turn off your burner when changing tips. 7. Leather and animal hides are wonderful to work with but can produce toxic fumes.