

Procedure

Step 1: Cleaning the Exterior of Gourds

Soak gourds in a warm soapy bath using any preferred dish washing soap. Use steel scouring pad to remove mold, dirt and build-up. (Before and after photos in images d and e.)

Step 2: Cutting the Gourds

After gourds have dried, use masking tape to create an equator around the widest diameter of the gourd in hopes that the tape will line up from start to end (Image f). Then drill 1/8" hole where shown in image g. Use hole to start the jigsaw cut around the gourd using the tape as a guideline (Image h). Remove top of gourd and insides (Image i and j).

Now be sure to scrape and steel scour the insides of all four gourds (Image k and l). Achieving a clean smooth surface is vital for the application of wax.

Step 3: Coating Gourds with Wax

In this process we melt wax to naturally waterproof the gourd. First heat electric skillet to 225 degrees and patiently melt wax. Generally this process takes 10-20 minutes. Special note: **All skillets or crock-pots used to melt wax must never be left unattended. Wax can and will start a fire!** Ladle a half-cup of wax into gourd. Carefully tilt gourd around in a circular motion, moving the melted wax along the interior surface of the gourd (Image m, n, and o).

Step 4: Making Mallets

This process was not photo documented. Place rubber ball in a vise. Drill 1/4" hole halfway thru rubber ball. Cut (36"x1/4") dowel rod into two 14" lengths. Apply 3 drops of instant glue into ball, next insert 14" dowel rod into hole. Mallet balls can be decorated using felt or leather.

Step 5: Setting Up Gourd Water Drums

Rollup a towel and create a circle on a table as shown in image q. Securely place gourd on top of towel (Image r). Fill gourd with water and carefully adjust its placement on towel (Image s). Allow a 2-inch space for splash room inside the gourd. Finally float a small gourd upside down in water and strike floating gourd with mallet (Image u). As one can see, I have created 3 different gourd water drums. Each water drum creates its own unique melodic tone.

Extensions:

Students will be assigned to compete the following. Students will gather South American and African images to decorate the bowls. Each student will decorate a bowl using paint, permanent marker, dye, and construction paper. After the instruments have been made and decorated, the students will perform a small music demonstration.



a.jpg



b.jpg



c.jpg



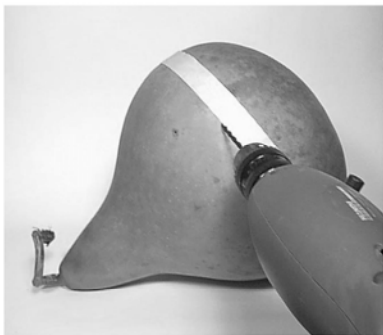
d.jpg



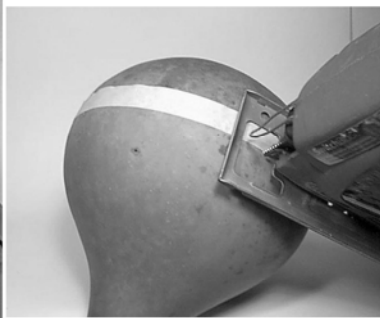
e.jpg



f.jpg



g.jpg



h.jpg



i.jpg



j.jpg



k.JPG



l.JPG



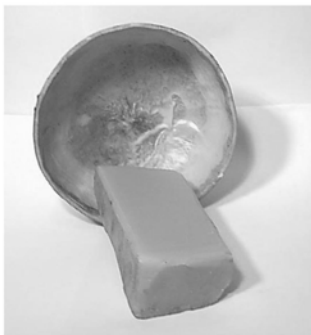
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