

How to do basket weave platter

Harvey Meyer doing the demo.

<http://www.harveymeyer.com/>

>

> https://youtu.be/5A4UI_7OYDo part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MjDJ-M5XDM> part 2

to burn lines, uses Klingspor very heavy paper backed sandpaper – he prefers 180 grit. Burns 2 lines before refreshing (trimming off edge of paper). Fast RPM – 6” dia 2300 rpm.

Final finish – he uses Krylon Matte Finish spray – one coat each side.

Another American Indian basket weave illusion artist – Jim Adkins

I talked on the phone with Harvey Meyer on 8 July 2015. He uses paperback vs cloth back sandpaper because paperback goes to the bottom between beads, cloth back darken the side of each bead and not the bottom. I used clothback and found this to be true.

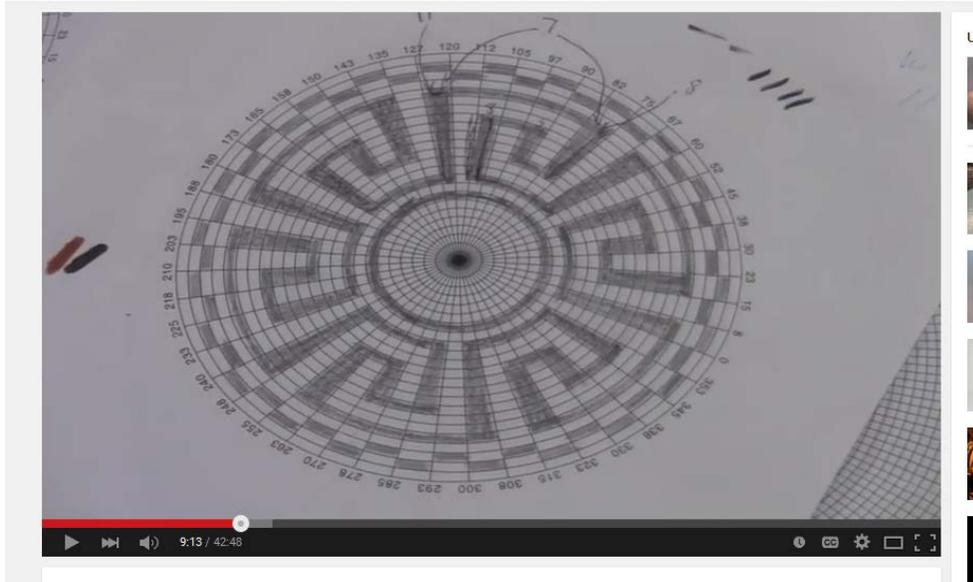
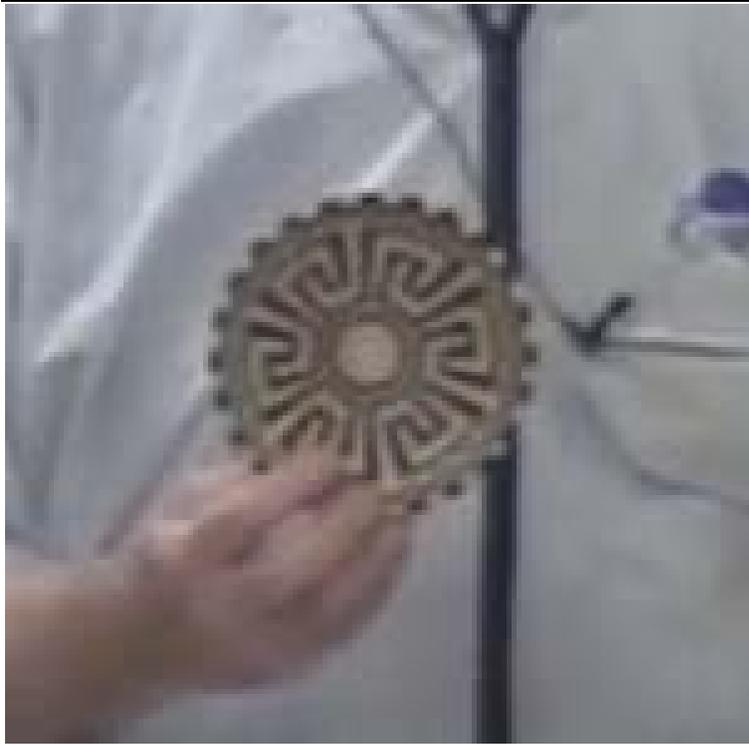
He uses “F” weight paper back sandpaper to burn the lines.

I found that using Formica, sanded down to 0.017” thick works the very best.

He uses the scalpel to “cut” or “shave” the ink off the bead and does not scrape. His handout shows where to purchase scalpels and 100 blades on ebay for under \$8

Use program “Graph Paper Maker” to create pattern can be downloaded free – with watermark

http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/graph_paper_maker.html



Artist Pens Faber-Castell Pitt artist Pens – india ink markers - sold by <http://www.dickblick.com/products/faber-castell-pitt-artist-pens/>

Can also be purchased from Arizona Art Supply – 4343 N. Oracle Rd.

Use only these 3 colors to get American Indian like colors

Sanquine (red) Brush Nip and Superfine nip

Sepia (brown) Brush Nip and Superfine nip

Black Brush Nip and Superfine nip

Use Brush tip

And super fine tip

Basket Illusion Supplies

Polar Graph paper for designing the patterns:

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/graphmaker.html>

free demo version will print a demo watermark on the graph paper or pay 19.99 for a registered copy to eliminate the watermark or

use web based program at: <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/polar/>

Beading tools

<http://www.d-waytools.com/tools-beadiing.html>

available in 1/16", 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" and 3/8"

1/8" and 3/16" are used for this project. Tools come unhandled – I use them unhandled

Price is \$42 each (plus \$13.95 shipping).

Sanding: from Klingspor:

- 4" sanding mop for cleaning up the beads – 180 and 320 grit – 1"x4" flutter sheets and a mandrel. When you get good at using the beading tool, you probably won't need these.

<http://www.woodworkingshop.com/product/fs32240/#.VSPqvY5thil>

- Sandpaper for burning between beads – from Klingspor – heavyweight paper backed roll of 180 grit (150 grit also good)

www.woodworkingshop.com/product/pr98949/#.VFmTOWf1aCc

Burning pens:

Detail Master woodburning pens are no longer available. I was using the #9C vented pen, but these can't be found anymore.

Optima pyro (PJL Enterprises) is now making a very nice pen, but you have to call for it. It's not on the web site yet. Call Pat Lamusga on

320 594-2811 and tell him you need a Basket Illusion pen. <http://www.carvertools.com/>. If I have them with me, you can also purchase these from me. Optima pens have a male RCA jack on the end of the pen. You will need the proper connection cord if you have a different brand of burner. Pat can help you with that too.

Any woodburner power supply is suitable. I prefer and use the Optima 1 (\$107). Optima 1 available at <http://www.carvertools.com/> and other suppliers.

Colored Ink Marking Pens

I prefer Faber Castell Pitt artist pens – these pen use pigmented India ink and are archival quality – available at dickblick.com

I use 2 nib sizes “brush” and “superfine” of each color.

Colors: Black, Sanguine, and Sepia were the main colors that I use but they are now making 8 more colors that have the superfine nib.

Alcohol dye markers (Prismacolor, Sharpie, Copic, etc) have better color/tip selection but care must be exercised when applying finish. The dyes must be tested to be sure it does not dissolve with your choice of finish. If it reacts with your finish, the colors will smear. I sometimes use Copic Original markers – 2 pens needed for each color – 1 pen with the standard fine nib and the other with the optional superfine nib. Available at dickblick.com

I’ve also tried Sakura Micron Pigma pens. These are pigmented and behave more like paint. Decent color selection, but I’m not using them anymore. The pens don’t last very long and the colors don’t penetrate into the wood as much as dye based markers. Nibs are very fragile.

Scalpel:

For fixing a mistake, you can shave away the color with a scalpel. From ebay you can get a box of 100 scalpel blades and a handle. I prefer #11 blade. Sometimes a #12 is also useful. A box of 100, with a handle will run about \$8. Be extremely careful using scalpels or your pieces will have extra red coloring.

How to make a fish scale burning tip

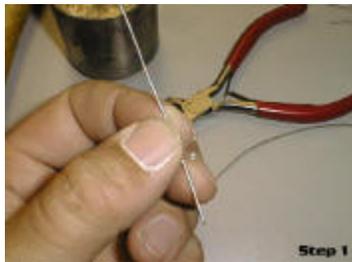
All metals conduct electricity differently, and all handle extreme heat differently. For the tip a special metal wire is used known as nichrome wire. Nichrome wire is used for heating elements in all types of electrical heating appliances. It can withstand long term heat without distortion or corrosion problems. **Any other metal used in this application may damage your burning unit and / or cause personal injury.** Nichrome wire can be purchased from many sources, however not all nichrome is the same. It comes in different blends for different applications. It took me years to find the perfect combination of nickel and chrome that allowed me to hammer a paper thin edge without cracking and once heated self tempers to retain the shape under pressure. I sell 36" rolls of this special blend for \$6.00, which is enough for 18-20 tips. You can order it by calling **989-619-6002**

Nichrome wire requires a special soldering flux that contains Zinc Chloride to allow silver solder to bond to the wire making a secure connection to the pen. Most any hardware stores can assist you with this type of flux and solder. Jewelers also use a special alloy blend to solder jewelry that works excellent for soldering nichrome, so if you know a jeweler ask about the solders they use.

Lets get started.

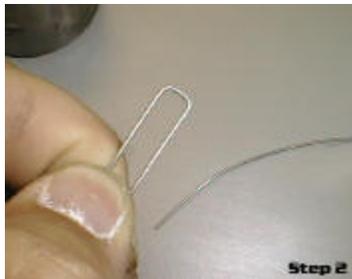
[Click any of the images for a closer look](#)

Step 1



Cut a 2" piece of nichrome wire.

Step 2



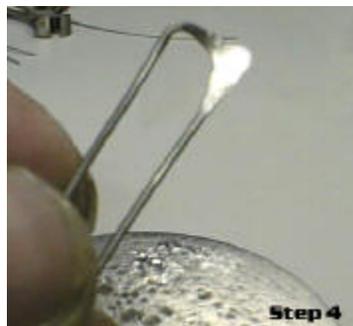
Using a pair of needle-nose pliers bend the wire to shape, slightly narrower than the the width of the desired scale. Keep the bends as square as possible. This is best accomplished by using the needle nose pliers to clamp the wire as you hammer both ends down, the tapered nose of the pliers works as a gauge for scale width as you form the bends.

Step 3



Shaping of the tip is done by hammering the wire flat using a steel slug and a small ball peen hammer. This is a technique that will require a little practice. You will need to stretch the metal in both corners outward to form the scale shape, this is done by hammering at an angle dragging the metal out. Work slowly and hammer lightly, the wire will flatten easily. It will take a tip or two to get the hang of this, but once learned is easily repeated.

Step 4



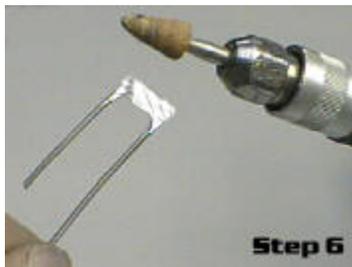
Stop when you feel you have enough metal pulled from the corner to shape half the scale. You will be surprised how thin this wire will hammer out too. Try to only work the tip, remember the thinnest point gets the hottest.....you don't want heat weakening the legs of the tip causing it to bend as you are burning scales. The thinner the working area of the tip is the less power you will need to produce high temperatures, the less power you need the cooler the pen will operate.

Step 5



Hammer the other side of the tip to shape, stopping when you have enough metal to shape a scale from. For larger scales it will be necessary to flip the tip over as you flatten it and work both sides to prevent curling and possible cracking from stressing only one side with the hammer.

Step 6



Install a small cone shaped stone burr in a rotary tool. The cone shaped burr allows you to grind several sizes without having to change burrs.

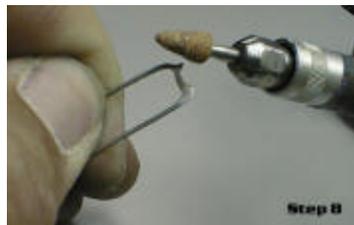
Step 7



PUT ON SAFETY GLASSES!!!

Working in the center of the tip remove metal with the stone burr to shape the outer edge and depth of the scale. Grind squarely into the wire, do not round the sharp edge left after shaping the scale. Maintaining a sharp edge is essential to creating light crisp scales. A dull edge will require you to burn deeper to show scale definition making your scales look too bold.

Step 8



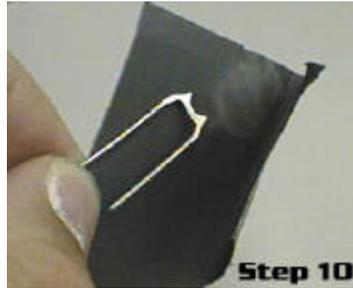
Using the tip of the stone burr grind away enough metal to shape the scale tips to a dull point. Remove no more metal than necessary to shape the scale, try and keep the wire width even across the face of the scale tip. Grinding away too much metal will create a thin area in the tip and cause a hot spot that will over burn every scale in that spot. This procedure is best shown on my video "[Making Scale Tips](#)" where I show you how to balance the heat and fine tune the tip at this point. A series of steps that cannot be described in a few still images.

Step 9



Shape the other edge the same way and compare your final scale shape to your pattern and adjust if necessary.

Step 10



Using wet sandpaper (320 grit) polish the working surface of the tip for a clean burn. Again, be careful not to remove the crisp edge of the scale outline.



And there you have it. A very quick digest overview of how tips are made. For a detailed step by step demonstration of the process and information on how to fine tune and harden the tips, make your own pens, make a raised lateral line burner and how to burn the scales I have a 3 [DVD video course demonstrating the entire process](#). Visit the [online store](#) for more details. We also carry a full line of materials needed to make your own pens and tips as shown in the video.

Download a free set of plans for [making your own burning pens](#) and start making your own pens for less than \$3.00 ea!
