



a natural state

Artist: Leslie Pierce

Video 2: Process, Part C: Finishing

Pierce: I kind of rough out the design. And this is a Japanese border design. I have a great Japanese border book, and it's all, like, really tiny little borders. But I try to manipulate it all over the...and do an all-over design on the gourd. And my sister's in Japan right now, so I decided I'm just going to do Japanese designs until she comes back. And they all have lots of really pretty, pretty images.

Now that I've got the design on there, I can tell...like, I know this is all going to be light color, so I know what can be still cleaned off one last time. So I'll wood-burn the whole design in, and when I'm finished, I take it back into the studio and do one final sanding to get any more blemishes off that I can clean off so it's really nice and pretty and clean. And then I wipe it down again with probably a Baby Wipe and get all the dust off of it and let that dry. And then the last part would be to spray it with clear acrylic and make it really pretty and shiny. And that's, that's it.

It takes...it depends on the intricacy of the design. Like, I could've reversed this design, and the lettering...the congee lettering...could've been dark and this could've been light. But I...because of the gourd color, I thought I would do it the, the opposite way.

So this gourd could, you know, depending on how many hours I put in wood-burning and the time...I usually...once I plug it in, I...it's hard to make myself stop. So I usually do it, like, four or five hours at a time. So this'll take probably, like, maybe a week...a week or so, depending on how much evening...how many evenings I devote to wood-burning. If I have a really good weekend and don't have anything planned, I can almost knock out the whole gourd in a weekend.

End.