

PYROGRAPHY BASICS (Hands-on class)

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TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT: (Wood burners)

- Solid Tip Wood Burner (good for branding)
 - Temperature cannot be controlled.
 - Writing tip is usually heavier in size.
 - Takes several minutes for the tip to heat or cool.
- Variable Temperature Wood Burner (best for artistic burning)
 - Temperature can be controlled; tips are either fixed or interchangeable.
 - If you plan to do wood burning in the future, consider purchasing a variable temperature burner. There are several name brands on the market--Razer Tip, Burn Master, Colwood. The Colwood Cub is the least expensive and the burner, five tips, and a handpiece can be purchased for about \$120. Search the web for best prices (MDI Woodcarvers have lowest prices)

OTHER EQUIPMENT:

- Burning Tips (three are needed for the class)
 - Writing tip
 - Skew
 - Shader
- Needle Nose pliers—for one-temperature solid tip burners
- Students may choose to bring a turning that they would like to use for final woodburning project, although this is optional.

SAFETY TIPS AND HELPFUL HINTS:

- Hold the burner pen the way you hold a pencil
- Hold the pen so the heat goes up, not back into the pen
- Do not breathe the smoke. Use a fan to pull the smoke away. If you point the fan toward the work, it tends to cool the tip.
- The work should not smoke excessively when burning. Do not burn too hot. Rather, go over the area several times to darken it.
- When making curved lines, use your little finger as a support and rotate your hand around your little finger
- Turn the work instead of your hand when possible
- Rapid drawing with the pen will leave a lighter line than slow drawing
- Shade away from hard lines
- Do not bear down on the pen. If the pen is not getting the result you want, turn up the heat ½ notch or slow down the movement.
- Apply pen pressure that mimics an airplane landing and taking off. Don't stab the tip into the wood, then draw it across the wood. This results in a dark area at the beginning of the line.
- Keep pen tips clean. Carbon builds on the tips. Clean with a soft brass brush. To restore a new edge to tips, use a carver's block with rouge.
- Do not change tips when the pen is hot. You will risk damaging the pen's heat element. (This is especially true of solid tip burners and soldering irons)

- Use pliers or other appropriate tool to change the tips. (Translation: Do not use your fingers!)
- Store tips so that they are protected
- Turn off the burner when you leave the work area
- Use a heavy duty extension cord, if an extension cord is required

SELECTING BURNING TIPS AND HANDLES/PENS:

Most work can be done with the following **tips**:

- a) Writing tip—bent wire or ball
- b) Short skew
- c) Shading Tips—Several styles available
- d) Colwood “J” tip—good for thin lines and shading

Handles/Pens:

- a) Fixed, or (May want this for the tip you use most often)
- b) Replacement (Less expensive. All pens do have a shelf life)

RESOURCES: (Equipment)

- Wood burners and tips
 - The Old Texas Woodcarvers Shop, Tomball, TX, 1-800-752-9781
 - thewoodcraftshop.com
1-800-379-2278
 - Craft Supply
woodturnerscatalogue.com
1-800-551-8876
 - Colwood Electronics
44 main St.
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727
Phone No. 732-938-5556
Web address: woodburning.com
 - MDI Woodcarvers Supply (Colwood burners)
mdi@mdiwoodcarvers.com

RESOURCES: (Books)

- *Great Book of Woodburning*, Lora Irish
- *Woodburning with Style*, Simon Easton
- *Pen and Ink Techniques*, Frank Lohan
- *Pyrography Designs*, Norma Gregory