

A Gourd of Many Colors

Class 13, Session F: Saturday 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Class will be taught in person only by instructor in classroom

Instructor / Designer: Kathy Dailey

Designation for Project Use:

This project is based upon traditional plaits/designs. They are in public domain. Kathy Dailey gives NAWW members full use of the project.

Instructors Comments:

While looking on the internet I saw a picture of an amazing bowl with a black background and a colorful design of very thin strips of wheat forming waves of color and movement. I was awe struck. I had to know more about this. I had to try this! Enchapado en Tamo – straw marquetry. This ancient art form was simultaneously developed in the 1600 in Europe and Latin America. The bowl I saw was from Colombia S.A. Tamo is one of the oldest and most renowned crafts in Colombia. When the Spanish colonized Latin America they promoted the cultivation of wheat. Usable stubble of Tamo – a kind of wheat, is collected from the fields after the harvest. The dry stems are dyed, opened and flattened and cut into very thin strips to decorate wooden and ceramic objects such as bowls, vases, masks.



Size of Project: Various size small gourds about 6" x 4"

Skill Level: Open

Specific plaits, techniques, skills you need to know:

You should be familiar with making straw ribbons, cutting with a ruler and exacto knife, splitting whole straws with a splitter and the basic process of straw marquetry.

What will be taught in class:

I will provide a black spray painted gourd. You will supply the colorful straws and we will experiment and design as we go as we try this beautiful style of marquetry. Each person's piece will be unique. While working on my piece I found the colored straw design on the black very striking and can stop at many levels of completion and still look interesting setting on display. Remember we are experimenting with a new technique of marquetry.

Specific parts of the project to be completed before coming to class:

You might want to view some You Tube videos. Look up Enchapado en Tamo. Most of the videos are in Spanish but the pictures are very helpful, and totally amazing. Note the colors and movement created. They use a lot of curves and waves, circles, spirals, roundish squares, spiraling squares that look like a labyrinth.

Suggested Wheat: see straw needed.

Straw needed:

Any bright colored straws that will show nicely against a black background. This might be a good time to use up straws and pieces of straws you have collected over the years. I used flattened straws and whole straws -split, rye straws and wheat straws. I think The Straw Shop has multi colored straw bags. This is a perfect project for the bright French colored rye straws. You need some straw splits about 10" long for the long stripes but you also need shorter ones to fill in the curves.

You might want to precut some flat ribbons that you think you might use just to get started. The strips need to be less than 1/16" wide. I used the straw cutter I use for quilling straws, see picture below. I used the 1.0 and 1.2 mm cutters. It is easy to split whole straws using the 6 – 8 splitters in class too. Don't worry if they are not all the same width as you will need them to fill in spaces and different widths and spacing helps to create design. Just start with a few straws and cut and create as you go. Bring about 8 colors maybe 5 straws of each color. It really doesn't take a lot of straws. Your whole selection of possible colors will easily fit in a gallon zip lock bag.



Other supplies by instructor:

n/a

Supplies to bring:

New Aleene's Tacky Glue – The fresher glue goes on easier. You will use a good amount because you put it on with your fingers so a lot gets wiped off of your fingers.

Plastic lid for glue, two old washcloths 1 damp -put in dish, tooth picks, sharp pointed exacto knife, splitters, if you have the block used to make quilling strips that can also make thinner splits, flat metal ruler, smooth cutting mat, Hindenburg – you really need to scrape off the heavy pith on some of the rye straws, colored straws, plastic bag or something to put your left over strips in until you are done with your project. I tend to hold the gourd against me so you might want an apron or an old shirt you don't care about getting glue on. Maybe a box to keep the straws in while working- they tend to jump off of the table.

Material Kit: * Black spray painted gourd. \$10

Extra Kits - none

If offered, kits are required for in person attendees. Kits include items above marked with an *