

Gourd Bird Feeder (Tulip Shape, Balsa Leaves)

By *Jesse Glessner*

Date: 22 Nov 2006

CAUTIONS:

1.	THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONS REQUIRE THE USE OF POWER TOOLS. AN ADULT SHOULD BE PRESENT TO OVERSEE THE USE OF THE TOOLS.
2.	THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONS ALSO REQUIRE THE USE OF A HOT-MELT GLUE GUN. AN ADULT SHOULD BE PRESENT TO OVERSEE THE USE OF THE GLUE GUN
3.	ALWAYS WEAR PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT WHEN OPERATING TOOLS OR AROUND CHEMICAL (GLUE & CLEANUP) OPERATIONS

Materials:

1 ea 3" TO 4" Round Gourd

1 ea 5/16" X 3ft or 3/8" X 3 ft. Wooden Dowel (depends on gourd size).

Sand Paper - Primer - Acrylic Paints - Thinner (for brush cleanup) -

Drill - Glue gun Saw -

DEMO Only - 4"X4"X4" Base - Drill deep hole to fit flower stem.

Instructions:

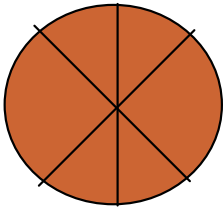
1. Clean gourds - exterior and interior, for painting for use as a bird feeder.
2. Cut or saw tops of gourds in shape of Tulips or other flower.
3. Drill hole in bottom of gourd to accept dowel size.
4. Cut inside flower petals from extra gourd material scraps and glue inside gourd after painting for 3D effect. A piece also may be cut and shaped as Sepals (green under part of flower head) to allow for more support of filled gourd.
5. Paint gourd very bright solid color or as the natural color of flowers.
6. Cut a bottle neck gourd in half lengthwise. Cut each of those pieces in half.
7. Cut and shape leaf patterns as desired from 1/4 cut of a bottleneck gourd. - 4 large leaves required. Round the bases of each leaf and use a drill bit the size of the dowel to shape a notch in the base to fit to the dowel for gluing.
8. Paint Large leaves dark green and let cure.

- a. Paint dowel dark green and let cure.
9. Paint leaves light green around edges or other areas for a more natural look.
10. Insert painted dowel into base of gourd. Push approximately 1/4" of dowel through and hot glue in place. Apply glue to underside of small inside piece and place over dowel while all glue is still hot. Slide Sepal, if used, over dowel at flower bottom and hot glue in place.
11. Paint inside of flower yellow where build-up is to look like pollen – and to hide glue.
12. Hot glue leaves to stem at levels as desired. Leave at least 6" to push into the earth.
13. Fill FEEDER cup with bird seed, grass seed, etc. to attract birds.
14. Sit back and ENJOY!!

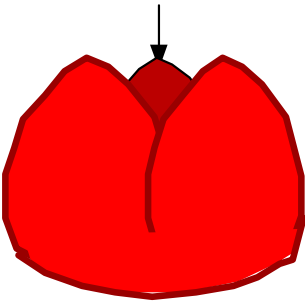
See next page for graphics

1/8" X 3" X 36" Balsa Sheet
for leaf patterns.

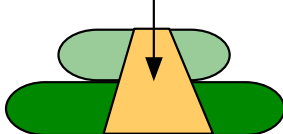
Cut top into pieces or
use balsa pieces to
form petal tops only
inside gourd for 3-D
effect.



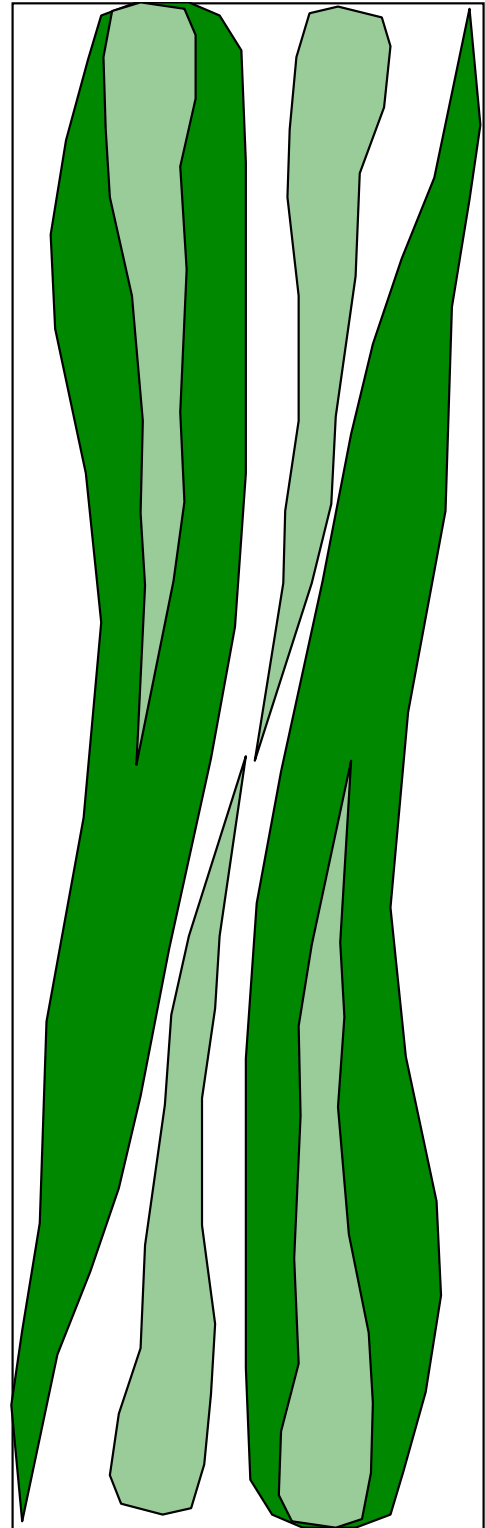
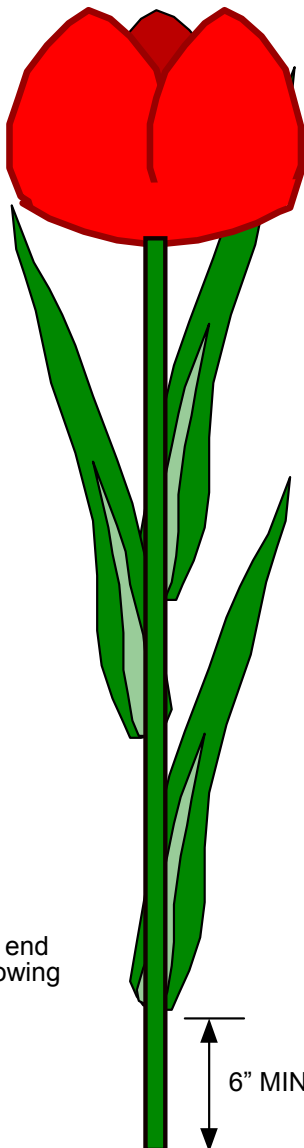
Use small petal tip
pieces cut from top or
balsa wood and glue
inside gourd
BEFORE painting.



Channel in leaves lookstapered in end
view dueto sharp angle of drill, allowing
leaf to fit snugly around dowel.



**FINISHED
FLOWER**



Pattern adapted from item in Gardener's Supply Company Spring 2005 catalog, page50.
Jesse Glessner - 1400 W. McDonald St. - Hartford City, IN 47348 - Phone: 765-348-0344