

Pyrography Resources

Burners

Walnut Hollow

- Available at Lee Valley & Michaels
- Price range: \$40 - \$50 +
- Look for adjustable heat dial

Multi-Functioning Heat Pen Set

- Available at Lee Valley
- Price: \$40 +

Razor Tip

- Available at Lee Valley & razortip.com (Canadian company)
- Available in Single & Dual
- Price: \$165 - \$400

Other tools used with Pyrography:

- Graphite paper works best for tracing your design/detail etc. Carbon paper works also, but harder to remove marks.
- Pencils
- White Eraser (pink leaves marks and doesn't erase as nicely as the white) (white are also latex free)
- Rulers/straight edge – to measure placement of your 'image', draw straight lines etc.
- Fine grit Sandpaper – min 220 or higher (for walnut hollow type burners, to carefully wipe tips)
- Scrap wood for a heat check of your tip(s)
- Paper towel (if wood has sap)
- Glove(s) (if the heat gets warm on your hand)
- Pencil Crayons
- Paints, Stain (light colours to allow the burn to be seen)
- Painters tape2
- Small desktop fan (blow any smoke away from you) (\$10 @ Walmart)
- Mask (RZ Mask or other mask or respirator to keep from inhaling any smoke)

Prisma Coloured Pencils

- Prismacolor Premier colored pencils are of excellent quality. The softcore lead offers superior blending and a wide range of colors. They're soft wax-based, so they don't offer the really superior quality of oil-based pencils, but oil-based pencils can be quite steep in price.
- Available at Michaels & Online & apparently at Walmart now
- Pricing for 48 pencils: \$55-\$70

Pyrography Safety Tips

- **Do not burn on treated or sealed wood.** Burning treated wood can cause toxic fumes.
- **Do not burn on MDF wood.** It is made of toxic material and the fumes if inhaled can cause serious health problems.
- If possible, place your work on a sloped surface. That will help allow you to keep your head back and still see your work.
- Use a small fan to point smoke away from your work and you. Working by an open window can affect the temperature of your burner. Work in a ventilated room.
- Wear a glove if the heat gets too warm for your hand while burning.
- Wear a mask with filtration. However, smoke particles are minute and the average filter will not stop them. Dust masks are NOT sufficient.
- Always turn your burner off when not in use.
- Be aware where your tips are when turned on. Make sure you're not touching anything or any cords/wires while burning.
- Do not burn near water
- Be VERY cautious if you are burning acrylic resin as it can be hazardous to ones immediate and long term health. If it isn't a natural product, think twice!
- Leather and animal hides are great to burn on, but use only leather that has been vegetable tanned. Chromium tanned leather can be very toxic.
- Always place your burning pen on the holder provided with your burner to prevent accidents.
- If your cord and/or pen gets extremely hot or you hear a buzzing sound, turn off your machine and contact the manufacturer for advice.
- Lastly, some woods, such as cedar, can cause irritation. You may want to discontinue burning if it bothers you too much.
- Other woods are heavy sap, like pine, can be a pain to burn due to the sap that comes out when burning. You'll need to burn slowly and have paper towel or slightly damp cloth to wipe off sap as it comes out.

Recommended Woods to Burn on

- Basswood – Most popular. Most pale, soft and even grained
- Aspen – Softwood, light coloured
- Birch – Popular. Even grained, creamy coloured
- Beech – Close to even grain. Creamy coloured to light brown
- Cherry – Even tight grain. Light red to pink
- Maple – Uniform, fine grain. Cream to light brown. Hardwood
- Cedar – heavy grain. Light brown. Fragrant and soft to burn.
- Pine – A challenge to burn.
- Poplar – Med-Fine, uniform grain. Pale yellow