

Tools

You don't need many tools to work with gourds, and you probably already have most of them. Some are important, and others are very helpful.

Workmate: or comparable vise-top, portable workbench. Highly recommended. A Workmate is worth its weight in gold when you're trying to keep your sanding table still (see below).



Gourd Scrapers: You need to scrape the seeds and other materials out of the gourd. You could cut some teeth into a large serving spoon. However, gourd scrapers are so cheap that it's probably not worth your time to fool around trying to make some.

Here are some scrapers, as well as a melon-ball scoop and a utility knife. The scrapers have serrated edges. The one on the left is for getting into small places, and the one on the right is used when you have a flat or almost flat surface. You can get these from a lot of vendors. These came from

http://www.gildedgourd.com/tools_and_supplies.htm

Miniature Saber Saw: This is a very handy gadget. It runs off a transformer that you'll need to buy, as well. But, most gourds are not thick enough to allow you to use a normal-sized saber saw. You'll most likely break or crack it. There's no way to fix a broken gourd.



This is a saber saw from Micro-Mark, an excellent small-tool vendor: <http://www.micromark.com/>



You can also use a utility knife, such as this one, with a serrated blade to cut your gourd if you're not ready to invest in a miniature jigsaw.

Handheld Drill: Cordless or corded, it doesn't matter as long as it has good power; 3/8" or 1/2" is fine. An electric drill makes drilling holes easier, but it's not essential; you can use a hand-operated one. You'll need to drill a pilot hole to start cutting the gourd open. You may also