

PAINTED GOURD QUAIL TUTORIAL

BY LARRY MCCLELLAND



Pictured: MAC Original-Personal Collection of: Mary Bliss

You have been provided with a sculpted, gesso prepped gourd quail with the main sections penciled in. This previous preparation will save a considerable amount of time which will be spent painting the quail. There is a lot of detailed painting which is very time intensive. I will paint a quail with you as we progress through the class, so that I can demonstrate the various painting techniques and you can see what is involved in each step.

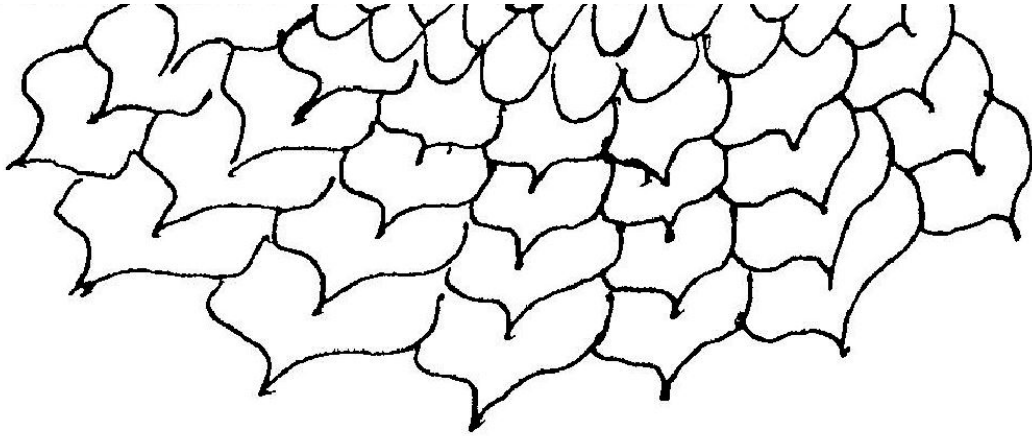
The penciled in areas are divided into sections: The head and chest section, the back/tail section, the wings and the bottom. Detailed instructions for each area are provided below.

1. Head and chest - the "face" of the quail is painted in a mixture of brown iron oxide and black to create a very dark brown color. The chest is base coated with dove grey. Depending upon the quail you choose, the top of the head is painted as shown in the various sample quail. Fill in the chest with the dove grey, fill in the top of the head in your color choice, then add the dark brown for the face. Most colors will take two coats to give even coverage, except for the dark brown. After the face area is given its' coat of paint, go back and add a scalloped edge overlapping the chest and head areas, blending it in with the face. Detail the top of the head area, adding scallops or outlines based upon the design chosen. You may need to fill in small areas with the color next to it. For the chest detail, mix up some dark grey and using a liner brush, add scallops over the dove grey, starting at the center of the dark brown face scallops and going to the center of the next scallop. Do one row at a time, starting at the left and working right. Continue adding rows until you reach the bottom of the dove grey area. Let the rows dry for a few minutes, then go back and add a single white dot to the center of each scallop. For the dotting, you will use the stylus provided. Again, work in a sequence from left to right.

2. Back/tail area - Fill in the back/tail area with your color of choice. Most of the samples use a color mixed from a couple of colors. I will explain how to achieve the color you want. Fill this color in around the edges of the top of the head and chest areas. It will take two coats. When this is dry, start adding what I call "bracket" strokes in a darker color, beginning at the edge near the chest and top of the head areas. See diagram below for the bracket strokes. Start with small

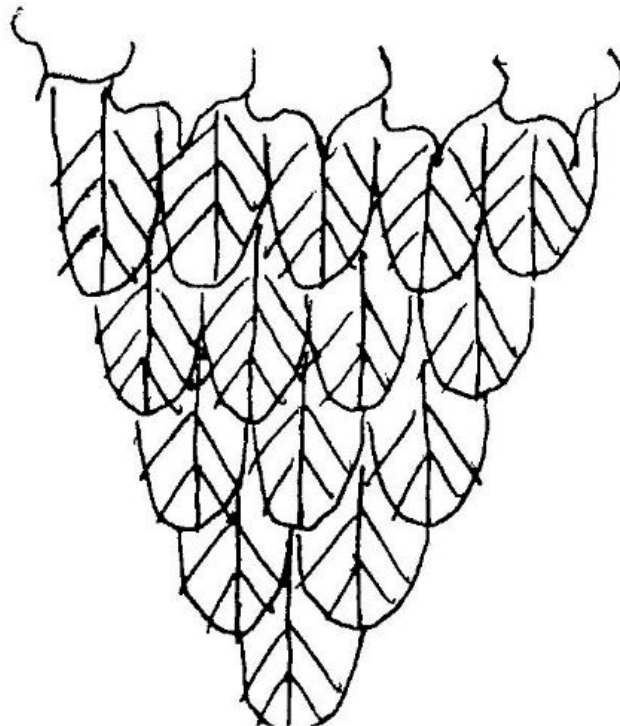
brackets which will get larger as you progress down the back. At some point in time, you will probably need to add a small new bracket to keep the strokes from getting too large. Continue this pattern until you reach the top of the tail area.

"Bracket" (Stroke diagram)



For the tail feathers, mix a color darker than that used for the back design and add elongated scallop strokes. Each row will have one fewer feathers than the previous row. See diagram below for the tail feather pattern.

Tail Feather Pattern:



When the back pattern and tail feather pattern have dried, go back and using a color lighter than the back base coat, add lighter bracket strokes within the areas created. For the tail feathers, this would be between each dark stroke. This completes the back/tail area.

3. Wing area - Using a color different than those previously used, base coat the wing area. Again, this will probably be a color mixed from two or more other colors. When this color has dried, begin adding scallop strokes in a darker color, starting where the back and chest areas meet. Use the same technique as previously used where the scallops are done one row at a time, starting small and getting larger. After the first row, the next row will begin at the center of the scallop on the previous row and go to center of the next scallop. When you have gone about 3/4 of the way on the wings, add some long feathers to the end of the wing base coat color. See samples. Detail the scallops the same way as the tail feathers, except for long feathers. Do those as shown in the sample. When this has dried, go back and add a stroke of a lighter color between the darker strokes.

4. Bottom area (you're almost done) Again, use a color not previously used and fill in this area. You could probably use a color similar to, or the same as, the color used on the top of the head. Fill in all of the "nooks and crannies" where this color meets the chest, wing and tail areas. When dry, start adding scallop strokes where the tail and wing areas meet, keeping the scallops relatively small. Use a color darker than the base coat. Try to keep the scallops a similar size. Work your way around the wings, tail and chest until you reach the edge near the flat base. As you go over the edge, work the scallops into the last row before the edge. Continue working your way around the edge, one row at a time, ending up in the center of the bottom. Your last stroke or two may not be perfect. When these strokes have dried, use a color lighter than the bottom base coat and add two or three small strokes within the scallop to create the "feathered" look. Begin at the center of the bottom and work your way out, over the edge and around the piece, filling in the nooks, etc.

5. Finishing details - For the eyes, three sizes and colors of dots are used. For the outer circle, use an off white or sand type of color. Using the flat end of a 1/4 " dowel, dip it into the paint and add the large dot, placing the dots the same distance from the beak and from the edge of the top of the head design. Let this dot dry, then add a dot of brown iron oxide in the center of the previous dot, using a 1/8" dowel. Let this dry, then add a small dot of black in the center of the brown dot. When this has dried, add a small white highlight to the eye to give it a little sparkle.

The topknot- Using an awl, make a SMALL hole the size of the end of the wire used for the topknot and glue the topknot in. Paint the same dark brown color as the face or the color of your choice. The beak is painted black..

This completes the painting process. Sign your piece and, if it is dry enough, spray with the acrylic sealer. Enjoy your quail! LARRY MCCLELLAND



This tutorial is printed in the Fall 2014 Golden Gourd Newsletter with the permission of the California Gourd Society. Only colored pictures have been added from Larry's original 4 page Painted Gourd Quail class handout.