

Tips for Successful Wood Burning:

1. Keep the woodburning pen out of the reach of children and away from flammable materials. Remember to secure the metal stand to the table so you can safely place your tool to rest.
2. Get familiar with your tool and tips by practicing on a sample board cut from the same material you're burning. Practice with different tips to see how they burn and what types of lines and patterns they create.
3. As you work, you may find you need to clean your tip while it is hot. A fine metal wire brush works great. I have also seen people use a fine mesh metal strainer. You can even purchase sanding cloth (800 grit) or a honing cloth
4. Use a small pair of metal pliers to remove hot tips safely and easily. Place hot tips in a small glass or metal dish to cool. Even though cool tips can be handled safely, use pliers to insert them into the barrel of a hot tool. Please remember to do this gently as you can break your tips. If you meet resistance while screwing in the new tip STOP, back up and try again.
5. Soft woods with minimal grain, such as basswood or birch, are easier to burn than hardwoods like oak or wood with hard grain like pine or cedar. My top 3 easy to find woods are basswood, birch, and poplar
6. Prepare your wood piece by sanding with 100 grit sand paper to soften rough areas, then 220 grit to make the surface nice and smooth. The smoother the surface the easier it is to burn.
7. Take your time and let the woodburning pen do the work -- don't force it. You can always burn darker, but lightening areas burned too deep or too dark is difficult and not always possible.
8. When transferring your design, remember to press gently with just enough pressure to see the design on the wood. It can be difficult to remove carbon transfer markings from the wood, even using your sand eraser.