

Basket Illusion

- The "basket illusion" is a usually made from non-figured woods, turned to shape, lines and grooves burned, and then colored to **create the visual and tactile impression of a basket weave form.**



- **David Nittmann** gets credit for popularizing this form of embellishment. He passed away in 2014.
- AAW article “David Nittmann: Wood Guy and Artist,” October 2014 issue.



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- **Harvey Meyer** currently demos this process at at various symposiums. I saw him at Kansas City AAW symposium in 2017.
- AAW article “Basket Illusion -Demystified-,” Harvey Meyer, October 2016



Basket Illusion



More Harvey Meyer



- Also Various YouTube Videos available from a number of turners.

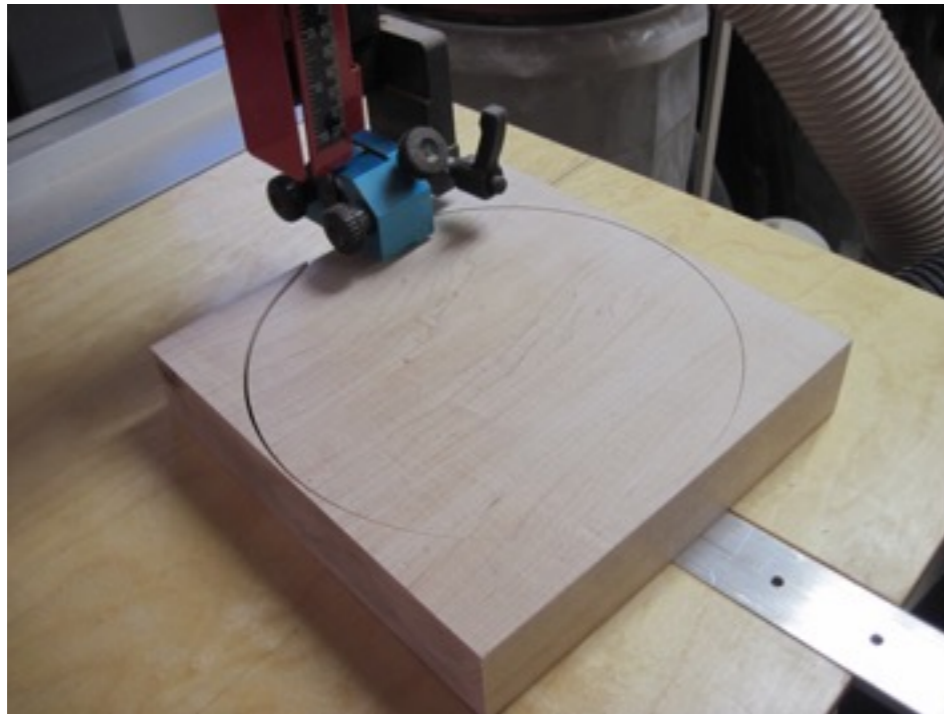
Designing the Pattern

- The pieces are usually made from **lighter colored woods**, such as maple.
- Designs are somewhat based on basket designs of Native American Indian, Moroccan, Mexican, or African.
- Each design starts on a sheet of **graph paper** (polar or grid). Print the graph paper and experiment using same or similar colors to establish your pattern.
 - Graph Paper Maker (blackcatsystems.com)
- Need to know number of radial lines needed.

Tools used

- **Bowl and Spindle Gouge, Parting Tool, Budan, Negative Rake Scraper**
- **Beading Tools**, 3/16 and 1/8", I use tools from D-Way (d-waytools.com)
- **Pyrography Wood Burner and Pens**. I use a Razertip burner with various tips including skew and special Basket Illusion tips, 3/16 and 1/8" (21AEF, 21BEF, \$31). These are from **PJL Enterprises** in Browerville, MN.
- **Faber Castel Pitt Artist Pens**. Pigmented India ink that is both acid-free and archival (pH neutral). Smudge-proof and water-resistant when dry, light-fastness. Use the felt tip (B) through fine point (S). Comes in various colors. **Hobby Lobby, Amazon \$10-15**.
- **Hand made fixtures** for indexing and marking radial lines.
- Available Kit: EZ Basket Weave Illusion Kit with Woodturning Lathe Index System (chefwarekits.com). Eliminates pencil lines and cuts the process time by burning beads at same time as Indexing and marking.

Step by Step for Platter



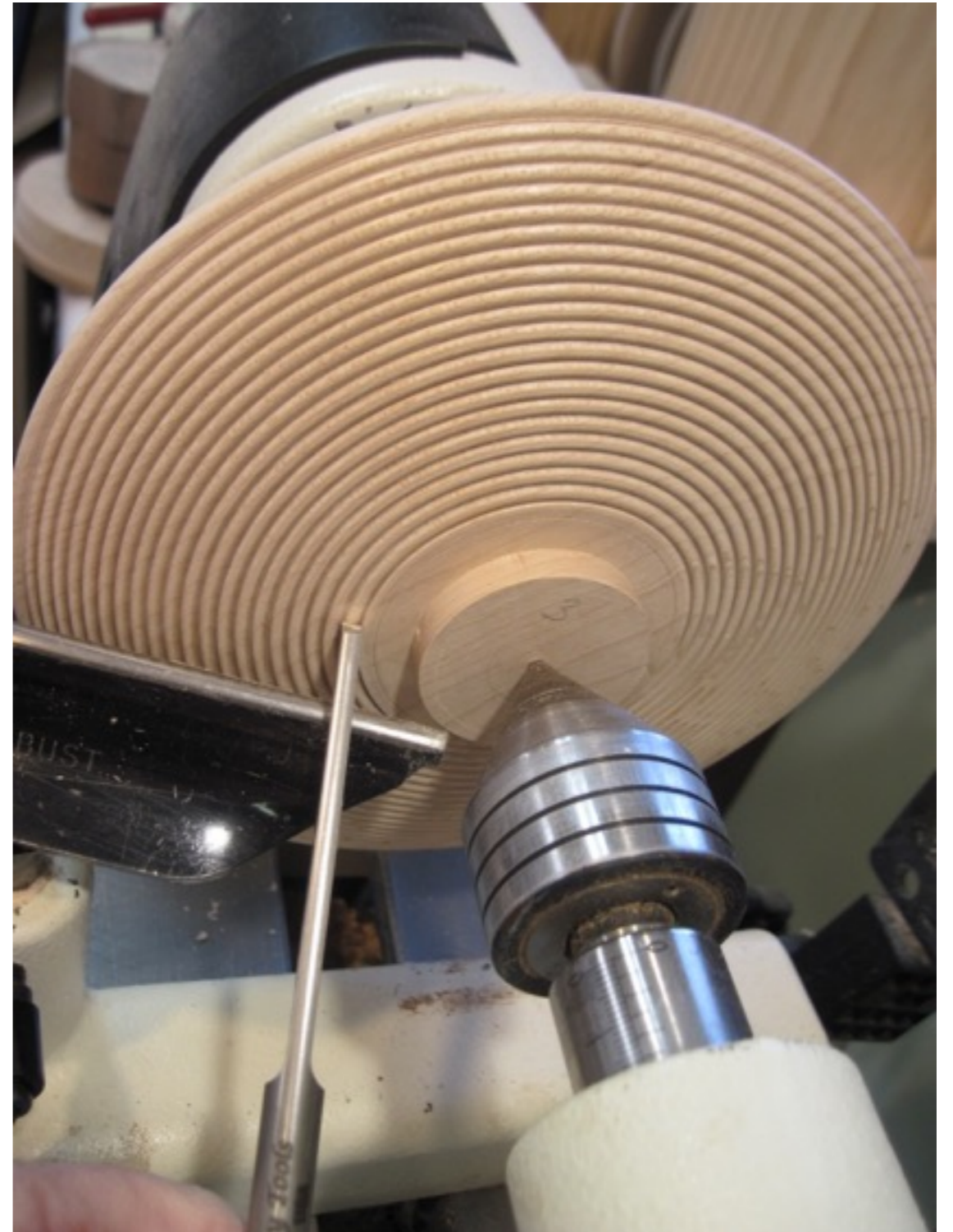
Cut out the blank



Cut a mortise in top of platter for chuck



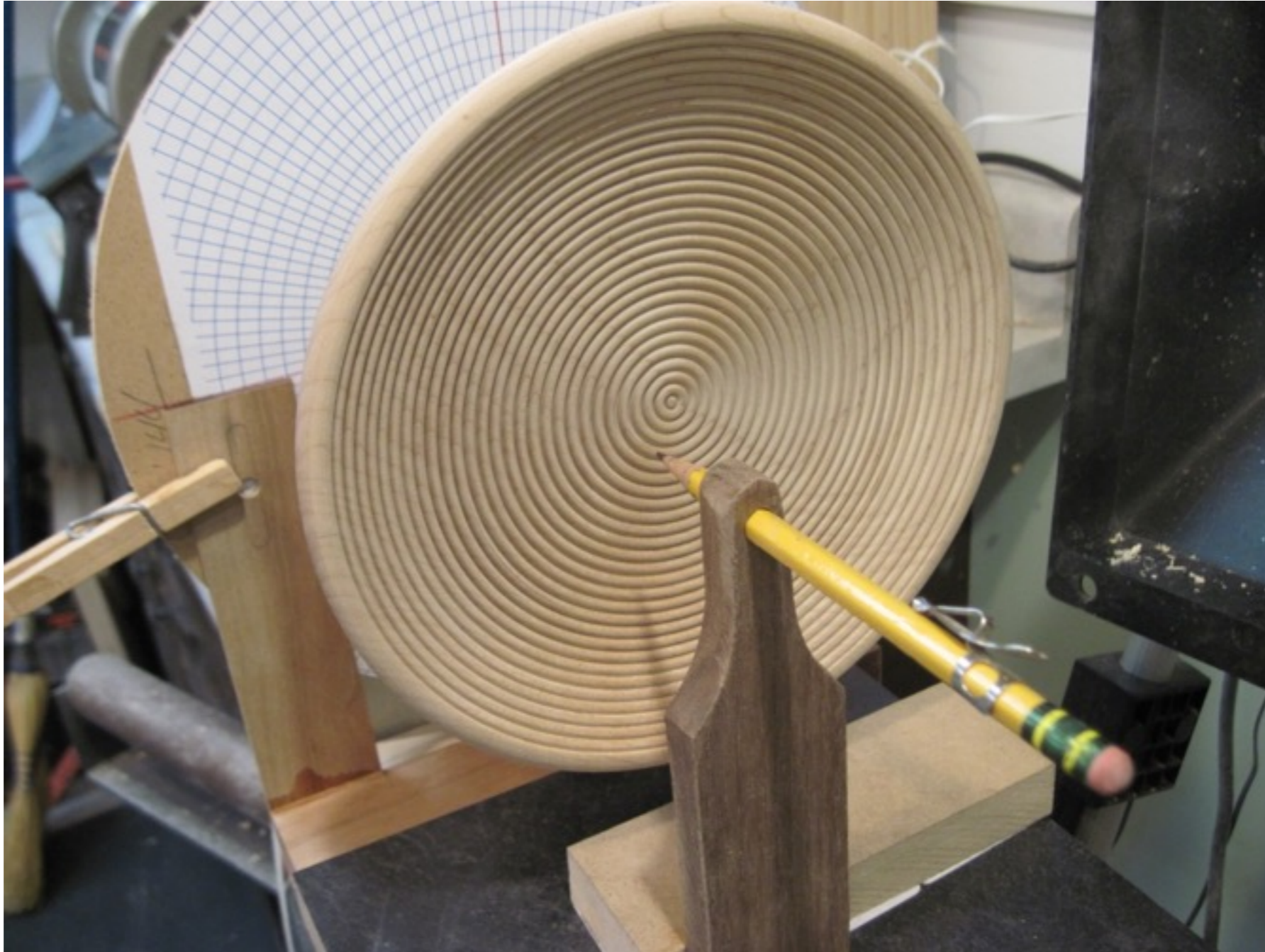
Reverse mount on chuck. Cut Tenon and shape the bottom of platter



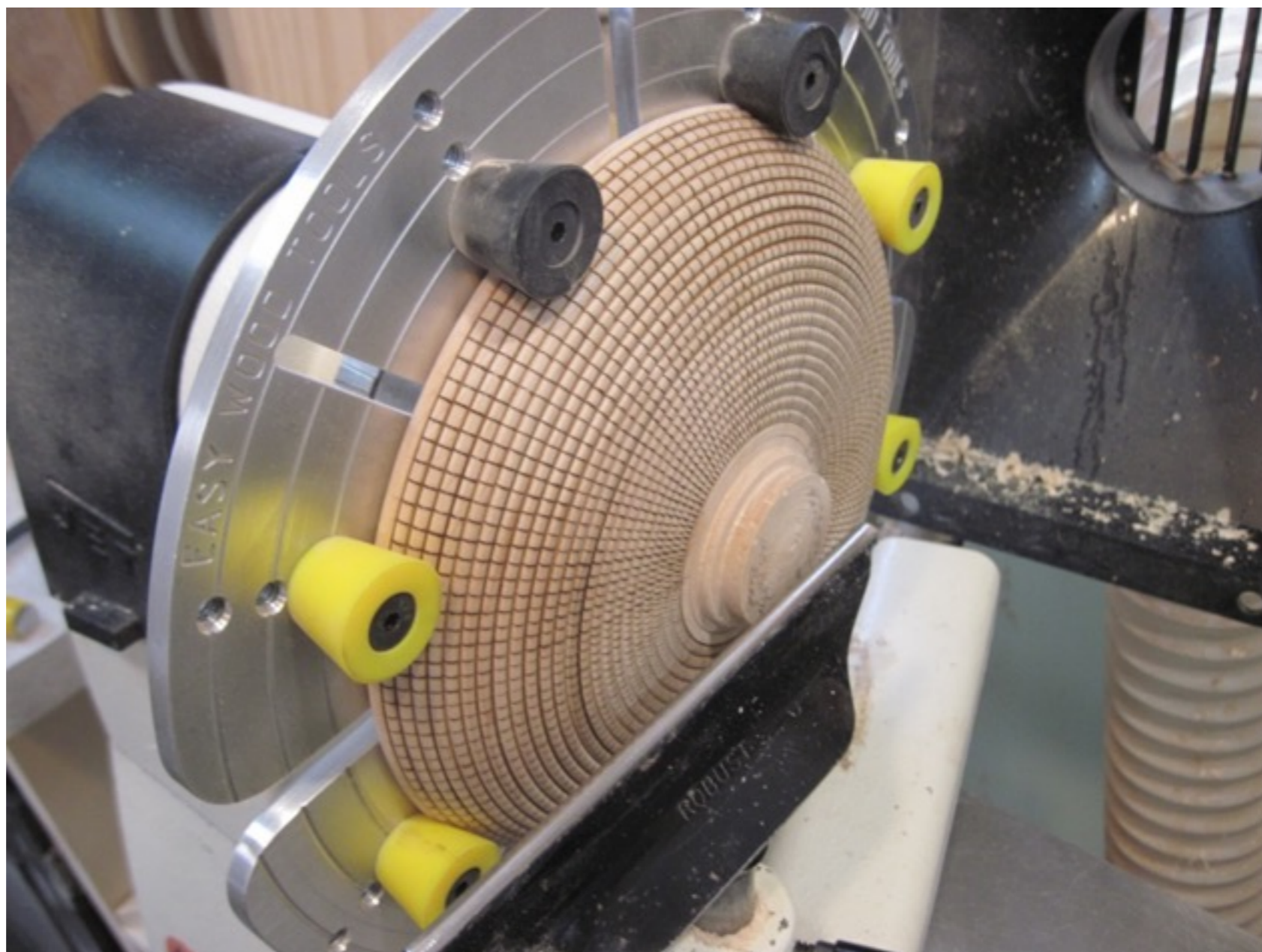
Cut the beads on Bottom. Burn the grooves in with formica strips thinned to 0.015".



- **Reverse mount on chuck.** Shape the top for first 1 to 1-1/2". Keeping Platter thickness 1/4 to 5/16"
- **The rim bead is scored with 3/16" d-way tool.** Or you may decide to shape the rim with a bowl or spindle gouge. Your choice.
- **Score the 1/8" beads for first 1-1-1/2".** Keep the bulk of material in center to minimize vibration. Folded paper towel held to the back of the platter will reduce vibration.
- **Finish cutting beads, but leave last scored bead for reference.**
- **Continue to the center.** Leave 1/4" or more at center and round with spindle gouge.



Add the radial pencil lines to both sides of the platter



Remove tenon on bottom



Burn the beads along the radial lines and add your favorite rim design



Faber Castel Pitt Artist Pens



Transfer your design pattern to the platter