

Homemade tobacco pipe

by [SimonRuben](#) on May 16, 2008

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intro: Homemade tobacco pipe

This Instructable is about how to make your own tobacco pipes at home. I didn't want to spend a lot of money for a tobacco pipe, so I decided to make one myself. Here is how I did just that.



step 1: You will need...

What you will need to make your own tobacco pipe:

- 1 Block of Bruyere wood
- 1 ferule
- different kind of grater
- a saw
- pencil
- a drill with different gimlets (Hand auger)
- one circle
- a Dremel like tool
- sand paper
- milling cutter min. 18 mm
- time (you will need a lot of it)
- a idea



step 2: The idea

First of all you have to have an idea of how the tobacco pipe should look like. Draw them on a paper and select the one you prefer.



step 3: Forming the raw block of wood

Cut a piece of wood of the size you are going to need for your pipe design.

Draw the top of the pipe's inner circle and an outer one; these will mark the hole for the tobacco and outside shape of the pipe.

Then draw on the sides of the block of wood the design you have chosen. Now work it out (It should mean that now you have to catch your tools and begin to work :) Your block of wood should look now similar to the one in the picture.



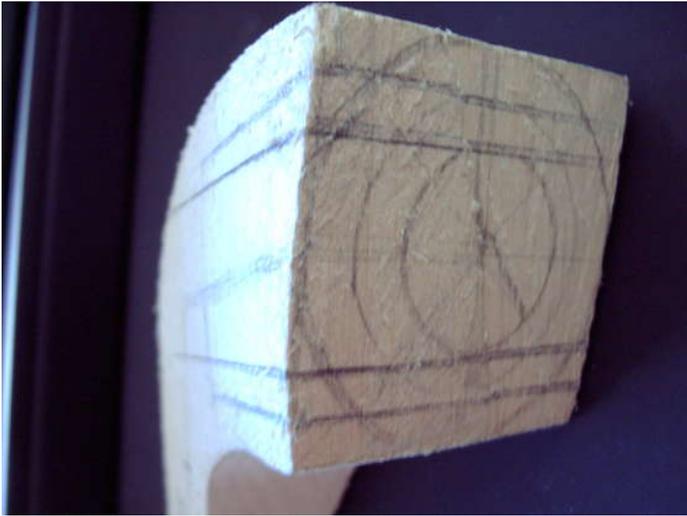
step 4: Drilling the holes

Now we have to drill the holes for the tobacco and the mouth piece.

As you can see in the picture you have to measure out how deep you have to drill the hole for the tobacco. Be careful the walls of the tobacco chamber are not to thinly constructed. If they are, the heat is going to destroy your chamber.

The walls of this pipe are 8 mm thick. The tobacco chamber has a diameter of 18 mm. and is 3 cm deep. In the end all measurements depend on the design which you have chosen for your pipe.

Next you are going to make the hole for the mouth piece which will connect the mouth piece to the tobacco chamber. Carefully drill first the hole for the mouth piece. I used a 7 mm drill. Then change the drill to a smaller one, I used a 3 mm. Now make test fit the connection of the mouthpiece to the chamber.



step 5: Rounding

Now work out the rounding's. It's beginning to look more and more like a real pipe.



step 6: Sandpaper work

Using your sandpaper sand the pipe until you are satisfied with it.



step 7: Nearly done

Put it all together and make little corrections.

The pipe isn't ready to be used yet. You have to seal and polish the wood still. However I still need to write an Instructable of how to seal and polish the wood. For now you have done a good job in making your pipe.



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Comments

45 comments [Add Comment](#)



thizzluke says:
so u did this with a hand saw right?

Apr 29, 2009. 10:08 AM [REPLY](#)



SimonRuben says:
That's right !

Apr 30, 2009. 7:07 AM [REPLY](#)



DangerDan says:
yea i just made a pipe earlier and it took me about 40 minutes, the mouthpiece is bamboo and the bowl is beach wood, it's pretty crude but it works fine, yours is really nice i should make one like that

Apr 7, 2009. 2:54 PM [REPLY](#)



SWV1787 says:
"1 Block of Bruyere wood" Why specifically this type of wood is it better at holding the heat, resisting the tobacco residue, or what??? I would think that the type of wood should not make too much difference since a corn-cob and a cane reed can be made into a satisfactory pipe, But nice carving I really like the finished product. Lengthen the shaft and it might resemble the pipe Gandalf used in Lord of the rings.

May 18, 2008. 8:02 PM [REPLY](#)



MattandJora says:
The bruyere wood is just a generally used type of wood for tobacco pipes because of it's properties. Bruyere is known for its natural fire retard and the fact that it doesn't really absorb water. The type of wood really doesn't make a difference. I would guess it's just a matter of how long the pipe lasts or how the stain effects it. That's just my thinking and i'm still a teenager i just picked that up on a pipe making website so dont quote me =]

Apr 5, 2009. 6:05 PM [REPLY](#)



snowfalcon says:
There are other woods that will work. There's several opposites that discuss this. Briar is considered ideal by many for all the reasons stated. Also because it is both porous and *hard*. It has the structure to allow a lot of carving and hold up to a lot of wear. One could get fancier with carving briar than with many other woods.

Mar 27, 2009. 12:56 PM [REPLY](#)

Some woods also used: cherry, apple, maple, walnut, olive. There are more.

I have direct experience with pipes of cherry, maple, and walnut. The maple I can't remember but am experimenting with some soon. Walnut makes a decent pipe, I've had not problems with it. Works easier than briar, but tough enough to hold up to carving. Cherry ... for some reason I never thought much of cherry, but came upon an estate pipe of cherry, and smoked it and was *amazed*. It shot from "I'll maybe try this once" to "my favorite pipe" in two smokes. Cool, even smoking.

There are other woods, but I'm cautious of them, such as rosewood. I know there are some of the "exotic" hardwoods that have resins which can be toxic or at the very least give a bad flavor.



DrVenture says:
The wood he refers to is also known as Briar or Briar wood, and is more commonly spelled as one of those two (at least where I'm from). The wood actually does make a substantial difference in the construction of a quality tobacco pipe-- Mainly, briar is a lightweight and porous wood that easily dissipates heat, and is remarkably well suited to the purpose. Corncob pipes are similar, being light and very porous. This is a very different type of wood than something heavy and dense like Oak or any type of wood that comes from a tree (in fact, briar "wood" doesn't come from a tree really, it's made from the midpoint between the roots and the body of the plant).

May 20, 2008. 10:20 PM [REPLY](#)



gumbytig says:
Ok this may be a dumb question but why do you need the ferule? I was inspired by this ible to use some of the scrap pieces of hardwood i had laying around (i try to heat my house on firewood). I'm not sure why you can't just smoke it out of a tip thats just an extension of the bowl. Please enlighten me.

Jan 9, 2009. 7:09 PM [REPLY](#)



snowfalcon says:

Mar 27, 2009. 12:48 PM [REPLY](#)

You don't need the ferule. Only if you're going to use a typical pipestem. Strictly speaking you can make it out of a single block of wood. If you do I suggest keeping the length from center of bowl to tip of stem less than 6". That's the length of a standard pipe cleaner. Longer and it's harder to clean.

There are many pipes made like this, or in two pieces with the stem fit to a hole in the bowl. They're more "rustic". But work well enough.



SimonRuben says:

Jan 10, 2009. 4:07 AM [REPLY](#)

The ferule i have used to measure out where i have to drill in the hole of the bowl.

I don't know if i have understand you right but shure you can smoke it out of just the tip. I wanted to make a classical pipe for that i needed a bowl.



Spartan857 says:

Mar 24, 2009. 7:23 PM [REPLY](#)

Did you get your rotary tool from Harbor freight? looks like the same model I have.



SimonRuben says:

Mar 26, 2009. 1:46 AM [REPLY](#)

Hi, I have it from Conrad electronics (www.conrad.de)



DuctTapeRules! says:

Dec 14, 2008. 10:24 PM [REPLY](#)

Go as James May for Halloween!



mynameisjonas says:

Dec 14, 2008. 11:59 AM [REPLY](#)

great instructable! cant wait to make one.



dealydoo says:

Oct 26, 2008. 5:55 PM [REPLY](#)

smoke it..... sticks and bones



spylock says:

Jul 22, 2008. 7:13 PM [REPLY](#)

Thats a really nice bowl,the shape is nice for sure.



schifty says:

Jul 22, 2008. 5:31 PM [REPLY](#)

Here are a couple places to buy pipe supplies such as briar (bruyere) blocks, acrylic stems, and more information on making pipes:

PIMO
Parks Pipes
Pipe Makers Emporium



mas9779 says:

Jun 26, 2008. 6:44 PM [REPLY](#)

yes "tobacco" pipe



Mr. BeanyMvBeanBean says:

Jun 12, 2008. 4:45 PM [REPLY](#)

Very nice instructions and pipe! I made this for fathers day and I used a piece of pen melted over the pipe and then squished down to make a mouthpiece. I'm not planning on my dad smoking it but do you think there would be a problem with that healthwise ?



Sgt.Waffles says:

Jun 14, 2008. 12:16 AM [REPLY](#)

The heat of the smoke would deteriorate the plastic, putting plastic bits into your lungs. Not good at all.



Mr. BeanyMvBeanBean says:

Jun 14, 2008. 10:35 AM [REPLY](#)

Thats what I was thinking.



Sgt.Waffles says:

Jun 14, 2008. 10:24 PM [REPLY](#)

If you are really wanting to make one (smoking is bad for you, don't start), you can buy a cheapo corncob pipe, and salvage the mouth peice. Don't waste your money on a 5 dollar briar pipe, they are trash. Making your own, or buying a legit one is the best root. Corn cob pipes smoke better than crappy briars.



Mr. BeanyMvBeanBean says:

Jun 15, 2008. 7:07 PM [REPLY](#)

The only problem with buying a cheepo pipe and stealing the mouthpeice is that I'm only 13 and I don't think anybody would sell a pipe to me especially where I live.



Sgt.Waffles says:

Jun 16, 2008. 2:27 AM [REPLY](#)

You shouldn't be smoking either, so it should be of no concern.



Mr. BeanyMvBeanBean says:

Jun 16, 2008. 2:34 PM [REPLY](#)

I wasn't planning on smoking it I gave it to my dad if you read my above comments.



Sgt.Waffles says:

Jun 16, 2008. 6:10 PM [REPLY](#)

Oh, didn't see that. Reading is overrated anyway.

If you can find some acrylic tubing, you should be able to jerry rig one up. I am just getting my shop back in order, and this is one of my first projects to do in it. If I think of something else to use, ill messege you.



Mr. BeanyMvBeanBean says:

Jun 17, 2008. 4:07 PM [REPLY](#)

Alright, thanks.



SimonRuben says:

Jun 14, 2008. 1:21 AM [REPLY](#)

I think Sgt.Waffles is right. I would not recommend it. But it's a nice idea for improvisating a mouthpiece when you don't want to use the pipe.

I am interested in how is looking your pipe Mr.BeanyMvBeanBean. Maybe you can give some link to see it .



Sgt.Waffles says:

Jun 16, 2008. 2:36 AM [REPLY](#)

Great ible btw. You do need to make one on the mouthpeice though, then it will be complete!



wiiman8 says:

Jun 11, 2008. 6:40 PM [REPLY](#)

wow very cool, great pictures, and great idea!



pyroelectro says:

May 23, 2008. 5:16 AM [REPLY](#)

hi, nice idea

i can see how you carved the bowl part but how did you make the shaft (probably not the right word) did you buy it seperately? what is it made from?
thanks



SimonRuben says:

May 24, 2008. 8:45 AM [REPLY](#)

Hi pyroelectro,

i have maked the mouthpiece by my own. It's maked out of acryl. I am going to add soon a Instructable about this topic.

Thanks for your interest in this Instructable.



SimonRuben says:

May 21, 2008. 9:34 AM [REPLY](#)

Hello everybody,

watch out also for the **second part ' of the homemade tobacco pipe Instructable. It's now published.**

There you are going to see the finished pipe. And you are going to know what you have to do to seal and polish the pipe.

Enjoy the day :)



Ko0LaiD says:

May 19, 2008. 7:55 PM [REPLY](#)

just dont smoke "tobacco" out of it and keep it in your car



shadymilkman says:

May 19, 2008. 9:27 PM [REPLY](#)

Back in my youth... 3 years ago. I made a pipe named "Woody" for that exact reason. It could be tossed if necessary because it was made cheaply and in less than 30 min. but was absolutely amazing. I used mahogany and it worked very well.



Labot2001 says:
Cool ible!

May 19, 2008. 2:44 PM [REPLY](#)



SimonRuben says:

May 19, 2008. 7:58 AM [REPLY](#)

First of all I want to say -thank you- to everybody how have liked this Pipe Instructable and who have give me suggestions on how I can make this Instructable better. I hope there are coming more reactions.

Also I want to explain a little bit more what is about the Bruyere wood. Mostly the wood is used because it is a very hard wood. This characteristic is making it more less probable that there is going to be a burn damage on the pipe when you smoke it to hot. Another important reason is the taste of the pipe when it is finished. It is all about the taste when you are smoking your pipe.

Generally you can use some other kind of wood. I would say its better to make your first pipe out of a wood which is not that expensive. So you can collect knowledge.

Greetings

Simon



killerjackalope says:

May 18, 2008. 5:52 PM [REPLY](#)

Very nice 'ible, as mr rig it says your punctuation and language needs a bit of work, other than that your workmanship looks very good, nice job on your pipe.

You could also fill in step 2 with an image of some drawings of just one of the pipe.



Mr. Rig It says:

May 18, 2008. 4:54 PM [REPLY](#)

I think this is a good Instructable. The pipe came out looking really nice, I can't wait to see it finished.

You used a lot of nice photos in this Instructable I can see what you had to work with when you started it and what the final product is.

Step 2 could use an example of how to draw a pipe on paper.

Final observation I recommend proof reading your instructions in each of your steps to correct grammatical errors and sentence fluency. You should also look at word choice/usage in all of your steps, but especially in step 4.

I think that this can be a GREAT Instructable if you improve where I have suggested.



Mr. Rig It says:

May 18, 2008. 4:39 PM [REPLY](#)

Suggestions for improvements, I'm not beating up on you just trying to help.

Step 3, second line, second and third words should be reversed to read "where there".

Step 3, fourth line, 15th word should be "chosen" not "choosed"

Step 3. You wrote "Now work it out." What does that mean exactly? Can you elaborate?



mrbob1000 says:

May 18, 2008. 7:10 AM [REPLY](#)

I have been in this hobby for a wile now.

have you ever thought of making one out of briar?



Tool Using Animal says:

May 18, 2008. 1:43 PM [REPLY](#)

Bruyere is French for Briar.



SimonRuben says:

May 18, 2008. 11:33 AM [REPLY](#)

Actually Bruyere should mean Bruyere and this is a special very hard root wood from some Tree. Sorry for the error.



masterochicken says:

May 18, 2008. 8:48 AM [REPLY](#)

I wish I had more tools.



upriverpaddler says:

May 18, 2008. 8:00 AM [REPLY](#)

Could you go into a little more detail about Bruyere?