

STYROFOAM PRINTED PAPER

This project utilizes traditional relief-printing methods, but instead of carving into a rubber or linoleum block, you'll carve into a Styrofoam plate. It's a softer material to work with than the traditional blocks, so all you need for carving is a dull No. 2 pencil.



What You'll Need

Studio Essentials

Relief-Printing Tool Kit

Styrofoam meat tray, washed

One sharp No. 2 pencil

One dull No. 2 pencil

Water-based block-printing ink: blue

Paper

Iron

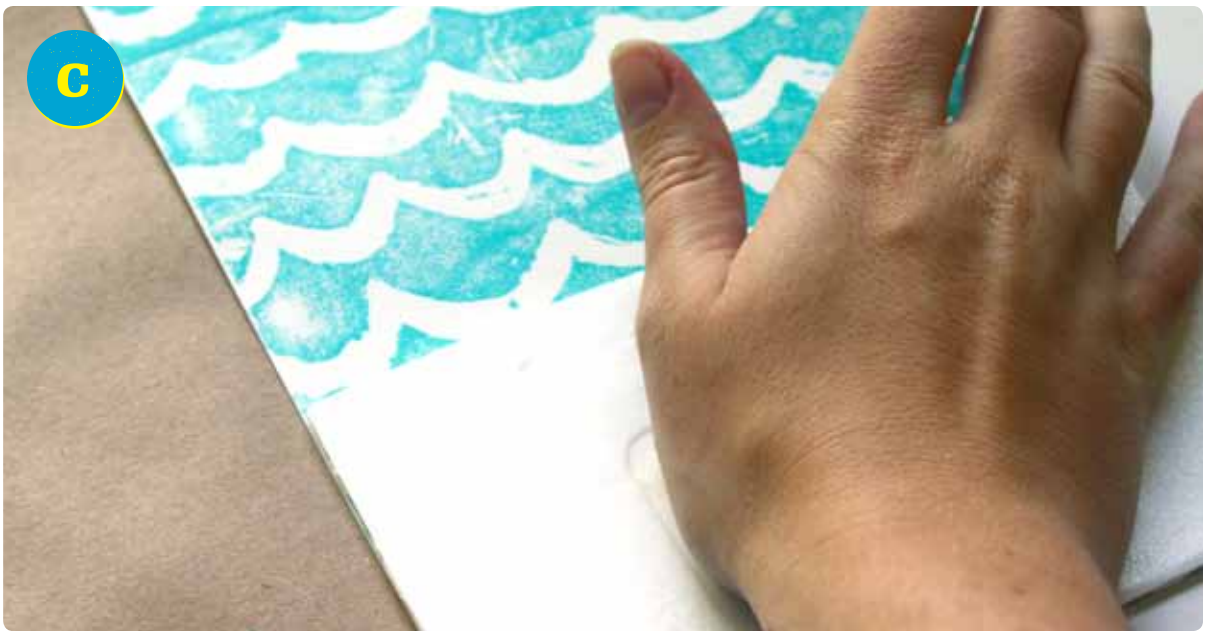
Scrap piece of newsprint

4. Gently roll the ink onto the Styrofoam plate until the raised portions are evenly covered (fig. B).
5. Make the print by placing the Styrofoam plate, ink side down, on the paper. Rub firmly but gently with the heel of your hand to make a print (fig. C).
6. Lift the Styrofoam to check your print. Re-ink your roller, and keep printing until the paper is covered. You may need to add more ink to your glass plate after a few prints.
7. Allow your printed paper to dry. If you need to flatten the paper, press it on medium heat without steam, with a scrap piece of newsprint between the iron and the printed paper. (Sometimes the ink makes the paper curl.)

What You Do

1. Cut off the edges of the Styrofoam plate so it lies flat. Use a sharp No. 2 pencil to draw a wave design or a design of your own on the plate. Remember that the print will be the opposite of what you're drawing—the areas you draw and carve out with the pencil will be white in the end.
2. Use your dull pencil to press down any areas in your design that you want to be white. You don't need to completely remove these sections; they just need to be pushed down far enough so that ink won't touch them (fig. A).
3. Squeeze a small amount of blue water-based block-printing ink onto a small glass plate. Roll a rubber brayer through the ink to distribute it evenly over the plate, then roll the brayer back and forth until it is evenly coated with a thin layer of ink.





STUDIO ESSENTIALS

Cloth rags (for general clean-up)

Craft knife

Masking tape

Paintbrushes suitable for printmaking paints and inks in assorted sizes

- small for detail work
- medium for basic applications
- large for heavy coverage

Pencil

Pen and/or marker

Ruler

Scissors

Transparent tape

RELIEF-PRINTING TOOL KIT

Acetone

Cotton balls

Linoleum cutter with interchangeable tips

Craft knife (optional)

Block-printing inks

Small glass plate for inking

Note: This can be a sheet of glass that is slightly larger than your carved block so the carved block can be thoroughly inked up.

Rubber brayer

Found objects, such as buttons, leaves, bubble wrap, corrugated cardboard, etc.

Flat, stiff surface, such as plywood, thin hardboard, matboard, or heavy-weight cardboard

Glue

Paintbrush or palette knife

Felt square to create inepad

Note: This is required for collography only. The felt acts as a diffuser to keep the ink from becoming a glob. You can use just about any type of felt; just make sure it is a bit larger than whatever you're trying to print.