

LAWRENCE

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Lino Cutting Instruction Sheet

Lino cutting is one of the easiest reproduction processes to master; it requires only a few tools, but offers a wide range of results. The basic principle of relief printing is that the white areas of the design are removed from the block so that the areas left are inked and printed to produce the image required.

You will need:

A Roller	A Lino Block
A V-Tool	A Sheet of Paper
A Gouge	A Pencil
A Glass Slab	A Palette Knife or Spatula
A Spoon (for burnishing)	

The following is a step-by-step guide to producing your lino cut:

1. Sketch your design onto the surface of the lino with a pencil or transfer your drawing onto the lino using tracing or carbon paper. Remember, the drawing needs to be a "mirror image",
N.B. The most successful linocuts are broad, bold images and do not contain any fine lines.
2. Gently warm the lino block (on a radiator or with a hair dryer) to slightly soften it and make it easier to cut.
3. Begin using a V-tool to cut the basic elements of your design and for the lines (which will print white). Then use a gouge for wider lines and for removing larger areas.
NB: Hold the tool like a fork with your little finger against the mushroom handle and have both hands behind the cutting edge; always cut away from your body and do not cut too deeply.
4. Mix your ink on a glass slab and spread evenly to a thin layer using a spatula or palette knife. Roll the roller over the ink on the glass and onto the lino several times and in different directions to ensure an even distribution of ink.
5. Place the paper onto the inked lino and rub (burnish) with the back of a spoon.
6. Lift part of the paper off the lino to see the progress of the image. Burnish until an adequate print is obtained.
7. Remove print and admire! Leave to dry.

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