

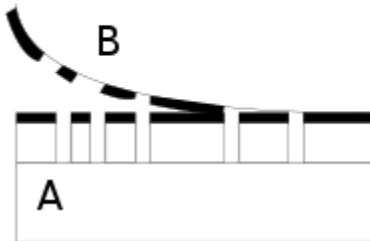
Spark Relief Printmaking: Linocut



In this class we will be carving and printing a single color lino print from your own design. This class also acts as an orientation to the workstation. After completing this class you will be certified to use the station without supervision. Please listen carefully and ask questions. Any questions after class can be asked by emailing: printmaking@spark.coop

Definition of relief printing:

- Relief printing is a process where protruding surface faces of the printing plate or block are inked; recessed areas are ink free.



Welcome to the Spark Printmaking Station

Intro to what we can do in the space

- Relief printmaking
- Carving & hand-printing

In our artspace library there are many amazing books on the subject of printmaking. Please, in your free time invest in your education.

Example of a master work one color linoleum print: Pablo Picasso, Pablo Picasso Danseurs et musicien (Dancers and musician), 1959



Tools:

- Drawing utensils- pencils, markers



- **Brayer**- is a hand-tool used in printing to break up and "rub out" (spread) ink before it is "beaten".



(note brayer should always be stored in non direct light and foot down)

- Baren- hand tool, when used correctly distributes even pressure to your print



- Ink knives- hand tool for delivering ink to the inking table



- Lino cutters-



- Wood carvers-



- Bench hooks – provides a stop against which the piece of wood being worked can be firmly held, without having to use the vice.



- Paper drawer
- Drying rack- if leaving work to dry, always label, label, label, (name and date) please do not monopolize the racks, remove work as soon as possible.
- Plastic wrap
- Cleaning supplies- if making a cleaning solution or bringing one in, always label its contents.
- Repurposed Platen Press
- Transfer paper
- Masking tape
- Newsprint- for clean up and test prints
- Ink
 - Beginners are welcome to the communal ink.
 - If you use a lot of the communal ink please replace with more (water-based ink ONLY).
 - Please bring in your own ink if you are a regular user, label it and keep it in your cubby or bring home.

Step 1. Preparing your image:

As a beginner, you will be learning the basics of the tools-how they mark, how deep to carve- all while getting used to the hand eye coordination of using a lino cutter. Keeping your designs simple will help you avoid frustration and allow you to focus on the fundamentals of the skill you are learning.

- A Bold image
- Thick lines
- No fine details
- Text should be printed backwards
- Make a photocopy for transfer process

EXAMPLE:



Step 2. Transferring your image to the block:



Tools: Transfer paper, masking tape, lino block, pencil and sharpie

- Tape your transfer paper carbon side down on top of your lino block
- Tape your image on top of the transfer paper
- Trace over your image with the pencil applying force
- Remove both image and transfer paper
- Image should be shown
- Go over the lines with a sharpie: making your image easy to see and smudge proof.

Step 3. Carving your image

Test out the different carving blades. Each makes its own special mark



How to hold the carving tool

- Never cut towards yourself
- Turn your lino so you never have to cut towards yourself
- Don't press too hard and carve deeply, you can always go back over your carve, beginners start with a shallow carve



Linoleum vs Rubber

Rubber is a great alternative to linoleum for making your prints, esp. for beginners.



Rubber

- Soft
- Easy to carve
- Not great with fine detail
- Easier to damage

Linoleum

- Hard
- Can attain fine details
- Holds up to aging

After done carving, make sure to shake out the loose bits.

Step 4. Inking

Setup station for inking

Tools: newsprint, 2 clean rag, ink, brayer, ink knife, vinegar (cleaner), and your lino block



(Make sure your glass/resin inking station is clear of dirt and debris. Clean it once with the vinegar solution. And make sure it is dry before proceeding.)

Put out your ink:

- Remove from jar with knife or squirt if from tube
- Start with a small pile of ink
- Using your palette knife mix your ink (warming to room temperature, and getting to the correct consistency) for 1 min
- Once warm and mixed form ink back into a pile
- Gather ink on your palette knife and smear a line of ink the same width of your block. *This is the ink you will be starting with*
- Ink up brayer rolling downward
- Rolled ink area should be relative to the size of your block
- To pick up ink do quick rolls
- Listen for velcro like sound and velvety like texture “printmakers kiss” this means you're ready to print



Step 5. Printing

Each step of the printing process is an experiment. This is where you will do the most trouble shooting. How you lay the ink, the amount of ink you use, your ink coverage, and your printing pressure all create different results. Do not get discouraged if your first print doesn't come out perfect.

Roll your ink onto your block

- From top to bottom in a consistent fashion
- Make sure cover your block evenly
- Pay attention to the corners and edges



Quickly place paper on top of block

- Take your baren or wooden spoon and apply even pressure in circles (be sure to place hand lightly on block to prevent paper from moving)
- When you think you're finished repeat for 5-10 more seconds



Check your print

- Peel back a corner gently to check your print
- If happy with print continue peeling!
- Check for carving problem area (ink coverage)
- Place on drying rack



Repeat to make multiple prints

Step 6. Cleanup

Cleanup is the most important step in printmaking. Cleaning your lino block, the tools, and the studio, is essential in maintaining the functionality of our Artspace and the printmaking station.

- Think of this as your print kitchen. You have severe allergies and so does everyone else. This is not your home studio, this is a communal studio.
- After printing, if you have excess ink left over, use the knife to scoop it up and place into the plastic wrap so you can store it.
- With the newsprint place it on your lino block and press as much ink off of your block as possible.
- Use ink knife to scrape up as much ink off of the table and wipe onto the scrap paper.
- Roll out excess ink from brayer onto another sheet of scrap paper.
- Spray soapy water onto all tools and workspace.
- WIPE UP UNTIL YOU DON'T SEE ANY INK ANYWHERE.
- Then, spray vinegar and use a clean rag to go over everything once again. Do this until the rag/paper towel does not pull up ink anymore.
- Return cleaning supplies and place dirty rags in the proper bin.

