Lino Printing

technique focus



PR147 Easy Cut Lino PR114A...Block Printing Watercolours PR1275 Inking Rollers CT087 Lino Handle and Cutter Set PR683A999 Speedball Fabric Block Printing Inks PA166 Painting Trays



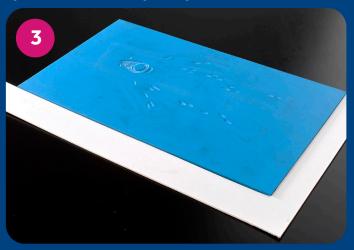
Water-based inks: can be cleaned with soap and water, with a quick drying time. Oil-based inks: have good tack and a smooth even finish. Must be cleaned using white spirit or some with soap and water. Slow drying time.



Step by step



Draw out your design onto the lino using a soft pencil. Light pencil marks won't transfer with your ink when printed. Plan the order in which your lino will be printed by determining the largest areas of print. Start printing with light colours first moving through to dark colours.



Registration is the tricky art of placing the lino and paper in exactly the same position each time a new colour is added. To make this process easier, it is advisable to make a registration frame. This is a simple L-shaped piece of mount board that the corner of your lino correlates with, with marks that allow your printing paper to be located in the same position again and again.



After the first print run, clean and dry your lino. Next, cut out the areas of lino which are to remain as the first print colour. The lino is inked up in a second colour and printed over the top of the first colour, positioning the paper using the registration frame. After the second print, clean and dry your lino.



Carve away all areas of the design that will remain white. In this linocut, the bear's eyes and fur highlights are being carved away first. Remember, lino cutters are sharp! Always cut away from you and keep your hands away from the direction of the blade. A safety guard or bench hook can aid in holding lino safely in place whilst cutting. If using traditional lino, this is easier to work with when it is more flexible, try warming it with a hairdryer before use.



Ink up your lino with your first printing colour, and print using the registration frame. Remember to produce several prints using this first colour, as once you progress to the next stage, there is no turning back!



Finally, cut out the areas of lino which are to remain as the second print colour. The lino is inked up in a third colour and printed over the top of the previous prints, again positioning the paper using the registration frame. This completes your 4-colour lino print! You can even try printing onto fabrics! But ensure you iron fix in fabric inks.

