

Drypoint Printing

You will need: Your drawing, drypoint plastic, etching tool, paper to print on, tray to soak your paper in, blotting paper or clean fabric, Caligo etching ink, glass, perspex or palette, dauber or wadded up fabric, mount board or flexible store card, scrim, newspaper or phone book, soft fabric for wiping, paper for registration.



Step 1

Lay your plastic over your drawing. Use your etching tool to draw your design into the plate. Experiment with pressing hard or softly to create different marks.



Step 2

Soak your printing paper in clean water. After about five minutes, remove your paper and blot it on blotting paper or a clean piece of fabric. The paper should feel slightly damp to the touch but not wet.



Step 3

Squeeze out a little etching ink onto your glass. Use a dauber or a wadded up piece of fabric to apply the ink over the drawn areas of your plate.



Step 4

Use a small piece of mount board or a flexible store card to scrape excess ink off the plate.



Step 5

With a coarse material such as scrim, wipe the plate in circular motions, removing excess ink and pushing the ink into the burred lines.



Step 6

Wad up some newspaper or phone book pages. Continue to wipe the plate in circular motions.



Step 7

Clean up your plate with a piece of soft fabric. Remove any smudges and wipe the edges. You should be able to see your drawing filled with ink.



Step 8

On a large piece of paper, draw marks to show where your plate and your paper should be placed. Place this on the etching press. Place the plate in the centre with the dampened paper on top.



Step 9

Put your plate through the press. The pressure should be quite firm to draw the ink up to the paper. Peel off the paper to reveal your print!



Step 10

The plate can now be inked up and printed again. When you have finished printing, the ink can be cleaned up with plain water and a cloth.

