

Instructions for Making Potato Prints

The equipment you will need is pictured here:

1. Potatoes/ kitchen knife
2. Water soluble printmaking ink
3. Brayer
4. Block-print cutting nibs
5. Paper on which to print
6. A surface on which to roll ink

The brayer is used to roll out the ink. Brayers with soft rubber are much preferred. The harder brayers do not roll an even surface. This brayer is sold by Speedball.

Lino-cutting tools (nibs size: 1, 2, and 5, also by Speedball.

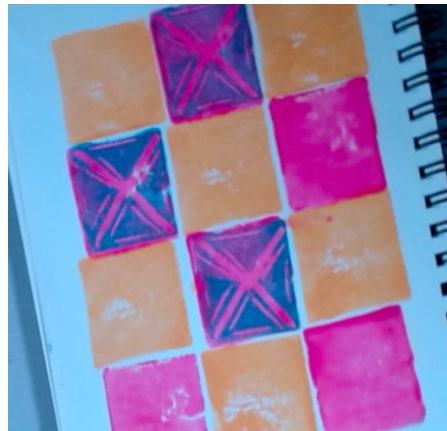
Pictured here are three sizes of block-print cutting nibs. They are intended to be used with handles, but I prefer to hold the nibs in my hand because I like the control I have this way. Handles can be purchased with the nibs from Speedball. I have all of my equipment shipped from Dick Blick that can be accessed online. The company has low prices and good service.

Sheet glass is the best surface to use with ink rolling but a Formica counter-top will do.

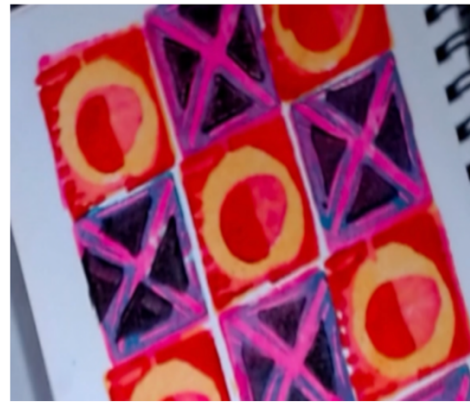
Tempera paint can also be used if printmaking ink is not available. Paint the color on with a brush. It is best if the paint is not too thin.



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1. If you have too much ink, or too little, on the brayer, your print will either be smeared or too light
2. If you move the potato when you print it, the image will blur
3. If you choose dark colors to begin, the lighter colors will not show up or they will be muddy when you overprint.
4. If you choose a shape difficult to cut with too many details, the potato will get mushy and the shape won't hold. Keep it simple.

5. If you cut too much out in the beginning, there will be too little left to cut.

Using the printmaking tools and methods requires experimentation and patience. You may mess up in your first attempts. That is normal. Just stay with the process and learn from your mistakes.