

Introductory Relief Printmaking: Block Printing *Materials List*

Please email me at chloe.tucker1@pcc.edu with any questions, comments, or concerns related to this list.

Suggested Retailers:

Blick Art Materials

1115 NW Glisan St. (Portland)
2710 SW Cedar Hills Blvd (Beaverton)
[Shop Online](#)

Artist & Craftsman Supply

3393 SE 21st Avenue (Portland)
2906 N Lombard Street (Portland)
[Shop Online](#)

McClain's Printmaking (Based here in Oregon!)

[Shop Online](#)

Amazon

[Shop Online](#)

There are many materials needed to get started with block printing. However, many things purchased once can be used repeatedly so I encourage you all to continue printing even once the class is over! To keep materials costs low, I will be providing many of the odds and ends required to learn this craft as part of your materials fee and to reduce the amount of supplies you need to purchase.

Please come to the first class with the materials listed below and some sketches to work from so we can jump right in to instruction.

Required:

- Sketchbook and pencils for creating designs, taking notes, etc.
 - Use what you have, you do not need a special sketch book for this class - unless you would prefer one! Size and preferred writing utensils are entirely up to you.
- Carving Tools
 - For a beginner course I recommend starting with an inexpensive set of tools - I like the Speedball or Blick beginner set with changeable cutting tips. You can also find wood carving tools to be fairly inexpensive and accessible and these would work as well.
- Printing Blocks
 - There are many styles of block; rubber, linoleum, wood. We will focus on rubber and linoleum for this class. Rubber blocks like Speedy Carve, Speedy Cut, and Blick Ready Cut are the easiest to carve so I recommend these the most. Linoleum is more firm and

holds detail well but is more difficult to carve with cheap tools. Try to avoid a size larger than 8x10 inches, as it may be too time consuming to complete in four classes.

- Brayer
 - A brayer is a roller used to ink up the surface of the carved block. Many brands make them. It is better to choose a larger one that covers more of your block at once for even inking. Go for a soft rubber, avoid foam. I recommend the Speedball soft rubber. I have 3 sizes of brayers to share, but if everyone is printing at once it may be an issue so plan to have your own.
- Paper for Printing
 - I recommend a thinner paper for printing, Avoid thick, heavy paper. Paper for printing comes in many sizes, brands, and price points. You can buy a pad of pre-cut sheets, or buy one large sheet and cut it down to your desired size. Any paper works, but if you're looking for recommendations here are some:
Strathmore 300 Printmaking pad, Speedball printmaking paper, mulberry paper, kitakata, thai kozo, Stonehenge sheets, Rives BFK lightweight, etc. You can even just bring some copy paper to keep costs low!

Items I Will Provide:

- Printing Inks
 - I provide a range of water soluble inks for us to experiment with of varying quality.
- Transfer Paper
 - This can also be used for transferring designs onto your linoleum. It is not needed for rubber blocks typically. I will offer it for anyone looking to try it.
- Tracing Paper
 - This will be used to transfer designs onto your block.
- Newsprint
 - This will be for test prints once your block is carved and for doing registration.
- Inking Plates/Palette Paper
 - We need a flat, non-absorbent surface to roll out our ink onto. I provide sheets of disposable palette, but if you want to bring your own feel free.
- Baren
 - A baren is used in printing to apply even pressure while printing. I have 4 barens for us to share in class. You can also bring your own, or use a wooden spoon!
- Palette Knives
 - Plastic or metal palette knives are great for mixing your inks to achieve a desired color. I recommend experimenting with color so these are beneficial. I keep a few plastic ones to share.
- Various extras: scissors, x-acto knife, masking tape, fine/extra fine sharpie, soft pencils (2B+) for transfer
- Advanced Registration Materials: For multi-block and reduction prints, more accurate registration is key. I will be showing multiple ways to register, the most simple way requires just paper and a sharpie. For multi blocks/colors, I will offer matboard/chipboard, and Ternes Burton pins and tabs.
- Cutting Safety: Cutting tools are sharp! Various things you can use to avoid accidents are cut gloves, cut guards, cabinet liner material (holds block in place).