



Activity Guide: MAKE Homemade Stamps

by *Laura Murray*



Activity Explanation

Design and print your own fun patterns, greeting cards and wrapping paper.



What you will do during the activity

You will make your own handmade printing stamps using old wooden blocks and craft foam to print fun wrapping papers and cards.



How long it will take

40 minutes to as long as you want.

You may also like to try

- Printing onto fabric with your stamps.
- Using printing to make your own one-off art works.
- Looking at Marimekko for print inspiration company.marimekko.com

What you'll need

- any paper you have... A4 paper, old envelopes
- blank cards or card
- craft foam
- scissors
- biro pen
- glue stick
- wooden building blocks or similar rigid surface
- potatoes
- knife to cut potatoes
- Lego bricks
- any paints or ink you have at home i.e. poster paint



Method

1. Draw onto craft foam. Simple shapes work best. Make sure your shape is smaller than your ink pad. Potatoes can be used as an alternative to craft foam. If you opt for a potato, take care when using a knife and let the potato dry out a bit before you begin printing.
2. Use scissors to cut out the shape.
3. Glue stick the foam shapes onto old wooden building blocks.
4. Push stamp into the ink then firmly press onto the paper to make your print. TIP: Food colouring and gels can be used to top up old ink pads.
5. Add details to the foam part of the stamps like lines or dots - for example, you can push hard with a biro into the craft foam to make your impression with detailed stamps. Overlap and layer colours.
6. Experiment by printing with many shapes and colours.



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Now you have your stamps and have experimented with patterns you could:

7. Print onto the outside of envelopes to make them unique.
8. Use the inside of old envelopes to print on and make wrapping paper.
9. Mix and match your wrapping papers.
10. Make contrasting or matching wrapping papers and gift cards.
11. And finally, an alternative stamp for younger children is readily found in the house... Lego bricks! They print well with poster paint.

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The Maker Laura Murray

Laura Murray is a jeweller based in Glasgow. Murray makes ranges of jewellery and one off pieces. These can be intricate bags, locket or pomanders made in silver and textiles. Murray set up her jewellery studio in Glasgow 20 years ago, after graduating from The Glasgow School of Art with a degree in Jewellery and Silversmithing and a Master's in Design. Jewellery is her core practice, but Murray also works with millinery fabrics and textiles. She is interested in colour and cross disciplinary practices.

“In my studio before lockdown I was printing onto metal to make a new range of brightly coloured anodised aluminium jewellery. In lockdown at home I have had to adapt and diversify and have been designing by printing onto paper, making cards and wrapping papers. Making homemade stamps and printing with them is so much fun.”

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MAKE is a new manifesto for craft in Scotland.

This Activity Guide is part of MAKE | Support, a programme of resources, micro-grants and commissions produced by MAKE in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

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