

# Lino printing step by step guide

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Lino print guide by Laura Von Talbot



You will need:

Ink roller (Brayer)

Carving / lino knife

lino printing Inks

Pencil

Biro Pen

Sharpie Pen

Rubber / Sharpener

Scissors

Pressing tools (Baren)

Linoleum blocks  
Transfer paper  
Washi tape  
Printing paper  
Acrylic or glossy surface (For  
rolling the ink)  
Apron (optional)  
Protective mat (Optional)  
Printer (not necessary but  
good for printing off designs)

Anything else you would like  
to print on, such as tote bags,  
bookmarks, etc.



You can find a pre-made design online and print it off, or design your own image.

*What you need to consider when choosing a design:*

Will it fit within the linoleum block?

Will the linoleum block cover the print surface well?

Some print surfaces are different sizes, so choose wisely!

Once you are happy with a design, and you are sure its the right size for your lino block, place your transfer paper over the top of your design.

We can secure this down with washi tape so it doesn't move around whilst tracing.



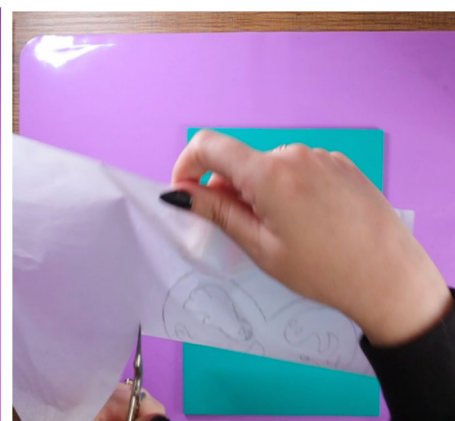
Using the pencil, carefully trace over the design. This pencil drawing will act as our guide on the lino block, so take your time with this step.



Make sure you have traced all of your design



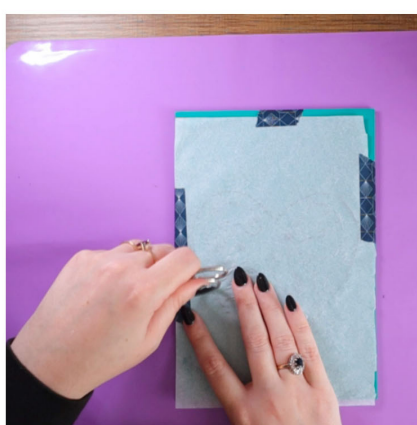
Make sure it fits within the lino block



Trim off the excess transfer paper (If any)



Put the pencilled side of the transfer paper face down onto the lino block, and secure with washi tape. (We don't want the design to move)



Using the handle part of your scissors, gently and carefully rub over your drawing. This is how we transfer the design onto the lino block.



Your drawing should now be transferred onto your lino block - its correct for your design to look the wrong way round. When we print, the design will be the right way round.





Using the sharpie pen, draw over the transferred pencil so you can see the design clearly.



Keep the original drawing nearby to check the design looks correct - bearing in mind that your design will be 'flipped' the wrong way around at this stage

# Okay! Now time to carve!

In this example, we will be using black ink, so we need to carve away anything that's white on the original design. The black part will act as a stamp.

I prefer to carve away the larger parts of the image first before going in with finer detail, but this is just preference, there is no right or wrong.







Take your time whilst you carve the result of your print will be the quality of how well you do this step. That being said, don't worry if you mess up. It's only lino, practice makes perfect.

In this example image, the ghost eyes are quite small. I drew over them with the sharpie so I could see if anymore lino needed to be removed. I recommend doing the same if you have detailed or fiddly parts in your design.

Its also an idea to use a smaller knife for these sort of details.

Once you are happy with the carve you can move onto printing!

The printing step can get messy, so grab an apron if you want.

A little break before this next step is always a good idea!





*A little goes a long way!*

Squirt a small amount of ink onto your rolling surface  
(you can always add more if you need more.)

Using the roller, spread the ink out in a similar way to the image on the left.

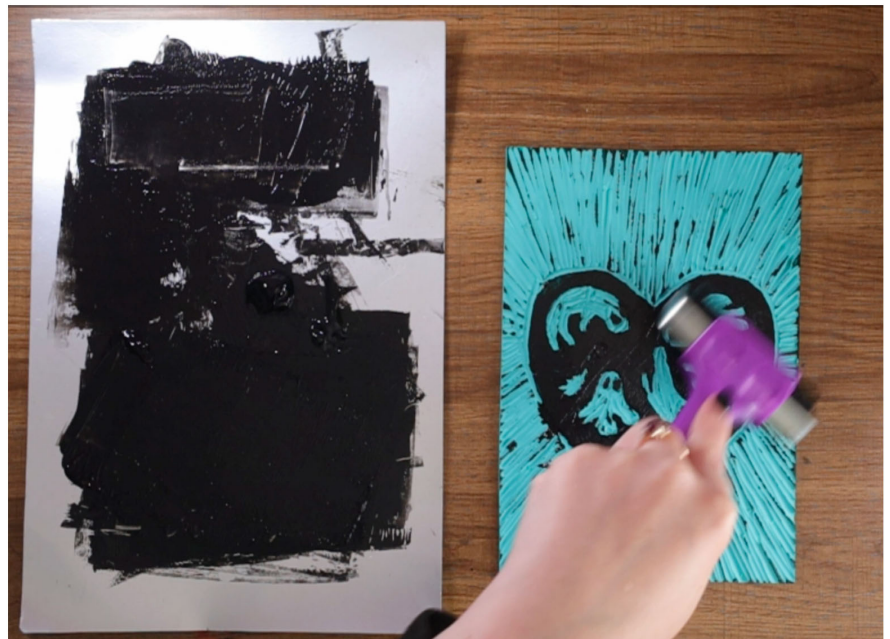
The ink needs to be distributed evenly, and rolled out onto a flat surface. this is to get an even consistency. You want it the ink to look 'tacky' and 'sticky'

Good ink consistency for lino printing is trickier than it seems!

Once the roller has an even amount of ink on it, roll it onto your carved lino block.

Less is more, but ensure the surface is evenly and generously applied.

We want a thin, neat and consistent layer of paint at this stage, which can be tricky to master!



**Consider this first print a test print.**

Carefully place a piece of paper over the top of your lino block. I like to line the bottom corners of the paper up with the block.

Slowly lie the paper down down on top, do this as best you can. You can't move or adjust the paper once you've lay it down, or you risk a smudged design.

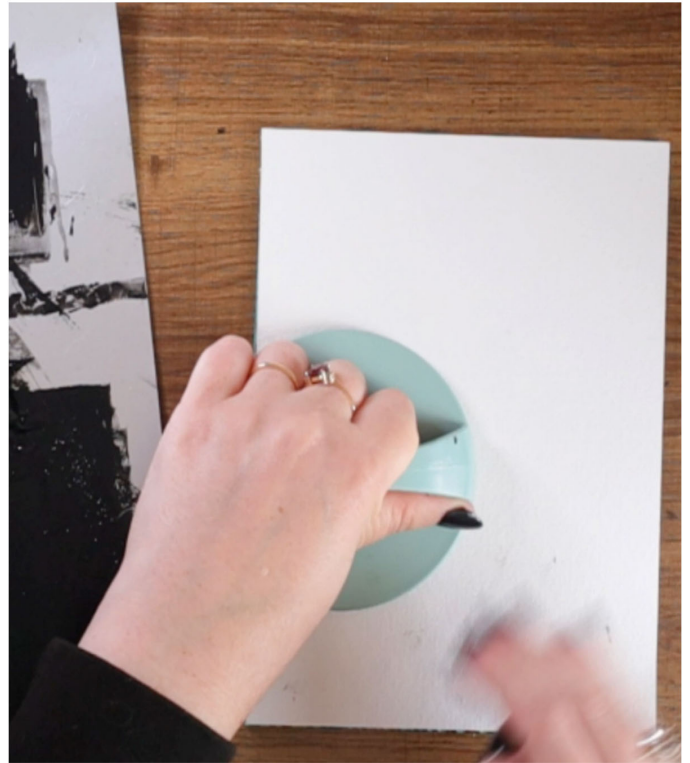




The baren will help you create your print by hand. It is a disk-like hand tool with a flat bottom and a handle. You can also get ones with a longer handle, depending on your preference and design.

Hold the handle, and rub the baren over the top of the paper, this will help lift ink from the block. (You can also place the lino onto the paper for printing, but for this example we are putting the paper on the lino.)

Take your time with this step, and ensure the paper doesn't move off the lino block as it can smudge the design.



Once we are done with the baren we can remove the paper.

Starting from a bottom corner, slowly peel the paper off the lino block

Voila!  
Your first test print!

This is a good time to assess what looks good, what needs improvement in your carve and whether you need more or less ink.

This example needs a more even distribution of ink, but its still an okay print for the first try!

There are several different methods of lino printing, this is one of the most accessible and affordable.