

Printmaking: Prepare Printing Ink. This is about making your printing ink ready to use.

EQUIPMENT: What you will need



Spatula



Roller



Rags



Ink



Glass or Plastic mixing tile



Print Paper

SAFETY: How to stay safe

Do not breathe the fumes from the ink or the cleaner.
Do not get ink on your face, especially not your eyes or mouth.
Never use glass with sharp edges.

GLOSSARY: Words you need to understand

**Spatula
Roller**

The tool to scrape your ink onto the glass before rolling.
A special tool which must be smooth and clean. It is made of rubber. Never leave it to dry with ink on it.

Preparing the ink for printing

Choose first colour.

Select your ink.

- Remove the lid.
- Use the spatula to lift some ink out.
- Try not to lift any dry ink 'skin' off the top of the ink onto the glass.



Put ink onto glass.

Place a pile of ink onto the glass. If you are mixing your ink colours, put both colours near each other on the glass.

- Use different spatulas for each colour
- Test a small amount of the colours mixed together.

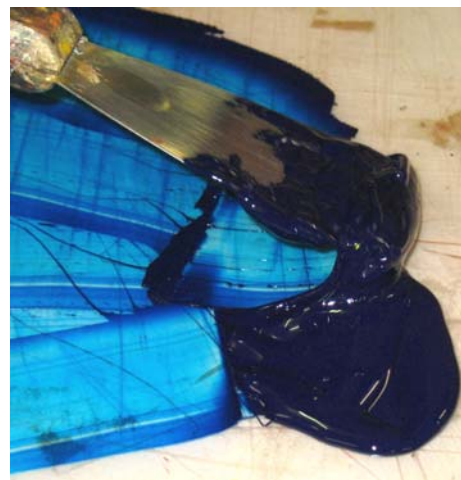
When you have the colour right, mix enough into one pile to make all of your prints.



Spread ink.

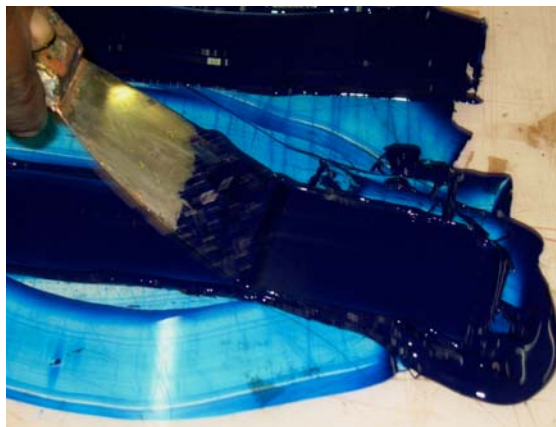
Spread a small amount of ink from the pile across the glass.

- Drag this ink across the glass in a line.



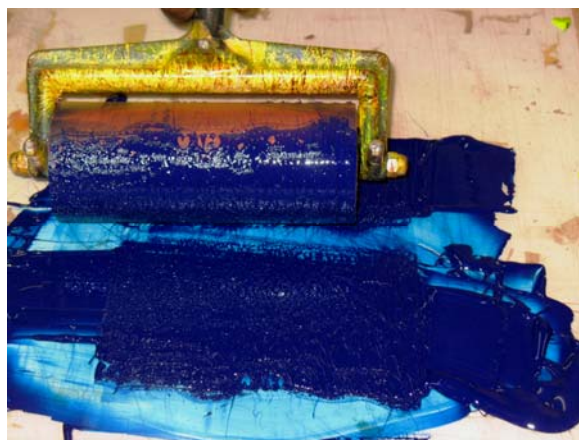
Spread ink.

- Make the line a little wider than the roller.



Roll ink.

- Roll the ink smoothly in both directions until the roller is covered evenly all over.



Rolling.

If your roller is 15cm wide you will roll a block of ink which is about 18 cm square.

- Make sure you roll up and down and then roll across from side to side to spread the ink evenly over the roller.
- Make sure there is not too much ink on the roller.



Roll onto lino.

Now you are ready to start to roll ink onto your lino board.



TIPS: Ideas that will help

- Don't get lumps in your ink. Avoid the skin from the top of the ink in the can. Lumps will stick onto the paper and put a spot on you prints.
- Don't get lumps stick on your roller.
- Clean up all your tools as soon as you have finished printing. Dry ink makes lumps.
- Use a ventilated place outside to wash the roller with Turps. Spread plenty of newspaper on the table to roll the ink onto while you clean the roller.
- Don't ever let ink dry on the roller.