

Fabric Printing with Multi-Sided Relief Blocks



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Create a variety of patterns on fabric using classroom scraps.

Block printing is one of the earliest forms of creating patterned fabric, along with patterned weaving and directly painting onto fabric. Traditionally, wooden blocks would be carved with designs that were manually printed onto a length of fabric. India is known for producing a variety of fabric printing techniques, the most popular being Rogan and Bagh, which are stylistically distinctive to specific regions. Batik, a practice of applying a wax resist to fabric before the dye process, also utilizes carved relief blocks to transfer hot wax to fabric. The patterns can be simple geometric designs, or elaborate paisley and mandala designs.

While traditionally these blocks would be one sided, this lesson calls for creating a four-sided block, allowing for a variety of printmaking possibilities, all in one printing block! Additionally, no carving is needed!

Patterns are created on the block using readily available materials, including classroom scraps, chunky yarn, suede lacing, WonderFoam, and cardboard. Each material will print in its own unique way. WonderFoam can be cut to create very precise designs, while yarn will imprint more texture. Students will experiment using different materials and designs. Much like in the collagraph printing process, the materials added to the block create a raised surface that can be printed. Doubletack is used to adhere materials to the surface, and a few coats of matte medium seal the fibers and harden the surface, making the piece ready for printing. To print, simply use a foam brush to apply Jacquard Textile colors to the design and press into fabric.



Materials (required)

[Midwest Products Mini Carving Blocks, Basswood Assortment](#), Pkg. of Approx. 6, (60415-8514); need at least one block per student.

[Grafix Double Tack Mounting Film](#), 24" x 36", (23205-1005); need two sheets.

[Blickrylic Gel Medium](#), 32 oz, (00711-1007); need one bottle to share across class.

[Blick Economy White Bristle Brushes](#), Long Handle, Flat, Size 24, (05169-1024); need one per student.

[Jacquard Textile Colors](#), Asst. Colors and Sizes, (01208-); need at least six colors in 8 oz size or equivalent.

[Pacon UCreate Plastic Posterboard](#), White, 22" x 28", (13155-1022); need three.

[Blick Essentials Value Foam Brush](#), 1", (06027-1001); share one brush between two students.

[Carolina Creative Natural Cotton Bandana](#), 21" x 21", (63982-1001); need one per student.

[Suggested Materials for Creating Patterns](#)

[Creativity Street WonderFoam Sheets](#), Asst Colors, 9" x 12", Pkg of 10, (60947-1023); share one package across class.

[Realeather Suede Lace Variety Packs](#), Asst. Colors, 3/32" x 8, Pkg of 3, (62517-); share one package across class.

[Trait-Tex Bright Intermediate Rug Yarn](#), 2-Ply, Standard Weight, Set of 16 Cones, (62813-1002); share one set across class.

[Trait-Tex Bright Intermediate Rug Yarn](#), 4-Ply, Standard Weight, Set of 16 Cones, (62813-1004); share one set across class.

[Trait-Tex Jumbo Roving Yarn](#), Assorted Intermediate Colors, 8oz, 4-ply, Set of 9 Cones, (65214-1104); share one set across class.

Ready to order materials?

Go to www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plan/fabric-printing-with-multi-sided-relief-blocks to access a product bundle for your convenience.

Process

1. Cut Grafix Double Tack Mounting Film to the size of the wood block. The blocks provided in the Midwest Products Mini Carving Block assortment will vary in size but are generally in the range of 4" x 2" x 1". All sides of the block can be covered but work one section or face at a time.
2. To attach the double tack, first peel off one side of the backing paper and press firmly onto the surface of the block. Burnish any gaps or bubbles out, then remove the second sheet of backing paper.
3. Choose a material to make a design. A few suggested materials are yarn, leather cord, and WonderFoam. It is important to use only one material per side to keep the design relatively even at the surface. This ensures that it prints correctly. It is best to leave two opposing faces of the block uncovered, allowing the block to be gripped in hand when applying ink and pressing the block down firmly into the fabric.
4. When all the desired sides of the block are covered, coat the design and block with matte medium and allow to dry. Continue to coat the design and block with matte medium, allowing to dry fully between coats. Apply a total of three coats, minimum. More porous fibers may need additional coats. The block is ready to print when all the design surfaces are hard to the touch.

To Print:

1. Use a craft stick or spoon to portion Jacquard Textile Color onto a sheet of Pacon UCreate Plastic Posterboard.
2. Brush the textile color onto the surface of the printing block's design.
3. Press the block firmly and evenly into the fabric.
4. Repeat the printing process using different sides of the block to create the whole pattern.
5. Colors can be changed, and prints can be layered if the textile color below is dry.
6. When design is complete, dry heat set with an iron.



Step 1: Apply material design to the block surface prepared with Double Tack film.



Step 2: Coat surface with Blickrylic Matte Medium.



Step 3: Brush Jacquard Textile Color onto design and print onto fabric.

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National Core Arts Standards -Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Responding

Anchor Standard 8: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.