

# Repeat Pattern Printing Roller

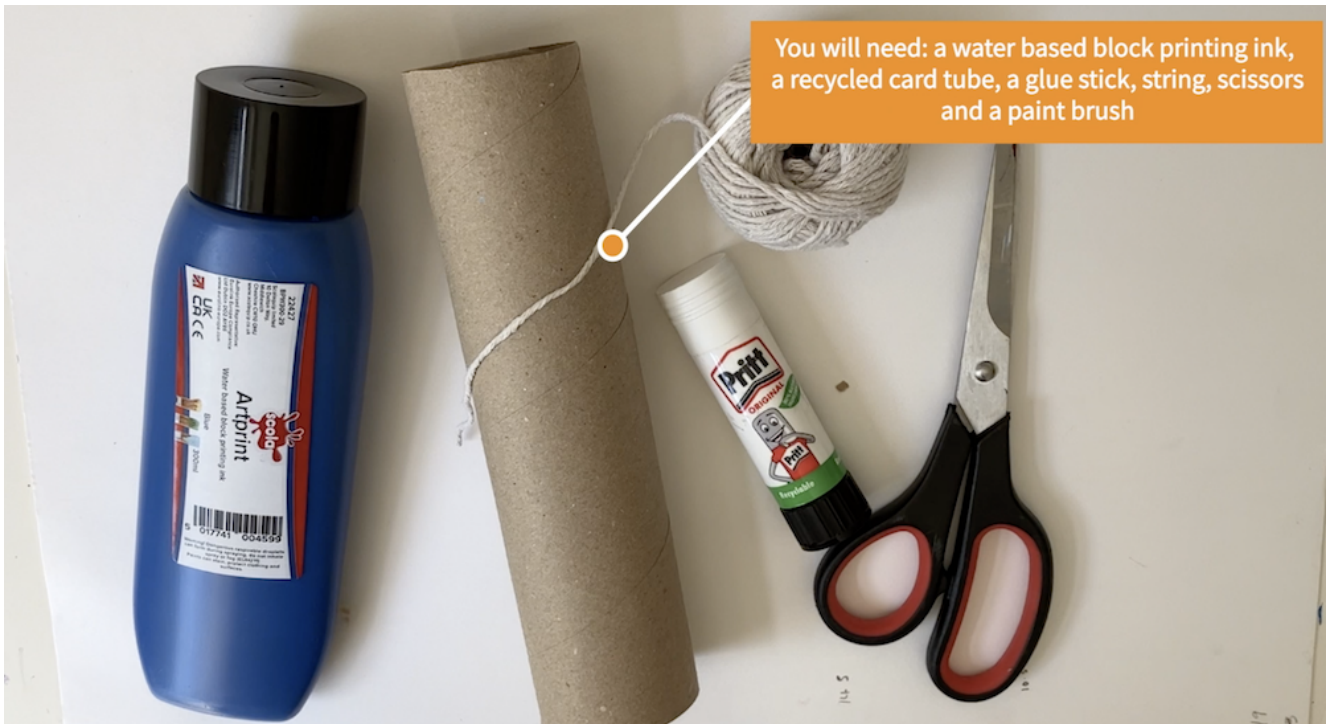
By Tobi Meuwissen

Explore this making and printing activity aimed at EYFS and SEND groups. In this resource learners will be given the opportunity to design their own patterns using string, work on a 3D surface and use movement to create their prints. This activity encourages learners to develop their dexterity, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, colour mixing and also nurtures their curiosity. This resource requires cheap / recycled materials making it perfect for teaching on a budget.

## Materials:

- Water-based printing ink
- Cardboard Tube (toilet / kitchen roll tube)
- Glue stick
- String
- Scissors

## • Paint brush



### To Begin...

You will need to prep the roll by splitting it if it's too long. This can be done simply with a craft knife.

Once the roll is the right size, you will need to cut lots of pieces of string; Try to vary the lengths.

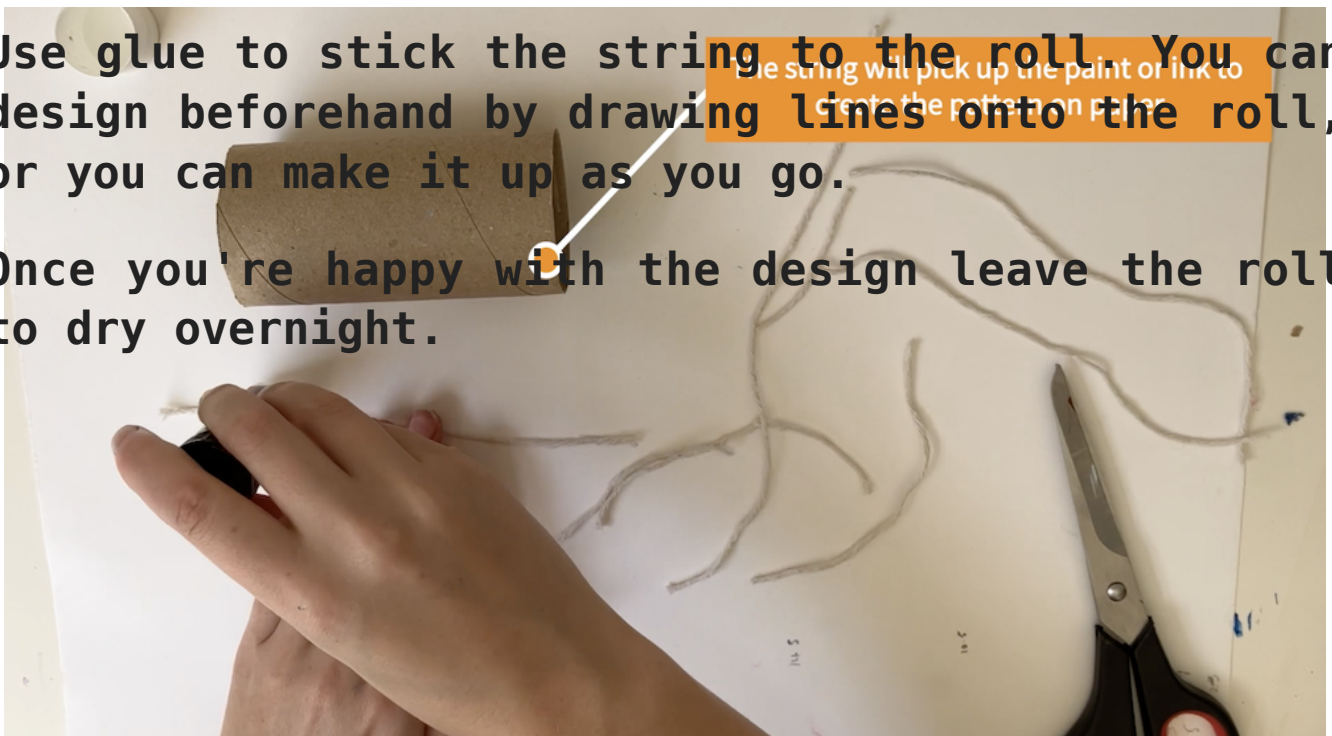




Cut string into various lengths

Use glue to stick the string to the roll. You can design beforehand by drawing lines onto the roll, or you can make it up as you go.

Once you're happy with the design leave the roll to dry overnight.



## Printing

Put out some water-based printing ink (a little goes a long way). The ink is quite tacky and is slow drying which makes it perfect for slower workers.

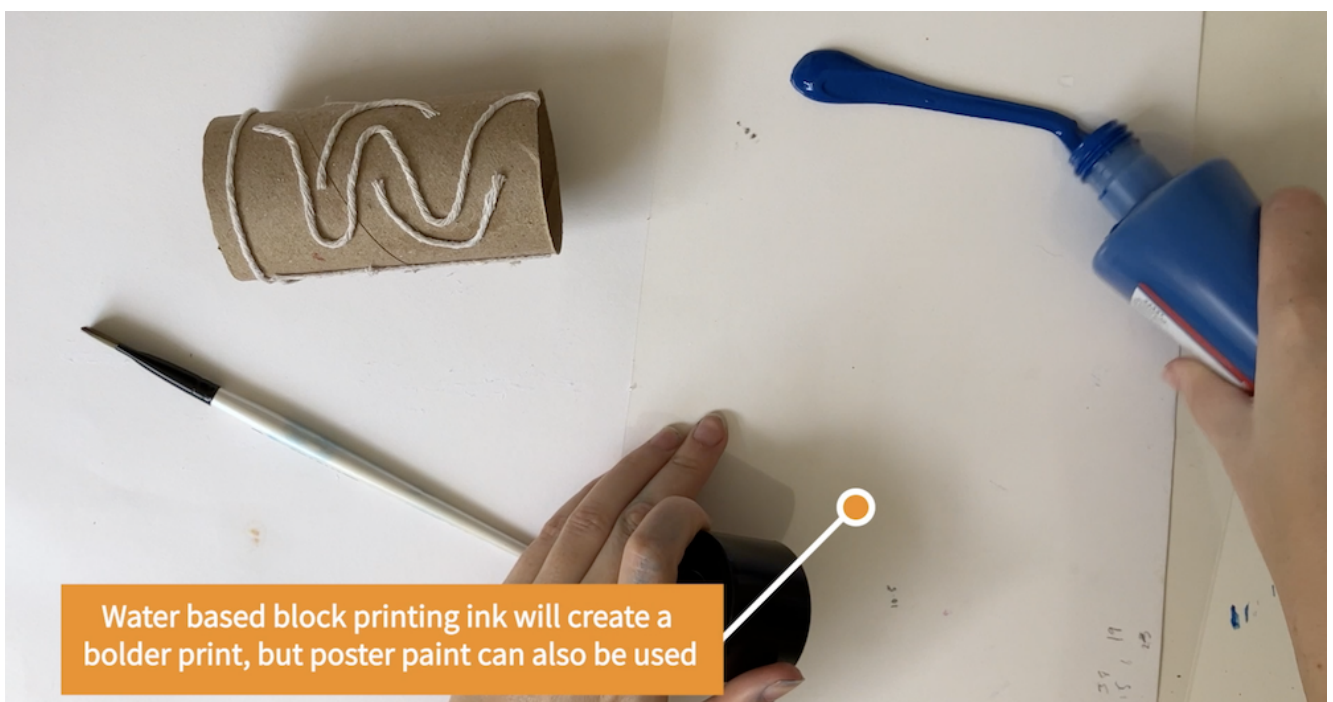
You can use poster paint but it will dry on the roller much faster.





Now for the messy part...

Roll the roller in the ink roughly. It doesn't have to be even (it's just a faster way of getting lots of ink on the roller in one go). Spread out the ink evenly to coat each piece of string with a paint brush.

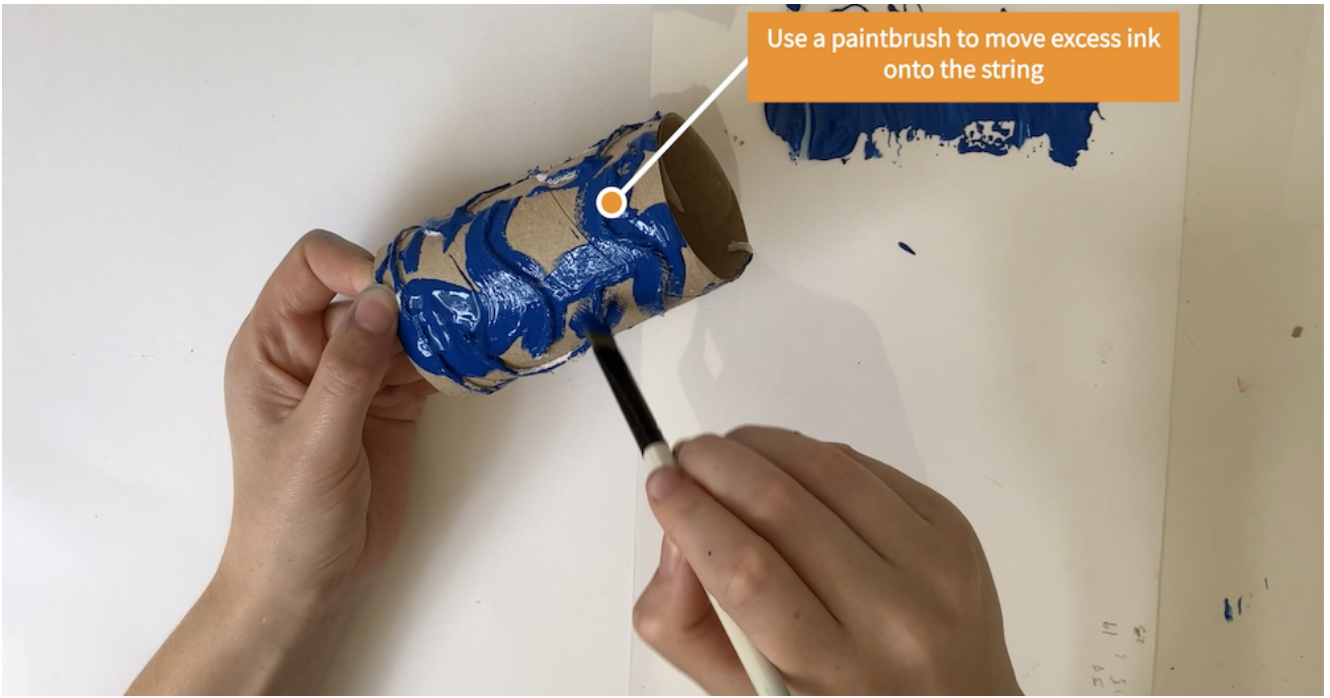


Water based block printing ink will create a bolder print, but poster paint can also be used



Roughly roll your printing roller in the ink





Use a paintbrush to move excess ink onto the string

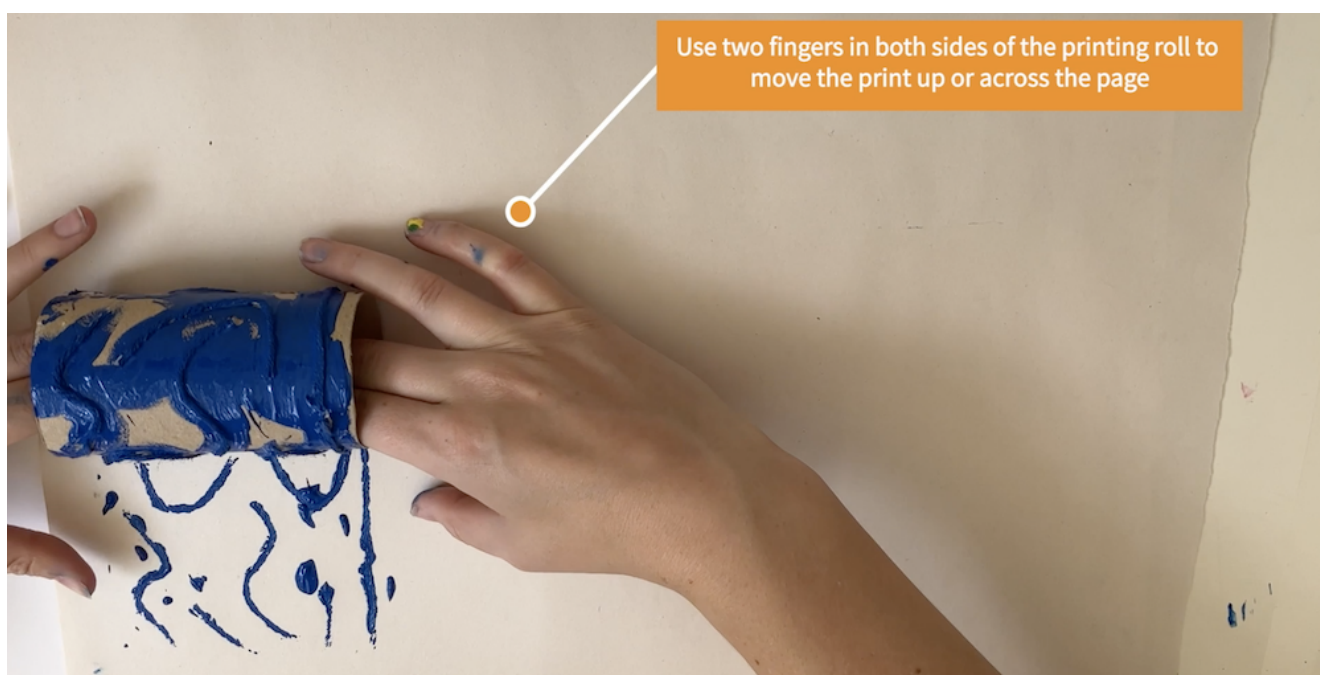
Get a clean sheet of paper ready for printing on. Bigger paper will create more potential for the repeat patterns to grow.

Put your index and middle finger, from both hands in the sides of the roll and use those fingers to move the roll up.



Make sure all the string is generously coated in ink

**As the ink dries very slowly, more colours can be mixed straight onto the roll, or they can be mixed separately and added.**





Mix and add new colours to the roll

There are lots of ways to extend this activity or adapt it to different abilities. You may want to experiment with the surface you're printing onto, for example coloured paper, fabric or pre-painted sheets of paper; You could also make lots of different prints and collage them together.

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