

Easy Lino Printing with Zeena Shah

Zeena Shah is a fabric designer who occasionally opens her London based studio to the public for printmaking workshops. My 15 year old daughter and I were lucky enough to attend a fabulous two hour printing session with Zeena.



Zeena Shah's studio

Zeena introduced working with a new easy carve printing block called 'speedy-carve' by 'Speedball', which, unlike traditional lino, is very soft and easy to cut into. There are other similar products on the market such as **Polymer Printing Blocks** by Pisces.

In Zeena's workshop, we used artist's stamp ink pads as the printing medium, instead of more traditional rollers and printing inks, so there was little or no mess and guaranteed aesthetic results.

The wonderful thing about this way of working is that it is completely clean and great results are easily achievable on the kitchen table or in the class room as well.

You Will Need

A clean roller

Lino cutters

Speedy carve or **polymer printing blocks**

Coloured stamp ink pads



Roller, lino cutter, soft-cut lino



Ink pad

Step One

Think about your design.

Zeena suggested researching patterns or looking for simple designs and shapes. Think simple!

Also remember that the ink will attach to the areas that are not cut out and the areas cut out will show the colour of the paper. It will take a bit of trial, error and experience to understand this way of working.

Be careful! When cutting steady your block by holding it behind the cutting tool! Injuries are common while working with lino tools - so be cautious and careful!



Cutting into lino

Step Two

When you are satisfied with your design you're ready to ink up the block.

Simply dab the block with an artist's ink stamp pad. Stamp pads come in many different colours and are easy to buy online or in your local craft shop.



Cover the lino cut with printing ink



Lino covered in ink

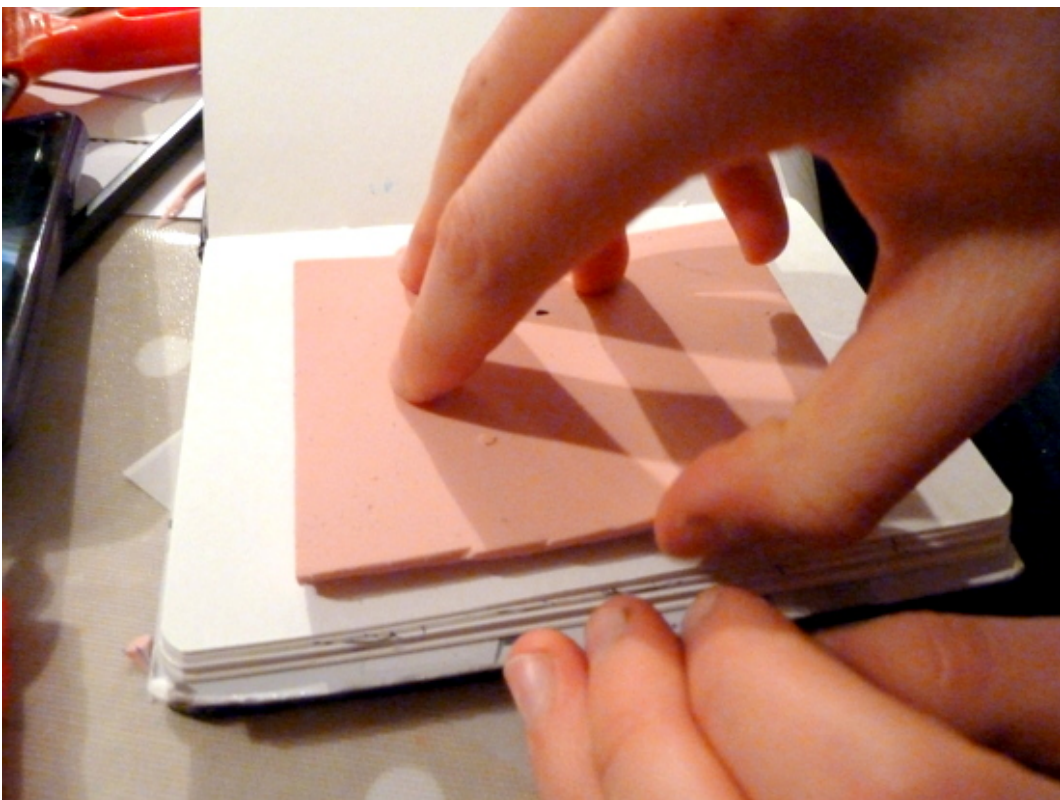
Step Three

Now place the inked up block onto to the paper and simply roll over it with a clean roller so that you have an even print.

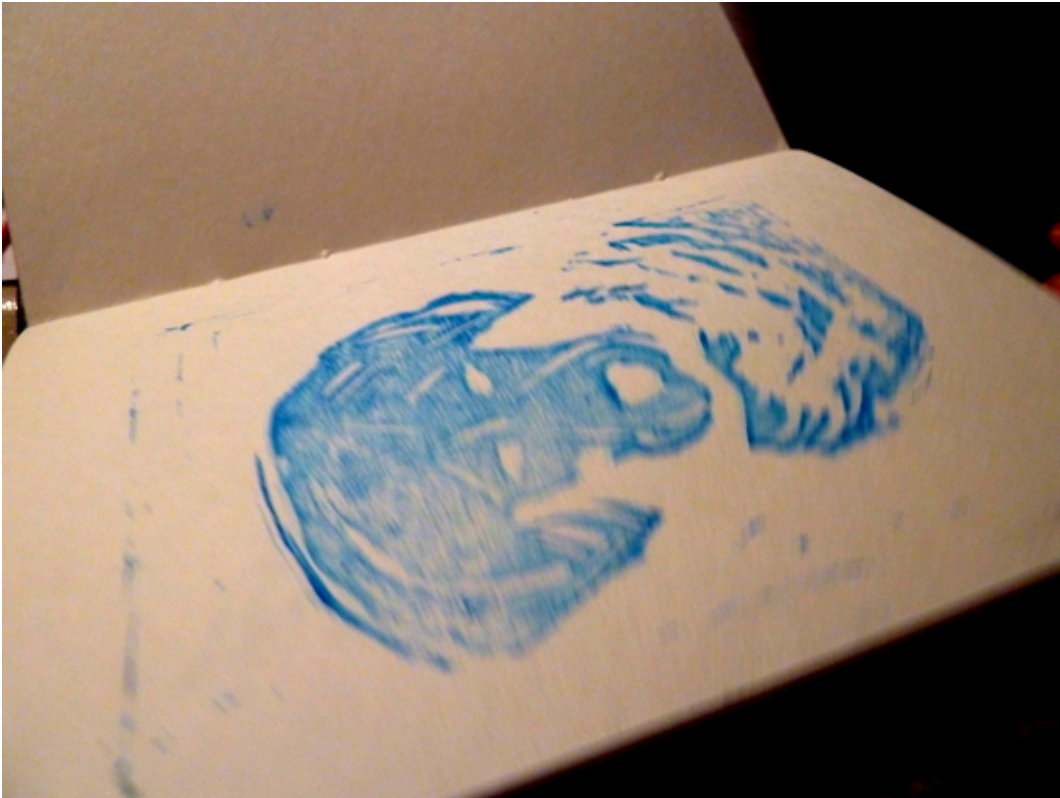
Peel back the block and voila!



Roll over the back of the lino to make sure that it is pressed well onto the paper



Lift the lino carefully away from the paper



Lino print in sketchbook by Jasmine (aged 15)

Step Four

Analyze your work - you may want to work back into the block.

Try different coloured inks and papers.

You can now make a new design on the other side of the block.



Applying ink onto to second lino cut (on the other side of the block)



Rolling lino onto black paper



Two lino prints by Jasmine

Many thanks to Zeena for demonstrating this technique to us and allowing us to share it on AccessArt.

If you'd like to see more of Zeena's work, or go on one of her workshops, check out her website **Zeena Shah**



Zeena Shah

Thanks to Jasmine for sharing images of her work and process with AccessArt.

For related resources go to **AccessArt Printmaking**