



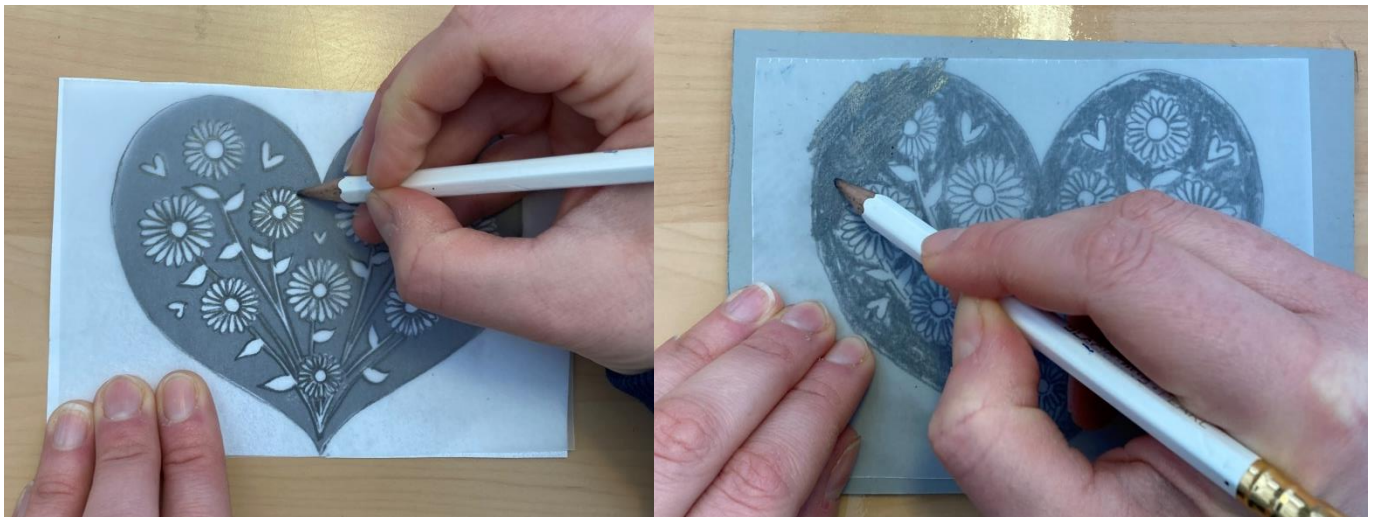
## Lino Print 'How To' Guide

Hello, my name is Catherine, I rediscovered lino print whilst studying a Masters in Children's Book Illustration (Alumni 2022). Most of my course was during the lockdowns, and lino print is a great process that can be done at home. I'm really excited to share this process with you, and hope you catch the printing bug.

### History

Linoleum was first invented as a flooring material by Englishman Frederick Walton in 1863. Traditional lino is made from a mixture of linseed oil, cork dust and pine resin with a backing of hessian or jute. There are also alternatives to traditional lino such as Japanese vinyl and Softcut. Using the alternatives will lose some of the texture of printing from traditional lino, but you may find it easier to cut.

### Transferring a design



- You can use tracing paper and pencil to trace your chosen design. Place over the lino with the pencil side facing down, and rub with a wooden spoon or colour over the back of the tracing paper with your pencil.
- This will transfer a reversed version of your design, but once cut and printed it will be the right way around again.
- **Note**, if carving letters, they need to be reversed so they are readable when printed.

You can go over the pencil marks with a marker pen, so it is easier to see your design, and the pencil won't rub away.

### Health and Safety

Always carve away from your hand. Hold the lino behind the cutting tip.



### Carving the block

- If you hold the cutting tool at too steep an angle, the cutting tool will sink into the lino, and rip the material. If you cut too shallowly, the cutting tool will slip over the surface.
- Start with the smaller cutting tool to go around shapes and detail, and then follow with a wider tool to remove any negative space around your design.



- **Tip:** Take a pencil rubbing for a quick impression. This is something you can do multiple times during the cutting stages to see how your design is progressing.



### Registration of paper and block



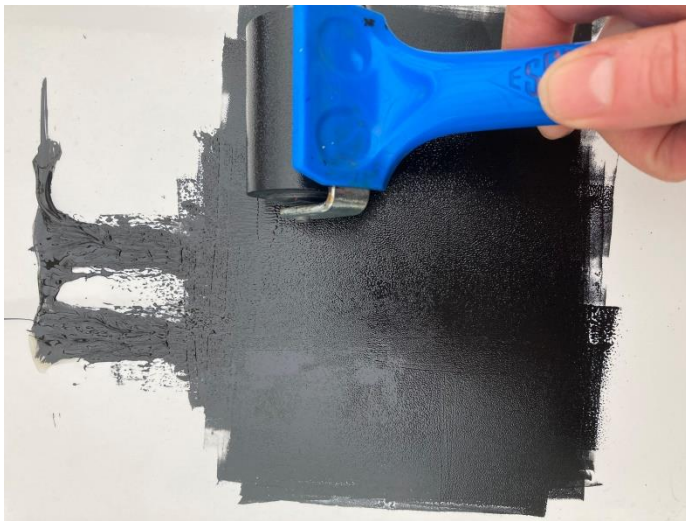
- Using cardboard, foamboard, or paper as a registration plate (larger than your printing paper), place your printing paper onto the template and draw around it onto the registration plate.
- Then place your uninked lino block in the centre of the shape you have just drawn, and draw around it.
- These will be your guides for placing your lino block and paper when taking the print.

### Hand printing

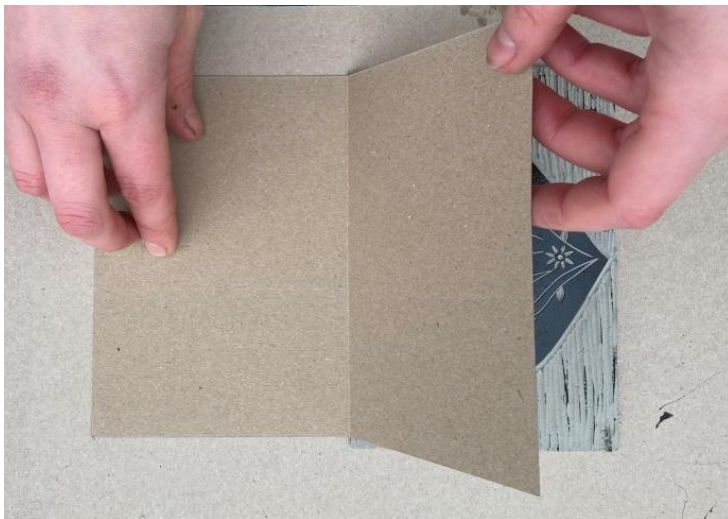
- Squeeze the ink onto the slab the same width as the roller



- Edge the roller up to the ink, and then roll out a neat square by pushing the roller back and forth.



- The ink should look even and have the texture of fine sandpaper.
- Push your roller over the block, in different angles to get an even coverage, making sure to get the corners. You can hold the lino up to the light to check.
- Your inked lino block should be a solid black with the carved out areas clean.



- Lay your paper down by holding one edge with your thumb and forefinger, and guiding the other edge over the lino block. Press the paper down to stick. Then using your barren or wooden spoon, rub the back of the paper using circular motions.





- If the print doesn't come out as solidly as you would like, try varying the amount of pressure or amount of ink.

#### Resources

- <https://www.boardingallrows.com/blog> - an American Printmaker
- <https://www.lauraboswell.co.uk/resource.php> - A British Printmaker

Blog posts and videos about the history of Lino, Famous Linoprint Artists, and how to guides for further reading and watching.

If you enjoyed this guide, please tag me in your creations on social media @cathwardart

Happy Printing :)

catherinelauraward.com - @cathwardart

