These instructions share a way to create and print a plate at home using household everyday objects, cardboard, glue and water-based paint. More or less anything that is relatively flat can be used to print with. See some examples below and have a look around your house to see what you can find.

**Materials you will need:**

- Cardboard / MDF / Wood / any hard board
- Paper / Old envelopes / Newspaper or other paper ephemera
- 1 or more of these:
  - Flattish objects found around the house:
    - Tin foil
    - Rice
    - Spaghetti
    - String
    - Elastic bands
    - Paper clips
    - Porridge oats
    - Seeds
- Waterproof glue
- Watercolour, gouache or any water-based paint
- Paint brushes
- Jars / cups / containers and water
1. Make your printing plate by gluing your objects to the board in any pattern you like. Apply glue generously to the board first and set your objects within the glue. Once you are finished gluing, wash your brush with water and leave your plate to dry.

2. Make your ink by mixing watercolour or gouache paint with a small drop of water. Be careful not to add too much water or your ink will be too runny. Mix thoroughly.

3. Apply your ink to the raised surface of your plate. Wipe away any excess ink with a dry cloth or clean brush. Excess ink pooled or running on your plate will smudge when printing.

4. To print your plate lay your paper carefully over the plate.

5. Print by rubbing the back of the paper with your hands, applying pressure where needed. You can also use the back of a wooden spoon for this.

6. Peel your paper back carefully to reveal your print. If you don’t get a good print the first time apply more ink and print again.

TIP: Try repeat prints on one sheet, overlapping colours and textures to build up your image.

TIP: Print one section or colour at a time to avoid ink drying before printing.

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