PRINT AT HOME WITH HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS

CARBON PAPER MONOPRINTS

Monoprints are one-of-a-kind printed images. The joy of monoprinting is that you can use all sorts of mark making tools to create a wonderful variety of lines and tones that you won't get from a normal drawing. Usually to make a monoprint a thin layer of printing ink is rolled out on to a flat surface and a sheet of paper is placed on the inked area. A drawing is made on the back of the paper using pens, pencils, your fingers or any other drawing implements. The paper is then peeled back from the inked surface to reveal a transfer print underneath. As we are exploring ways of printing using only things found around the house these instructions share a way to create a monoprint using carbon paper instead of traditional printamking ink and tools.

Materials you will need:

carbon paper

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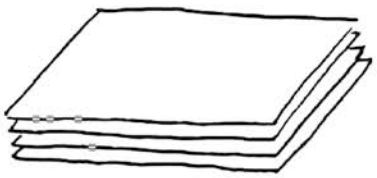


printing paper

+

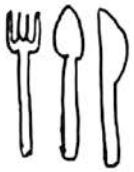
tracing paper or greaseproof paper

+ 1 or more of these:

Mark making tools:

comb

library or old credit card



cutlery

scrubbing brush with hard bristles

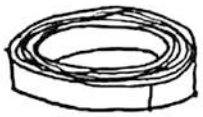
keys

nails

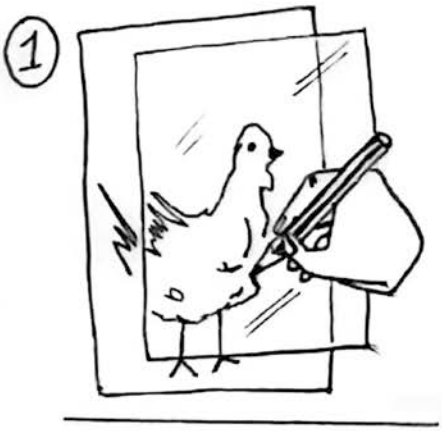
+

pencils and/or biros

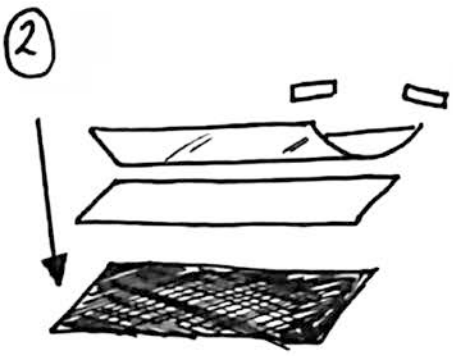
+



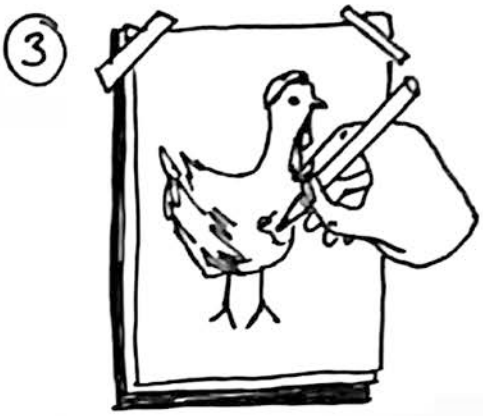
paper clips or masking tape



Start by tracing your drawing or image on to a sheet of tracing paper. Or you can skip this step, go straight to step two and work free hand on to your printing paper.

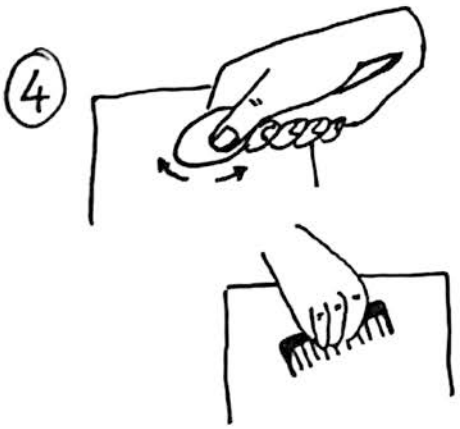


Prepare your paper for printing by laying a sheet of carbon paper on your table, inky side up. Place your printing paper on top of the carbon paper and if you are using a traced image place that on the top. Secure your paper sandwich with tape or a paper clip.

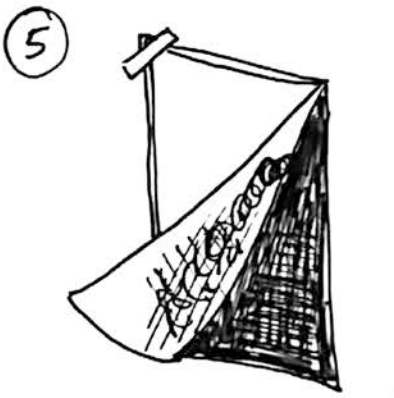


Draw on the top layer of paper with a pencil or biro.

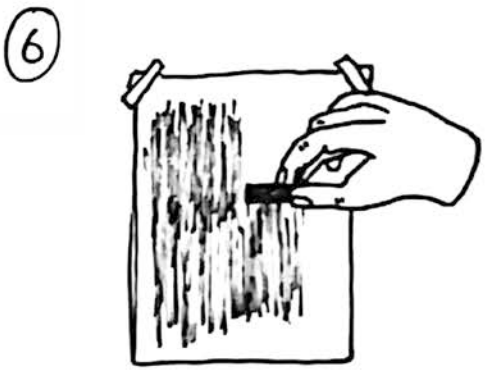
TIP: the harder you press down with your pencil / biro the darker your printed lines will be.



Use your different mark making tools to create various effects. Combine linear lines with various textures and tones by using a sharp point like a comb with pressings and smudges from the back of a spoon or by scraping a card across the surface.



When you are finished your drawing remove the tape/paper clip. Peel back your paper to reveal your print underneath.



To add colour to your print apply oil pastel to a sheet of tracing paper or greaseproof paper, covering it completely. This sheet will work in the same way as the carbon paper. To print repeat steps 2-5 using this colour sheet instead of your carbon paper.

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