



Printmaking Unleashed

**More Than 50 Techniques
for Expressive Mark Making**

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NORTH LIGHT BOOKS
createmixedmedia.com

Deconstructed Paper Printing Plates

<< Creative Toolbox

Create printing plates from everyday items like recycled paper. Use up all those odds and ends sitting around your studio. This technique starts with layering sheets of textured paper, torn cardboard and newsprint that is held together with free-motion stitching. Then the stitched paper is deconstructed by cutting into smaller shapes and adhered to a base to create a textured stamp and printing plate.

- recycled cardboard
- recycled paper such as binder, graph, rice, mulberry, newspaper and packing chipboard
- sewing machine and thread
- scissors
- adhesive craft foam



1 Gather and Stack Paper
Gather recycled paper, cardboard or anything with texture. Crumple some of the thinner paper to add texture, then flatten them out.
Create layers by placing various papers on top of each other. They don't have to be the same size but it's easier to sew if they are similar in length. Place the paper staggered with strips of corrugate cardboard over the top.



2 Free-Motion Stitch
Start at one end of the stack and sew with a machine to secure the papers together. Add stitched designs, lines and zigzags.



3 Cut Apart
Use scissors to cut in between stitched lines through all the layers of paper.



4 Deconstructed Paper
Once the paper is cut, fan out the edges. This will create more textured areas in the paper. These pieces will be used to create a printing plate.



5 Cut Shapes
Cut square and rectangle shapes in different sizes from the deconstructed paper strips.

6 Printing Plate
Begin to assemble a printing plate by placing cut paper squares onto the sticky side of a piece of adhesive craft foam. Continue to place all the paper shapes until the craft foam is full.



Paper Printing Plate Tips and Ideas

- * The amount of paper used to create the stack depends on the thickness of the paper and how much your sewing machine can handle. Consult your sewing machine manual for guides to material limitations.
- * Experiment with adding a variety of thread and raffia to the plate by couching it on the surface.
- * For a variation on this technique use dyed fabric and interfacing. Cut it apart and create a journal cover.
- * Instead of using adhesive backed craft foam, glue the pieces onto a piece of mixed-media board or cardboard to create an art journal cover.
- * Cut the stitched pieces into shapes. Paint the edges with glue and sprinkle glitter to create a collage embellishment.

Exercise

Paper Printing Plates in Action

Create colorful layered paintings using the deconstructed paper printing plate from the previous exercise. This plate has dual uses: as a texture plate underneath the surface to burnish the design or use it as a stamp to create interesting textured square patterned layers.

<< Creative Toolbox

- fluid and OPEN acrylic paint
- deli paper palette
- soft rubber brayer
- 1-inch (25mm) foam brush
- spray bottle filled with water
- deconstructed printing plate
- gesso



1 Roll Out Paint
Place some OPEN acrylic paint on a deli paper palette and roll it out to cover the brayer with paint. Place the deconstructed printing plate under a piece of drawing paper.



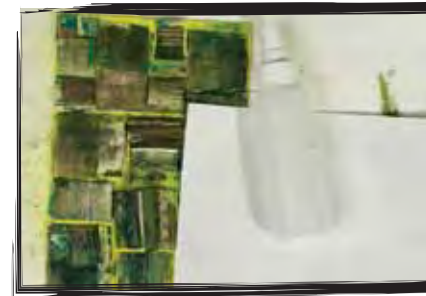
2 Transfer Print
Roll a painted brayer over the top of the drawing paper. This will create a painting that picks up the texture from the plate on the surface of the paper.



3 Multiple Layers
Add a few drops of bronze OPEN acrylic paint and roll the paint with a brayer. Move the printing plate to different areas while making prints and turn the paper a few times until you are satisfied with the first layer. Set aside to dry.



4 Print Plate
Apply more paint onto the plate using a foam brush. Since loose paper can be very delicate, apply the paint in a soft dabbing motion. Place another piece of drawing paper face down on the painted plate. Rub the back of the paper with your hands to transfer the print.



5 Add Water
Spray a mist from the water bottle onto the inked plate. This will mix with the paint and reactivate it. Place the painted paper onto the wet surface to transfer the print. This will result in a lighter, almost water-color-like transparent print.



6 Gesso Prints
Dip the foam brush into gesso and apply it onto small areas over the painting. Press the printing plate into the wet gesso. This will create a tinted print of the plate on the paper. Repeat in different areas around the page.



7 Tinted Prints
Don't wash out the foam brush. Dip it into white paint. This will mix with the color on the brush and create a tint. Brush the paint onto the top of the plate. Keep the plate on the table. Pick up the print from step 3 and turn the painted side of the paper face down onto the plate. Rub the back of the paper with your hands to transfer the print.

8 Deconstructed Prints
Here are two different prints created by using the plate as a printing and texture tool.



Paper Plate Tips and Ideas

- * Some paper will end up collaged onto the surface of the print, which creates interesting textures.
- * Once the pages are dry add a contrasting paint wash to fill in white space.
- * Use your hands or a barren to rub the paper and work the design into all the crevices on the printing plate.
- * Experiment using fabric as the substrate for this technique. Thinner fabrics with less weave work better for crisp images. Woven fabrics or those with a lot of texture will not transfer prints as well.

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18 17 16 15 14 5 4 3 2 1

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DISTRIBUTED IN AUSTRALIA BY CAPRICORN LINK
P.O. Box 704, S. Windsor NSW, 2756 Australia
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ISBN 13: 978-1-4403-3391-0

Edited by Sarah Laichas
Editorial layout by Beth Erikson
Designed by Bethany Rainbolt
Cover designed by Wendy Dunning
Production coordinated by Jennifer Bass

Metric Conversion Chart

To convert	to	multiply by
Inches	Centimeters	2.54
Centimeters	Inches	0.4
Feet	Centimeters	30.5
Centimeters	Feet	0.03
Yards	Meters	0.9
Meters	Yards	1.1

