



SOME THOUGHTS ON ACRYLIC PAINT

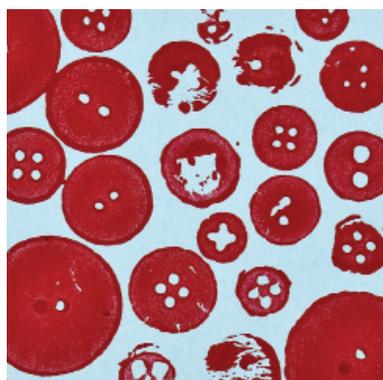
For printing, thick, heavy-bodied acrylic paints work best because they hold the design better. If a thin paint is used, it can run and not provide a crisp print. When using thick paint, you also have more paper options. Some papers bleed more than others when you print on them, and using thick paint alleviates this. But it's not always a problem. Sometimes you can get really interesting effects with slightly bleeding paint.

I have used a wide variety of acrylic paint—everything from Golden's Heavy Body Acrylics to the inexpensive craft paints that you get in hobby stores. They will all work fine, but with different results. As always, experiment and see what works best for you. The paper or surface you print on and the tool you are printing with will make a difference.

If you are printing on fabric or something that will need to be laundered, be sure to use fabric or textile paint. Acrylic paints can be used, but they have a tendency to leave the fabric stiff. If that's not a concern, then acrylic paints will work fine. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on fabric or textile paints; it might be necessary to set the paint before washing to make it permanent.

To print with acrylic paint, squeeze a small amount of paint, about the size of a quarter, onto a piece of Plexiglas. Roll a brayer back and forth over the paint until the paint is evenly distributed, then stamp onto paper on the Plexiglas. Press the printing tool into the layer of paint on the Plexiglas. If using a printing roller, roll it in the paint until the entire circumference is covered, then roll onto the paper.

Paint can also be applied to the surface of a printing block by rolling it on with a brayer. If paint dries on the Plexiglas, it can easily be scrubbed off so the Plexiglas can be used over and over again. Alternatives to Plexiglas are inexpensive picture frames with glass from a dollar store, or kids' plastic place mats. A foam plate can also be used, but be sure to wash it and use it multiple times before throwing it away.

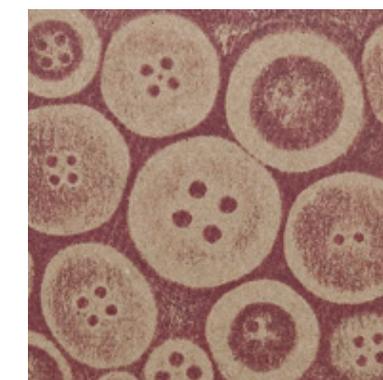
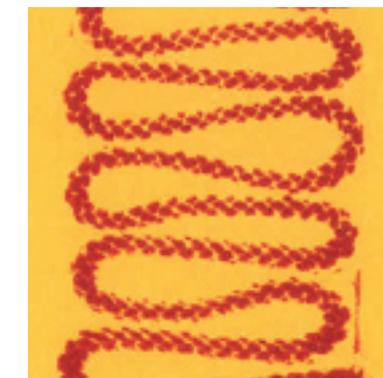
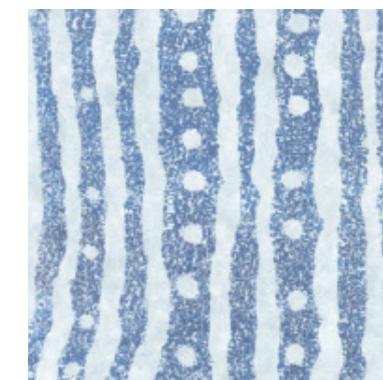


The images above were all printed using paint.

SOME THOUGHTS ON RUBBER STAMP PADS

I like to use permanent ink because it dries right away. This is particularly handy for working in layers and allows you to paint a color wash over something that is already stamped or printed. I also don't like to clean my stamps. Yes, I heard that gasp. But with the permanent ink, I don't have to. The ink dries on the stamp right away and (for the most part) doesn't transfer onto another stamp pad. When it does transfer, it creates an interesting color effect as it transitions from the old color to the new. I like that. You can also stamp on just about any surface with permanent stamp pads, including glossy paper, metal, and glass. And there is no need to heat set it to make it permanent. Other kinds of stamp pads work fine, too. If you know you won't be painting on top of something you've stamped with a nonpermanent stamp pad, then there's no problem. Different kinds of stamp pads and different types of paper give different effects and finishes. I really like the flat look of the chalk stamp pads. Play with different kinds and see what you like. Just like acrylic paint, different tools will stamp better with different kinds of stamp pads.

To print using a stamp pad, simply press the printing block (or roll when using a printing roller) onto the stamp pad, moving it around until the surface of the stamp or roller is covered with ink, then stamp or roll onto the paper. With bigger printing blocks it might be easier to lay the printing block down face up and press the stamp pad onto the top of the block, moving it around until the surface of the stamp is covered with ink.



The images above were all stamped using stamp pads.