



Lino Cut Valentines



Tell your valentine they're special with a hand printed card. Lino Cut is a form of relief printing. The negative space is carved away, leaving the image in relief. The raised image is easy to ink and print by hand.

SIZE: Lino block: 2.75 x 4.5 inches

MATERIALS:

Speedball Speedy-Cut block, 2.75 x 4.5 inches

Speedball lino cutter handle and blades, #1 and #5

Pencils, #2/HB and 4B

Tracing paper

Blank greeting cards and envelopes

Speedball waterbased block printing ink (Shown in White and pink mixed from Red, White and Blue)

Rubber brayer

Inking plate, or glass

Baren

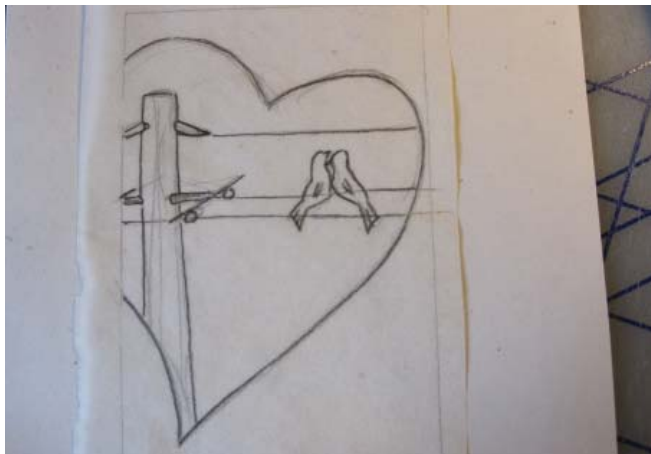


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NOTES:

Speedy-cut blocks are easier to use and cut than traditional linoleum blocks. Use caution when carving image. Always keep both hands behind blade at all times.

INSTRUCTIONS:



Design

Draw your design on a piece of paper or tracing paper with a #2/HB pencil.

Trace over the key design elements with a 4B pencil.



Transfer

Turn paper over on to Speedy-Cut block and rub lightly with your finger or bone folder to transfer image.



Cut Outlines and Details

With #1 cutter, cut the outlines, then cut details.

Work from foreground to background.



Clear Background

Using #5 cutter in big spaces and #1 cutter in small spaces, clear background.

Work from center of area to be cleared toward the edges. Be careful not to cut past outline cuts.





Print

Use brayer to ink up lino cut block.

With inked block face up, carefully lay card on top.

Using the baren (or another tool such as: finger, second brayer, large spoon, bone folder) gently press the paper onto the wet ink.

Carefully lift printed card off of block, and set aside to dry. Re-ink and repeat for additional cards.

Helpful Tips

Ink should have the texture of fine grain leather on ink plate. Too little ink will make the image faint. Too much will fill in fine details and make the image blurry.

Pay close attention to large solid areas which often do not print fully. Shifting paper or squishing the block will distort the image.

Clean Up

Wipe ink plate and brayer with paper towel, then wash with water, and towel dry.

To remove ink from block, hold under running water or dab with wet paper towel, then blot dry. Rubbing block may cause small pieces to brake off.