

## Introductory Relief Printmaking: Block Printing *Materials List*

Please email me at [chloe.tucker1@pcc.edu](mailto:chloe.tucker1@pcc.edu) with any questions, comments, or concerns related to this list.

Suggested Retailers:

### **Blick Art Materials**

1115 NW Glisan St. (Portland)  
2710 SW Cedar Hills Blvd (Beaverton)  
[Shop Online](#)

### **Artist & Craftsman Supply**

3393 SE 21st Avenue (Portland)  
2906 N Lombard Street (Portland)  
[Shop Online](#)

### **Michael's Craft Store**

12255 N. Starlight Avenue (Portland)  
11719 NE Glenn Widing Dr (Portland)  
4955 SW Western Ave (Beaverton)  
[Shop Online](#)

### **McClain's Printmaking (Based here in Oregon!)**

[Shop Online](#)

### **Amazon**

[Shop Online](#)

There are many materials needed to get started with block printing. However, many things purchased once can be used repeatedly so I encourage you all to continue printing even once the class is over! To keep materials costs low, I have separated this list into **required** and **optional**. I do not require any specific brands or sizes, as each of your projects will be different. I estimate the materials cost to be **around \$100-\$125 per person** depending on a few factors: size of blocks, number of colors chosen, and the fabric chosen.

Note: You do not need most materials by the first day of class, allowing time for any questions you may have about materials.

### **Timeline of when each material is needed:**

For the first class please just have your sketchbook and writing utensils for notes and sketching ideas while I introduce the class.

For Week 2, have your carving tools, transfer materials, and a block for your first design.

For Week 3, have all printing materials needed (except for fabric to print on).

For Week 5, have fabric to print on.

### **Required:**

- Sketchbook and pencils for creating designs, taking notes, etc.
  - Use what you have, you do not need a special sketch book for this class - unless you would prefer one! Size and preferred writing utensils are entirely up to you.
- Carving Tools
  - For a beginner course I recommend starting with an inexpensive set of tools - I like the Speedball or Blick beginner set with changeable cutting tips. If you think you will be using wood or eventually want to try it, please note that this set of tools is not the best for wood. For wood, I recommend Flexcut or Powergrip.
- Blocks
  - I recommend waiting until you have your design for each project chosen before you select a block for it. The larger the block, the more carving may be necessary - be mindful of this as carving is time consuming! I would try to avoid anything larger than 9" by 12" for this class.
  - There are many styles of block; rubber, linoleum, wood. We will focus on rubber and linoleum for this class. Rubber blocks like Speedy Carve, Speedy Cut, and Blick Ready Cut are the easiest to carve so I recommend these the most. Linoleum is more firm and holds detail well but is more difficult to carve. I will demo each type in class before you need to purchase one. If you are interested in wood blocks, we can work with that!
- Ink
  - Because we will be printing on both paper and fabric this class, the best ink for both is Speedball Fabric and Paper Ink. It is oil based but cleans up with soap and water. The choice of color(s) is up to you and your projects!
- Brayer
  - A brayer is a roller used to ink up the surface of the carved block. Many brands make them. It is better to choose a larger one that covers more of your block at once for even inking. Go for a soft rubber, avoid foam.
- Inking Plate
  - Any flat, even surface works for this. Some use plastic palettes, butcher trays, plexi, glass, palette paper, etc. Make sure it is large enough to roll your ink out. I recommend something 8" x 10" or larger.
- Tracing Paper
  - This will be used to transfer designs onto your block. Any size/quantity is fine.
- Newsprint
  - This will be for test prints once your block is carved and for doing registration. Size 9" by 12" should work but larger is good. Try to choose a size that is larger than what your prints will be.
- Paper for Printing
  - I recommend a thinner paper for printing, Avoid thick, heavy paper. Paper for printing comes in many sizes, brands, and price points. You can buy a pad of pre-cut sheets, or buy one large sheet and cut it down to your desired size. You will not need paper until around week 3, when we do in class printing.

- Fabric for Printing
  - Once we are ready for projects 3 and 4 you will be able to choose what you want to print on. Ideas include tote bags, shirts, tea towels, hats, bandanas, canvas, etc. For project 3 I would like to all do a tea towel together, however if you are not interested in this you can choose something else. We will talk about it as a class.
- Cleanup Materials
  - Our classroom will have a sink, but be prepared to have rags or shop towels, a small bucket, dish soap or Master's bar soap.
- Various extras: scissors, x-acto knife, masking tape, fine/extra fine sharpie, soft pencils (3B+) for transfer

**Optional But Recommended:**

- Bench Hook
  - I strongly recommend getting a bench hook. It holds your block in place for carving and can also be used as a small inking plate.
- Transfer Paper
  - This can also be used for transferring designs onto your block. You can get sheets or rolls, any color works. Saral is the best brand I have tried, it works best on the softer blocks
- Baren
  - A baren is used in printing to apply even pressure while printing. Some folks use their palm, or a large wooden spoon! Barens range in price from \$4-\$25 on the low end.
- Palette Knives
  - Plastic or metal palette knives are great for mixing your inks to achieve a desired color. I recommend experimenting with color so these are beneficial. The plastic ones are a dollar or so each.
- Apron
  - Printing can be messy! An apron may be useful but feel free to opt out. But, I will advise to not wear clothes that you do not want to stain for our printing sessions as ink is hard to remove from clothing.
- Advanced Registration Materials: For multi-block and reduction prints, more accurate registration is key. I will be showing multiple ways to register, the most simple way requires just paper and a sharpie. For multi blocks/colors, prepare to need matboard/chipboard, and Ternes Burton pins and tabs. We won't need these until at least week 3.
- Cutting Safety: Cutting tools are sharp! Various things you can use to avoid accidents are cut gloves, cut guards, cabinet liner material (holds block in place).