

Supplies Needed:

Molds for making gelatin plate, non stick brownie pans/ pastic food trays etc.
Gelatin, *Monoprint or unflavored food grade/ Monoprint gel is better, see supplier info
Bowl for mixing (or mix in your mold)
Water cold and very hot (near boiling)
Measuring spoon & cups
Brayer
Palette for rolling ink on
Water-based block printing ink
Textured ephemera
Paper, lightweight, strong paper such as asian papers, bond paper, filter papers

Recipe = per 1 cup of water 2 tablespoons *Monoprint gelatin. More gelatin will yield a stronger more durable printing block.

Measure the non stick container for how much liquid you need to fill them 3/4 to 1 inch thick with gelatin mix. You'll need a smooth bottomed container. If your mold holds 6 cups of liquid then you need to make 6 x the recipe above. The requisite for the mold is that it be smooth bottomed and non stick. You're trying to make as smooth a printing surface as possible.

Put cold water into the bowl or mold and sprinkle the dry granules onto the surface of the water. Let the granules absorb (Swelling) the water. Then add boiling water and to completely dissolve the granules. Stir gently to avoid bubbles, pour slowly into your container, *remove all bubbles on the surface, let gelatin set up on counter, it will set up nicely in a 70° F room, if it is hot and humid then move to refrigerator. After it is firm (few hours in refrigerator) remove from mold.

*TIP TO REMOVE BUBBLES: gently drag newspaper across the surface of bubbly gelatin or gently use a hair dryer / heat gun to pop the bubbles (dragging the newsprint is safer)

*TIP: add a drop of chlorine bleach or antibacterial soap or cinnamon oil to water to help prevent mold .

When the gelatin is solid cut around the edges and remove the block, un-mold carefully. Allow gelatin block to stand at room temperature to dry out a bit. Reuse the blocks by wrapping up used blocks and keeping in the refrigerator. They turn pink as the magenta ink seems to bleed into the block it will not cause you any problems just don't eat the pink Gel-O. It will keep about 3 weeks so this could be an on going project or a one timer. DO NOT dispose of gelatin in sink drain toss out into trash. It will smell bad quickly and in a drain the gelatin will act like cement.

Alternatives to the non stick pans and more traditional way to make the printing block is to use a large sheet of glass and make a well from clay. Make a clay rope and press on to the glass sheet. Form a complete frame/well. Pour the warm gelatin into the clay on glass well and when it is solid remove the clay rope. This will create wonderful edges and is easy to handle because there is now unmolding the gelatin.

Printing

Roll ink onto a palette with a brayer then roll ink onto gelatin surface. The coating of ink should be slightly transparent over the gelatin. Too much ink will create a blurry /watery print. **It takes several passes of rolling the ink out onto the gelatin to condition the fresh gelatin block as you begin.** The first time you roll the inks onto the blocks the ink will be watery. Just use plain paper, newsprint and remove the ink until you get a nice smooth and evenly inked up block.

Now lightly press/lay objects onto the surface of the inked gelatin. You are only pressing into the ink not the gelatin, so be gentle.

For a positive Image remove objects from the gelatin plate and place paper down onto the plate, paper will pick up the detail of the positive image of your object.

For a Negative Image place objects onto inked gelatin plate. Place paper over the object and gently press all around. Again be gentle. Remove paper and you'll have a negative or silhouetted image of your object.

Draw with tools or paint brushes into/onto the surface of the ink, use feathers, stencils, rubber stamps, string, leaves, etc.

Resources

All the printmaking supplies are available at most art supply stores. The book making supplies are a bit harder to find.

Jerry's Artarama (personal favorite) online

Jerry's Artarama 14 Imperial Place Providence, RI 02903 401-331-4530

Blick Art Materials Landmark Center, Fenway 401 Park Drive Boston, MA 02215 617-247-3322

Charrette 31 Olympia Avenue Woburn, MA 01801 781-935-6000

Paper Source 1810 Mass.Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140 617-497-1077

Utrecht 333 Massachusetts Ave. Boston, MA 02115 617-262-4948

***MONOPRINT** gelatin from: Available in 1 lb to 10 lb boxes.

Please tell them you learned about this from me.

Gelatin Innovations (Vyse) , 5024 Rose Street, Schiller Park IL 60176 800-442-8263

<http://www.gelatininnovations.com>

sales@gelatininnovations.com <http://www.ballisticgelatin.net>