

Step-By-Step Guide for Nature Printing



STEP #1) Select your subject. In this case I have chosen a 6 inch feather to print. Then select paper that has enough space around your subject. *(I like to keep a minimum of 2.5" on all sides)* My favorite paper is MA which is a lightweight, strong mulberry bark paper available from Oriental Art Supply.

https://orientalartsupply.com/products/ma-paper?_pos=1&_sid=e8842049c&_ss=r. Order more than you think you will need!



STEP #2) Next, select the color of ink that you want to use. I use oil based inks in tubes that are water soluble... *(Favorites: Paynes Grey, Burnt Sienna, any of their blacks.)* These are available via Dick Blick online at www.dickblick.com.

I LOVE Gamblins products as shown [here](#):



STEP #3) Squeeze a small amount of the color onto freezer paper, sheet of glass, plexi or metal. Then add some odorless mineral spirits and use a palette knife to thin it out *(Available at all hardware stores)* until it becomes the consistency of warm honey. Push all the ink to one end so that you can lightly touch it with your roller or tampo during step #4.



STEP #4) Take your small roller and roll it back and forth until it is evenly coated. *(Do NOT put your roller or tampo directly into a big pool of ink.)* Then test it on a piece of freezer paper... rolling it up and down, then sideways back and forth, to make sure the ink is evenly distributed. Purchase your rollers at: thepaintstore.com. **Recommended Roller:** Wooster's Economy Trim Roller *(Foam 3"x3/16" - Box of 24)*.

<https://www.thepaintstore.com/Wooster-s-Economy-Trim-Roller-p/r170.htm>



STEP #5) Apply ink to your subject making sure that it is evenly deposited and there are no wet spots of ink. LESS is more!



STEP #6) Move your inked subject (using your tweezers) to a clean background. Lightly mist the paper from 24 inches away and then put it face down on the subject placing it very carefully.



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STEP #7) You are ready to print: Use both hands. Place one hand on the subject to hold it in place while using a combination of tapping, pushing and rubbing gently across the surface with your other hand. Always keep the paper from moving or you will experience double prints and blurring. You will see the ink showing through slightly in the areas you have properly pressed. Make sure all the areas look the same density of darkness. Push down firmly on all your outside edges.



STEP #8) Viola! You have a beautiful print. Place it somewhere that it can dry. Each ink is different but 30 minutes should be sufficient for you to be able to go to Step #9.



STEP #9) You are ready to finish your piece. If you have a chop or seal *(Any artwork can be made into a rubber stamp at Kinkos or office supply stores and is easier to use than a carved stone chop)* place it in your ink until evenly coated. Place a paper towel or tissue on the back side of your print in the location you have chosen. This will ensure a better impression and catch any ink that may bleed thru.

Then you can sign the piece *(With a fine tip felt tip)* anyway you please. Make sure you are careful if you use ink as it will blot very easily.



STEP #10) If you want to mount your piece in-expensively you might consider a birch hard wood “cradled” panel which are also available from Blicks and most art stores. I coat the edges with a glossy coat of black enamel paint and then sand the front and back to remove any over paint.



STEP #11) Apply spray mount to the surface of the wood as well as the back side of the print. *(Make sure you have a background paper or newsprint to catch the overspray as its super sticky).*



STEP #12) Burnish the surface with a credit card or large putty knife. You should put a piece of paper between the print and whatever you are using to burnish the surface with. Then using a sand paper block or sheet, sand the very edges of the panel and the paper will fall away and you have a perfect finished piece of nature print art!



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