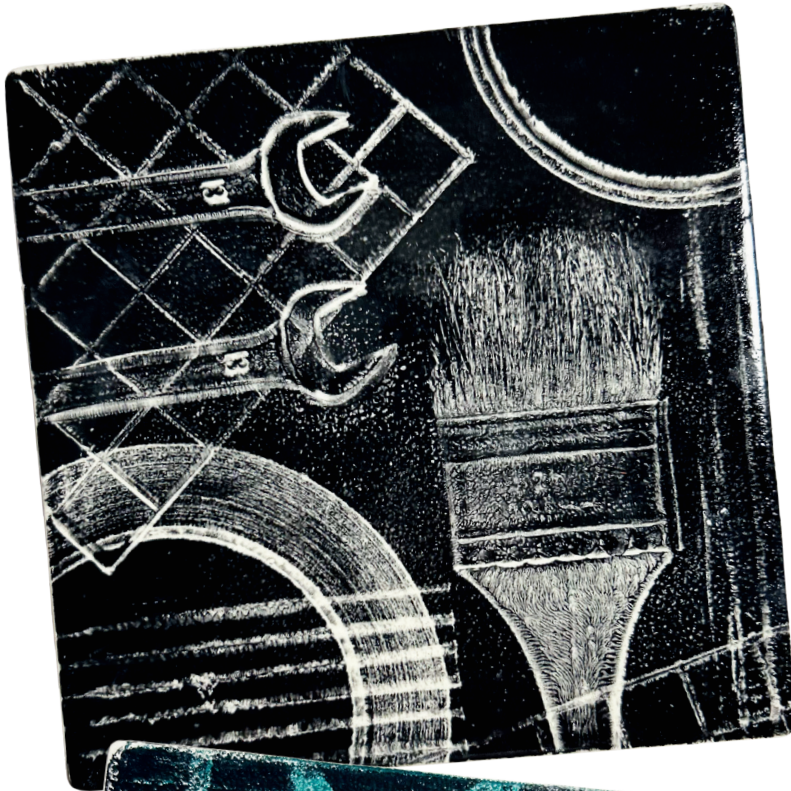


MONOPRINTS ON CLAY AND BISQUE



Materials

- Velvet Underglaze Printing Ink*
- ✦ Gelatin Printing Plate**
(see homemade instructions inside or purchase Gelli™ plates)
- AMACO 25 M White Art Clay (slabs)
- ✦ AMACO Teacher's Palette Light Glazes
- AMACO LG-10 Clear Transparent Glaze
- ✦ Bisque Tiles, 6" x 6"
- Plastic Wrap
- ✦ Palette Knife or Popsicle Stick
- Brayer
- ✦ Dawn® Dish Soap
- Water Misting Bottle
- ✦ Baby Wipes
- Miscellaneous Tools and Brushes for pressing texture into printing plates
- ✦ Tissue paper (8" x 8")
- Wooden Pony Roller
- ✦ Chinet® Oval Plates
- Permanent Markers
- ✦ Scissors
- Gift Card or Rubber Rib

Alternative Printing Plate Printing Supplies

- Craft Foam Sheets
- ✦ Quart-size Plastic Bags
- Masking Tape
- ✦ Brushes, assorted
- Scraper or Spatula

*Preparing Velvet Underglaze Ink

1.



2.



3.



*



- 1. Pour AMACO Velvet Underglaze into a shallow container like a pie pan.
- ✨ 2. Let the underglaze evaporate until it is the consistency of silkscreen or block printing ink.
- 3. Put the thickened underglaze in a jar with a tight-fitting lid.
- ✖ **Hint:** If the underglaze gets too thick, use a solution of AMACO Gum Solution and distilled water to thin it.

**Homemade Gelatin Printing Plate

1.



2.



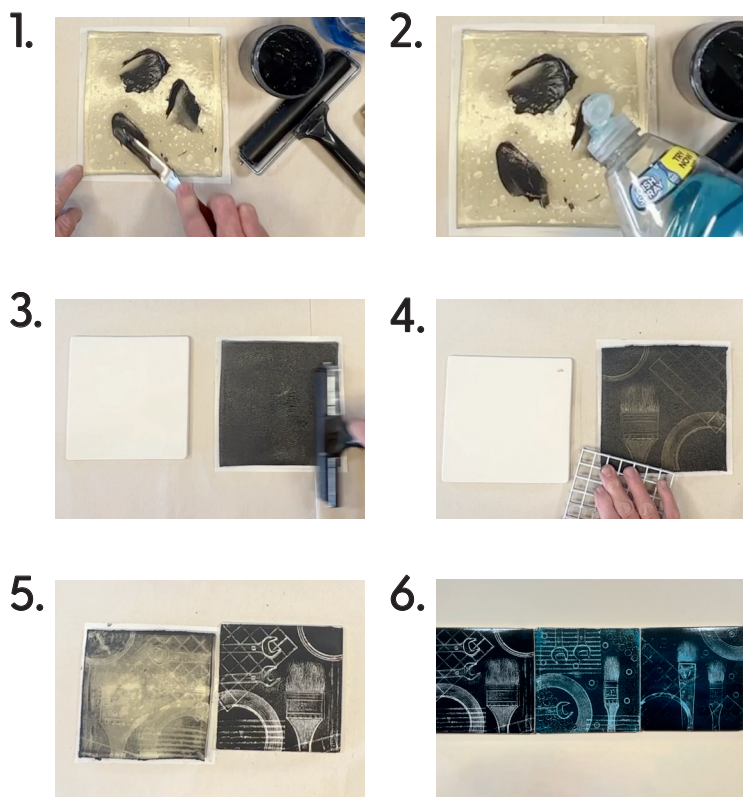
3.



In a bowl, mix:
1.5 cups 91% Isopropyl Alcohol
1.5 cups Glycerin
16 Tbsp. Knox Gelatin

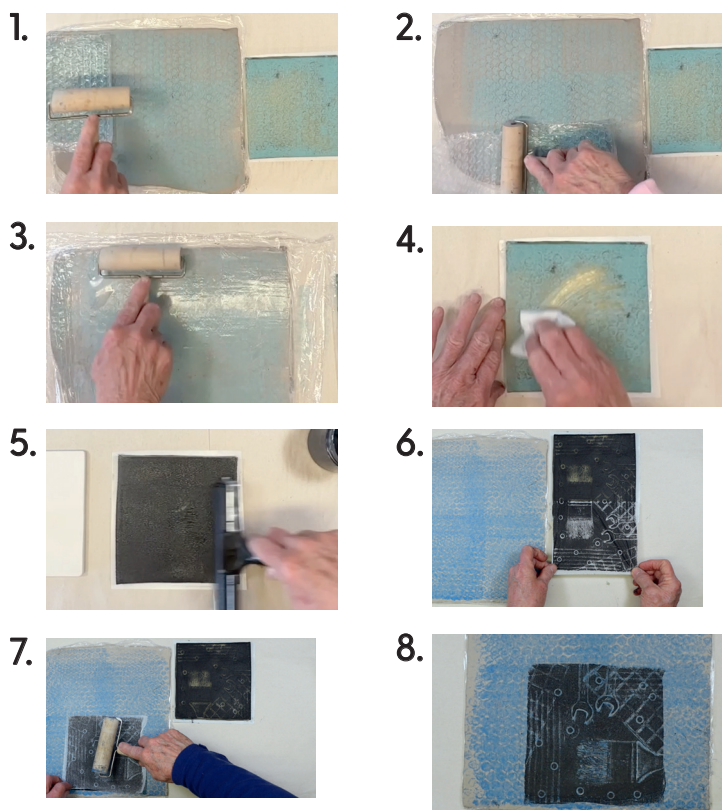
- 1. Mix the alcohol, glycerin, and gelatin together, then add 3 cups of boiling water. Stir well until the gelatin is dissolved.
- ✨ 2. Pour the mixture into a shallow cookie tray. The gelatin printing plate should be approximately 3/8 to 1/2 inch thick.
- 3. Let the gelatin printing plate sit overnight, then flip it out of the cookie tray onto a piece of plastic or plastic wrap. Let it sit a second night. The printing plate is ready to use but will become firmer and stronger after a few days.

Printing on Bisque Using a Gelatin Printing Plate



1. Spread the Velvet Underglaze Ink onto the gelatin printing plate with a palette knife or popsicle stick.
- * 2. Add just one drop of dish soap onto the underglaze.
- 3. Use a brayer to evenly roll the ink on the gelatin printing plate.
- ✘ 4. Pressing objects: Brushes, tools, corrugated cardboard, or other “found” objects on the inked plate.
- 5. Place the bisque tile onto the gelatin printing plate and press firmly. Hold the tile and gelatin printing plate together and flip them over. Use a wooden roller to press the gelatin printing plate onto the bisque tile, then remove the gelatin printing plate, and the transfer will be complete.
- * 6. The printed bisque tile can be glazed with LG-10 Clear or a 50/50 mix of AMACO TPL Glaze and LG-10 Clear. TPL-23 Aquamarine and TPL-27 Zircon work especially well. Glaze fire to Cone 05 on medium speed.

Printing on Moist Clay Using a Gelatin Printing Plate



- 1. Roll a light-colored Velvet Underglaze ink onto a textured surface like bubble wrap.
- * 2. Press the inked bubble wrap onto a moist clay slab to print the texture. Repeat the process to create a random pattern.
- 3. When the textured pattern is made, place plastic wrap over the slab and use a wooden roller to smooth the surface.
- ✘ 4. Clean the printing plate with a baby wipe or with water and a paper towel.
- 5. Apply Velvet Underglaze Ink with a palette knife/popsicle stick and add a drop of dish soap. Use a brayer to cover the gelatin printing plate with Velvet Underglaze ink evenly.
- * 6. Press objects into the inked printing plate. Place a piece of white tissue paper, shiny side down, on the inked plate and roll with a wooden roller.
- 7. Peel the tissue paper off the plate, then place it, print side down, on the moist clay slab. Use a wooden roller to secure the print to the clay surface.
- ✘ 8. Peel away the tissue paper, and your print has transferred to the clay surface.

Alternative Printing Plate: Ziplock Baggie Printing Plate



1. Cut 2 squares of foam sheets the size of a quart-size plastic bag. They should fit snugly inside the baggie to prevent them from shifting inside the bag.
- ✱ 2. Insert the foam sheets into the plastic baggie, then fold the excess plastic over and tape. Snip the corner of the plastic bag to let the air out.
- 3. Put Velvet Underglaze Ink on the baggie, then add one drop of dish soap. Use a brayer to roll the ink evenly on the plastic bag.
- ✖ 4. Use the end of a paintbrush to draw into the inked surface and/or press found objects firmly onto the baggie.
- 5. Lay a piece of white tissue paper, shiny side down, onto the inked baggie.
- ✱ 6. Peel the tissue paper off the baggie and lay it, ink side down, onto the clay slab.
- 7. Use a wooden roller to roll the printed tissue firmly onto the clay slab. Peel the tissue off, and the transfer is complete.

Forming the Printed Clay Slabs

Printed clay slabs can be covered with plastic wrap and smoothed to keep the surface moist and to protect the image during hand-building. Refer to the hand-building instructions on AMACO's website and YouTube channel: "Hand-Built Clay Plates: Building with Soft Clay Slabs"



Printing Vocabulary

Brayer: Roller used to apply ink to the printing plate.

Plate or Printing Plate: Flat surface that is "inked" to pull a print.

Baren: A flat object that's used to rub the paper when it is in contact with the inked plate.

Registration: Lining up and printing two or more colors on top of each other.

Monoprint: Printmaking that creates a one-of-a-kind print.

Gelatin plate: Flexible printing plate that has a spongy surface. Gelatin printing plates are commercially sold (Gelli™ Plates) or homemade from a mixture of glycerin, alcohol, gelatin, and water.

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