

Pressing Matters October 2023

We will use recycled materials, where possible, together with non-toxic water-based printing inks. You will need the following:

- Tetrapak cartons: These come in a variety of formats, in particular on the alternative milk shelved section but the thing to look for on the bottom or side of the carton is the word 'aseptic'. This means no refrigeration required so 'long life' products. Here in the UK I tend to use discarded oat milk cartons. I suggest you begin collecting these as early as possible so that you have a good supply.
- An etching needle or scribe, available here in the UK from any art supply shop, alternatively in America at Dick Blick or Amazon. Any sharp tool like a nail or darning needle also make great marks although they are a little harder to hold.
- A smooth hard palette to mix and spread inks. A piece of plexi-glass or glass is best, but you can use a kitchen cutting board or surplus breadboard!
- A roller or brayer for spreading ink evenly. The roller should be between 2 and 4 inches wide which will be adequate for almost any printmaking process. Ideally it will be soft rubber. Working with a variety of colours it's helpful to have more than one.
- Old loyalty/store cards or similar
- Scalpel or craft cutting knife, palette knives/spatulas for handling and mixing ink on the palette.
- Cutting mat
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Water-based intaglio printing ink. Akua Intaglio inks are recommended. Black is a staple in any print studio but for colour work a blue, a red and a yellow are enough to make any colours. For those of you used to using oil based inks or any other brand of waterbased inks please do carry on with them.

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- **IN US:** ~60 lb. drawing paper. Large sheets can be cut to fit press bed. Paper pads are convenient.
- **IN UK:** 220 gram cartridge paper. Large sheets can be cut to fit press bed. Paper pads are convenient.
- Standard printer paper and any paper you have to hand. These will give a variety of results which you may find interesting. I have a personal preference for Hosho paper which is light and absorbent but not always available in the U.S.
- Papers for chine colle and collage: lightweight paper works best or pieces of discarded prints that you make as we go along.
- Tracing paper
- Baby wipes and cotton buds. Bought cheaply at a pound/dollar store the wipes are great for cleaning up rollers, palette knives and palettes. The cotton buds are a valuable tool when inking your plates.
- Scrim (known in the USA as tarlatan) or discarded vegetable net. This is the type used to wrap oranges and lemons at supermarkets.