

# The Beginners Guide to Art Stamping

This guide is intended to help those starting out in the wonderful world of Art Stamping with Rubbadubbadoo. The ideas and possibilities for using rubber stamps are endless and there is much information available. This is just a start. For further information about our products, please contact us.

## Inking Stamps

Most commonly, ink pads are used for applying ink to your rubber stamp. All the ink pads in our range have a raised foam or felt above the edges of their container, allowing you to move your stamp across the surface and ink a stamp of any size.

When inking your stamp, tap it gently onto the pad, ensuring that you use all areas of the inked surface otherwise some parts of the pad will dry out before others.

You do not need to apply excess pressure with the stamp onto the pad. A repeated 'tapping' motion seems to work best. After inking, check the rubber surface to ensure that there is an adequate layer and even distribution of ink before stamping. Note that stamps require extra inking when being used for the first time.

If you find your stamped images are a little faint, you may need to press on the pad harder and more often to get more ink on the stamp or reink your ink pad. Different pad surfaces also affect the inking process. Pigment inks with foam pads require less pressure than dye inks that have felt pads.

The Marvey Brush Marker range can also be used to apply ink to your stamp. Paint the ink directly onto the rubber surface and the stamp your image. Because of the fine tipped pen, you can apply multi-colours to your stamp.

## Stamping

To stamp an image, hold the stamp securely by the sides and press firmly down onto a hard, flat surface. Do not rock the stamp or apply excess pressure. With bigger stamps press around the outside of the block with your fingers to ensure the entire image prints. The smaller the stamp, the less pressure it requires. As always, practice makes perfect as you learn the personality of each of your stamps.

## Embossing

This is a definite favourite in the world of stamping, creating raised, elegant impressions once associated only with professional printing.

First, stamp your image using either the Emboss-ink pad or the slow drying pigment inks. Pour embossing powder liberally over the wet image. Tip the surplus powder off the image onto a piece of folded scrap paper to be funnelled back into the container. At this point it may be useful to use a fine paintbrush to dust away excess grains of powder, which adhere to the paper. To minimise this, try to have clean hands and not 'finger' the paper too much before use (powder sticks to moisture from your fingers). Heat the image by holding it (image side up) above a toaster, face of an iron or electric hotplate, or with the 'Heat it' Heat Gun. A paint-stripping gun is also suitable (but hairdryers do not get hot enough)

As the powder melts, the image changes in appearance from grainy and dull to raised and shiny. Beware you can overcook your image, resulting in an appearance that is rather dull and flat. Watch the image carefully as it melts, you will soon learn when you have reached the optimum effect.

## Adding colour

Stamps with large areas of solid rubber achieve most of their colour from the inking process. Outline images derive most of their colour from the colouring in process. Some tools include pencils, paints, Art Brush Pens, glitter glue and appliqué. When colouring in an inked image, colour pencils are ideal. If colouring with wetter mediums such as marker pens or paints, emboss your image first or stamps with waterproof inks such as Archival, Décor it and Fabracadabra to avoid inks running together. Marvey Brush Markers are a favourite tool of stampers for colouring images. With care the colours can be blended together, especially with the help of the Blender Pen.

## Positioning images

The Stamp Positioner is an L shaped device giving the stampers total control in positioning an image, such as getting script images straight on the project. Align a piece of tracing paper into the right angle of the Positioner. Stamp onto the tracing paper (pref using Dye Ink) by placing the corner of the stamp block into the corner of the Positioner.

Move the transparent paper onto your project and place your image exactly where you want it. Hold the tracing paper in place and slide the positioner back onto the corner of the paper. Remove the tracing paper. Holding the positioner firmly, stamp your image in the corner as before, using the ink of your choice.

## Masking

Stampers use masking to show one image sitting behind another, to add backgrounds, and to partially stamp an image. To create an illusion of depth by making one image sit behind another, stamp the foreground image first. On a scrap piece of paper stamp it again, then cut it out, taking care to cut slightly inside the outlines of the image. Post it notes with their sticky sections are great for making masks. Position the cut out image exactly over the previously stamped foreground picture to 'mask' it. Stamp the background partially on top and to the side of the first. Remove the mask and see the effect. Use the mask to protect the image when creating the backgrounds with sponges, sprays, etc. Many designs can be neatly joined to create flowing borders by placing a mask over the joining end and overlapping the ends slightly.

Clean your stamps before changing colours by pressing onto a wet dish sponge until clean. Dry with a paper towel. Use Stamp Cleaner or turps on permanent inks; baby wipes are great too.