

## Mono Printing with Found Objects



**Age Group:** Can be adapted for KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4 **Time Allowance:** 45 minutes - 1 hour

### Equipment Needed:

- Rollers
- Handprinted Block Printing Inks
- Inking trays
- Softcut or Lino printing block
- Paper to print on
- Scissors
- Scrap paper or newsprint
- Palette knives or glue spreaders

### Additional Resources Needed:

- Leaves, feathers, raffia and other flat found objects such as scraps of lace, netting or sequin cutouts

### Lesson Objective:

To explore different textures from found objects through mono printing.

To understand basic mono printing techniques such as rolling out ink, inking up blocks and burnishing prints.

To understand printing positive and negative shapes.

### Learning Expectations:

Students will create a series of prints that explore textures of found materials.

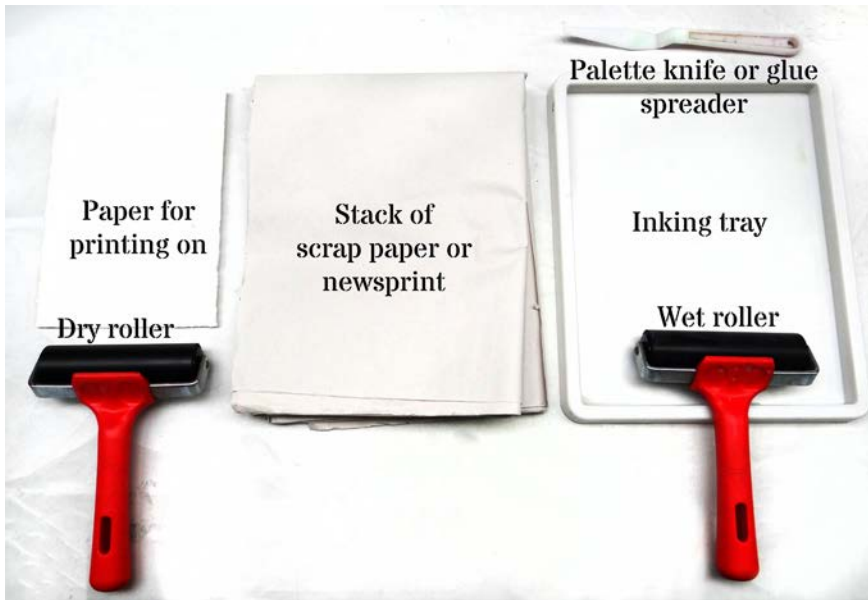
Students will understand the process of mono printmaking with found objects.

### Classroom Set Up and Preparation:

- The whole class may take part all at once, or, if there isn't space or enough equipment, it can be done a group at a time.
- Each student needs a roller for inking, a roller that stays dry, a printing tray, a piece of lino or soft cut, some scrap paper, access to block printing inks, paper to print on and textured found objects such as leaves and feathers.
- An area should be set aside for drying prints (such as a drying rack or washing line with pegs).

### Vocabulary:

- Brayer - a hand held roller used to spread ink evenly on a surface before printing.
- Mono printing - a type of printmaking where each print can only be made once.
- Stencil - used to block out areas to keep ink off the print.



## Setting up the desks

Each student should have their desk set up as in the picture, to allow for easy printing with less mess! This set up is for right handers, left handers should have their desk set up as a mirror image. Newspaper or cloths should be put down to ensure an easy clean up.



### Step 1

Squeeze out a little ink onto the inking tray. Mix with a palette knife until you get a smooth, consistent colour.



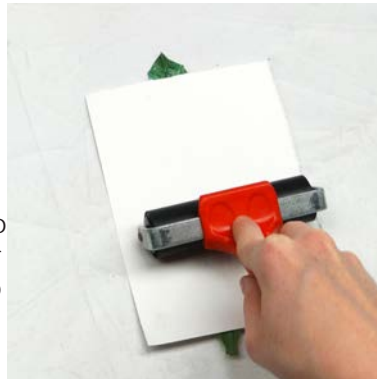
### Step 2

Bring down a little ink to the middle of the inking tray. Roll the ink out on the tray until it is an evenly distributed covering. You'll know when you have rolled out the right amount because it will make a zzz zzz sound.



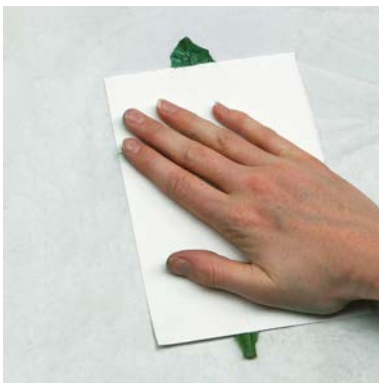
### Step 3

Lay your found object on top of the stack of scrap paper. We have used a dandelion leaf. Use the inked up roller to cover the leaf in a layer of ink. You may need to use your other hand to hold it still at one end.



### Step 4

Move your inked up leaf to the clean area, inked side up. Place your printing paper on top and use the dry roller to burnish the ink onto the paper. Use your other hand to keep the paper still or you will have a smudgy print.



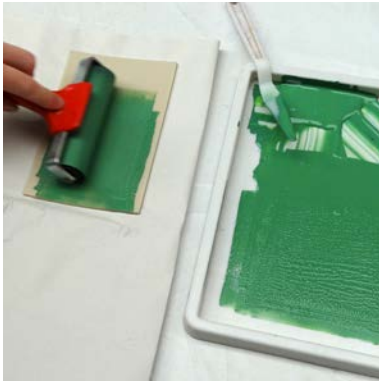
### Step 5

When you have burnished your print all over, use your hands to apply even more pressure. This will ensure you get all the detail from the leaf. Again, be careful not to shift the paper as the image may smudge.



### Step 6

Turn your paper over and carefully peel off the leaf. You should be left with a print!



### Step 7

Use a piece of lino or softcut to create prints. Placing the block onto a fresh sheet of scrap paper, cover the block in an even coating of ink.



### Step 8

Ink up some leaves, feathers or other flat objects and place them, inked side up, on top of your block on the clean area of your desk.



### Step 9

Place your paper on top and burnish the print in the same way as before, making sure to reach all the edges of your block. When you peel off the paper, you should be left with a solid block of colour with your objects printed within it.



### Step 10

Continue to ink up different leaves, feathers, raffia and other objects to make prints, remembering to change the sheet of scrap paper each time. You can keep reinking the lino or softcut block and print again.

Each student should produce a range of different textured prints.

### Extension and Expansion Ideas:

When the prints are dry, repeat the process with another colour of ink. You can create layered prints, and even try to register some of the shapes together by overlaying objects onto the prints.

Create one large print using several blocks and objects alongside and layered over one another.

Use the same techniques to print on fabric with Speedball Fabric Block Printing Inks.

Print using lace, sequin cut outs and other different textured surfaces. Try layering them on top of one another to create a design.