

Eco Printing on Paper and cloth with microwave - Claire Rohloff

Steps

1. Gather leaves - oak, maple, sumac, bamboo, ginko, fern, smoke bush, sumac, seeds, etc. 2. Soak in rusty water for 30 min or more. Rusty water is made by putting anything that rusts, nails, wires, etc. in a solution of 30% white vinegar and 70% water for a period of about 2 weeks.
Also you can add some tea water to the rusty water. Water is reuseable.
3. Cut paper to size of ceramic tiles or wood which will become the top and bottom of the stack to make a paper press. Watercolor 140 lb. works well, or card stock, but the impression is not as good.
4. Dip paper in the rusty water with the soaked leaves and arrange soaked leaves (not dripping) on paper.
Alternate Stacking papers with leaves one on top of the other vein side down. Double sided prints will occur if you stack with: paper- leaves - paper leaves, etc. I did about 20 papers with leaves.
5. Use ceramic tiles or wood to put on top and bottom of the stack. **Secure as tightly as you can using rubber bands or string. The most important thing is that there is tight contact with leaves and paper.**
6. Optional -use a pipette to squirt rusty water or a tea solution into the stack if you want more background color.
7. Put stack in a zip lock bag tightly closed.
8. Put in dedicated to craft, microwave (900 W) on high - use a temperature gun to check the temperature after 1 minute. Temperature needs to get to 180-190 degrees.
9. The ceramic tile top and bottom stack, took 1 min 30 sec. to get to temperature. The wood top and bottom stack, took 2 min. 15 seconds to get to temperature. Remove zip lock bags and wrap in towel or put in sun for more heat with a weight applied. I used a 15 lb dumbbell. Let sit overnight with weight and in the morning open for the reveal.
10. Remove leaves and let paper dry on a flat cardboard surface. You can iron the paper to flatten if necessary on a low heat.

FABRIC - use PFD (prepared for dye) cotton, or well washed cotton (to remove any sizing), silk or wool.

For fabric blocks:

1. Cut fabric to size of ceramic tile or a thin wood. The tile or wood will be used on either end of the stack.
2. Slip cloth into rusty water and place leaves which have soaked in rusty water on fabric.
3. Put fabric on top of 1 ceramic tile piece.
4. Continue to stack more fabric then leaves on top of one another.
5. Top with the other tile and use rubber bands to hold the "press" tightly.
6. Put in zip lock plastic bag and seal. Cook in microwave until temp reaches 180-190 degrees F. about 4 min. (900 watt microwave)
7. Remove and let bag sit in sun for more heat until dusk- bring inside and weigh with 15 lb. dumb bell. Open in am, remove leaves, and rinse fabric.
8. Let fabric soak for 15 min in a solution of 1 cup salt to 1 gallon water to stop effect of rust on fabric which can be damaging over time. Set print with iron.

What you need to bring:

Rubber gloves and apron or wear old clothes.

Bring paper for cards (watercolor pad #140) , or cloth (cotton, silk or wool) **No synthetic**- old sheet, tshirt, etc. **You will cut paper or fabric to size of tiles or wood when here.**

Supplied:

Rusty water, leaves, zip lock bags, microwave, heat gun.

After bag has set overnight at home you will be disassembling your stack and rinsing off leaves. **Return ceramic tiles and wood to me.** Make your creation into a finished project, Example cards, tags, wall hanging or quilt, pillow cover, table runner, clothing,

Check out <https://www.madebybarb.com/2018/12/02/simple-eco-printing-on-paper/> for more info or [google](#)