

Stamp Making with Anna Ray

Discover how to make your own stamps out of cardboard. Create your own simple and effective designs using different colours and shapes and printing on paper or fabric.

You will need:

- Stiff card, cardboard and/or foam sheets
- Paper or fabric
- Paint (e.g. acrylic)
- Brush
- Scissors
- Glue (e.g. PVA) and glue spreader
- Pen
- Roller (optional)

You could use recyclable materials from cereal packaging and cardboard boxes for this project.



1. Use pieces of **stiff card** to form the **base** of your hand-made stamps.
2. **Cut shapes from cardboard** or foam sheets and stick them to the base card with PVA glue. Alternatively, you could use a glue-gun or double-sided sticky tape to do this.
3. With a brush and undiluted thick paint, **coat the raised part of the stamp** and then press it firmly onto a piece of fabric or paper. You could use a roller if you prefer.
4. **Repaint the stamp** each time you use it. Keep printing onto the surface, creating patterns or layers of motif and shapes.
5. You can **use more than one colour** to coat different parts of the stamp. Make sure that you work quickly so that the paint does not dry on the stamp.
6. Try **drawing shapes onto the cardboard** to create new stamp forms. If you vary the thickness of the paint on the stamps, this creates a more **textural effect**.
7. Build up layers of motif and shapes and **make as many stamps as you wish**. Vary the size and complexity of the shapes.
8. If you use more than one colour of paint across the stamp in stripes, you can make **multi-coloured motifs**.

Take it further: Once the artwork is dry, you could embellish your design with pens and coloured markers, or you could stitch into it with a needle and thread. By making stamps of letters from the alphabet, you could then include words in your artwork.

Try stamping onto patterned fabric or paper for a more complex effect.

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