

Linoleum Art Press Tools

Make your own tools for impressions and textures

Create simple tools for stamping image impressions, creating raised designs and adding textures to a variety of artworks. They can be pressed into clay prior to kiln firing, polymer clay before baking and air-dry clay while still moist. Wonder-Cut Linoleum is 1/4" deep, providing plenty of depth for carving a variety of textures and dimensions. Clay impressions will have amazing, precise detail. Tools can also be used for creating patterns in metal foil or making texture rubbings on paper — as well as traditional linoleum block prints!

These tools can be kept in the classroom and used over and over in a variety of projects. With proper care and handling, they will last for years.

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Grade Levels 5-12

Process

1. Understanding of positive and negative space is necessary for this. It is important to understand that the areas that will be cut away will be the areas that will be raised when stamped in the clay.

Draw design directly on the piece of linoleum with a pencil. The design must be created in reverse

2. Cutters should always point away from the body and fingers kept out of the way to avoid cuts. For extra safety, a V-grooved plate is recommended to hold block absolutely steady.

HINTS for cutting Linoleum

- Vary the depths of cuts to create multiple layers of relief.
- For large cut-away areas, create an outline with the small V-groove, then use larger cutter to remove the rest.
- Areas kept at surface level (not cut away), will appear flat.
- Edges of the linoleum tool will be square unless they are carved away.



Carved blocks of Wonder-Cut® Linoleum, pressed into clay tile to form relief art.



Materials

Blick Wonder-Cut® Linoleum, size 2" x 3" piece (40417-1029), one per student

Speedball® Lino Set No. 2 (40203-1029), share between two students

V-Grooved Inking Plate (42906-1003) optional

Suggested Applications

1. Press textures and patterns into any pottery, polymer or air-dry clay.
2. Emboss metal tooling foil by placing the metal over the design and burnishing with fingers or a blunt, rounded tool. Turn metal over and “chase” the embossed texture by tracing around it with a blunt, rounded tool.
Recommended materials: 38 gauge foil in Copper (60504-8125) or Gold (60504-4050) and Ten Seconds Studio Basic Tool Set (60516-1001)
3. Lay paper over the tool and burnish with a crayon or pencil to pick up the texture beneath.

To Clean the Tool:

1. For air-drying clay, allow to dry and brush away with a bristle brush or toothbrush. Tool may also be cleaned with a damp paper towel, a moistened cotton swab or a wooden stylus (14907-1045) Do not soak tool with water or use a sharp object to clean.

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

5-8

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

9-12

Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use