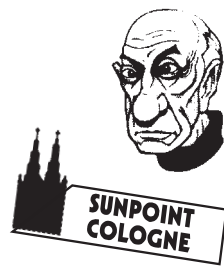


Make your own stamp: what you need.

To prepare your own stamp you need either a black and white photo or a laser copy without gray tones and with sharp contours (in the interest of safety it is advisable to have two or three copies) in the size of the desired motif. Do not use deskjet or fax prints. Furthermore you will need an iron and a hairdryer or oven. To prepare a stamp from a photo you have to make a half-tone copy of the photo motif from a photocopy shop.



Do-It-Yourself stamp-kit

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INSTRUCTIONS

A: IRONING THE RED FOIL

Set Iron on wool or cotton.

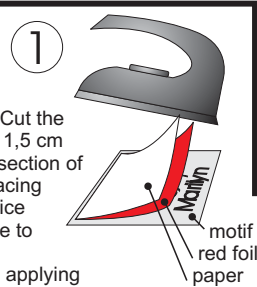
Use a soft underlay, for example a newspaper. Cut the desired motif out of the photocopy with roughly 1,5 cm border and lay it on the underlay. Cover with a section of red foil of at least equal size with the red side facing upwards (do not crease or scratch the foil). Notice the foils may partially cling together. Make sure to use only one.

Lay a sheet of white paper on top of this. Then, applying maximum pressure, move a hot iron across the sheets of motif, red foil and white paper in various directions 4-5 times for a total of 5-10 seconds, only using the forward part of the iron. (figure 1)

Peel the red foil off the motif (the foil will curl in slightly).

This red foil will now function as a negative copy!

Check the motif on the photocopy: All previously black areas must now be coloured red. If some black areas are still visible than repeat the procedure using a new copy and new red foil, making sure to apply more pressure and with the temperature of the iron slightly raised.



With the kit it is possible to prepare up to three stamps. In order to avoid any mistakes we recommend that you first practice with a relatively small sized stamp (1 x 1 cm for example). This is particularly advisable if you intend making only one large stamp as opposed to three smaller ones. For the practice attempt use a small area of the red foil and any desired photocopy with lettering or a motif.

Length of exposure in minutes	SPRING		SUMMER		FALL		WINTER	
	midday	morning & aftern.	midday	morning & aftern.	midday	morning & aftern.	midday	morning & aftern.
strong sunshine	25	40	15	20	25	40	35	45
pleasant	35	45	20	25	35	45	45	60
cloudy	45	60	25	30	45	60	60	75
very overcast and dismal	90	*	40	60	90	*	90	*

The lengths of exposure are valid for central Europa and North Amerika. In southerly countries with more intensive sunshine the exposure times can be reduced.

The exposure time is to be chosen according to season, time of day and weather.

For example to prepare a stamp in spring with pleasant weather in the afternoon the recommended period of exposure is 45 minutes. In case of doubt over the weather choose the longer exposure time.

Exceeding by 30 % is not of disadvantage. Under-exposure, on the other hand is to be avoided.

* During such times of day with poor lighting no stamp can be prepared.

B: EXPOSE IN DAYLIGHT

Only open the small black bag containing the yellow stamp plate in a darkened room (avoid sunlight, light bulbs and neon lights can however remain on).

Cut out a section of the yellow rubber-stamp plate roughly 3 - 4 mm larger than the motif. Place the remainder back in the black bag. Place the negative with the red side facing upwards on the outside of the lid of the transparent box. (figure 2)

Remove the protective foil from the rubber-stamp plate and place with the dull side facing downwards on the negative (avoid creases and scratches). Secure both layers on the lid with crossways layers of transparent tape. (figure 3)

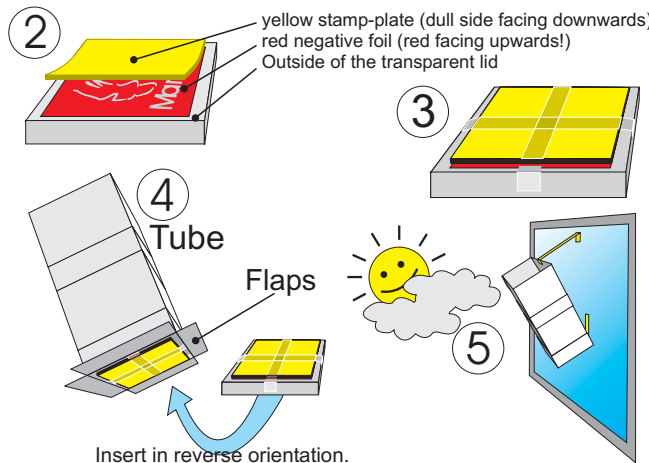
Unfold the box in which the stamp kit came in to produce a long rectangular tube. Push the transparent lid to the bottom of the light-tube, ensuring that the taped side is facing downwards. (figure 4)

Close the flaps of the tube with tape and fasten the tube to the outer side of a window with two pieces of tape. (figure 5)

Face the tube upwards but make sure it is not pointing directly at the sun. For recommended lengths of exposure please consult the table.

C: PRODUCING A STAMP WITH A UV-LIGHT.

It is also possible to use a UV-lamp to expose the negative. In this case point the tube directly at the lamp from 1m distance. Exposure time: 10-40 min. depending on light intensity. (For example 30 min. with a facial tanner, black light bulb 5 cm distance 30 min.)



How to make your own stamp.

The red foil is ironed over the photocopy, removed and with the light-sensitive stamp plate exposed to daylight. After exposure the relief is washed with water from the plate, briefly dried and stuck onto the handle provided. The stamp is now ready for use. This procedure can be carried out in daylight (cloudy to bright light), with a UV-lamp or a machine for checking the authenticity of banknotes. The

D: WASHING OUT RELIEF

During exposure the stamp-plate will have become water-insoluble at the areas where the finished stamp was placed.

Place the stamp-plate in a container filled with tap water. (figure 6) A syrupy film will form on the dull side of the plate. Remove this film from all areas of the plate through quick, vibrating motions with a brush under water. The relief-stamp will now emerge. Do not brush for longer than 3-4 minutes, as small points or fine lines could otherwise be removed from the stamp. Wash any resulting foam away with tap water.

Afterwards dry the damp and sticky stamp-plate for 15-20 min. with a hairdryer or 30 min. in an oven at hand-hot (a moderate) temperature. If you are using a hairdryer it is possible to lay the hairdryer down and stand the stamp in front of it. (figure 7)

Now place the dried stamp-plate for 20 min. in daylight or in front of a UV-lamp where it will fully harden (figure 8)

The waste water does not represent any environmental threat.

It is recommended for particularly sensitive people or people with allergies to wear rubber gloves. Avoid contact with mouth and eyes.

E: FINISHING THE STAMP

Cut the stamp-plate with a small border along the motif-relief and stick to a stamp-handle with double-sided tape. You can now begin to stamp. (figure 9)

F: TROUBLESHOOTING

If instead of being sharp the contours of the relief run together then the exposure-time was too long or the tube was pointing directly at the sun.

If the relief starts to come undone during washing then the exposure-time was too short or there was not enough light during the period of exposure. Alternatively the relief was washed for too long.

If absolutely no relief is discernible there was possibly an obstruction between the tube and the sky (for example the house opposite). Alternatively it may have been too dark or the foil, stamp-plate and transparent lid were not inserted into the tube in the correct order.

J: SPECIAL PROPERTIES

Your personally prepared stamp is suitable for stamping materials (especially silk), tin, glass and plastics if used in conjunction with the correct colorings, which are available in specialist stamp shops. Never leave the finished stamp lying on the ink pad after use. Wash dirty stamps briefly with soapy water and dry.

WARNING!

Any unauthorized duplication of copyright protected motifs as well as the imitation of official stamps and seals is a punishable offense.

