

# 1450 Ocean - Made By Hand Project - Linoleum Relief Prints

**T**ry your hand at making limited-edition cards using this ancient (and fun) relief-printing technique! Lines are cut in a relatively soft, flat material, like wood or linoleum, then the surface is inked so that the cut areas remain ink-free and the uncut faces transfer ink onto paper. No press is needed; simple pressure with the back of a wooden spoon is sufficient to transfer the ink.

Remember to take care when using the cutting tool; always cut away from your body and hands and take your time, bracing your work only behind the cutting tool. No need to make deep cuts with this technique either, but remember that images are reversed when you print!

## Materials and equipment needed (available at most art supply stores):

- linocut tool set
- linoleum sheet (other possible plate surfaces include wood, rubber and Styrofoam)
- pencil and fine-point marking pen
- Speedball water-based relief-printing ink\*
- brayer (roller for evening out and applying ink)
- burnisher (wooden spoon or block of polished wood)
- piece of Plexiglas® or other glass for evenly rolling out ink
- waste paper (newsprint—any size larger than the linoleum sheet)
- acid-free printmaking paper
- optional safety gear: nitrile gloves.

*\*This ink is as non-toxic as common acrylic paint; it can be washed off with water and dish soap, but will stain clothes.*

**STEP 1** Draw your image on a small sheet of linoleum—the plate—with a pencil. Then go over the lines with a marking pen for clarity. If you want to have specific lines in your finished print, remember to draw outlines around where these lines should be, as any cut areas will remain uninked.

**STEP 2** Choose a head for your linocut tool that corresponds with the width of the cut you wish to make, and cut out your design with shallow grooves (1mm deep is fine), aiming for crisp edges. Brush out any shavings from your finished plate.

**STEP 3** Squeeze a line of ink that's as wide as the brayer onto the smooth surface. Pick up a small amount of ink from that line (leaving the majority untouched), then roll that out into a square: up and down, then side to side, to flatten and even the distribution of ink. The square of ink should be very thin and will resemble a patch of velvet. Too much ink on the brayer or the surface will look rough and might get into your cut lines. Use the waste paper to dispose of any excess.

**STEP 4** With your scantily inked brayer, ink your plate, also up-down and side-side. Check to see that your lines are clean and free of ink, and that the whole surface is also free of linoleum shavings or dried ink.

**STEP 5** Make a “sandwich” by laying down a sheet of waste paper, then your inked plate with ink facing up, the printmaking paper or cardstock on top of that, and top with another piece of waste paper. (Take care not to move your print-making paper!) Rub the entire top surface of the sandwich from the center outward with the burnisher, using a circular motion and applying steady pressure. You can check the ink transfer by carefully lifting the corner of your paper. Burnish until your paper has an image that is solidly inked.

**STEP 6** Remove your new print and lay out to dry for 20-30 minutes before touching the surface. Repeat the process for more prints! (Be sure to thoroughly clean your brayer between print-making sessions.)





## Join the community

at 1450 Ocean, Santa Monica's center for arts and movement for all adults in the Camera Obscura building, Palisades Park. We're just north of the Pier entrance and a block from several parking options and a multitude of restaurants. Here you can learn salsa moves, enhance your blogging skills, design a font, mix a perfume, fuse glass, solder a circuitboard and more! Classes are added on a rolling basis - check back often and join our email list (below).

**Contact** [communityclasses@smgov.net](mailto:communityclasses@smgov.net) or (310) 458-2239

**View 1450 Ocean classes** at [facebook.com/1450ocean/events](https://facebook.com/1450ocean/events)

**Register for classes** at [ow.ly/lehoU](https://ow.ly/lehoU) (search by keyword or location)

**Visit** us at [smgov.net/1450ocean](https://smgov.net/1450ocean) & 1450 Ocean Ave at Broadway

**Join** our "1450 Ocean" email list and get a monthly update: [ow.ly/IX82W](https://ow.ly/IX82W)

**Meetup** with new friends at [meetup.com/1450ocean](https://meetup.com/1450ocean)

**Improve** us at [surveymonkey.com/s/33JZ8YB](https://surveymonkey.com/s/33JZ8YB)

**Parking** is \$1 for the first 2.5 hours in Parking Structure 6 (2nd between Broadway and Santa Monica), each 30 min. thereafter \$1.50, max \$14. At the Civic Auditorium lot, 1855 Main St.; \$5 all day, every day. Meters on Ocean Avenue; \$2/hr maximum 3 hours. More info: [parkme.com/santa-monica-parking](https://parkme.com/santa-monica-parking).

**Buses** that serve 1450 Ocean include Routes 1, 7 and Rapid 7, 10. Visit [bigbluebus.com](https://bigbluebus.com) for more information. Carpooling & Biking to class is always encouraged!