

Online Extra:

Basics: 4 Ways to Ink a Stamp

Inking a stamp is the most basic of all stamping techniques, but there are actually a number of ways to do it!

Pat Stamp on Inkpad

You may be most familiar with tapping a stamp on an inkpad to cover the raised parts of the stamp with ink. Usually gently patting the stamp a few times on the

inkpad will do it. Flip the stamp over to see if you have good coverage before stamping with the inked stamp. This inking method works best when the stamp is smaller than the inkpad surface.

Pat Inkpad on Stamp

In some cases, laying the stamp on the table and then tapping the inkpad onto the raised surfaces of the inkpad can be more effective.

This can be a helpful approach when the stamp is not well trimmed and impressions tend to give you extra unwanted lines. By patting the inkpad to the stamp, you



can avoid the problem areas. It is also effective when you are inking an extra large stamp where the stamp is larger than the inkpad. You can also use this approach to ink a stamp using more than one color.

Sometimes it is easier to work with smaller inkpads for this technique because you have more control over where you are putting the color.

Color Marker on Stamp

Non-permanent watercolor markers can be used to ink a stamp as well. Use a moist watercolor marker with a brush tip to apply color(s) to the raised parts of the stamp.



Stamp: Rubber Memories

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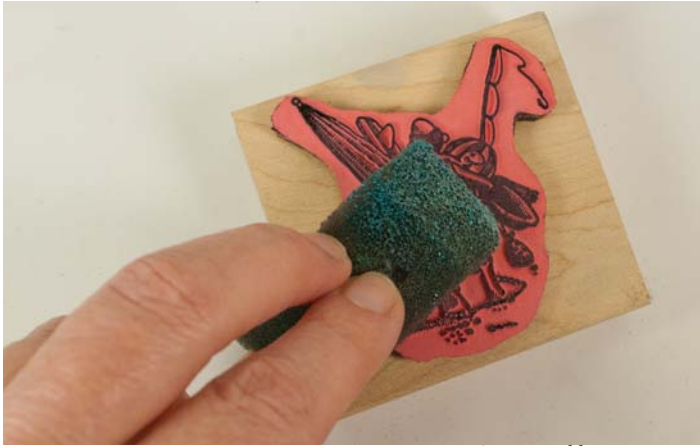
Once you are done coloring, huff on the inked stamp with your warm breath to remoisten areas that have dried, and then stamp.

This approach works well for when you want to very specifically color different sections of a stamp. For example, you might color a flower stem green and the petal areas of the stamp in shades of pink. Start with lighter color markers and work darker to avoid getting darker marker color on your lighter colored markers. (Brush your marker nibs clean on scrap paper.)

Paint on Stamp

You can also use paints to “ink” stamps. Use a disposable foam paint brush to pat paint onto raised areas of the stamp or use a rubber brayer to apply the paint. Then stamp. If the paint is acrylic, be very sure not to let the paint dry on the stamp; clean it off right away.

Sometimes this works best if you apply a thin layer of paint on the stamp and then apply a second coat before stamping. Experiment with the amount of paint to apply, as paints vary in thickness. Often a thin but tacky coat of paint is a good amount.



Stamp: Rubber Memories

This technique is usually best on stamps with broad areas of rubber and not a lot of fine detail. It is commonly used when stamping on fabric or home décor type projects.

Get To Know Your Stamps

As you acquire more stamps, you will find that individual stamps have their own quirks. Some can be inked and stamped very easily. Others have areas that need extra attention to get a good inking. Regardless of how you ink your stamps, always flip them over and give them a quick

check to make sure all of the raised areas of the stamp are inked. If you see ink in places where it doesn't belong, you can often use a corner of a paper towel or soft cloth to remove it before stamping the image. Have fun!

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Thank you and happy stamping!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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