

Making prints with an Xcut XPRESS Craft Machine

The XPRESS was designed for die cutting but will print etchings and waterless lithographs very effectively.



When Robin saw this little machine she thought it looked like a press. After setting it up Robin was astounded at how well it printed her waterless lithographs. Then she tried printing a photopolymer plate by adding a soaker blanket offcut. Follow her steps below or watch Robin's video here: <http://www.annieday.com.au/xpress> & if you can't afford an A4 size etching press give this little machine a try. It cost Robin **under \$150** at Lincraft. It weighs 5.8 kgs. Use the thick base plate as your press bed. Robin covered hers with paper to protect the surface but you might think about covering yours with a clear acrylic sheet which can be wiped clean. Watch this video to see how to unpack and set up the machine –video goes on to die cutting, ignore that. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfoNe4bD0cs>

Steps to print an **etching plate**:

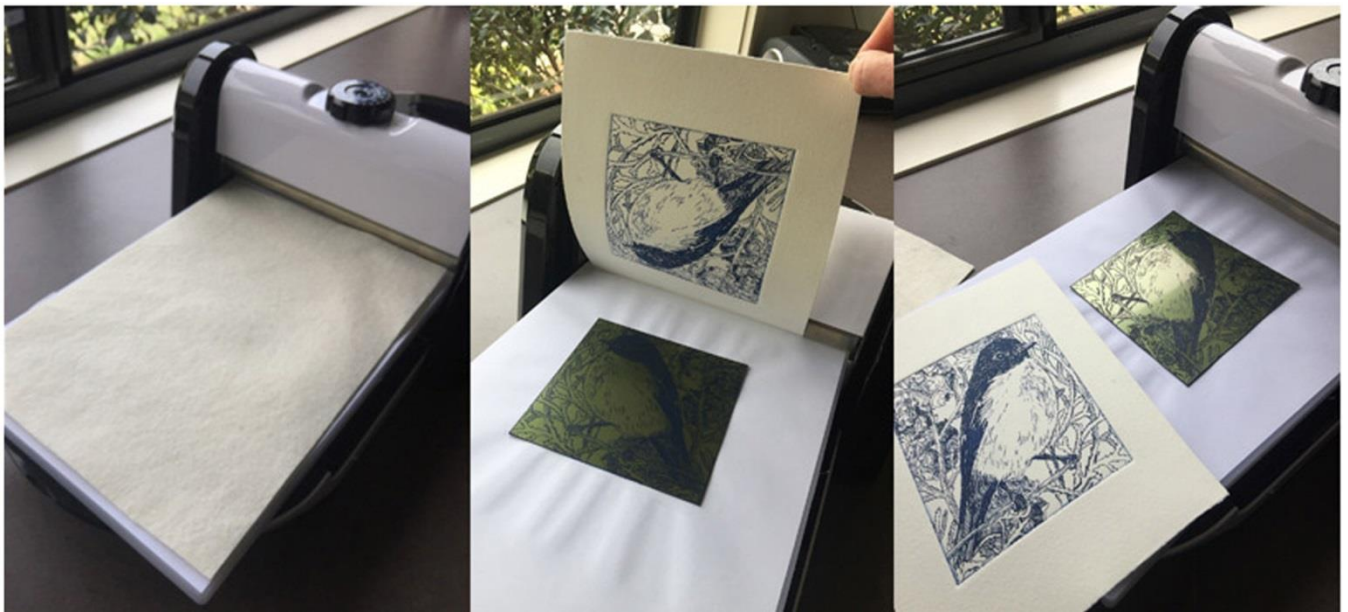
Set the pressure to 3 and use a soaker blanket. Vary pressure for thicker blanket. Ink the plate, use dampened printmaking paper and print as shown below.



Set pressure to 3

Inked plate on press bed

dampened paper



Soaker blanket in place

wind through

reveal the print.

To print a **waterless lithograph plate**:

Set the pressure to 2. Ink your waterless plate and put it face up on the bed, printmaking paper over and a sheet of paper to cover. Run it through the little press.



Robin gives a video demo here <http://www.annieday.com.au/xpress>