

Photopolymer Intaglio Plates

Successful inking, wiping back and printing – Annie Day

You can get excellent results inking photopolymer plates, the plates hold ink well and are hardwearing.

First make a magnetized board for ease of inking. Glue magnetized sheet – from sign-writing suppliers – dark side up, onto MDF board with contact glue. This holds the steel backed photopolymer plate in place while inking. This board will last for years.



Magnetized sheet

Magnet glued to board dark side up

Paper under plate on the board

Apply the ink with an old plastic card, photopolymer plates are tough and a credit card is perfect for the purpose. Always put a piece of paper under the plate to facilitate lifting - the magnet is strong. Old telephone books are perfect for wiping.



Plastic cards to apply ink

Inking plate with card perpendicular to plate

Blotting off the excess ink

Apply ink using the card at right angles to the plate, with this method the ink gets into all the miniscule indentations, don't butter the ink on thickly, it wastes ink and time.



Blotting with paper

tarlatan wipe with flat hand

Paper wipe with flat hand

After an initial paper blot, try a flat tarlatan wipe, this will save time and remove excess ink evenly. Eventually when the small square of tarlatan is unable to pick up any more ink you won't feel so bad about throwing it out. I cut the tarlatan approximately 6" or 15cms square. After years of inking intaglio plates I find this is the best way to use tarlatan.

Remove the remainder of the ink with a paper wipe always keeping the hand flat. Wipe the edges with a small piece of clean cloth and make a final paper wipe paying attention to the edges. Wiping movements on any plate are best done with a flat hand in an even sweeping circular pattern.



Wipe edges with cloth

Final wipe paying attention to edges

Lift plate with paper under

Soak the paper 30 seconds only and towel dry, photopolymer plates do not like water and a briefly dampened piece of paper picks up the ink well. Using a towel is a great way to dry surface water from the paper.



Soak paper 30 seconds

Towel dry

Print

Plate can be re-inked & printed face down

By timing the paper soak for 30 seconds exactly you can re-apply ink to the plate, re-soak the paper for the same time and print plate face down getting perfect registration and making colours richer, excellent for a la poupee. If you wish to use dry paper it works well with these plates.

Further examples: www.annieday.com.au/gallery.htm

Home: www.annieday.com.au



"Renaissance" Annie Day, photopolymer plate inked a la poupee and printed twice