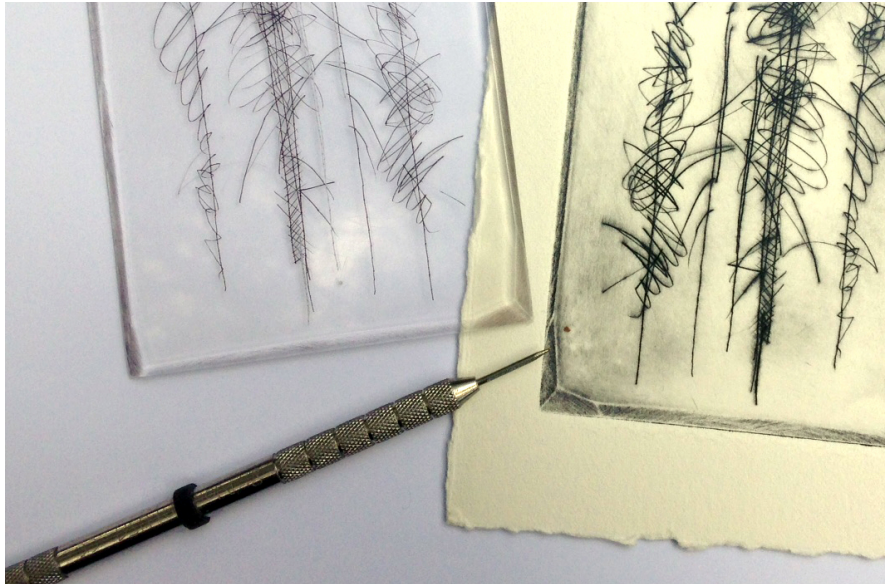


## Acrylic Drypoint

Can be printed in  
- a cylinder intaglio press  
(also called an etching press)



### Inscribing your plate...

1. To make smaller plates, score the 2mm acrylic plate with an Olfa P-cutter and a safety rule, and then snap along the scored line.
2. Bevel the 4 upper edges of the plate with a hand file or bench grinder.
3. Remove any protective coating from the plate, place your plate against black paper for visibility and inscribe your image on the beveled side of the plate with a drypoint etching needle.
4. Remember, your printed image will be a mirror image of your plate.

### Printing...

5. Set up the press at the beginning of your session, before you start printing: position the blankets in the press, then set the pressure with an un-inked plate and a piece of printmaking paper.
6. Put on your gloves and an apron.
7. Mix enough etching ink with a palette knife to last the print session. (Also called intaglio ink.)
8. Slide a piece of torn printmaking paper into the water bath.
9. Fix your plate to the acrylic table top with several twists of masking tape.
10. Carefully apply a thin layer of ink to your plate with the fresh end of a soft felt dabber.
11. Gently wipe the excess surface ink from your plate with flat squares of recycled newsprint.
12. Once your image has started to become visible through the ink, lightly polish off the rest of the surface with flat squares of recycled tissue paper. Be careful not to remove too much ink from the inscribed lines. Be careful not to scratch or bruise your plate. (Scratches and bruises cannot be removed and will print.)
13. Remove your gloves and (if necessary) clean your fingers with a babywipe.
14. Remove a piece of paper from the water and drain on a sheet of hard plastic propped in the water bath.
15. Remove your inked plate from the acrylic table top. Remove the masking tape from the back of your plate. Don't touch the surface of your plate with your gloves or fingers.
16. Position your plate on your registration sheet on the bedplate of the press, inked surface facing up.
17. Wipe your fingers again with the babywipe you used in step 13.
18. Blot your damp printmaking paper on a clean, dry white towel (or blotting paper, if you can source it). Look at the surface of your paper in glancing light: if you can see any shiny spots, blot again. (Shiny spots means water on the surface of your paper. Your paper should be damp but not wet. Ink will readily transfer to damp paper whilst being repelled by any surface wetness.)
19. Carefully position your damp paper on top of your plate, then protective tissue paper, followed by the felts/blankets. (Using a registration sheet will help you to perfectly line up your print.)
20. Roll through the press. Be careful not to roll off the felts/blankets.
21. Carefully pull back the press felts/blankets, tissue paper, and remove your print. The pressure of the press needs to be set so you see an even indent of the plate on the reverse of your print.
22. Remove your plate and clean the press bed in readiness for the next print.
23. Allow your print to dry flat between layers of tissue paper.

## What paper to use?

Any western cotton rag intaglio that can be wet or dampened, eg, Fabriano, Somerset, Magnani, Stonehenge, Hahnemule, BFK Reeves.

## How to print?

In an intaglio cylinder press (ie, an etching press).

\*Remember, you must use damp paper and dry felts.

## Materials:

Apron, re-useable kitchen gloves and babywipes - supermarket

2mm clear acrylic plate - a plastics supplier such as Menzels Plastics

Safety rule to protect hand whilst scoring acrylic - art supplier

Olfa P-cutter to score acrylic - art supplier

Hand file to bevel edges of acrylic - hardware shop

Drypoint etching needle - art supplier

Acrylic table top - hard rubbish or a plastics supplier such as Menzels Plastics

Water wash-up oil-based etching ink - art supplier (eg, Akua etching ink, Charbonnel Aquawash)

Palette knife - art supplier or hardware shop

Modifiers to mix into the ink if it is too stiff or too loose - art supplier

Felt dabber - make your own from recycled old/damaged felts

~11cm squares of recycled newsprint and recycled tissue paper - make your own

Paper - any western cotton rag intaglio paper that can be wet or dampened - art supplier

Water bath (eg, kitty litter tray) with a sheet of acrylic to drain wet printmaking paper

Clean white towels - op shop

Press and felt blanket - Enjay press

Water miscible inks (like Akua or Charbonnel Aquawash) should be cleaned up with warm soapy water.

Oil-based inks may be cleaned up with vegetable oil, then a non-turpenoid solvent, then Spray & Wipe.

Always wear gloves and an apron. Always dry oily rags outside, spread out to evaporate in the open air.

## Adelaide materials suppliers:

[Startup kits from www.unionstprintmakers.com/print-services/](http://www.unionstprintmakers.com/print-services/)

Union St Printmakers, [www.unionstprintmakers.com/art-shop](http://www.unionstprintmakers.com/art-shop)

Art Stretchers, 189 Hindley St, Adelaide CBD, 8212 2711

Other art suppliers...

- Port Art Supplies, 83 Commercial Rd, Port Adelaide, 8241 0059 ([www.portartsupplies.com.au](http://www.portartsupplies.com.au))

- Premier Art Supplies, 75 King William St, Kent Town, 8362 7674 ([www.premierart.com.au](http://www.premierart.com.au))

- Eckersleys, 18 King William St, Adelaide CBD, 8223 4155 ([www.eckersleys.com.au/locations](http://www.eckersleys.com.au/locations))

- Art to Art, Harbour Town, Tapleys Hill Road, West Beach, 8353 4261 ([www.arttoart.net](http://www.arttoart.net))

Menzels Plastics... for 4-5mm acrylic for a protective table cover for inking up

- 971 South Rd, Melrose Park, 8277 7444 ([www.menzelplastics.com.au](http://www.menzelplastics.com.au))

Enjay Presses - [www.enjaypresses.com.au](http://www.enjaypresses.com.au) - the new RP12D is FANTASTIC - up to A3 paper.

- Made in Australia. Robust, affordable, safe & light. Suitable for intaglio and relief processes.

- Even better value for money than a Dorothy. (And can print thicker intaglio plates than a Dorothy.)

- Enjay also makes bigger presses that can print sheets of paper much larger than A3.

## Where to learn more?

- Union St Printmakers – [simone@unionstprintmakers.com](mailto:simone@unionstprintmakers.com) & [www.unionstprintmakers.com](http://www.unionstprintmakers.com)
- Adelaide College for the Arts short course program – [Lorelei.Medcalf@tafesa.edu.au](mailto:Lorelei.Medcalf@tafesa.edu.au)
- Bittondi Printmakers – [bittondi@hotmail.com](mailto:bittondi@hotmail.com) & [www.bittondiprints.com.au/workshops](http://www.bittondiprints.com.au/workshops)
- Subscribe to the SA Printmaking Newsletter – <http://tinyurl.com/zzg4y3n>

## For more information...

*The Printmaking Bible*

Authors: Ann D'Arcy Hughes & Hebe Vernon-Morris

Chronicle Books, California

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