

## Block Printing Ink Finish

This is a technique for creating contrast between carved areas and the wood surface.

1. Draw the design on the wood, or carve free hand, whatever you like.
2. Carve the design into the wood with a V groove reciprocating carver. Large areas should be outlined with a V groove carver and then the interior of the design can be removed with a small ball grinder in a rotary carver.
3. Paint the entire surface of the wood with a water based paint. I like milk paint because it can be sanded smooth.
4. Squeeze out a small amount of Speedball brand Block Printing Ink onto a smooth surface such as a piece of plate glass or slick magazine cover taped to a smooth surface such as Masonite. About as much as toothpaste as you put on your toothbrush.
5. Roll a soft rubber brayer back and forth across the ink until it is smoothly coated.
6. Roll the ink onto the surface until it is all coated. Let it dry, usually a few hours.
7. No further finish is needed.

Speedball ink <http://www.dickblick.com/products/speedball-water-based-block-printing-inks/>

Speedball brayer <http://www.dickblick.com/products/speedball-soft-rubber-brayers/>

Flexcut V groove carver <http://www.flexcut.com/rg403-70-deg-x-3-8-9mm/>

## Burning and Filling Open Grain Wood

This technique only works well with open grained woods such as ash, oak, or pecan.

1. Sand the wood down to at least 150 grit.
2. Burn the surface of the wood with a torch until it is just black. Move the flame slowly over the wood; don't wave it around like a magic wand.
3. After the wood has cooled, brush the soot off with a soft brass bristle brush. Brush with the grain as much as possible.
4. Sand the wood down to 220 grit. Sanding areas such as rims and edges to expose fresh unburnt wood gives a nice worn look.
5. Blow the soot out of the wood grain with compressed air.
6. Apply a spray on sealer such as Krylon spray fixative, Deft satin, or Valspar flat.
7. I use Liquitex brand **Modeling Paste** to fill the grain. Golden brand has a similar product called Molding Paste, but I don't think it dries as hard.
8. Put a ½ tablespoon dollop of Liquitex Modeling Paste on a mixing surface such as a slick magazine cover, and add about 4 drops of acrylic retarder. The retarder will give you more time to wipe off excess modeling paste. Mix the paste and retarder well with a popsicle stick.
9. Work the paste into the wood pores with your finger. Apply a small amount to an area about 2 square inches. Wipe off the excess with a paper towel. If you apply more than that, you won't get the excess wiped off before it dries. Keep a slightly damp paper towel handy if some filler starts drying before you get it wiped off.
10. After all the surface has been filled, apply a finish of your choice. I like brown Kiwi shoe polish, but apply it **very sparingly**, or it will cover up the paste filler.

The paste filler can be tinted any color you want with acrylic paint, but dark colors won't have much contrast with the burnt wood.

## Eggshell

1. Clean the membrane from the inside of the shell. The egg can be raw or boiled.
2. Using a yellow glue such as Titebond II, apply a little bit to a piece of cleaned shell. Use enough so that the shell will adhere, but not so much that the shell will slide around when applied to the wood surface.
3. Lay the shell on the wood and crush it down firmly. Make sure it is crushed flat.
4. Repeat the process with another piece of shell. Don't let any pieces of shell overlap.
5. When the glue is set, sand the shell with 220 sandpaper.
6. Fill in the gaps between the shell with Liquitex brand Modelling Paste. The paste can be tinted any color with acrylic paint.
7. After the paste has dried, sand it smooth with 220 sandpaper.
8. If there are any low spots or gaps, repeat steps 6 and 7.
9. Apply a hard paste wax to give the shell some shine and deepen the color of the paste.

## Products list

Liquitex modeling paste -

[http://www.liquitex.com/us/Shop/Medium/Gel\\_Medium/Modeling\\_Paste\\_Medium\\_8-oz.aspx](http://www.liquitex.com/us/Shop/Medium/Gel_Medium/Modeling_Paste_Medium_8-oz.aspx)

Available at most craft and art supply stores

Acrylic paint - <http://www.goldenpaints.com/products/colors/heavy-body>

Available at any craft and art supply store

Acrylic paint retarder - <http://www.goldenpaints.com/products/medium-gels-pastes/additives>

Available at any craft and art supply store

Flexcut carvers - <http://www.flexcut.com/individual-power-gouges/>

Available at any woodworking supply store

Printing ink and brayer - <http://www.speedballart.com/our-products.php?cat=13>

Available at most craft and art supply stores

Milk paint - <http://www.milkpaint.com/>

Available at many woodworking supply stores

Krylon Matte Finish - <http://www.krylon.com/products/matte-finish/>

Available at art and craft stores and some hardware stores

Egg shells -

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/eggs/eggcomposition.html>

Available from most hens.