Block printing

By: broderer

http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/block-printing

Add pattern to your cloth/garments with a repeat printed design.

Step 1 — Prepare your garment or cloth

Iron it nice and flat, lay out on a smooth flat surface. A slightly padded surface results in sharper prints- use an ironing board cover or a table surface protector. Put scrap paper between the layers of fabric if you are printing a garment, to prevent the paint going through to the other side.
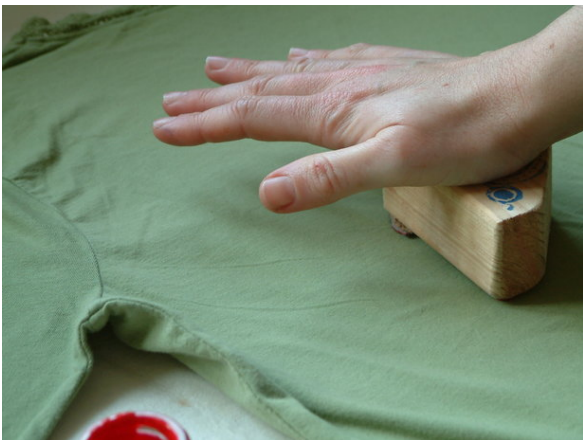
Step 2 — Ink your block.

I cut my own block from lino and mounted on wood for easier handling. Apply fabric paint (or acrylic paint mixed with fabric medium for a softer handle) to the block, trying not to get the paint into the crevices! I used a make-up sponge.

Step 3 — Print the block

Apply the 'inked' block confidently to the fabric or garment, and press hard briefly. If you dither you are more likely to smudge the design. Lift smartly away from the fabric.
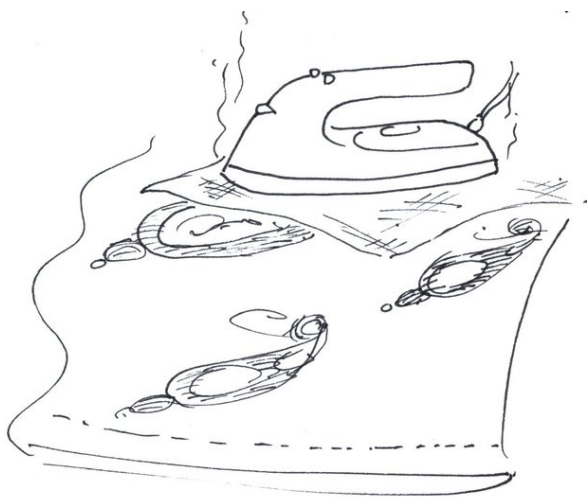
Step 4 — Repeat the print as desired.

Re-ink the block (apply more paint). Place confidently on the next place you want to print. Try rotating it or spacing evenly in a repeat print.

Step 5 — Fix it!

Follow the instructions for your paint. Usually some heat fixing is required, by ironing or steaming.

Step 6 — A finished print: Hen and chicks.

Printed with yellow acrylic paint on needle cord. The opaque paint shows through on the dark fabric.

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