

## Teacher Toolkits: Clay Types

Prepared by Kim Gunn, Edinburgh Design School



*Examples of the heat transfer printing technique | Photography by Kim Gunn*

Heat Transfer printing is a method of printing used to transfer an image from paper to cloth. This process and specific dye type (**Disperse dye**) is most effective on **synthetic cloth** e.g. Polyester.

**It is important to highlight that the dye colour changes and becomes much more vibrant when transferred.**

### Instructions

- Stir disperse dye well before use.
- Paint papers with disperse dyes. You can experiment with a range of different papers, such as water-colour, copy and cartridge paper. These papers can then be collaged together (using a thin layer of Pritt stick) to form a pattern or design. Alternatively treat the dyes as media to draw with, working your design directly onto the paper.

### Supporting Makers, Promoting Craft

Craft Scotland, 15 Coburg Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6ET

[www.craftscotland.org](http://www.craftscotland.org) • +44 (0)131 466 3870 • [hello@craftscotland.org](mailto:hello@craftscotland.org)

Craft Scotland is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no. SC 270245

A registered Scottish Charity no. SC 039491

- Be experimental with the marks you are making. Different weights of line/mark can be achieved using brushes, pipettes, syringes, twigs, dipping pen, printing blocks, sponge, stencil and tape resist; collage, perforate, manipulate papers as required. Consider paper doilies, thread, textured fabric such as lace to paint with dye.
- **Ensure that your drawing/pattern/design is completely dry before you start the transfer process**
- Place design face down onto selected synthetic cloth.
- Apply heat press for 1 minute at 180 degrees (sandwich your paper and cloth between clean copy paper or baking parchment). Use this temperature and time as a guide, you may need to alter these slightly for different cloths. For a second or third print increase the time to 2 minutes.
- This process can also be done with an iron using no steam. Keep the iron moving to prevent iron marks. Use the hottest setting.
- The design is now fixed and washable.
- Transfer papers can be re-used several times before they become exhausted of dye; however, the print becomes weaker/distresses with each use.
- Try overprinting imagery or embellishing your surface print with stitch and techniques such as quilting.
- Explore a range of cloths - light colours work best but try soft textures such as spotted mesh, voiles, satin, velvet and crepe. Wadding will flatten and 'bond' to other fabrics. If you do try a natural fabric you will get a much lighter pastel shade.
- Disperse Dyes are available in powder form or ready-made liquid, often referred to as transfer paints They can be thickened into a paste for printing. Dye impregnated papers and crayons can also be sourced. The dyes keep well in lidded containers for long periods of time. Painted papers also keep until they are heat transferred onto cloth.

### Supporting Makers, Promoting Craft

Craft Scotland, 15 Coburg Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6ET

[www.craftscotland.org](http://www.craftscotland.org) • +44 (0)131 466 3870 • [hello@craftscotland.org](mailto:hello@craftscotland.org)

Craft Scotland is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no. SC 270245

A registered Scottish Charity no. SC 039491



- Dye powder to water ratio = 4 tsp - 500ml (8 tsp for turquoise/black/brown)

**Related websites and suppliers:**

[www.kemtex.co.uk](http://www.kemtex.co.uk)

[www.colourcraftltd.com](http://www.colourcraftltd.com)

[www.specialistcrafts.co.uk](http://www.specialistcrafts.co.uk)

## About Making Spaces

Through the Making Spaces programme, Craft Scotland offers opportunities for people of all ages to engage with contemporary craft and work with makers from across Scotland. The act of making can actively improve quality of life and promote social inclusion and so we work with partners to deliver long-term projects for targeted groups and communities.

Making Spaces involves participants in creative learning enabling them to learn new skills from experienced makers and develop their knowledge of craft processes and materials. It also benefits makers by encouraging them to experiment with their practice, meet new audiences and gain experience within different settings and communities.

Over the last few years, we have worked with a range of organisations including Historic Environment Scotland, National Museums of Scotland, Ostrero and NHS Lothian.

Learn more: [www.craftscotland.org/about/projects/making-spaces](http://www.craftscotland.org/about/projects/making-spaces)

## About Craft Scotland

Craft Scotland is the national development agency for craft. We put makers at the heart of all we do, championing diverse and high-quality contemporary craft. We help people learn about, appreciate and buy craft, promoting the contribution of craft to Scotland's cultural, economic and social well-being.

We are a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland.

Learn more: [www.craftscotland.org](http://www.craftscotland.org)

## Supporting Makers, Promoting Craft

Craft Scotland, 15 Coburg Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6ET

[www.craftscotland.org](http://www.craftscotland.org) • +44 (0)131 466 3870 • [hello@craftscotland.org](mailto:hello@craftscotland.org)

Craft Scotland is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no. SC 270245

A registered Scottish Charity no. SC 039491

