

Developing Sketchbooks Online workshop with Dionne Swift

Repeat and Play

This is a straight forward way to design a repeat pattern and have fun developing a rhythm through the pages of your book.



TASK

- Draw around your rubber/eraser at least 8 times
- Select and simplify 8 areas [minimum] from previously worked pages. Use a 'rubber' shaped window/aperture to help you select design areas.
- Re draw these into the dimensions of the rubber you are using – keep it simple: the space you are working in is only small and it can be tricky to carve the rubber.
- Use a marker pen or similar to help you decide which areas will be black and which will be white
- Transfer this image into the rubber.

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- Hold the knife at a slight angle away from your line [being extremely very careful not to cut yourself!] slice a few millimetres down, following your line along the rubber.
- Take slow steady sliding cuts and don't worry about being too true to original line – no-one will compare the outcome!!
- Once you have cut down from the surface you need to put the knife on it's side and slice off the top section – only of the areas you don't need!!
- Continue until your design is complete.
- Voila! Your own unique rubber stamp – so much better than a bought/pre-designed one!!
- Get printing!

SUGGESTIONS

- I've use black water based block printing ink, but you could use acrylic paint if you work quickly before it dries; oil paint is ok but may be a bit messier to clear up; but you could definitely use a whole range of other colours!
- If you aren't happy or you fancy having another go, remember the rubber has another 5 sides you can work on!!
- Try printing with you rubber stamp over a range of different surfaces through your book.
- You'll need to allow the printed pages to dry outside of the spiral binding as when you turn the pages/close the book, pages are likely to stick.

Lets see your amazing designs – upload them to the Facebook group so we can all take a look!

What have you enjoyed most about this exercise? Let me know.