



Series 100

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## 108-Close

Julie Fei-Fan Balzer stamps and paints with various household objects.



Please continue to the next page for project instructions.

## Nancy Sapp's Floral Potato Stamp Card

Potato Stamp Card Supplies needed:

1. Sharp short-bladed knife (wood carving knife works well or a kitchen paring knife)
2. Small #2 brush (for painting smaller areas)
3. #4 or larger brush for painting larger areas depending on your design
4. Coated paper plate or palette for mixing paints
5. Container for water (to clean brushes. I use old cottage cheese containers)
6. Toothpicks (for painting really small areas)
7. Pencil or pen (pencil worked better for me)
8. White or cream-colored cardstock (several cards)
9. Paints I used – Plaid Brand Apple Barrel Colors
  - a. Cobalt Blue, white, any shade of red (I used Bright Red)  
(I mixed the colors to get the odd lavender for my petals)
  - b. Yellow paint for parts of the stamen
  - c. Black paint for the pistils
  - d. Hunter Green

Cut large potato in ½. With pencil or pen trace desired design or freehand sketch design onto the cut potato. Since the inside of the potato is moist, keep an old cloth or paper towel handy to dab the cut potato while sketching & before applying paint with the brushes. I also used the old cloth for cleaning the potato stamp when I wanted to switch to other colors of paint.

Cut away all areas of the potato except the design. (For example on this card – in between the petals & the leaf.) As this part is tricky, be very careful & cut away from you.

Apply paint (in colors of your choice) to the petals with #4 brush. Leaves painted w/cleaned #4 or #2 brush. The yellow paint was applied liberally with ends of toothpicks. The black dots (or pistils) could be applied with the end of a small paintbrush or toothpick.

You can stamp 2-3 flowers or designs from 1 applications of paint to the potato design. If the design is too light, fill in with paint using small #2 brush. I experimented on scratch paper first so I wouldn't waste my good cardstock.

Have several cards handy to stamp your design(s). Since this stamp is “natural,” it WILL rot. I kept my potato stamp in a Ziplock bag & kept it fresh for several days. After a couple days, your design might shrink but that would create a different stamp design you can paint!



## Hand-carved Stamps on Pre-designed paper

### Supplies:

- Styrofoam meat tray (edges trimmed off)
- Ball point pen
- Craft knife
- Paper (purchased or hand designed)
- Acrylic paints
- Foam brush
- Brayer
- Wax paper
- Optional supplies: watercolor paints, stamp pads

### Technique:

1. Draw design on foam with ball point pen.



2. Cut out with craft knife.



3. Choose paper you have purchased or pre-designed with paint, ink, etc.)



4. Apply paint to foam stamp with a foam brush using acrylic paint, at least two unmixed colors. Careful not to apply too heavy and fill the grooves you drew into the foam. It works best to spread out paint on wax paper first for a more even application.



5. Carefully place paint coated side down on paper surface. Rub carefully with fingers or brayer.



6. Lift carefully and then allow to dry.



## 7. More results



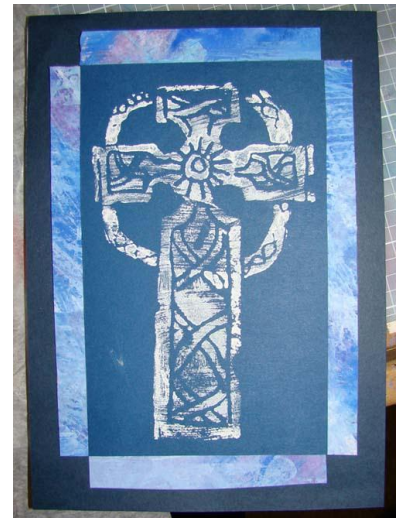
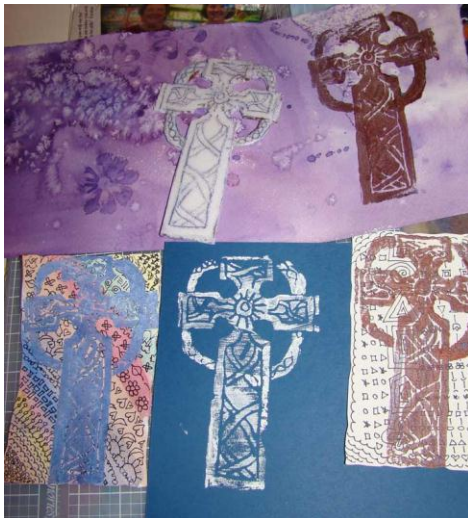
### Tips:

- Use finished prints to make note cards, small framed art or use as collage elements for other projects. The ideas are endless.
- When confident with simple designs, try larger more complicated designs.
- Stamp can also be placed into wet watercolor painted paper and weighted till dry for a resist effect.

- If grooves of stamp do become filled with paint, just use the ball point pen to retrace the grooves.
- As with any printmaking method, results are always varied and less than perfect. That is part of the beauty.
- Letters and words can be carved to stamp but you must remember to reverse the letters:  
B,C,D,E,F,G,J,K,L,N,P,Q,R,S,Z



More variations:



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