

Homemade Chinese Seals

Chinese seals are stamps used to mark important documents, pieces of art, or contracts. Typically, they are carved into stone and often dipped into red ink.

Both artists and collectors put their seals on works of art. Artists used personalized seals combined with their signatures on works. Collectors of Chinese paintings added their seals to create a record of works in their collections.

This Chinese scroll in the Norton's collection has two seals from the artist in red ink.

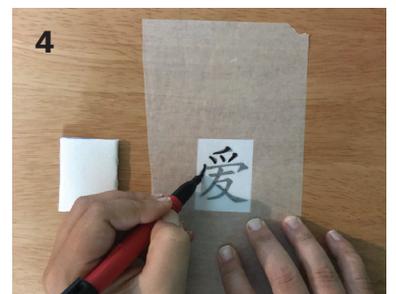
MATERIALS

- Styrofoam tray (With a smooth surface, such as the tray that meat or vegetables are sold in)
- Ball point pen
- Marker
- Scissors
- Tracing paper
- Acrylic paint (or stamp pad)
- Paint brush or small paint roller
- Paper/artwork to print on

INSTRUCTIONS

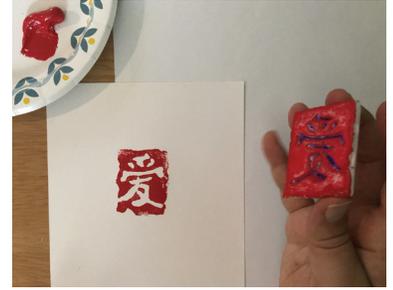
Design

1. Decide what your seal will say. Chinese seals are symbolic of your identity. You can choose a character from p.2, like what is used here, "Love", or use an online translator like www.mdbg.net that will help generate the character for your personal word or phrase.
2. Print your Chinese character(s) from the computer.
3. Place your printed characters onto your Styrofoam to decide how large your seal will be, and cut out the correct size from the Styrofoam.
4. Use a piece of tracing paper and trace the characters from your computer print-out using a marker.
5. Turn your tracing paper over so that you have a mirror (reverse) image, and lay the paper on top of the Styrofoam.
6. Trace the characters again by pressing hard into the tracing paper with the ball point pen, so that the impression is left on your Styrofoam. Once you have it completely drawn out, remove the tracing paper and follow the outline on the Styrofoam with your pen. As you retrace your character on the Styrofoam, remember to press down hard so you leave a deep impression.

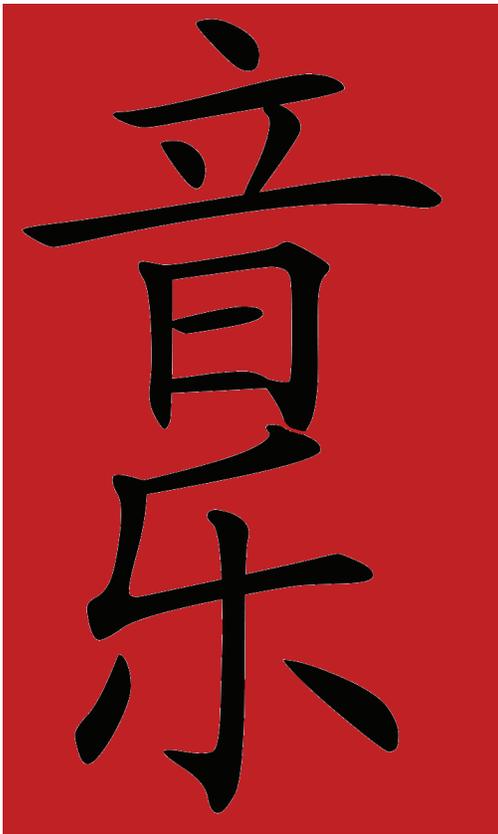


Print

1. Use a paint brush to run a thin layer of paint across the top of the stamp, careful that it does not go into the carved areas. You can also use an ink pad.
2. Press it firmly onto the paper you want to print on. Print immediately after applying the ink, as acrylic paint dries quickly.



Music



Love



Dragon



Nature



Front: ZHAO Changguo (趙昌國, Chinese, native of Ningbo), active 1500s
Ming dynasty, 1368-1644

IMMORTALS PLAYING WEIQI IN AUTUMN MOUNTAINS 秋山仙奕圖

Hanging scroll, ink on paper, hanging scroll, signature: signed 四明同野 (surrounded by and at one with wilderness) 趙昌國 Zhao Changguo, 臨錢塘戴文進 (overlooking the Qiantang river of Hangzhou, formal image submitted of) 秋山仙奕圖 (Taoist Immortals of Abundance in Autumn Mountains), with two seals of the artist, 趙氏忠父 (Zhao shi zhong fu, devoted father of the Zhao family) 同人于野 (tong ren yu ye, together with mankind in the wilderness), dimensions: 56 1/2 by 22 1/2 in. (143,5 by 57,5 cm.)

Norton Museum of Art Purchase, acquired through the exchange of Trust Property, John and Heidi Niblack Fund and Friends of Chinese Art, 2016.241

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