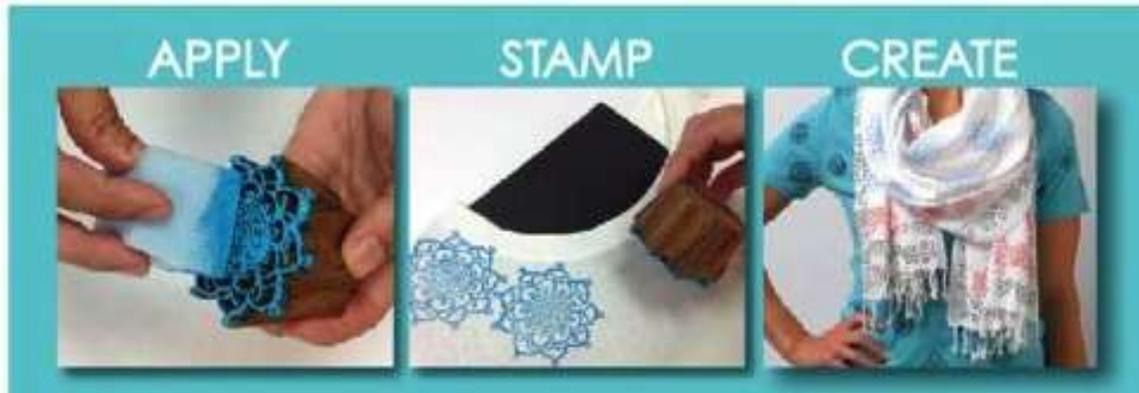


Fabric Creations Frequently Asked Questions

Block Printing Stamps



What is Block Printing?

The art of block printing goes back over a thousand years, practiced by traditional artisans across India. Printing blocks were originally hand carved from rosewood and oiled with mineral oil. Ink was then applied to the carved block and pressed onto woven fabric to create a textile print. By repeating this stamping process using one or multiple designs, an overall patterned design could be created. Block printing is still an active art form today!

What is the Fabric Creations™ Block Printing Program?

Fabric Creations™ is a new product line perfect for both crafters and DIY enthusiasts alike. This program includes block printing stamps, fabric inks and a few necessary tools which allow artisans of all ages the ability to create one-of-a-kind block printed patterns on a variety of surfaces.

What is a Fabric Creations™ Block Printing Stamp?

Today, the Fabric Creations™ Block Printing program has made it easy to obtain a variety of designs with delicate intricacies without labor intensive hand carving. Fabric Creations™ Block Printing Stamps are molded from a high quality resin. Although these molded block stamps are durable and can be reused many times, reasonable care should be taken not to drop them on a hard surface as their delicate design lines may chip.

What are Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks?

Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks are specially formulated to be used with Fabric Creations™ Block Printing Stamps. Formulated with the perfect consistency that is not too thick and not too thin, Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink applies perfectly onto the raised face of the stamp design without flooding the recesses of the molded block stamp. These fabric inks are non-toxic, waterbase, manufactured in the USA and are available in a wide range of colors from the basic color palette to metallics, as well as current on-trend fashion colors! Clean

Fabric Creations Frequently Asked Questions

up is easy with mild soap and water. Once cured and heat set, Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks can either be hand-washed or machine laundered. However, as with all hand decorated items, it is always best to hand wash in cold water and allow to air dry which will increase the life of your project.

Can I mix Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks to achieve a new color?

Yes, Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks may be mixed or blended to achieve a new value or different color.

What types of fabrics can be block printed using Fabric Creations™ Printing Block Stamps and Soft Fabric Ink?

Smooth, low textured fabrics such as cottons, poly cotton blends, woven blends, denims, and home décor textiles can be used as surfaces for soft fabric ink when using Fabric Creations Block Printing Stamps.

Can I use a textured fabric?

You may choose to be creative when designing your projects and select a ribbed or textured fabric, however, when stamping, portions of the design may be lost within the ribs or over the texture. For best results, we recommend smooth, non-textured fabrics.

Should I prewash the fabric to remove sizing before stamping my design?

Yes, all fabrics should be prewashed using soap and water following the manufacturer's washing instructions, most denim fabrics should be washed multiple times in hot water to thoroughly remove the sizing in the fabric. **DO NOT** use a liquid fabric softener or a dryer sheet as this may prevent the paints from adhering properly. If your garment is wrinkled, you may iron the fabric as instructed on the garment label, **DO NOT** use a spray starch product.

When stamping fabric, should I use a protective layer beneath the fabric?

Yes, we recommend using our Fabric Creations™ Stamping Mat which is soft, yet firm and will provide the proper work surface enabling you to create consistently clear stamp designs every time.

Should I use water to thin the Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink?

NO, Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks are formulated in the perfect consistency to be used directly from the bottle. Thinning these paints with water will not only dilute the paint possibly causing bleed through when stamping; it will also lessen the adhesion properties of the paint and possibly create a dirty unusable stamp because the thinned paint will flow into the delicate recessed areas of the stamp rather than sitting on the raised design lines.

Fabric Creations Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best way to apply Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink to block printing stamps?

We recommend using our Fabric Creations™ Sponge Cubes. Simply squirt a generous amount of Soft Fabric Ink onto a foam plate or palette. Load the sponge cube by firmly holding it in your hand, then dabbing into the puddle of ink. Off-load excess fabric ink onto a clean spot on the plate and then apply ink to the stamp design using a soft, pouncing up and down motion. Continue pouncing over stamp until the entire raised design is covered.

How thick should I apply my Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink to the stamp?

Apply Soft Fabric Ink to the face of the stamp so that the white design area is covered. Be careful not to apply too much ink as this will flood the recesses of the design.

Can I apply more than one color to a Fabric Creations™ Block Printing Stamp at a time?

Yes, a variety of fun effects can be created using multiple colors at one time such as stamping an ombre or graduated color effect.

What is the best technique for stamping the surface?

Position your wrinkle-free fabric directly over the Fabric Creations™ Stamping Mat. Once the block stamp is loaded with Soft Fabric Ink, and the stamping mat is directly under the fabric to be decorated, press the ink side of the stamp onto the project surface firmly. Be careful, do **NOT** rock the stamp; lift the stamp straight up to reveal the stamped design. Continue stamping until the block printed design is complete. For consistent design prints, apply additional fabric ink with each individual block print.

Can I create a layered border effect with a painted background by taping off an area?

Yes, simply use stencil or painter's tape to mask off a border. Load a Fabric Creations™ Sponge Cube with Soft Fabric Ink and pounce the color onto the masked area. Be sure to allow the painted background area to dry thoroughly before stamping over it with a design.

Can I create layered effects stamping one design over another?

Yes, create dramatic effects by layering! Try stamping one block print design using one color of Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink in an overall pattern; then allow to dry. Next layer a different block stamp and different color over for special effects.

How long does it take for the Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink to dry?

Fabric Creations Frequently Asked Questions

Depending upon how much you've stamped on your project, the ink will air dry within a couple of hours up to 24 hours and will be cured in 72 hours.

Is it necessary to heat set my block printed project when using Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Ink?

Heat setting is recommended for best durability. Allow the block printed design to dry overnight. Heat set the painted surface using a dry, hot iron and a pressing cloth. Lay pressing cloth over the stamped fabric and iron the stamped design for 30 seconds, lift the iron and move it to another section of the stamped design. Your iron should be set at the highest setting allowed for the decorated fabric, no steam.

Can I use Fabric Creations™ Block Printing Stamps on surfaces other than fabric?

Yes, have fun and experiment. However, the best surfaces to decorate are ones that will provide a little "give" while being less rigid.

How should I clean up my supplies?

Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks are non-toxic and water soluble. Clean up of block print stamps is easily accomplished using mild soap, water and the Fabric Creations™ Block Stamp Cleaning Brush. We recommend using a light, soft brushing technique over the fabric ink covered stamp under running water to remove the excess fabric ink. The bristles of the cleaning brush will not harm the face of your stamp when used properly. Do **NOT** soak your block stamps in water. If exposed to water for an extended period of time the stamp's protective coating will soften. Do not allow ink to dry on your block stamp as it may stain the front of the stamp making it difficult to clean. Clean excess Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks from sponge cubes using mild soap and water.

How can I repair a stamped mistake on my project?

While block printing, if a mistake is made, try incorporating the mishap into the design by adding another flower or section of the design, or try layering a new design over the mishap. NOTE: Remember, we do not make mistakes, only design changes!

What if every block print transfer is not printed with the same color intensity?

When working with block prints, it is very normal to produce transfers that may vary in color intensity. That is actually part of the beauty of block printing by hand. If an exact color transfer is desired, be sure to properly load the block print stamp with Soft Fabric Ink and use the same pressure when stamping each and every transfer.

How shall I launder my block printed fabric items?

Fabric Creations Frequently Asked Questions

Fabric Creations™ Soft Fabric Inks have been tested for machine laundering, however, as with all hand stamped/ painted / decorated items, it is always best to hand wash in cold water and allow to air dry which will increase their durability.

For more information: 800-842-4197 www.plaidonline.com