

STAMP PRINTING

Haleakalā: How Māui Snared the Sun

Making Stamps for Printing on Kapa:

Fabricating stamps, preparing Kapa, and printing on Kapa.



Shown: Cotton gauze dyed with onion skin.

"At that time of the short days and long dark nights, there was a beautiful woman named Hina who lived in a cave on Hawai'i Island, behind Rainbow Falls. Hina was known for the fine Kapa cloth she made from the bark of Wauke and Mamaki trees. Hina's handiwork was prized in the community for making Kihei, Malo for the men and Pā'ū for the women. But because Kalā raced through the sky, refusing to share his light and warmth, Hina did not have enough time in the day to dry her Kapa.." -Narration from the program Why Māui Snared the Sun - 'Ōiwi TV

Making Stamps for Printing on Kapa:

For fabricating the stamps use foam sheets (med. thick) preferably with peel and stick backs, several wide wooden popsicle sticks, a cutting tool, fine felt tip pen, a small ruler, and a gel super glue. These can be found in the craft aisle section of a department store. Also bring your own design inspiration and ideas to this project!

Materials to Print On:

We use muslin, Lt weight Pellon or cotton broadcloth in lieu of real Kapa. We do not use commercially colored fabric, but that's because we are traditional practitioners. We usually also dye the fabrics with a natural dye prior to stamping. Tumeric powder and Onion Skins are typical and easy to use with a salt mordant, giving a vivid yellow color. Look for how-to online.

For art classes, or practice sessions, use newsprint, brown grocery bags (spritz with water then crumpled), cotton dishcloths, fabric scraps, etc.

Materials For Printing:

'Ohe Kapala (traditional bamboo stamps for printing on Kapa) or conventional stamps · Fabric Paints in traditional colors only -- Kama'ehu (Kukunaokalā brown) 'Ele'ele (Kukui Black), Alaea (Red dirt brick red), Ochre (Mustard colored mineral earth. no Hawaiian term). Also Pellon pieces, small foam craft brushes that are trimmed, protective covering for surface, craft paper or craft felt or both, paper towels, small finger brush, water, small flat disposable work surface such as a plate (plastic container lids work too) and please recycle after use.

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Directions:

Step 1: Construct the Shapes

- Draw geometric shapes on the back of the foam where the paper is.
- Do a row of squares, which you can later diagonally cut into triangles.
- Do several sizes, but be sure they will fit onto the popsicle sticks and not go over the edge

Step 2: Arrange & Attach the Shapes

- Before gluing to the stick, arrange the shapes onto the popsicle sticks and trace around the shape with a pencil.
- Lift the shapes off the popsicle stick and carefully remove the protective backing to expose the sticky part.
- Put a drop or two of Gel super glue on the popsicle stick (the sticky backing is not strong enough) where you will place the foam shapes. You have already traced the shapes outlines, so you know where to place the glue.
- Place the foam shapes on the popsicle sticks in the designated areas, press down firmly and carefully to avoid slipping and so that the foam sticks well. Let cure for at least 10 minutes.

Step 3: Mark the Other Side of the Stick

- Mark on the top side of the popsicle stick where your design starts and ends.
- You could also trace the shapes on the top sides, so when you are stamping, you know where the design starts and stops. Now you have made your stamps!
- **HELPFUL HINT:** Use 1" wooden blocks instead of popsicle sticks for circles and other smaller designs.



These are on bamboo, some are hand carved traditional, some have foam pieces glued on.



These are traditional hand carved.



These are foam pieces glued to 1" wooden blocks.

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Step 4: Printing Your Design

- Here is guidance for a method of stamping with 'Ohe Kapala to achieve a crisp and clean stamped image. We all know that stamping can be challenging with leaching, smudging and lots of messiness. Follow these simple steps and you'll have a result to be proud of.
- Protect your workspace with plastic, cloth or paper and lay out the materials listed above.
- Used a folded, wetted paper towel on a small paper plate with a dollop of paint. When squeezing the paint from the bottles, be sure to squeeze slow and even to avoid leaving a mess on the bottle tip. Clean if needed prior to replacing the cap on the tip.
- Use small foam brushes, cut/trim to reduce the usable surface. The brush is wetted and used to wet the surface of the 'Ohe stamp. Squeeze the wetted brush to remove extra moisture.
- Use foam brush to spread out a small amount of paint from the edge of the dollop in order to prepare a spreadable amount of color on the brush. Then carefully brush/paint on the face of the design of the 'ohe stamp. Brush an even coat over the entire surface of the design. Do not overload and don't take too long as the paint dries rather quickly. If there is too much paint on the brush, or if you brush the design face too hard, the paint will seep into the cracks between the design and can cause a sloppy and smudgy application. If this happens, wash the 'ohe stamp off and start over.
- Place the top of the stamp at the desired location of the fabric, then press down on the length of the 'ohe while holding the handle slightly upward. Try not to move the stamp to avoid smudging. The design impression on the fabric should be crisp and even.
- Wash the 'ohe stamp often to avoid the paint drying on the surface. Use a small nail brush to clean thoroughly. Pat the surface with a paper towel to remove extra moisture.
- Whether you use traditional 'Ohe Kapala stamps or conventional modern stamps, the process is the same.
- **Note:** As the paint pad becomes evenly loaded with paint, you may try to load 'conventional' stamps by lightly pressing on to the 'pad'. It is always a good idea to have a dry piece of paper nearby to periodically 'test' a loaded stamp.



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On dyed Pellon –
Turmeric & Onion Skin



On Newsprint for design template



Printed Pellon
wrapped as
a Pā'ū (skirt)



On undyed muslin



Sashes are dyed and printed Pellon

Closing:

As you wait for your art to try, read the 'Ōiwi TV version of the story of *Why Māui Snared the Sun* on our Stories and Culture activity sheet, or [watch and listen to it here](#).

Bonus:

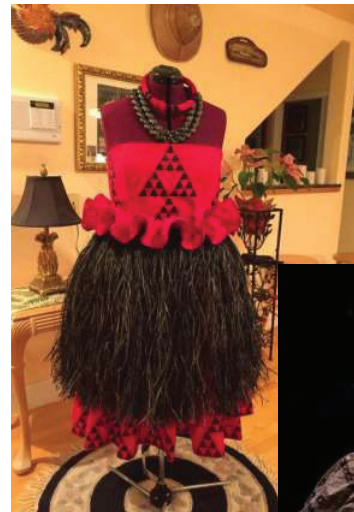
Gather inspiration from these photos of more Hula Clothes dyed and stamped.



On Cotton Broadcloth



On Muslin - undyed



On Cotton Broadcloth



On Pellon