

Ball Bearing Baren Manual

Translated from the manufacturer's text. Text in parenthesis from McClain's

1. Before using the baren, lightly oil the surface of the plate. *(Do not use too much oil. Rub one or two drops of oil around on the palm of your hand and roll the baren over it.)* Use additional oil whenever the ball bearings do not roll smoothly. Olive oil or Tsubaki (camellia oil) is preferable. Do not use machine oil. *(McClain's suggests Camellia Oil because it does not become rancid or sticky over time.)*
2. For an even, rich imprint from the block, move the baren using small, circular motion and light pressure. Note: Strong, heavy pressure may damage the baren. Do not use a back and forth motion: the block will not print evenly and you may also damage the baren. Experiment to see how to handle the baren in the best manner.
3. A recent study found that using a ball bearing baren directly on the back of the printing paper may leave black marks on the backside of the paper. This is caused by the

friction of the ball bearings against the aluminum plate. Steps are being taken to eliminate this problem.

(Use ategami or a piece of tracing paper or cooking parchment between the baren and the printing paper. This protects the paper from any possible black marks and allows the baren to move freely.)

4. If the baren is unused for a period of time, it may become rusty. Put oil on a cloth and clean the baren plate and ball bearings before using. *(I have not had any problems with rust in the four years I've had my ball bearing baren. I do oil it every day that I use it and keep it stored in a wooden box away from moisture.)*
5. If you happen to find a sharp edge on the baren plate, file it down. And, again, **avoid using strong or heavy pressure when printing** or the ball bearings may not roll easily any more.



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