

Resingrave

Resingrave may be new to you, so here are some tips to help make your engraving experience a success. Many of these ideas are taken from *Relief and Intaglio Printmaking Methods on Resingrave Blocks*, written by Richard Woodman, the inventor of Resingrave. It is an excellent reference and we recommend it highly.

Preparing the Block for Relief Printmaking

Whether wood or Resingrave, the surface of any engraving block should be examined for scratches and other blemishes and sanded lightly if necessary. Draw light pencil lines across the block's surface. Place the block face down on a piece of 180 grit wet sandpaper which rests on a sheet of glass. Move the block in small circles with light pressure until all pencil marks have disappeared. Wipe the block with a degreasing solvent such as acetone.

Before putting the design on the block, many people find it useful to tone the block, using a wash of sumi or India ink mixed with water, or a pale colored felt tip pen. Then when the cuts are made, the white Resingrave will show up and make it clear what has been cut and what has not.

Preparing the Block for Intaglio Printmaking

For intaglio printmaking, the surface needs to be sanded to make it very slick so it can be easily wiped. To do this, follow the instructions for sanding above, beginning with wet 600 grit sandpaper, repeated with wet 1500 grit and finishing with a polishing compound like Putz Pomade. After polishing, bevel the edges of the block slightly with dry 150 grit sandpaper so they do not cut the damp printing paper.

Resingrave & Heavy Tool Pressure

When subjected to very heavy tool pressure, smaller gravers may produce scalloped edges and larger ones may cause edges to chip. Scalloped edges can be shaved back at the risk of making the

cut slightly wider, but the problem can be avoided altogether by using lighter tool pressure and very sharp engraving tools.

Chipping may occur when a bold line of varied width starts to narrow. A sure way to achieve a bold, varied width line without chipping is to outline the shape with a small elliptic tool, then clear out the defined shape.

Using an Etching Press to Print Relief Resingrave Blocks

When using an etching (cylinder) press to print Resingrave blocks, one or two layers of thick paper placed on the print paper are all that is needed as padding. Use only enough pressure to obtain a clean, strong relief impression. The use of felts or other blanket material along with heavier pressures more appropriate to intaglio printmaking are both unnecessary and run the risk of fracturing the resin plate that is glued to its fiberboard base.

Repairing Accidents

Clean the surface of the block with acetone. Shallow cuts (less than .5 mm) should be deepened slightly. Mix a small amount of the materials for a stiff, opaque epoxy resin (Devcon's Two Ton White is ideal) according to instructions. Put a small amount on the end of a toothpick and poke into the cavity to be filled. Overfill the cavity slightly. After 12 hours or so, when the resin has set, shave it back almost level with the block surface using a single-sided razor blade in a holder (the kind used for scraping paint, such as the Red Devil Scraper available at McClain's). The blade should approach the plug with a slicing action with a low angle. Trying to slice too much at once might pull the plug out. Sanding back is much safer, but again, too much sanding will scratch or lower the surrounding surface. Wait 24 hours before working in the repaired area and avoid heavy tool pressure.

STORE FLAT, AT ROOM TEMPERATURE, IN
A SEALED PLASTIC BAG.



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