

Stamping With Found Objects

Look around the house for familiar objects that you could use to stamp interesting designs onto fabric. Assemble everything before you start and be sure to cover your work surface with plastic. You will need to work quickly to prevent the paint from drying on the stamp.

A medium-bodied paint or a metallic paint works well. Lumiere was a good paint to use. Experiment to see how much paint to load onto the stamp so you will get good clear images.

Some fun stamping techniques to try are as follows:

1. **Button Stamping:** Glue a button to the lid of an old pill bottle. Apply paint to the button and then stamp it onto your fabric. Heat set the paint by ironing the fabric for 3 minutes or placing it in a hot dryer for 30 minutes.
2. **Incised Styrofoam Stamping:** Cut a rectangle from a Styrofoam tray. Using a sharp instrument, like a ball point pen, draw some lines in the Styrofoam. Apply paint using a sponge and press the carved-side down onto your fabric. Rub gently on the back of the Styrofoam to transfer the image. Heat set as above.
3. **String and Bubble-Wrap Stamping:** Wrap bubble wrap or string around a piece of cardboard and tape in place. Apply paint and gently stamp the fabric. Heat set as above.
4. **Carved Eraser Stamping:** Using a craft knife, carve erasers into your own designs. Apply paint and stamp onto your fabric. Heat set as above.
5. **Commercial Stamps:** Larger and less detailed stamps work well. Apply paint and press gently onto the fabric, taking care not to move the stamp around during the process. Heat set as above.