

Supplies needed to make the printing plate:

- Slice tray (22 x 33 cm)
- 355 ml glycerine You can find glycerine. Chemist -You may need to ask for help to find it.
- 85 gm of unflavoured gelatine
- 2 cups rapidly boiling water (480 ml)
- mixing bowl
- rubber spatula
- measuring cup
- strips of newsprint

Important points to remember:

- Level pan
- Open the gelatine and glycerine packages
- Get some water on to boil – you will add this later
- Pour all glycerine into mixing bowl
- Gently sprinkle all the gelatine on to the glycerine and **wait 10 min to bloom.**
- Waiting is the hardest part, but it prevents the gelatine from clumping
- Once it has become one thick fluid,
- Then add of 2 cups of boiling HOT water
- Gently and slowly stir to combine
- It will probably be yellow, a bit cloudy and still somewhat granular
- To get the last of the gelatine to dissolve, microwave it for a minute or 2.
- You can use a double boiler set up if you do not have a microwave.
- If you microwave it for too long you may get small bubbles or foam around the edges
- **Let it harden on the counter before** you try to move the pan
- Letting the plate set overnight is best.
- I like to put the **firm plate** in the refrigerator for several hours
- Be patient.

To Refresh the printing plate:

As time goes by, the water from your printing plate will slowly evaporate. The plate may get harder, stickier or get holes and scratches in it. When this happens, then it is time to refresh the plate.

1. Cut the plate into smaller pieces and microwave it slowly. Do not overheat it or it will cause foam and bubbles.
2. Check the plate every few minutes and stir to get it to dissolve evenly
3. Add enough hot water to the melted plate so the volume is back up to somewhere between 3 1/2 to 4 cups (828 to 946 ml)
4. Stir and make sure everything is dissolved.
5. Have your level pan ready
6. Pour the melted mixture slowly through cheesecloth, into the level pan, and let harden
7. If you pour the mixture through a tarlatan or tightly woven cheesecloth, then all the gunk and bubbles will get caught in the cloth and removed from your new plate.

I have had plates that last several months, and then I refresh them and they last a few more months. I hope that you enjoy this spontaneous process of monotype printmaking.