

# Make your own stamps with ...

## Step 1 – Print artwork

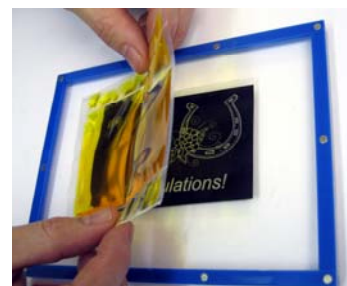
**We recommend that you first make a stamp using artwork supplied.**

Then create your own design, you can draw in opaque black ink or use any software package you choose, ensure there is a 5mm (1/4") black border around your design. Artwork is solid black and white, with the colours reversed. The easiest way is to convert your drawing in the imagepac program provided, click '**Browse**' to find your image, '**Autofit**' fits it to the screen. If you want text click '**Insert Text**' and open a box by left clicking where you want to write, text only stamps are easier to do in Microsoft Word. Choose your font and size by clicking '**Format**'. Write your text in the box and click '**OK**'. Select '**Text and Images**' or '**Photographs**' according to the type of image, just click '**OK**' as the image is optimized by the program. **Load imageblack ink jet film to print on the coated side** (it's slightly rough and will stick to a wet finger!). **Select black ink (greyscale) not colour and if possible increase the ink density.** All printers vary, to find your optimal paper setting print small boxes using different paper settings- try transparency, photo paper matte, brochure paper and see which gives the more solid black. If your artwork lets light through consult the printer instructions on the CD or alternatively touch up artwork with permanent pen, print it twice or lay two sheets over each other.



## Step 2 – Assemble sachet and artwork in clamp

Do not make stamps in front of a window with a **lot of sunlight**. Open a closed clamp by sliding the two sheets at a corner. Lay the acrylic sheet with the coloured strips on it facing upwards. Place your artwork down so that you **can read any text on it**. Lay your Large, Medium or Small sized imagepac sachet on top (handle by the edges to avoid denting). Place the other acrylic sheet on top so the magnets click closed. If necessary press down in the middle. The sachet should now be free from creases.



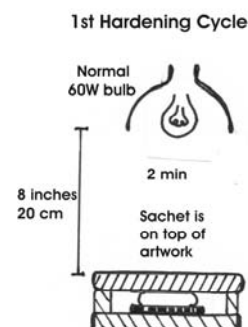
## Step 3 – Position 60W lamp

Use a **height adjustable lamp fitted with a standard 60W bulb (clear, pearl or daylight)** that can be positioned **directly over the centre of the clamp facing downwards**, do not use spot lights, energy savers, halogens or lights with narrow shades as they may not give even light. **Position the light directly over the centre of the acrylic clamp** at a height of about **20cm (8")**. **imagepac is light sensitive, close the box between use and after hardening the sachet wash it out without delay.**



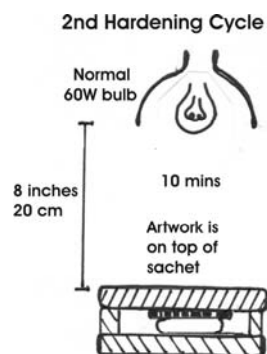
## Step 4 – Do the 1<sup>st</sup> two minute hardening

Place the black sheet under the glass clamp- a white surface will give you less stamp relief. Ensure that the **light is over the middle of the clamp**. The **sachet should now be on top of the artwork**. **Set the timer to 2 mins.** **This side controls the depth of relief of your stamp so if you want less relief select 2 1/2-3 mins.** If the acrylic clamp or the sachets are cold the floor or support to your stamps will be lower, so increase the time. When the timer sounds turn the clamp straight over and reset the timer for the second hardening cycle (see step 5).



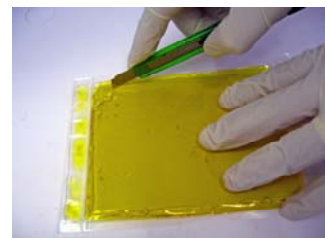
## Step 5 – Do the 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 minute hardening

Now the artwork is on top of the sachet with the lamp again 8" (20cm) above the clamp. This stage is forming your stamp image and making fine detail strong enough to print with. **Reset the timer to 10 minutes.** You do not need to be exact over this time, if your artwork is solid black you can leave it under for a long time without the detail on your stamp filling in.



## Step 6 – Cut the side that was next to the artwork

**Do this promptly** as the liquid gel will continue to harden in light. Place the sachet on a surface that it is safe to cut on. Using a **scalpel cut the side that was next to the artwork** (this will have text or drawings in reverse). **Cut the four sides of the sachet just inside the seal.** Cut the outer layer of plastic only, don't cut right through the sachet. Remove the cut piece of plastic. On photograph stamps there is very little liquid present, on conventional stamps yellow liquid gel will surround your solid design.



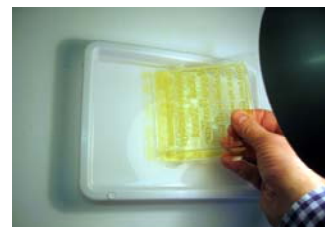
## Step 7 – Remove all the liquid from the stamp

**Do not delay** in washing your stamp. Wear gloves as the gel is a mild irritant. **Run warm water over the stamp to remove most of the liquid.** **Squirt some washing up liquid on the stamp** and using the brush clean it **very gently** in a circular motion until all the liquid has been washed off. **Rinse stamp** and check it's clean. The stamp will not gain full strength until after the last hardening process.



## Step 8 – Final hardening process

**Pour about 1cm (1/2") water into the tray.** **Dissolve a teaspoon of the de-tack salts** in the water. Place the stamp in the water and place the tray **under the light.** It will be quicker if you **lower the light so that it is just above the surface** of the water (take care that water does not come in contact with the lamp) or leave the tray outside in **sunlight.** Leave it for about 10 minutes until the stamp **changes to pale yellow.** It will now be hard and no longer sticky. Keep the same water to harden many stamps, just top up the water and add more salts occasionally. It does not matter if you leave the stamp under the water for longer, up to about 30 mins.



## Step 9 – Dry stamp and stick to acrylic mount

Remove your stamp from the water, **dry it, trim it to size and peel the rear side of the plastic off.** Attach your stamp to the acrylic mount by gently unrolling it to avoid trapping air bubbles. **Do not stretch the stamp** when applying it, as it will distort the image. If you stretch the stamp it will return to its original position when relaxed. imagepac stamps will stick naturally to acrylic mounts without tape and can be re-applied many times. **Do not leave them in sunlight.** All clear stamps are designed for water based inks, you can use them with solvent based inks, but long term use will deteriorate them. After use, clean them with soap and water. **Store on plastic out of sunlight.** If treated correctly your imagepac stamp can last a lifetime and print 1 million impressions.

