

Make a Sun Print

What you need...- Sun print paper, acrylic sheet, cardboard, a tub full of water, fun and interesting objects to print with, such as; leaves, cutlery, tools, jewellery, even cheerios!



Arrange your objects- Arrange your objects on a piece of sun print paper out of the reach of the sun. The paper is light sensitive. For best results, prepare your print in dark shade. Direct sunlight will expose the paper quickly, but even ambient light in the shade, or in a room with a big window will cause slow exposure of the paper.



Flatten your objects - Place an acrylic sheet or piece of transparent plastic on top of your objects to flatten and hold them in place on the sun print paper. Using the acrylic sheet will help to sharpen the edges between blue and white in your final print. If your objects are not pressed firmly to the paper you will get images with blurry edges, but sometimes, this can also look nice! You do not need to lay an acrylic sheet on top if you are using 3-D objects.



Exposure - Take your sun print paper outside and lay it in direct sunlight. To find the best exposure time for that day, use the exposure calculator on: <https://cyanotype.co.uk/cyanotype-exposure-time-calculator>, it will be between 3-5 minutes. The areas of the paper exposed to the sun will change to a light blue – brown colour. When you see this colour change, your print has been fully exposed. If no direct sunlight is available, don't worry—just expose your print a little longer outside and wait for the same fading effect. Under cloud cover, the process can take 5-20 minutes.



Rinsing - Rinse your sun print paper in cold water. If you have very sensitive skin you can wear a pair of rubber gloves. Watch the light blue - brown areas turn into a deep blue and the blue areas turn into white. To get the deepest blue possible, leave it in the water to rinse for 5 minutes.



Drying - Lay your sun print paper flat on an absorbent surface and allow it to dry. You can use a paper towel, or a piece of cardboard as a bed for your print while it dries. By the time the print dries you should have a beautiful deep blue print, but sometimes the blue colour will continue to develop for the next 24 hours. Congratulations! you've just made a sun print, sometimes called a 'cyanotype'.