Pasta Maker Printing with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Pasta Maker Prints
- Today I am sitting, I'm normally standing, so you know it's gonna be really intense and super serious and very awesome. As you may know, I went to school for book binding and when you go to school for something like book binding you have access to an amazing studio with printers and etching presses and Vandercooks and all sorts of big giant things you can't have when you live in a tiny apartment. And so the adjustment was really difficult and I missed my etching press a lot. But then I found another way to make drypoint etching. You might notice this wonderful accessory next to me, it's a pasta maker and we're gonna use it to make drypoint etching today. Now if you're etching on a large etching press you can do it on a piece of copper or even plexiglass, a lot of different surfaces, but those are firm and for this we need to be flexible, so we can squiggle it through. So I'm using the very highbrow art substrate that is used garbage. So this is from the top of a spinach container, it needs to be somewhat thick plastic. I have my basil box. These are all from takeout containers and these are my favorites, 'cause they're really thick and I prefer it to be see-through, because I like to trace things. I'm not a very confident drawer, so tracing is my best friend. And you're gonna wanna cut off the edges. We wouldn't actually use this one, because it has this little bump here. And you can buy sheets of this. This is actually from an art store, but this is what I came up on. You also need some dental tools. You could, of course, use an etching stylus, but these were like $2 dollars each at the art store. I was delighted to find dental tools at the art store. You'll also need a small piece of bookboard or cardboard or a hotel room key. You'll need watercolor paper, some tape. I'm using Speedball Block Printing Ink. Make sure it's acrylic. If you use an oil base it's a little bit harder to clean up. We will also need watercolor paper, some card stock, and a small tray. We're soaking our watercolor paper. You wanna soak it for at least 20 minutes before you begin printing. Also, baby wipes are our best friends. Lots and lots of paper towels. I'm a very sloppy maker, but this is one of the places where the cleaner you are the nicer your finished product. So once you have cut out your plate we're going to tape it over our printout. I have this beautiful botanical of a tulip, and we're going to tape it over. Oh, I should mention too, you're going to want your watercolor paper to be the exact same size as your plate. I find that the easiest, also your packing the same size, so then we can knock up and make a sandwich, versus if you try to balance it all together. And you do want it to be less narrow, of course, than your pasta maker. We are live, so if you have any questions don't hesitate to write in and ask, or if, you guys give me some great ideas all the time, if you have also experienced losing out on real equipment and how you've done a hack in your own living room please tell me. I'm always on the lookout for new ways to make beautiful art on the cheap. So I'm going to use this one. I did a previous one using a screw, that was a terrible idea. It was very uncomfortable, it hurt. And I find it easiest to go in a downward motion, so I'm gonna be turning this around a lot. And we're just gonna trace over the edges. Do you hear that scraping noise? That's good, we want it to be, we're gouging it out. And it's pretty cumbersome and not that natural and your fingers will get cramped and tired, but how do you know that you're making art if you're not a little bit uncomfortable. And we're just gonna trace most of these outlines. I like that noise. It used to give me the creeps, but now it makes me feel like I'm accomplishing something. - [Ali] Faith, while you do that will you tell the folks at home about our one month offer? - [Faith] Ali has says, while I trace can I tell you about the offer? You bet I can. If you are new to

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Creativebug it is the best website ever where you can learn over 1,000 art and craft techniques, we have over 1,000 videos. And if you sign up with the offer code joann. - [Ali] 30, joann30, it's new. - [Faith] Joann30, oh, we have a new offer code. So if you sign up with joann30 you will get a 30 day free trial. You can take a lot of classes in that time, especially if you don't sleep a lot. And then you also get 30% off of your next order at Jo-Ann. Where I actually went today and I had a great time and got very overstimulated in the Easter section. They have all these tiny little animals, they're so cute. Courtney and I had to drag each other away. Also, that was a terrible tracing job, but that's okay, because no one has to know what the original looked like. I mean, you all do. - [Ali] All right, Kristy is asking, what is Faith doing? She's coming in late, just joining us, and she's wondering what are you doing. - [Faith] Hi Kristy, thank you for joining us. I am doing dry plate etching using a pasta maker. We have a piece of recycled plastic and we're using some dental tools to scratch in the surface, but you can use a stylus, you can use a pin tool, you can use an awl, I bet would be pretty good. I like it if it has a longer handle. Some awls are balls that you hold and having that extra weight on my hand helps prevent my fingers from going totally numb. - [Ali] Is that an actual dental tool? - [Faith] This is an actual dental tool. - [Ali] Where did you get it? - [Faith] I got it at the art store, which was, only because it's the best art store in the world, of course they have dental tools if you need to make a spontaneous etching. You can, of course, use a stylus, what you're supposed to be doing drypoint etching with. And those are more like $12 dollars, but this was two bucks, so I got real excited over this. Okay, I'm getting closer. And please, don't hesitate to write in with your tips and tricks. I think the first time I did a printing hack was, did anyone else use meat trays for printing? You can, I mean, now it seems very unsanitary, but at the time it seemed super exciting. So like the kind of trays where if you have chicken breasts wrapped in it, you wash it very well, I don't know how well we washed it, and then you scratch into the surface using a ballpoint pen. So yeah, I've been printing using recycled garbage for a long time. Please write in if you also work with garbage in your artwork. I really like using this technique for botanicals, because they have a lot of wiggly organic lines. I tried doing a house once and the house looked like it should have been condemned. And also a person, the person also looked like they should have been condemned. So I'm just blocking out, you wanna test every once in a while to see, can we see that? If you've gotten all the lines. And I could trace around all of these to get a little bit more color, but if I color it in later I can do that then. So I am going to, I do like this tracing part, but in the interest of time I will stop. - [Ali] All right, we have a question. - [Faith] We have a question. - [Ali] That asks can you please show an after if you have a finished piece, so those just joining can see what the final project is. - Someone asked if I could show the final piece. Yeah, when I get to the end and I'm finished, but don't worry, I have a couple of them, so you'll be delighted to see what they turn out to be. That's the best part, right? The grand reveal. You think I would just give it to you upfront. You're gonna have to wait. So we're taking our scratch paper and our Speedball ink and I'm putting it in the little dish, but I appreciate your excitement, it is exciting. And we're using our piece of bookboard to scrape out the ink onto the surface. And you wanna get it into the lines. So I supposed you could use a paintbrush, but I think the scraper really works better and it's a lot more authentic to how you would normally make an etching. Really pushing it in. - [Ali] Well, Cheryl says, I've loved to be delighted, I'm all for grand reveals. I think you got her hooked. - [Faith] Cheryl said she'd love to be delighted, she's all for grand reveals. Me too, except for, of course, I do forward videos, because I am very unpatient. So I have a little bit of ink on my hand. Normally I would wait until the end and maybe smudge it on my face and then no one tells me all day that I have ink on my eyelid, but because this is a particular finicky process I'm gonna keep my hands clean at every turn. We have our handy dandy baby wipes

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that we love here at Creativebug. We have as much baby wipes as a nursery would. And then I'm going to use a paper towel to wipe it off. Now if you were doing fancy person etching you would use cheesecloth or if you were doing just normal person etching you could use cheesecloth, but this is what I had on hand. And we're going to wipe it off. - [Ali] We have two questions about the type of ink that you're using. - [Faith] We have two questions about the type ink I'm using. - [Ali] So Tamera wants to know what kind of ink you are using and Rachel wants to know can you use paint or does it have to be ink? - The questions are what kind of ink am I using? I'm using a Speedball, this is acrylic-based, it's water soluble, so you won't be able to go over this with watercolor after the fact, but I think it makes for a nice, crisp line and you can always use colored pencils, but you'll see that at the end too. And now we, oh, and can you use paint? Sure, yeah, but not watercolor. I don't think that that would work very well. Actually I did try using an acrylic ink and it did not turn out well at all, so the block printing has a lot more tooth to it and it hangs out in these ridges a little bit better. So you can see I'm almost done wiping it off. Now I'm just trying to clean up around it. People who make etchings sometimes like to have a lot of ink around it and gives it depth. You can make it kind of spooky or gloomy. I like to wipe away as much as possible, so it kind of looks like a pen and ink drawing. And so then we're gonna move this aside, so we can see, yeah, it's pretty good. And now we dry off our watercolor paper. I probably should have dried it off a few minutes ago. - [Ali] Next question comes from Ursula. And Ursula is wondering can you go over that with ink? - The next question comes from Ursula, she wants to know can we go over this with ink? Yeah, that's a great idea. Not watercolor, 'cause it has too much water, but if you're using ink I think that should be just fine. Just make sure to let it dry before you do that. I did not do that earlier today and it was very tricky, especially using colored pencil. But why would you use colored pencil on wet paper? Unless you're very impatient, like me, 'cause that's exactly what I did. Okay, now that we've dried off our watercolor paper, which you can use rags. This is incredibly wasteful and I'm very ashamed, but it's what I have available to me in this given moment. So I have my damp paper and I'm going to put my etching toothside down. It's gonna be really pretty. Now I should say out of the five I did, two of them were semi-disastrous, so we'll see what happens. And I'm going to put two pieces of this card stock in front of it and one behind, just in case. And now I have my pasta machine set to three, but your mileage may vary. You're gonna have to try it out. And oh my gosh, this is the exciting part, but it's also the scary part. It's like when you are going up the rollercoaster. Everything has to be very, very, very lined up and now we're gonna crank, come on. Okay, I might have one too many pieces of card stock on it. Are you so excited or what? Any minute now. I'm gonna take away one of the front pieces. So it's card stock, plastic, watercolor paper, card stock. Okie doke. And as we crank through, ah, pick it up from the bottom, we'll feed it out. Oh Nelly. And oh my gosh, look at that. How pretty. And now we let it dry. And I'm gonna show you some past examples. Thank you everyone for your patience. I know you were on the edge of your seat, I was too. I was a little scared. And you can see there's a mark at the top where it didn't exactly line up. You could cut that off. Some people like to have the edges. Here is one I did exactly like that where we had, it was smaller than the paper and I colored this in afterward, so this was made from this. Do I have the plate? And you can see, of course, it's mirrored and there's a little extra ink left on. This right here is one of the reasons why I like to have the plate the size of the paper. But if you have a big piece of paper and a little etching, which actually you can't do on this, but if your etching is smaller than the paper I think it can be a really classy effect. - [Ali] We have our next question from Baze. - [Faith] We have our next question. - [Ali] Baze's asking which side of the sketched project you ink up? The side that you inked or the other side? - The question is which side of the inked

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project do you? - [Ali] Ink up. - Do you ink up. So when we carve it out, can you hear my fingernail? This is the side we ink up, so that it gets in those divets. - [Ali] The raised side. - [Faith] So the, yeah, the raised side or the dented side, but not the smooth side. The side that we have scratched into. - [Ali] The etched side. - The etched side. So here, this is the process we just did, but a little bit more defined. So we have our plate that we traced on here, flip it over here. This is what it looks like when you don't wipe away the ink, when you just wipe it away very lightly. And this is wiped off a little bit more, all the way to this end of the spectrum where we have wiped it off all but the lines. And let me show you one final example. - [Ali] Before you do that there's another question. - Oh, before I do that we have another question. I'm gonna make you wait again. - [Ali] Brianne is wondering, can you run that through the pasta maker a second time without having to reink it. - Brianne wants to know can you run it through the pasta maker a second time without reinking it. Um, probably not. You could try, but I think it'd be a very faint line. If that's what you're going for, if you want it to be really sketchy, or maybe you're just laying something out, so you can draw over it, sure, you might as well. Also, this process is very experimental and it's really playful, which I think even if you are an experienced artist who does have access to a several thousand dollar etching press, this is still really fun to play around, because the results are a little bit unpredictable. And you can have some really exciting accidents happen. I have my final example, unless anybody else has any questions. - [Ali] Well, there are more questions, but do you wanna show your final example first? - I'll show my final example first. So I etched with this and look how stunning that is. So, of course, I took less time making this one, because I didn't want you to have to stare at the top of my head all day. And then look at those tiny leaves. And then also for this one I had just done straight lines, but here when I saw black parts here I scraped in that entire surface and here on the edge of some of the stems I scratched it in a little bit more. So you can go as simple as a line drawing or as intricate as shading. And this doesn't even come close to the actual intricacies you can get if you were shading like a three-dimensional object or you wanted it to look like crosshatching. - [Ali] All right, next question is from Sue and she is wondering what setting is your pasta machine on? - Our next question is from Sue, she's wondering what setting we have our pasta machine on. I have it on a three, but you could go larger if you have more packing or smaller if you have less packing. And packing is just the stuff we put in the front and back. I don't know if you noticed when we tried to do it the first time around there was too much paper, it was too tight, it was really squashing it down. One thing that you can't see, but you can feel and looks amazing is we have the tooth of the watercolor paper, but where we pressed it through there is no tooth, it's totally flattened, it's just raised where we drew it in and that is why soaking it is really helpful, so that the water can really be manipulated and mashed down. - [Ali] Next question comes from Cathy. If you don't have a pasta maker can you do it by hand? Are there any other household tools? - Next question comes from Cathy, she's wondering if you don't have a pasta maker can you use something else. You can use a nipping press, but that is a piece of bookbinding equipment, it's cast iron, and I'm assuming if you don't have a pasta maker you might not have a nipping press. And that applies even pressure all the way across. But the great thing about the pasta maker is it's pretty cheap, it's like 30, 40 bucks. Or you might have one sitting in the back of your closet next to your waffle maker, which I wish I had a waffle maker, but I don't have enough room in my house for a waffle maker. Any other questions? Well, thank you so much for joining us and if you do make these projects please post them to our website, creativebug.com. You'll find our live shoots under the CBTV tab. Thank you so much for joining us and we'll see you on Thursday. (upbeat music)

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