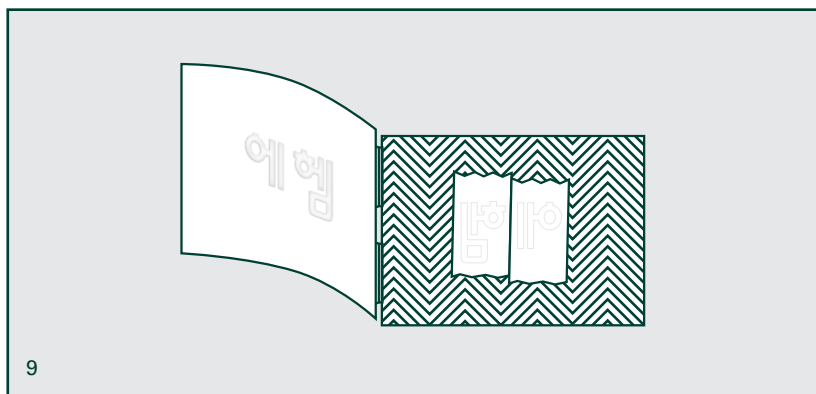
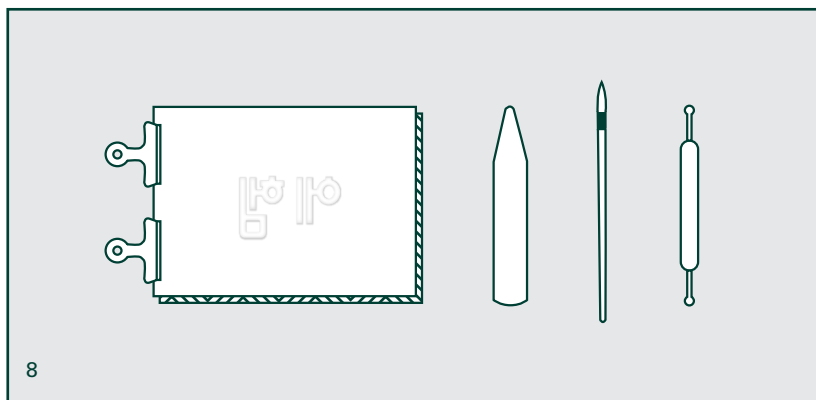
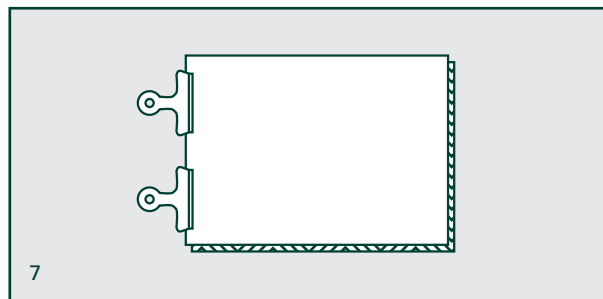
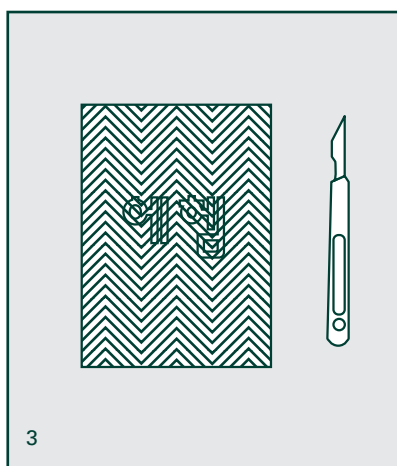
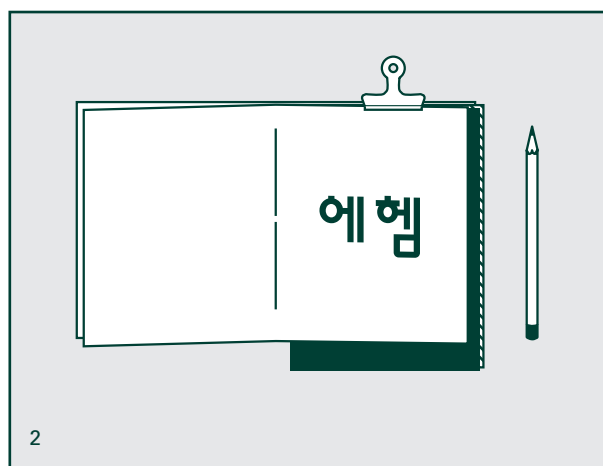
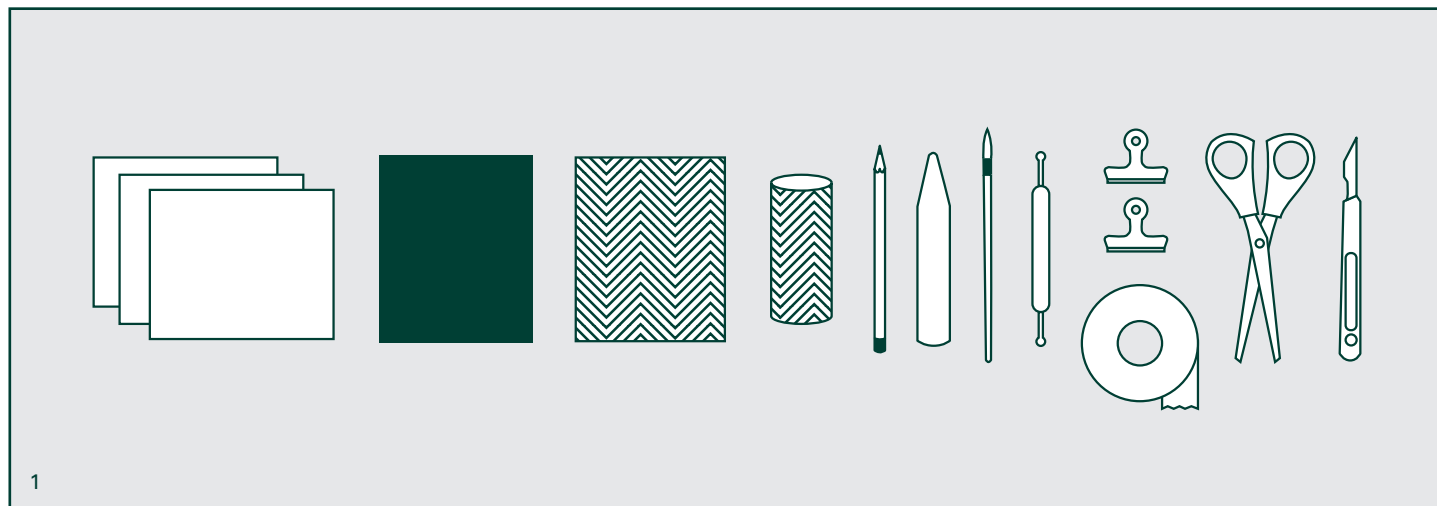


DEBOSSING / EMBOSSING



1 TOOLS AND MATERIALS*

- PAPER
- CARBON PAPER*
- CARDBOARD OR LOO ROLL
- PENCIL
- BONE FOLDER
- SMALL PAINT BRUSH
- EMBOSSING TOOLS
- CLIPS
- PAPER MASKING TAPE
- SCISSORS
- SCALPEL

* *Not all of these are essential. You can use loo rolls if you don't have cardboard at hand. Use a bone folder or the tail end of a paint brush to replace embossing tools. Carbon paper, clips and paper masking tape all help with improving the process and end result, but if you do not have access to them, you can still try it.*

Prepare your paper by dampening it. For instructions, check out our blog post on Hacks for Home Printing at lccprintmaking.myblog.arts.ac.uk. For good results, it is essential that your paper is damp, as it needs to mould easily around your shape! Printmaking paper with a high cotton content and max. 170gsm will give you the best results. A favourite is Zerkall, but you can use Somerset, Fabriano, Japanese paper – try whatever you have lying around. On our website you can find a list of suppliers.

2 Trace the design you want to emboss or deboss onto cardboard.

The cardboard should be thin enough to cut easily with scissors or a scalpel, but thick enough to give you a visible relief. Bear in mind that your design cannot be too small, or you will not be able to cut it out. Thin lines can be problematic as you will lose detail in the process. Draw your design freehand or use carbon paper to transfer your sketch or print precisely.

3-4 Cut out your shapes.

Be careful to keep all elements together. The cardboard you cut them out from can be helpful as a guide for positioning them in the right place later.

5 Decide if you want to reverse your design.

If you use it right-reading, it will emboss right-reading and deboss on the reverse of your paper wrong-reading. The debossed side typically looks nicer because the tools don't mark it. If you would like the debossed side to be right-reading, flip your cardboard cut outs.

+ TIPS AND ALTERNATIVES

- *Test with small cut offs from paper samples.*
- *Take some time to get used to the process and to choose your tools before wasting paper.*
- *You can trace the surface of objects instead of cardboard cut outs.*
- *Try a negative shape*
- *Damp paper is not optional!*

6 Create your base.

On a large sheet of card or paper, mark where your shapes and your paper need to go. Stick your shapes onto this base: Use a large strip of paper masking tape to cover the entire surface, then lay it onto your paper. Using a bonefolder, carefully press the tape down, tracing your cut out. The tape creates a smoother surface and edges.

7 Register your paper.

Take one sheet of paper out of your stack. Lining it up with your registration marks, lay it on top of your base. Use clips to secure the paper to the base to ensure it does not move while you are working on it.

8 Emboss.

First, use your fingers to find the cardboard cut outs underneath the paper and gently start pressing down the paper to make the design edges visible. Now switch to a bone folder or other tool with a smooth, round tip. Being very careful, press around the edges of your design. Be gentle, as the paper gets damaged very easily! Use smaller tools for corners and tight spaces.

9 Reveal!

When you are finished, release the clips and flip the paper to reveal the debossed side on the reverse. Flatten and weigh down your paper until it has dried completely.
