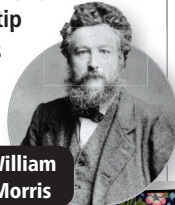




Make your own wrapping paper

What you need

- A small sheet of foam
- A ballpoint pen
- An old plate or tray
- Some paint
- A roller
- Large sheet of white paper
- Felt tip pens



William Morris



Hello my name's Olaf Falafel. I'm a children's author, illustrator, dad and comedian. During the Covid-19 lockdowns I created an online Art Club filled with drawing tips, animations and lots of silly jokes!

This issue I'm going to show you how to make some festive wrapping paper – and as we're talking about decorative printing, there's one person who springs to mind: William Morris. He was a British designer who lived more than 100 years ago, from 1834 to 1896, and he's famous for his beautifully patterned fabric, furniture and wallpaper.

William Morris was part of a group of creative people called the British Arts and Crafts movement. It was the Industrial Age and Morris disliked the way that goods were being mass-produced by machines in factories. He wanted a return to hand-crafted items.

Morris's designs included colourful patterns of berries, birds and flowers. He used a technique called woodblock printing. This took time, skill and patience, so I'm going to show you how to make your own wrapping paper using a simpler, speedier method of woodblock printing.



TOP TIP

Plan your design on paper before you draw on the foam sheet.

Olaf Falafel



1 Before you start, prepare your workstation. Protect your table with paper. Then, take the foam sheet and the pen (a ballpoint is best).



2 Draw your festive pattern onto the foam sheet. Be sure to press down quite hard so the pen makes a groove in the foam.



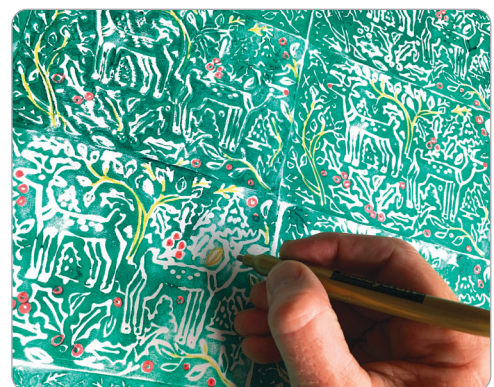
3 On a covered surface, mix up some paint on a plate or a tray. Roll the paint roller into the paint, then roll the colour onto the foam sheet.



4 Take white paper. Press your pattern onto the paper. Peel off the foam to reveal the design.



5 Repeat stages 3 and 4 again until the whole sheet is covered with your design.



6 Leave the paper to dry. Use felt-tip pens for extra detail. Your wrapping paper is ready!

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