



# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

## *Enhanced Botanical Printing*



## Welcome To Class

Welcome to the exciting world of enhanced botanical printing.

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In the next few weeks you will be able to move through these lessons at your own pace and discover effective, magical ways to transform botanical printing on paper and fabric. I recommend you watch the lessons in order so that the process is clear. Maybe even watch it straight through without doing any actual printing. Assemble the basic supplies and then begin experimenting. Remember there's always a learning curve and don't get discouraged if your first prints don't look like mine. It just takes a little practice.

It helps to pay attention to your own style as you work in order to get the perfect balance of dampness and dryness, and to learn which leaves work best for you.

Enjoy the glories of Mother Nature and always work with her! And have some fun anticipating the results that come out of the steamer. Each bundle is like opening a gift.

Let me know how it's going for you and if you have any questions, visit the forum discussions and see what others are up to. I'll answer questions there, too.

Thanks for joining me!

Questions? Email me: [jane@janedunnewold.com](mailto:jane@janedunnewold.com)

# Syllabus

## Lesson One: The Three Keys to Successful Direct Printing

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An introduction to botanical printing terminology and a description of the three keys to successful direct printing: Contact/Pressure, Moisture and Time!

## Lesson Two: Getting Organized

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Choosing and organizing supplies, setting up the work space

## Lesson Three: Building a Basic Bundle

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A demonstration of the basic process and guides to dipping leaves and flowers, the steaming process, and troubleshooting when a print isn't perfect

## Lesson 4: Cultivating Best Practices

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Safety, record-keeping, clean-up and stabilizing prints

## Lesson Five: Additions to the Substrate

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Fabric and paper substrates, and the use of old book pages, maps and handmade papers

## Lesson Six: The Art of the Carrier

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Printed art papers, dyed and chemically infused fabrics, laces and papers as magical and colorful additions to the composition

## Lesson Seven: Silk Ties and Scarves as Carriers

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## Lesson Eight: Additional Design Elements

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How to use Inktense blocks, and photocopy transfers to enhance a botanical print.

## Lesson Nine: How to Mask with Freezer Paper

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## Lesson Ten: Metal Foils and Leafing

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The differences between composition metal and leaf and foils, and how to use them to enhance a botanical print

## Lesson Eleven: Using Paints and Pencils for Embellishment

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How to use acrylic paint, colored pencil, markers, and watercolor to enhance a botanical print

## Lesson Twelve: Sealants and Finishes

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Using beeswax, Howard wax, and clear acrylic spray to seal and finish a botanical print

## Appendix: Terminology, Chemicals and Recipes

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# Supply List and Resources

This is not an exhaustive list but it will help get your practice of botanical printing started.

**Because there are many options for supplies, please watch [Lesson Two: Getting Organized](#) here before purchasing!**

Equipment:

- ◆ Burners, pots and all of the supplies needed for botanical printing and the embellishing I've proposed in this course can be found on many websites, including [amazon.com](#). But don't forget about local thrift or op shops. They are good places to find used enamel, aluminum, or stainless steel pots, and glass dishes large enough to mordant good-sized pieces of fabric or paper. Silk ties and scarves are also a valuable thrift shop find.
- ◆ This [tamale pot](#) on Amazon has served me well.
- ◆ Don't scrimp on the heat source and choose wisely. A stove top is perfect. A cheap hot plate, not so much. Throwaway butane tanks are a bad idea environmentally. Try to think of the choices you make as a closed circle and choose tools and materials that can be reused and recycled.
- ◆ **Cadco makes a [heavy duty, industrial hot plate](#)** that's worth every penny.
- ◆ [Aluminum plates](#) are sold by artist's supply sites in a variety of sizes. They are inexpensive and won't last forever if you use them all the time, but can be recycled. If you have the good fortune to find solid aluminum panels, go for it. [Jerry's Artarama](#) is a reliable source and they have local stores in the US.
- ◆ Extra [large binder clips](#): You'll need eight.



- ◆ Shelf liner: This is an easy to clean surface that will protect your work table from iron and rust stains. Buy a smooth surfaced liner that's continuous, not a web or open grid.

## Consumable Supplies:

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Colored art paper is sold in local art supply stores as well as online. Liquitex Matte Gel Medium is also sold in local venues, as well as online. Citrisolv, mordanting chemicals. gold leafing and foiling supplies are also readily available.

Familiarize yourself with these sites and then do a little comparison shopping!

### **Art Supplies, Inkense Blocks and Papers:**

- ◆ [jerrysartarama.com](http://jerrysartarama.com)
- ◆ [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com)
- ◆ [cheapjoes.com](http://cheapjoes.com)
- ◆ [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

### **Fabrics, Dyes, and Textile Paints:**

- ◆ <https://www.dharmatrading.com>
- ◆ [silkconnection.com](http://silkconnection.com)
- ◆ [prochemicalanddye.net](http://prochemicalanddye.net)

### **Colored Art Papers:**

- ◆ **\*\*The most important thing is that the paper be the type where color goes all the way through. NOT PRINTED DESIGNS OR COLOR.**
- ◆ If a design or pattern is printed on one side only, it won't work for our use. I have auditioned numerous papers and here are a few brands that work, and also where I found them:
  - ◆ Colorline paper from Canson is a great choice. Daler-Rowney's Murano line is also a good choice.

### **Mordants and Chemicals:**

- ◆ [maiwa.com](http://maiwa.com)
- ◆ [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

# Supplies by Lesson

## Lesson One: The Three Keys to Successful Direct Printing

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Print and read the supply lists and essays provided for the course.

## Lesson Two: Getting Organized

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You will not need all of these supplies. Choose supports, for example, based on what you want to try first, or choose the products I personally recommend.

### CLIPS

- ◆ Use these to secure the aluminum plates: I recommend [these](#) on Amazon.

### SUPPORTS

- ◆ [Unprimed aluminium plates](#)
  - ◆ These are used to secure the bundle in the steamer.
  - ◆ Buy two sizes if you can. I recommend 8 x 10 and 11 x 14.
  - ◆ Buy two of each size, you need a top and bottom.
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard or ceramic tiles

### SUBSTRATES

Paper Substrates:

- ◆ Watercolor paper. I recommend [Strathmore 300 series](#) to get started.
  - ◆ The 300 series is thinner than high quality paper. [Arches](#) is a higher quality paper and make detailed, luscious prints.
  - ◆ I also recommend [Fabriano](#) watercolor paper. It's my all-time favorite. Other papers: Handmade papers, drawing paper and other miscellaneous papers are always worth a try.

Fabric substrates:

- ◆ Protein fabrics: Both silk and wool are options.
  - ◆ [Jacquard Silk Connection](#)
  - ◆ [Dharma Trading](#)

◆ [Exotic Silks](#)

Cellulose fabrics: Cotton, linen, rayon, ramie: Available from numerous online sources.

### **CHEMICALS MORDANTS:**

- ◆ [Food grade alum sulfate](#)
- ◆ [Sodium acetate](#)
- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Plain soy milk

### **DIPS/MORDANTS:**

- ◆ Ferrous sulfate
- ◆ Copper sulfate

### **EQUIPMENT**

- ◆ Flat glass dishes (not to be used for food) flat plastic or glass plate
- ◆ Disposable gloves dust mask
- ◆ “Smooth top” shelf liner to cover working surfaces: (NOT perforated)
- ◆ Old towels
- ◆ Heat source
  - ◆ You can safely use your kitchen stove, but you may not want moisture or mess in the house.
  - ◆ I recommend a professional grade hot plate because it will stand up to hours of use, as opposed to a cheap hot plate.
- ◆ Dedicated steamer pot: You can adapt any pot you find at a thrift store or buy a tamale pot, which has the advantage of a shelf inside. The size of the bundles you build is related to how big your pot is. This pot’s diameter is 11.5 inches.
- ◆ Racks: The tamale pot comes with a low rack but it can be supplemented with this rack to raise the bundles higher above the water level: The rack is 10.5 inches in diameter.

## Lesson Three: Building a Basic Bundle

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Supplies you will need in addition to the basic supplies described in Lesson Two:

### Foliage

Obviously flat is good, since you are stacking leaves between pieces of watercolor paper. I've had best luck with fresh leaves and not such great luck with very dry leaves. If the leaf is dried out & brown it doesn't have enough moisture left to transfer to the paper. In general, deciduous leaves (from trees that lose their leaves every year) print well. Sometimes leaves don't print at all. Use what's available.

Florist shops (especially wholesalers) carry an assortment of leaves and flowers that print beautifully.

A few of these include:

- ◆ All varieties of Eucalyptus Grevillia
- ◆ Hydrangea

**NOTE:** If in doubt about a plant's toxicity, look it up. Lilies of the Valley and Sumac are examples of plants that are poisonous. While we eat the stem of Rhubarb, the leaves can kill you.

Here is one link: [Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension](#)  
And here's a Pinterest [link](#) to pictures, just in case you need them.

- ◆ 1/2 yard of white felt
- ◆ copy paper or thin plastic to use as a barrier between watercolor sheets. Press 'n Seal also works, as
- ◆ does parchment paper scissors
- ◆ rotary cutter, mat and straight edge or ruler lead pencil
- ◆ old towel to cover steamer potholders

Optional: ["Picker"](#) to lift foliage and papers after steaming.



## Lesson Four: Cultivating Best Practices

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No additional supplies required.

## Lesson Five: Additions to the Substrate

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- ◆ Old books you will dismantle. Dictionaries are useful as are other older books with paper pages that are showing signs of aging.
- ◆ Maps. "Art" or handmade papers

Optional: [Mistifuse fusible web](#). Mention my name when you order to get a discount.

## Lesson Six: Carriers

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### Colored Art Papers:

- ◆ The [Daler-Rowney Canford](#) or Murano lines of art paper come in an assortment of colors.

IMPORTANT: LIGHT COLORS DON'T TRANSFER WELL. CHOOSE DARK, NATURE-RELATED COLORS FOR BEST RESULTS.

- ◆ [Origami Papers](#) are also a great choice.
- ◆ [Liquitex Matte Gel Medium](#)
- ◆ Burlap
- ◆ Non-fusible interfacing Synthetic lace cheesecloth
- ◆ [Fiber reactive MX dye](#): It takes very little dye to color carriers. Purchase the smallest available size with confidence.
- ◆ Dharma Trading Company also carries [dye](#):
  - ◆ If you work with natural dyes you may already know how to create a carrier (blanket) with those dyes.

Optional:

- ◆ Silhouette machine to cut colored art paper shapes
- ◆ [Paper punches](#) to cut colored art paper shapes

## Lesson Seven: Silk Ties and Scarves as Carriers

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- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Silk fabric
- ◆ Silk ties and/or scarves: Smooth, printed silk, not a textured woven pattern

## Lesson Eight: Additional Design Elements

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- ◆ [Inktense blocks](#)
- ◆ [Citrisolv](#) (No other as this brand is concentrated as needed.)
- ◆ wooden spoon
- ◆ cotton balls or make-up pads
- ◆ photocopies made with a laser printer or carbon toner copier

Optional: [Clip art books](#) with botanical or [Nature themes](#).

## Lesson Nine: How to Mask with Freezer Paper

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- ◆ [Freezer paper](#): Buy this brand if possible because other brands may stick to a print and damage it.
- ◆ Mat and exacto knife
- ◆ Pencil iron scissor

Optional: straight pins

## Lesson Ten: Metal Foils and Leafing

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- ◆ [Gloss gel](#) medium (not matte)
- ◆ [Composition gold, silver and/or copper leaf](#)
- ◆ Parchment paper
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ [Thermofax screens](#)

Other tools for application:

- ◆ Stamps or stencils

Option for detail work or small scale applications:

- ◆ [Deco Foil Adhesive](#)
- ◆ [Deco foils](#) (all colors)

## LESSON 11: Using Paints and Pencils for Embellishment

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- ◆ Acrylic Paints:
  - ◆ Any permanent acrylic paint will work, as will textile paints if you have them on hand.
- ◆ Watercolor
- ◆ Watercolor brushes
- ◆ Colored Pencils
- ◆ Markers:
  - ◆ All markers have potential but I recommend this set: [Micro Pen Finesline Markers](#)
- ◆ [Inktense Pencils](#): Pencils instead of pigment blocks

## LESSON 12: Sealants and Finishes

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- ◆ [Howard Wax](#)
- ◆ [Krylon Clear Acrylic Spray](#)

Miscellaneous Useful Products:

- ◆ [Iron/rust stain remover](#)
- ◆ [Cleaner for irons and the press platen](#)
- ◆ [Teflon sheets](#)