

Mokuhanga

The Art of the Japanese Woodcut

Fundamental Tools & Materials

The Wood

Cut along the long grain a variety of woods and wood laminates are used the most common is shina. Other popular woods with artists are pine, poplar, and magnolia, as well as cherry, and maple.

Carving Tools

4 basic types of gouges: starting knife (kiridashi), round gouge, V-gouge, square tip gouge.

Barrens

A tool with wide surface area to apply gentle, even pressure. The traditional barren is a corded disk wrapped in a bamboo leaf.

Paper

Most paper is rice or wulberry fibers with sizing on one side (the smoother, less absorbent side). Both hand and machine made. The most common is Hosho.

Brushes

A variety of brushes are used for dampening the printing paper, applying waterbased pigments, or sumi (black ink from pine soot) and nori (rice paste to help pigment stick to the paper).

Watch a master artist here:

Ukiyo-e Woodblock

Printmaking with Keizaburo Matsuzaki

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8uF3PZ3KGQ&t=4s>

Great Source for Supplies: McClain's

<https://www.imcclains.com/>

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