

## Practical No. - 6

# To block print the fabric

### Aim

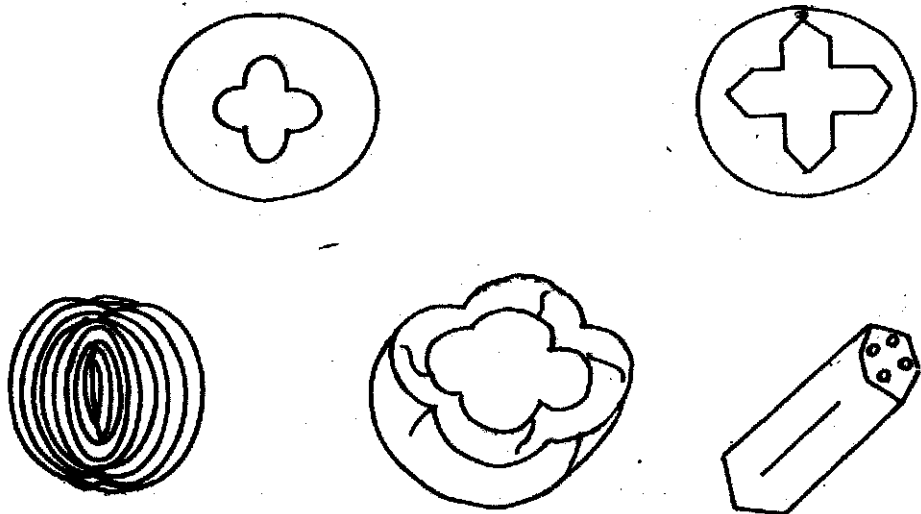
To block print the fabric.

### Introduction

You have studied in Book-4 of Home Science about block printing as one of the methods of printing. In this assignment you are going to create interesting patterns using blocks. The blocks are of different kinds.

#### 1. Vegetable blocks

These can be created by using various vegetables like lady's finger (bhindi), capsicum (cut half from the centre), potato cut in interesting shapes. Also onion when cut into half, can be used for creating designs.

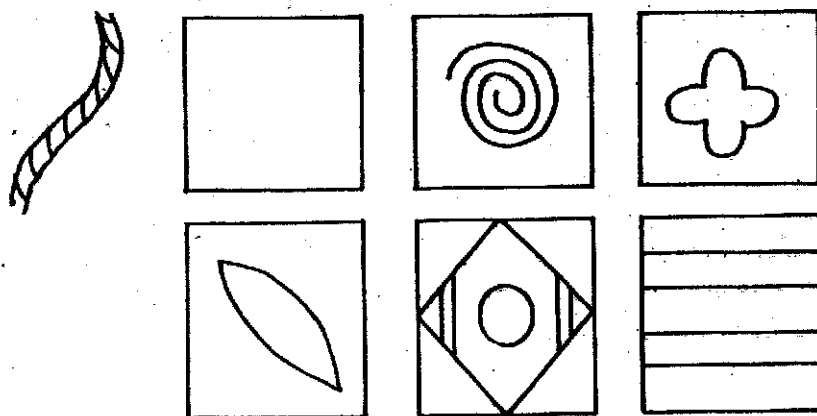


## 2. Wooden blocks

Wooden blocks are used professionally. In these blocks the designs are carved out. These blocks are available in the market. You can also get them made by a carpenter.

## 3. Rope blocks

This is another interesting way of creating a block, using a wooden surface and thin to medium thickness rope. For making this block, paste the rope on a flat surface preferably wooden in an interesting design. Let it dry completely and your block is ready. Once the blocks are ready, all we need is colour and fabric to print.



### MATERIAL REQUIRED

1. Any plain (old or new) fabric, light in colour (white to cream, no dark colours or any thick, light colour paper).
2. Newspaper
3. Old blanket
4. Any old sheet of cotton
5. Small stool/table.
6. Fabric colours or binder and pigment colors. (Pigment colours and binder are professionally used and they are available in market in the shop dealing with these kinds of material. You only have to ask for binder and pigment for block printing and you will get it).

7. Plate (big, steel / plastic).
8. Sponge (1 ½ to 2 cms thick).
9. Spoon
10. Blocks
11. Pencil
12. Scale

### **Procedure**

1. Double the old blanket by folding it and spread it on the table. On this, spread the old cotton sheets very evenly so that there is extra spread of fabric in the centre.
2. Wash the old fabric pieces to be used for printing. Dry and iron them properly.
3. Cut the required size of the sample which should be at least 20cmx20cms. Cut at least two such samples.
4. Make the printing paste as with fabric paint : You can make the print paste using either fabric paint or pigment colours.
  - a) **With Fabric Paint**
    - i) Take a clean plate, in its centre put the fabric paint from the bottle, add a few drops of binder (fabric paint binder), mix well to make a smooth paste.
    - ii) On this, place a piece of sponge covering the plate.
    - iii) With a spoon press from the top of the sponge, the colour below will come up. Spread the colour evenly, and your printing plate is ready to be used.
  - b) **With Pigment Colour**
    - i) The procedure remains the same, except that for making the colour, take the binder (professionally used for block printing) in a dish (katori), to this add a few drops of pigment and mix well.
    - ii) Now put this colour in the centre of the plate and proceed in the similar manner as above.

5. Now you are ready for printing

- i) Put the sample piece on the table prepared and fix it on all the four sides with common pins. There should not be any loose fabric in the centre.
- ii) Now mark the parts where the design is required. Mark with a pencil with a very light hand.
- iii) Put the block face down on the tray prepared (Do not press too hard).
- iv) Pick the block and then, with a little pressure stamp it first on the paper (to check the clarity of design) and then put the block again into the tray of colour and then on the marked areas, on the sample. After printing lift the block at the same point otherwise a clear design will not be achieved. Make at least two samples from the following design.

7. Also create any other design of your own choice.

8. After printing let it dry completely.

**Precautions**

- i) The fabric should be pinned properly without any looseness.
- ii) Colour on the printing plate should be evenly spread.
- iii) Dry the sample flat.
- iv) Try the block first on paper then on fabric.

