

# Gelli Printing Leaves for Handmade Book Covers

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## Materials

I use the following materials in my leaf prints:

- Gelli plate (I prefer the 8" x 10" size)
  - 4" Rubber brayer
  - Palette
  - Golden Open acrylic paint (3 primary colors plus black and white)
  - Drawing paper
  - White tissue paper (cheap gift wrapping paper is fine)
  - Surface to mix and roll out paint, such as plexiglass
  - Cloths to clean up
  - Scratch paper
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## Background

- Mix up a light color paint using the palette knife on the plexiglass
  - Apply paint to the gelli plate with the brayer.
  - Lay down a sheet of paper, lightly rub with hands and pull up print.
  - Lay down second sheet of paper for a second or ghost print.
  - Use found objects to add texture to the painted gelli plate before pulling the prints, if desired.
  - Create about a dozen backgrounds.
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## Middle Layer

- Mix up a medium toned paint color on the plexiglass surface.
- Apply paint to the gelli plate with the brayer.
- Lay down a pleasing combination of leaves.
- Lay down a dried light background paper, lightly rub with hands and pull up the negative print.
- Remove the leaves, lay down a second light background paper and pull up the positive print.

- Repeat with all your background sheets.
  - Once dried, print negative prints on top of the positive prints and vice versa.
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## Final Layer

- Apply a dark paint to the gelli plate and add your focal leaf.
- Lay down white tissue paper and remove the excess dark paint.
- Leaving the leaf in place, lay down a second piece of tissue paper and remove the rest of the paint, carefully pressing around the leaf.
- Remove the leaf and print this final leaf onto the pages created above.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at  
[ali@vintageapagedesigns.com](mailto:ali@vintageapagedesigns.com)