## **Sponge Printing**



Looking for a project that uses up old craft items? Do you have lots of leftover craft paint or paint-by-number paints?

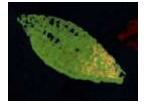
Using common items around the house, you can create some patterned paper that can be used to cover a sketch journal or as wrapping paper. Toothpicks, sponges, construction paper, and leftover craft paint be transformed into something beautiful, even by little hands!

## Supplies:

- Clean kitchen sponges
- Scissors
- Marker
- Acrylic craft paint (leftovers from a model making project or paint by numbers is fine)
- Toothpicks
- Dark construction paper
- Wax paper or foam plates

## Directions:

- 1. Draw a leaf shape (or other shape) onto the sponge with the marker. You may want to use a real leaf as a template.
- 2. Cut out the leaf shape with a pair of scissors. You may want to make several sponge printers, one per color desired.
- 3. Pour out a small amount of the paint onto the wax paper or foam plate.
- 4. Dip the cut sponge into the paint and spread the paint around a bit so that it is not loaded too heavily on the sponge.
- 5. Press onto the dark paper, creating patterns and changing colors as desired.
- 6. You can layer one color over another for an interesting effect.
- Once dry, dip a toothpick into a light colored paint, like yellow or cream. Use the toothpick to draw the veins in the leaves. Using a toothpick creates an uneven, organic line and prevents the painter from making the veins too wide.







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