

Speedball.

FREE

## Create Unique Stamps from PHOTOS

### SKILL LEVEL

Easiest  Easier  Easy

### MATERIALS CHECKLIST

- #4100 or #4141 Speedball®
- Speedy-Stamp™ Stamp Carving Kit
- Or Speedball®:
- Speedy-Stamp™ Rubber Carving Block
- Speedball® No. 2 V-shaped line cutter
- Speedball® No. 4 U-shaped gouge
- Speedball® Wooden Cutter handle
- Speedball® Mounting Block with two-sided mounting tape
- Speedball® Soft-Rubber Brayer
- Tracing paper
- Photograph
- A photocopier OR, a pencil and tracing paper OR, a computer, scanner and ink-jet printer
- Iron OR a can of acetone
- Ink pad. Any solid color or rainbow pad of your choice
- Paper for stamping your finished stamp
- Speedball® No. 1 V-shaped cutter (for carving fine lines)

SPEEDY-STAMP™



\* Midler photo design by Linda Brennan

\* Horse & dog photo design by Jeannie Dominguez

\*\* McCall's is a copyright of Gruner + Jahr USA Publishing, NY.

## CHOOSING AN IMAGE

### 1. Photocopy Method

Choose a photo with sharp contrasts (clear darks and lights). Take a few different photos with you to the copier. Some copiers work better than others. Press the darken button until you achieve the image you want. You are looking for a solid black and white image without gray tones.

### Transferring Photocopies or Laser Printouts

#### • Iron-on and Acetone Technique

These images may be transferred with an iron or with acetone. After centering and anchoring the photocopy face-down, you may quickly iron the image on by setting the iron at medium-low and pressing for 3 to 6 seconds. Ideal settings will vary (do not over-heat).

Or, you may use acetone: After soaking a cotton ball with acetone, dampen the back of the photocopy while rubbing the image onto the Speedy-Stamp block.

#### 2. Tracing Paper Method

Tracing a photo for stamp making is much easier than one might expect. Many photos that do not have clear dark and light contrasts are best suited for tracing. Using any #2 pencil and tracing paper, you may trace your photos directly and then transfer the tracing itself.

*TIP— Trace by taping your photo and tracing paper to a light box or to an interior window. This will help you see distinctions between objects.*

### Transferring Tracing Paper or Fresh Ink-Jet Images

#### • Transfer Rubbing Technique

1. A pencil tracing, or a fresh (still wet) ink-jet printed image will transfer to the Speedy-Stamp block instantly. Simply center your image



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face down, directly onto the block and rub the back of the image with the backs of your fingernails. When you lift away the paper the image will be in place ready to carve.

2. Carve, following the easy directions in the *Ideas & Tips* brochure.

*TIP – For all transferring methods: Check your transfers by lifting an edge or corner; holding your image in place, redo all areas not transferred. You may clean your block with acetone when you would like to start over.*

## CARVE THE IMAGE

1. Carve a trough border around the image by guiding the carving blade forward – allowing its V-shape to do the work for you. Carved-away areas will not print; the raised portion is what will become the image.
2. Test by inking and stamping the image as you carve.
3. EASY step-by-step instructions and illustrations are available in the Speedy-Stamp *Ideas & Tips* brochure inside every kit.

## CUT OUT THE STAMP

Using a craft knife, cut around the perimeter of the stamp, cutting through the V-trough border; or carve down (lower) all areas you do not want to print as part of your design.

## INKING AND STAMPING

Test-print your image as you carve using a dark brown or blue dye-based ink pad. You will still be able to see your image through this ink. Ink your Photo Stamp by repeatedly patting a raised ink pad over the surface of the image and then stamp. Or roll a Speedball soft-rubber brayer consistently, in the same direction, numerous times over your ink pad – then roll the ink directly onto your carving repeatedly, just prior to stamping. This brayer technique is ideal when a more blended look is desired.