Pearl at Home

Art projects designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 5 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

DISC ETCHING

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6815 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 | 281.376.6322 | pearlmfa.org
DISC ETCHING

MATERIALS

- **Compact Disc (CD) or DVD**
  Make sure the disc is no longer wanted, as it won’t be usable afterwards!
- **Paint**: tempera or craft acrylic paint, in black or other dark colors
- **Pencil**
- **Brushes and water**: sponge brushes work well for this project
- **Pointy items to use as etching/scratching tools**:
  Toothpicks, bamboo skewers, nails, etc.
- **Work mat**: Newspaper, wax paper, freezer paper, or copier paper

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In fine art, the etching process begins with an artist drawing or scratching lines through a protective coating on a metal plate. The plate is then placed into acid, which cuts into the unprotected area to create a design in the metal. Ink is rolled across the surface, settling into the lines, and the design can then be printed onto paper.

In this project, we’ll mimic part of the etching process by coating our discs with paint, then using scratching tools to etch a design onto it’s surface. Let your imagination run wild, and be creative in how you display your artwork!

DIRECTIONS

1 **Prepare your disc for etching**

Use a brush or sponge brush to apply paint to the **back** of your disc – the “clean” side that has no labels or text. Any print or labels might show through the paint.

Try to paint in a manner that leaves no streaks. After you’ve applied a coat of paint, try patting the wet paint with the wide, flat side of the brush.

Let your disc **dry completely**.
2 Etch your disc

Set up a work area with your work mat, pencil, and a variety of etching/scratching tools.

Use the pencil to draw a design on the painted side of the disc. Please note that erasing may not work well on the paint!

(If you don’t want to pre-draw your design, you can choose to skip the pencil and head to the next instruction below.)

Use the etching tools to scratch off areas and lines in the paint so that the silver disc material shows through. Scratch just hard enough to remove the black paint, but try not to make scratches in the silver.

3 Display your work!

There are many ways you can finish and display your work! Below are some ideas, but feel free to come up with your own methods:

- Cut out a round piece of cardboard or foamcore that is slightly bigger than the center hole, and glue it over the hole to cover it. You can cover the round cardboard or foamcore with fabric, printed cardstock, or markers to make it more decorative.

- Glue your disc onto a background! Use a 6” square canvas board, piece of foamcore, cardstock, or other material for your background.

- Add some interesting depth to your piece by gluing a “spacer” between your disc and background. Cut a small piece (about 2” square) of cardboard or foamcore, and glue it between the back of your disc and the background. You should not be able to see the spacer when viewing your artwork.

- Use adhesive magnets (available at craft stores) to turn your disc into a magnet, and display it on your fridge!

- Use a picture hanging strip to safely display your disc on a wall. Make several discs and display them together as a larger masterpiece!