

Making a QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Stamp or Texture Using QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film and Developer by Pam East

PhotoPolymer
PLATES QuikArt™

QuikArt™
ReVerseArt™
FILM

Setting up and using the QuikArt™ UV Exposure Unit:

Install only two bulbs in the top positions inside the unit. Leave the side positions empty. This is sufficient light to expose the QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ and the QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer and it leaves more room in the bottom of the unit for the QuikArt™ UV Exposure Clamp Kit.

The unit has two buttons on top; an On/Off toggle and a red timer button.

Switching it towards the back will activate the timer button. This position is marked with an "=" symbol. Pressing the timer button in this position will turn the UV Exposure Unit on for 120 seconds (two minutes) and then it will shut off automatically.

Switching the toggle forward will turn the unit on without a timer and it must be turned off manually. This position is marked with a "-" symbol.

The first time you use the unit, make sure both bulbs come on. Wear glasses that protect your eyes from UV. Test the timer to ensure it is staying on for two minutes.

Creating a Design:

Images must be black and white, no shading or gray. All the BLACK portions of the design will be impressed into your finished metal clay piece. All the WHITE areas will be raised on your finished metal clay piece.

There are a number of ways to create an image. You may choose to draw a design. You may have an image in your computer you wish to use or you may have a copyright-free image you want to copy. Stencil images from such companies as Dover Publications are copyright-free and have a tremendous selection to choose from. Most come with a CD of the images and can be sized as you choose.

If the image is in your computer, size it how you like and print it onto a transparency. Even though you are printing onto transparency, you will still use QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film to make the negative. Printed transparencies are not opaque enough to create a good photopolymer plate. Making the negative with QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film ensures a crisp, clear result.

If you wish to draw an image, use sharpie pens or markers on clear vellum. Clear vellum still looks somewhat cloudy, but it lets enough light through to expose QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film. Vellum also allows you to layer permanent marker to get it very dark with no smearing or smudging. Go over your design two or three times, letting it dry between coats to get it very dark.

IMPORTANT:

Both QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film and QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plates are light-sensitive. They will not be exposed by fluorescent or incandescent lights, but they will be exposed by daylight bulbs and sunlight. Keep their exposure to any light to a minimum until you are ready to expose it in the UV unit. Work away from windows during the day.

Using QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film:

QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film creates a negative of your image and produces a sharply defined edge. The black is very opaque. This gives you the best results with the QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plate. The film has a front and a back. The back is plastic and the front has a black emulsion on it. It can be hard to tell the difference. You can check by lightly scratching a corner with a blade of some kind. It will slip off the plastic side, but will scratch the emulsion.

SAFETY NOTE: QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film Developer is a skin irritant. Wear latex or vinyl gloves when using the Developer Spray. Work in a well-ventilated area and avoid breathing any fumes.

1. Setup the QuikArt™ UV Exposure Clamp Kit by cutting a piece of the foam pad to fit, and placing it on the back plate. Place the QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film emulsion side up on the foam pad. Place your transparency or vellum design on the film. Place the glass on top. Using the UV Exposure Unit, expose the edges of the stack with the binder clips. Place two clips on one edge and two clips on the opposite edge, rather than placing one clip on each side. This will clamp it just as tightly, but you will be able to get the stack into the UV Exposure Unit farther.
2. Place the UV Exposure Clamp Kit as far back in the UV Exposure Unit as it will go. Cover the front of the unit with a towel to protect your eyes from the UV light. Turn the on/off toggle to the timer position. Press the red timer button. The unit will come on and then turn off automatically after two minutes. The timing is the same whether you are using vellum or transparency.
3. Remove the UV Exposure Clamp Kit from the UV Exposure Unit and remove the film. Place the QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film emulsion side up on a white plastic plate. Put on gloves and spray with QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Developer, coating the entire surface. Time the development for 45 seconds. Use lint-free cosmetic wipes or pads to clean the film. The clear areas should clear away completely leaving no black spots. Rub gently with the cosmetic pad and the developer for a bit if the design doesn't clear immediately.
4. Once the design is cleared, rinse the film in water to remove all traces of the developer. You may pat it gently with a paper towel, but do not rub. Allow the film to dry completely.

The QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film is now ready to use with QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plates.

TIPS:

If your design smears or the black areas clear away, the film is under-exposed. Increase your exposure time in 10 second increments.

If you cannot get the clear areas perfectly clear of black, your film may be over-exposed. First, try spraying on more developer and rubbing gently with the lint free cosmetic pad. It may come clear with a bit more time, but this does risk affecting the black areas. If this does not work, try again and reduce your exposure in 10 second increments.

Making the QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plate:

QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plates are metal-backed. There are plastic-backed plates on the market, but these tend to curl over time. The ridged metal-backed plates hold their shape and are better for holding fine detail.

The first step is deciding what thickness plate you need. It comes in three thicknesses.

QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plates - .018 Relief

This is low shallow profile and is perfect for fine lines and lettering. It holds detail great and washes out quickly.

QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plates - .026 Relief

This is your "go to" thickness for most stamps and textures. There is enough depth to get some dimensionality to your stamps without being too deep. When in doubt, pick this one!

QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer Plates - .059 Relief

The extra deep .059 thick PPP is perfect for enameling and deep impression designs. This is what I use when I am creating designs for Champlevé enameling.

Once you have chosen your plate thickness, proceed as follows. Exposure times are the same for all.

1. Place the foam pad on the back plate. Remove the plastic covering from your PPP and place it face up (yellow side up) on the foam pad. Place the finished QuikArt™ ReVerseArt™ Film on the PPP. If there is lettering, make sure it is face down so the lettering appears backwards. Place the glass on top and using the UV Exposure Unit, clamp it together with the binder clips. Use two clips on one side and two on the opposite side rather than having a clip on each side. It will fit in the UV Exposure Unit better this way.
2. Place the stack inside the UV Exposure Unit and cover the opening with a towel to protect your eyes from the UV light. Set a timer for 30 seconds. Toggle the switch forward to the on position and start the timer. When the timer goes off, turn the unit off.
3. Remove the PPP from the UV Exposure Unit. Use warm water and a nylon brush to scrub the plate. Dip it in the warm water frequently as you are cleaning it. Use room temperature water if you are using shallow photopolymer plates. You should be able to clear the design down to the light blue backing plate. This will take longer for the thicker plates than for the thinner ones. Once the design is clear, use a sponge to remove the excess water. Do not use paper towels, as it may stick in the plate.

4. Let the plate dry completely. Once it is dry, return it to the UV Exposure Unit, cover the front with a towel and switch the toggle to the timer mode. Press the red button to start the two minute time. This will finish exposing the plate and harden the remaining material.

The plate is now ready to use with clay! Use a release agent such as Hattie's No Stick as you would with any stamp.

TIPS:

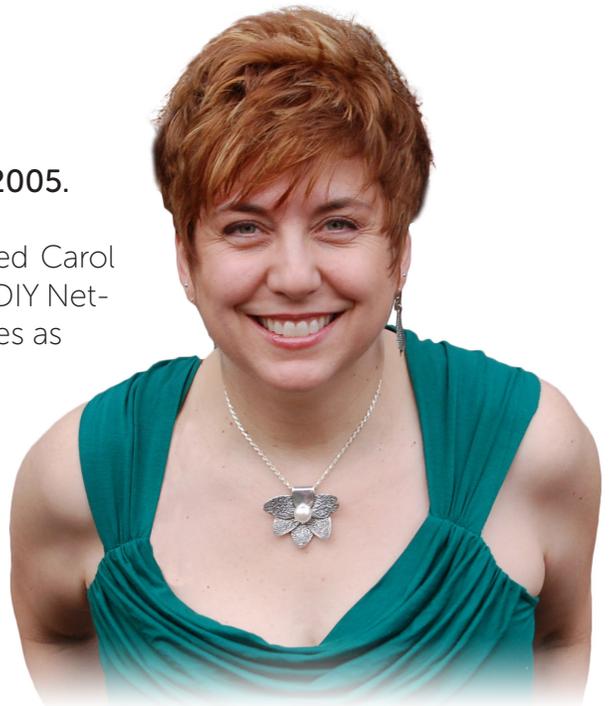
If too much of the QuikArt™ PhotoPolymer material washes out and some of your design goes with it, your plate is under-exposed. Increase the exposure time in five second increments.

If the material will not wash out, the plate is over-exposed. Decrease the exposure time in five second increments.

Who is Pam East?

**Pam has been enameling since 1997.
She was named a Master Instructor for Art Clay Silver in 2005.**

Over the years Pam has appeared on the highly acclaimed Carol Duvall Show on HGTV, and also on Jewelry Making on the DIY Network. She has written numerous articles for such magazines as Lapidary Journal, Art Jewelry Magazine, Glass-on-Metal, and Step-by-Step Beads. Writing about jewelry topics such as metal clay and enameling continues to be a big part of her life. Kalmbach publishing released Pam's first book "Enameling on Metal Clay" in 2007. Pam has also been an invited speaker, giving classes and lectures at such gatherings as the Enamellist Society Biennial Conference, the Metal Clay World Conference, and the Pan-European Metal Clay Conference.



All Products Available at www.MetalClaySupply.com