

# Intaglio

## Preparing Plastic Plates For Drypoint

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Plastic plates can also be used for Drypoint. Any rigid flat surface will work as long as it will safely pass through the press. Rhenalon and Acrylic/Polycarbonate are most commonly used. Both are transparent, allowing for images to be traced onto the plate with ease. This is especially useful in multi-plate printing when registration is critical.

At WSA, Rhenalon can be purchased through the [Printmaking Stores](#) in a variety of sizes.

It has the advantage of being thin and lightweight, making it very portable. Rhenalon requires no bevelling prior to use and it is easy to cut into a variety of shapes with good quality scissors.

Acrylic/Polycarbonate sheet usually comes in thicknesses of 2mm or more, It is available cheaply in large sheets from DIY stores or in smaller sizes from printmaking suppliers. This is also the material used as 'glass' in cheap picture frames. Pieces from old or damaged frames can be used as an alternative to purchasing it.

Whilst it is also light and portable, Acrylic/Polycarbonate plates will require bevelling with a file and sandpaper prior to printing.

01. Remove the protective film from the face of the plate.
02. Place your plate face up, so the edge is overhanging the table by approx 1cm and hold it firmly in place.
03. Use a file to bevel the edge of the plate to a 45° angle. Work the file in one direction away from you to avoid chipping the edge of the plate.
04. Repeat for the remaining three edges. The bevel only needs to create a rounded edge between the face and side of the plate as illustrated.
05. Once all the edges are bevelled at 45° use the file to gently round off the corners by rolling the file around the corners of the plate. It will not take much effort and we only need to round the corners slightly, removing any sharp edges that could tear your paper.
06. Use Wet & Dry sandpaper to polish the edges and corners smooth, eliminating any file marks that will hold ink when printing.

Your plate is now ready to begin drawing.