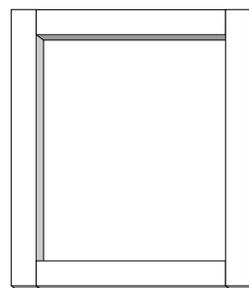
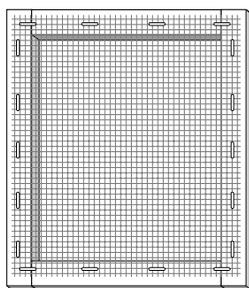


20: Paper-making

High-quality paper is made from linen and cotton rags. Newspaper is made by recycling good quality paper. Try recycling newspaper to make your own paper.

What you will need

wooden mold (frame)
 deckle (wooden frame with a gauze screen stapled to one side)
 a newspaper
 a magazine picture or a leaf (optional)
 powdered laundry starch
 a tea towel
 a balloon whisk
 an electric iron
 a large bowl
 absorbent paper



What you do

- 1 Tear three double sheets of the newspaper into small pieces, approximately 2 cm square. Save the rest of the newspaper for step 10.
- 2 Half fill the bowl with water and add about one tablespoonful of powdered laundry starch.
- 3 Add the newspaper pieces and stir until all the paper is wet. Leave for a few minutes to soften. If necessary, use absorbent paper to remove any ink that floats on the surface.
- 4 Stir the paper and water mixture vigorously with a balloon whisk, until the paper is broken down and the mixture resembles thin porridge. This will take about 10 minutes.
- 5 Place the mold on the screen of the deckle, so that the staples are covered. Hold them firmly together.
- 6 Scoop a small amount of the paper pulp onto the screen of the deckle, and shake it around so the screen is covered with a thin, uniform layer of pulp.
- 7 Leave for a few minutes while the excess water drains off. Meanwhile, switch the iron on to a moderate setting and leave it to heat up.
- 8 (*Optional*) Place a magazine picture or a leaf on top of the layer of pulp.
- 9 Remove the mold from the screen.
- 10 Lay a folded tea towel on top of some newspaper on the bench and carefully invert the deckle onto one end of it.
- 11 Gently lift the deckle, leaving the paper pulp behind.
- 12 Fold the other end of the tea towel over the top of the pulp and iron with a moderately hot iron until the paper is dry.