



## MAKING FINGERPRINT STAMPS TO PRESS INTO SILVER CLAY

You can make deeper relief fingerprint stamps using Stampmaker than you can using moldable compounds, and at a fraction of the time and cost. With molding you can only take the maximum of the actual depth of relief of the fingerprint and then you will lose a little detail taking the second mould and pressing into the clay. Making a mold with stampmaker allows you to adjust this depth of relief with the second exposure time.

### 1/ Take the impression.

You can use the following methods:

1. Inkless wipes or card applicators - The way the image appears undoubtedly has wow factor and there's no risk of little inky finger marks where they shouldn't be. You should be aware that some contain phthalates. Check before use. Wipes will take fine impressions if done correctly, however you can over expose the paper from over-wetting or pressing too long. The card applicator has a flat piece of sensitized material that is revealed by peeling back the protective foil. It is much cleaner to touch the finger pad onto the flat solution pad then to the paper. Using this flat card also minimizes the problem of getting too much solution on the finger and it is good for numerous prints and can even be stored in a small zip bag to preserve it for several days.



2. Lipstick - Crème based lipstick can take good fingerprints. It is readily available in most households. You do need to obtain non-streaky and even coverage on the finger first. 3. Ink pads- This is the traditional way for police forces across the world to take prints and it is cheap and effective. You will find the second impression is often clearer as the first can over-ink and lose detail.

2/ **Scan the impression:** you can choose a high resolution if you want, but it won't be noticeable when the image is reduced. Scanning software usually has the option of adjusting the Brightness and Contrast, and you can do it now or later in an artwork program.

3/ **Adjust the Brightness & Contrast** to make the lines strongly dark and the background a bright white.

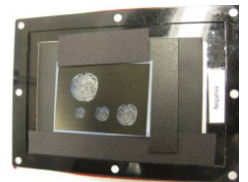
### 4/ Convert to a 1 bit Black and White file.



5/ **Resize the design** to the right size for your piece of jewelry.

6/ **Make the stamp** according to Stampmaker instructions. Pay particular attention to the following points when making stamps for jewelry:

- Make sure your printer is printing dark black.
- Cover the entire area of the base of clamp with a negative, the black mas included in your kit or black card or similar light-stopping material. This will stop extra light reflection over exposing your stamp.



**Important:** Correct exposure times.

Use 10 seconds for the first time - this will build a deep floor to hold the fine relief on the fingerprint, then expose for 30 - 45 seconds for the second time. The stamp will be soft, but wash it thoroughly and harden it under lights as usual. You can experiment with the second time, but the longer you leave it in, the closer together the fingerprint lines will become; conversely, the shorter the time the wider they will be and the deeper the depth of relief but be beware that the lighter or more isolated parts may fall off with shorter times.

### Pressing into clay

You can press the stamp into clay by attaching to an acrylic rod (clear so you can see where you are pressing), you can lie it on top and roll it down. Our preferred method however, is attaching it to the back of a teaspoon with double sided tape and pressing it in as a convex surface. The spoon will take on the curvature of the stamp and in the process slightly open the fingerprint lines. This makes the impression look more life-like.