

Leaf Rubbing

Making decorative leaf images on calico is a lovely activity for a rainy day. Choose leaves that have great ridges and vein markings, unusual shapes, and those with a good proportion of moisture in them. Really dry leaves don't work as well, nor do really fleshy leaves that tend to get squashed. If you have a flat surface such as an old garden table or a smooth piece of ground to work on, you can lay the leaf and calico directly on that and dispense with the clipboard.

Equipment:

- Pieces of calico, about the size of a card or small poster
- Clipboards (optional)
- A selection of leaves
- Small rubber mallets

What to do:

1. Attach a piece of calico to every clipboard.
2. Slide a leaf between the calico and the clipboard.
3. Gently hammer over the leaf, so that it releases its moisture and colours onto the calico, gradually recreating the shape of the leaf.
4. The images are beautiful mounted onto cards or into picture frames.

