

- You can print more than once, building up layers
- I also haven't as yet tried using a fixative on the paper prints as you would for pastels; it might work!

What can you use the prints for?

- In collage, either paper or fabric
- Embroidery/stitched decoration in artwork or even wearable garments (tops, scarves etc.)
- Enhance with paint, pen or stitching for mixed media prints
- Bookmarks, cards, other decorative items
- Great thing to do with kids/grandkids ... if you trust them with hammers!

For more information_ - add specific links in final piece

You Tube - where else?

Online tutorials

Books, there are a couple, try 'flower pounding' rather than Tataki or Hapa



The demonstration is of an ancient technique called Tataki Zome; when translated that 'hammering' (Tataki) and 'dye' (Zome).

The use of flowers and plants for decoration, and using pounding to get the required result, can be traced back to Neolithic times. Work produced by artists in China using plant dyes and pounding leaves and flowers can be dated back over 5000 years.

The technique really blossomed in Japan where it is still a popular pastime today. In 2006 an Australian artist (India Flint) came across the technique when she was working in Japan, she erroneously attributed the term 'Hapa Zome' to the practice; nowadays she is quoted as saying she wishes she had understood, and used, the correct term 'Tataki Zome'.

Materials to consider using

PLANTS MATERIALS

Strong colours best (yellow, red, pink, purple, green)

Pansy/viola

Geranium

Petunia

Poppy

Marigold

Tataki what?

Nasturtium
 Cosmos
 Sweet William
 Dahlia
 Chrysanthemum
 Sage
 Mint
 Basil
 Fennel
 Kale
 Beetroot (messy)
 Berries (messy)
 Grasses
 Fern
 Dandelion
 Nettle
 Leaves with interesting shapes e.g. Japanese Maple
 Juicy thick leaves (not waxy) with veins

BASE MATERIALS

Cotton
 Linen
 Bamboo silk
 Do not use synthetic fibres
 Papers, 300gsm watercolour is good
 Mulberry paper, quite heavy as too thin will split when hammering
 Canvas gives great texture

Implements

Base board
 Hammer - I use various sizes and weights
 Rubber mallet
 Cutting mat for prepping your plant materials
 Smooth flat surface to work on
 Watercolour/mulberry paper, wax paper, thick tracing paper, cling film

Method

- On your chosen surface place a board or some other layer you don't mind getting a bit bashed or stained, I use cardboard

- You can then follow with a layer of greaseproof, wax or tracing paper. You may want to add layers of softer material too, to make it less noisy!
- Then your chosen fabric or paper you will be printing on
- Finish with a final layer or paper, fabric, wax paper or tracing paper. You may want to try cling film, but it moves around a lot
- If you fold your paper or fabric in half, you will get a ghost print
- Place flowers/leaves etc. as you like; maybe useful to use tweezers
- Using wax or tracing paper on top means you can see what you are doing, but obviously no ghost print
- I find it's much easier to fix the layers in place with tape - green frog tape works best for me
- Tap gently with a hammer over the materials, apply more pressure if needed, but don't wallop! You may find using an edge is effective
- Take your time, start gently, hammer methodically and in one direction
- Open up the paper - there you have it
- Remove any bits carefully, use tweezers and/or leave to dry
- Can 'set' the colour with an iron, or for fabric you can 'fix' with a mordant (or use fabric that comes ready mordanted)

Points to Ponder

- Find your plants, pick fresh and don't leave them hanging around!
- Make sure your material is juicy but not too soft, dry or hard. You may want to deconstruct bulky items i.e. stamens and stems
- If the print is fuzzy, it may give you an interesting result; hold paper down with tape for clarity
- Allow to dry thoroughly
- If you want to make a fabric print colourfast mordant when dry
- I tried once to dry with hairdryer, not great, best to leave it to dry naturally
- The prints are not particularly colour fast, unless you use mordant or iron
- I have not tried doing this in a press; given that things like leaves need a great deal more hammering than the flowers I'm not sure it would work unless you were using a single plant material