

Woodblock Carving Resources & Co.

Thank you very much for your kind message. My name is Cameron Hilker, and I am writing back to you on David's behalf. I am sorry, but he is unable to personally respond to every message that arrives.

David Bull's advice to anyone who says they want to learn printmaking is just to try it first. Use tools and materials you may already have in your garage. You don't need to start with professional-grade knives and Japanese mountain cherry wood. Try making something and then if/when it doesn't go quite as planned, try again. We believe the best way to become good at it is to do it and then learn from mistakes, so I encourage you to try making some prints first using simple designs either from the eBook (mentioned below) or just from other online resources, and then show us what you can make!

Instead of offering classes or apprenticeships and to help people on this self-directed quest, Dave tries to offer as much of his knowledge to the world as possible through a variety of avenues, such as his social media channels. It sounds like you have already found some of these on your own.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/seseragistudio> (Lots of videos about the history and craft of woodblock printmaking, including detailed process videos for many prints of varying difficulty.)

<https://www.twitch.tv/japaneseprintmaking> (Live streams of Dave doing some work related to woodblock printmaking. Some days it's carving, others it's paper-preparation or printing. You can always learn something new here!)

<https://www.facebook.com/mokuhankan> (General updates about our shop and upcoming projects.)

<https://discord.gg/Vk7vd94> (a Discord group of people interested in printmaking - great group of people who know a lot!)

<https://mokuhankan.com/conversations/> (Mokuhankan's blog, with all sorts of updates.)

<http://woodblock.com/encyclopedia/index.html> (Dave's encyclopedia of woodblock printmaking techniques and terminology.) This contains a Library with dozens of complete (and free) books on the subject:

http://woodblock.com/encyclopedia/outline.html#toc_library

<https://www.instagram.com/mokuhankan/> (Instagram account with images of prints partially or fully made, and other Mokuhankan updates.)

We also have a collection of eBooks that could be of interest:

https://mokuhankan.com/catalogue/thumbnails.php?search_key=ebook (One of them is David Bull's book about how to make your first print.)

There is also a community of fans of Mokuhankan making their own prints. This is an active group of fun people making their own prints and offering advice and ideas to each other. Come see what others are doing, and join discussions about various common questions and issues people face when they start woodblock printmaking.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/314276632382888/>

If you are really interested in getting deeply into mokuhanaga, we do know of a few people here in Japan who can teach carving and printing. However, with the pandemic travel is quite difficult, so they may not be available right now:

- Motoharu Asaka is based in Tokyo: <http://takumihanga.com/workshop/?lang=en>

- the mokuhanaga school based in Karuizawa, Nagano, Japan run by Australian printmaker Terry McKenna, a friend of Dave's. You can find more information about that school here: <https://www.mokuhanga-school.com.au/residency-learning>

- a young contemporary Japanese woodblock printmaker named Katsutoshi Yuasa also teaches. He works in modern styles, and is also interested in teaching. You can find out more and contact him through his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EAST-TOKYO-MOKUHANGA-STUDIO-368009036886132/>

I'm sorry we cannot offer much personalized help at Mokuhankan, but Dave has tried to make as much information about printmaking available as possible. I hope these tools will be of help to you.

Sincerely,
Cameron Hilker
Mokuhankan Staff

P.S. If you are looking for tools or materials, there are some stores we like to recommend to people.

Woodlike Matsumura is based in Japan, and has high quality materials, but shipping abroad can be expensive.

<https://wx30.wadax.ne.jp/~woodlike-co-jp/zen4/>

McClain's Printmaking Supplies is based in Oregon in the US and also has good materials.

<http://www.imccclains.com/aboutus.html>

If you are in London, we have heard of a few places that may have good supplies there, but we do not have personal experience with any of them.

Intaglio: <https://intaglioprintmaker.com/>

Cornelissen: <https://www.cornelissen.com/printmaking/japanese-woodcut.html>

Shepherd's near Victoria Station apparently also sells washi paper.