Making stamps

Since I needed a stamp with the words "amen" quickly, I decided to make one myself. I may not be an expert in gouging and stamp making, but since I needed one quickly, I decided to give it a try.

Making your own stamp is easy, fun and the result is unique. Sometimes you get surprised when stamping because you might have envisioned a different result. But that also makes it adventurous. What part do you cut away? What part don't you...?

Material

- Cutting mat
- Gouge blade(s)
- Eraser
- Pencil
- Paper
- Stamp pad

Working method

Take a soft eraser.

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Trace the outline of the eraser onto a piece of paper. You now have your outline.

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Draw what you want to print. Note that fine lines are difficult to gouge out.

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Place the eraser exactly over your design.

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Turn the paper over, the eraser is now at the bottom. Check that the design lies exactly on the eraser.

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Gently scratch the paper with a pencil or coin. The drawing is now printed (slightly) in mirror image on the eraser.

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Erase everything white on the eraser, at least 2 mm deep. In between you can make a proof stamp every now and then, so you know what you still have to remove. If you are completely satisfied with your proof, then your stamp is ready!

Tips:

- If you are making a stamp for the first time, it is best to start with a simple shape; e.g. a heart, a circle.
- Outline in your design what you want to be covered with ink later. What is white you can then erase.
- The eraser shows the image in mirror image.
- The more detail you want to get, the more convenient it is if you have several sizes of erasers.
- Be careful not to cut your fingers....

Sources:
Title photo: Pixelio.de

Craft idea: happylittlethings.co.uk; kleinzoetgeluk.co.uk