

# XR ART BLOCKS

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# FLAG MAKING





# INTRODUCTION

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**Extinction Symbol flags connect and unite us. They are the instantly recognisable core of our visual message.**

They flutter through our movement as the constant, linking the sea of diverse creativity we all bring through our printed clothes, placards, banners, chants, songs, leaflets, messages and skeletons.

We are producing a clear visual message that speaks through the noise of modern life. Add your voice to the collective song. Fly your flag with joy.

We are XR Art Blockers. So are you.

*Love & Rage,*  
**XR ART ♡  
BLOCKERS  
XX**





# INTRODUCTION

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## THIS ZINE WILL TALK ABOUT HOW TO MAKE THE STANDARD XR SYMBOL FLAG.

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### A 'STANDARD FLAG' HAS:

- The extinction symbol, or the bee motif, and nothing else on it.
- The Flag is 60cm high and 64cm wide (this is including a 4cm sleeve)
- The symbol or bee motif is 48cm high
- The pole is 1.8m (6ft)
- The fabric is ultra light-weight lining fabric - fluttery and translucent.
- The background fabric for the extinction symbol can be a solid colour of: white, green or any of the bright colours given in the design program. (though not on black)
- The bee motif only appears on yellow.
- The symbol or bee is printed in only in black

### WE ALSO ASK THAT:

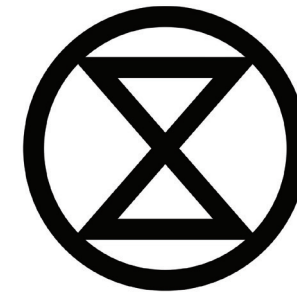
- They are hemmed to make them last as long as possible
- The fabric is recycled or sourced from as waste/ overstock from garment factories where that is possible. You can search for a scrap store near you at [www.reusefuluk.org](http://www.reusefuluk.org)

### Screenprinters!

In this zine, we'll be talking about how to block print a flag. It's also possible to screen print flags. If you have access to the right equipment, please do screen print instead! The size of the symbol and flag remains the same.

# COPYRIGHT

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The **Extinction Symbol** may *never* be used for (or associated with) any commercial purposes – even fundraising. This is a non-negotiable rule and there are no exceptions.

*The symbol is not ours. It was created in 2011 by street artist ESP, and is loaned to us in good faith.*

All other blocks using the “Fucxed” (XR font) and blocks designed by Miles Glyn cannot be used for commercial purposes.

For more information, visit [www.extinctionsymbol.info](http://www.extinctionsymbol.info)

We actively encourage *voluntary donations only* on print stations and at workshops to cover costs of fabric paint and transportation of equipment.

**VOLUNTARY DONATIONS ONLY! ♡**



**LET'S GO!!**

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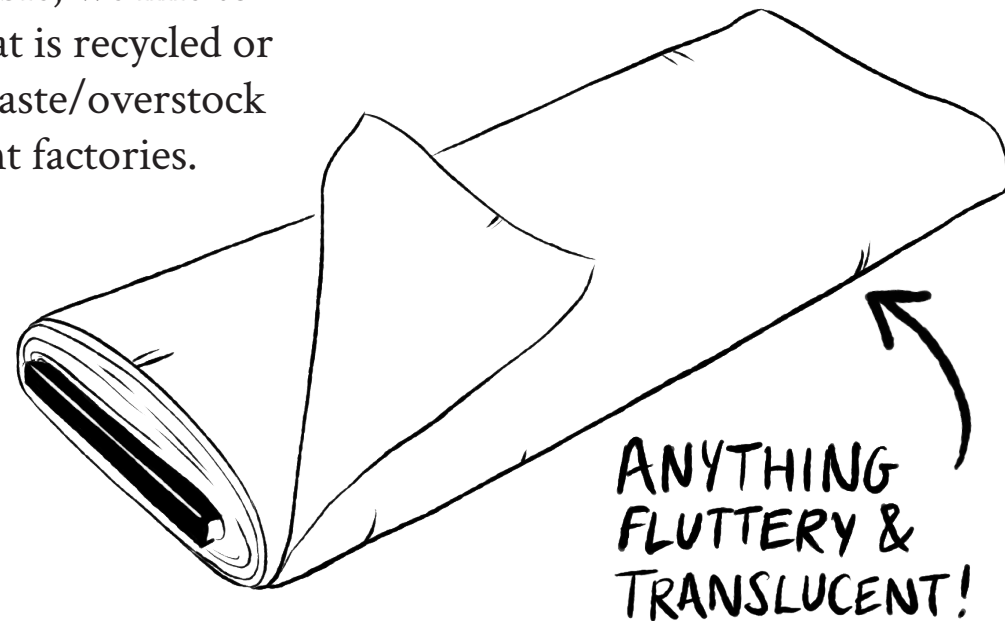
# **CUTTING & SEWING**



# YOU WILL NEED

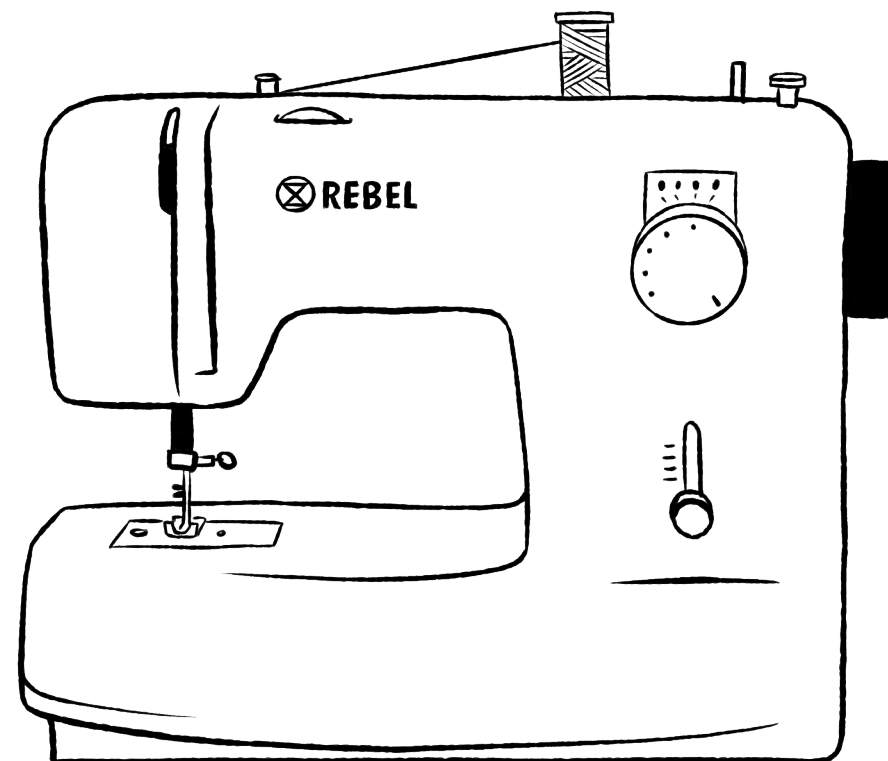
## 1 ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT LINING FABRIC

Where possible, we like to use fabric that is recycled or sourced as waste/overstock from garment factories.

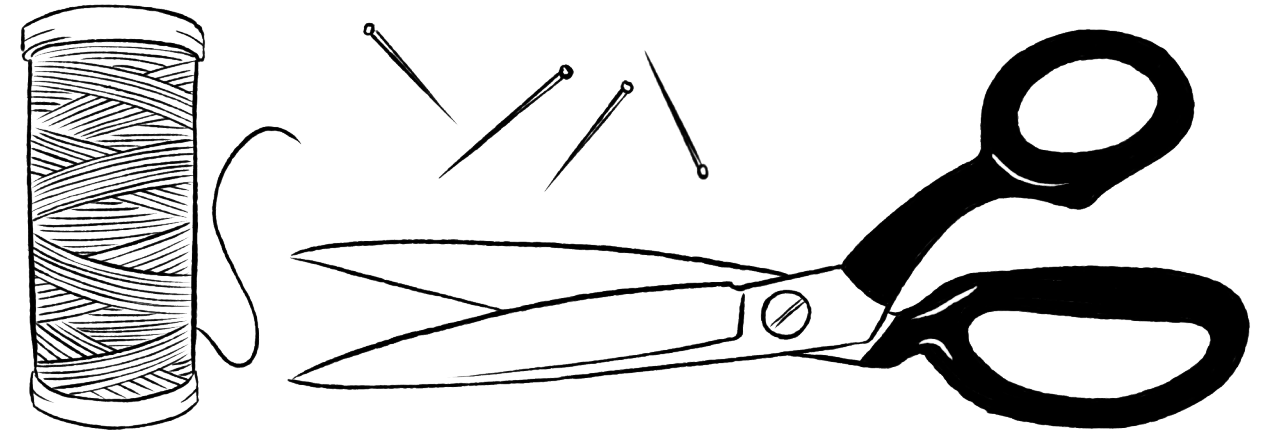


You will only be printing one side so it's important your fabric is thin enough for the ink to show through..

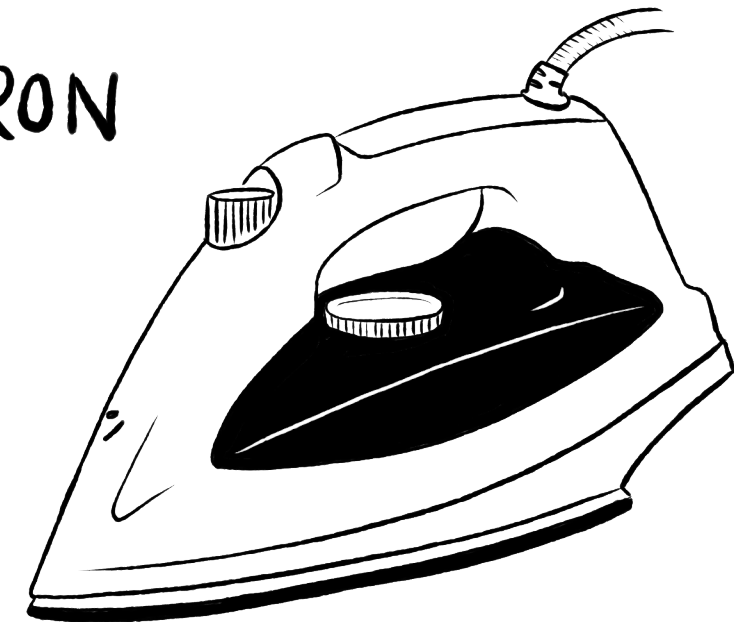
## 2 SEWING MACHINE



## 3 SCISSORS, THREAD & PINS

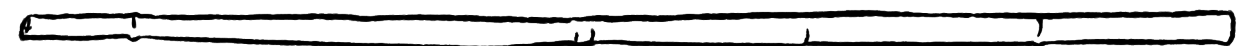


## 4 AN IRON



## 5 'FLAG POLE'

6 FOOT / 180 CM POLE



# FLAG SIZING

**Our standard flags should be finished square.**

We cut our flags from a standard bolt of fluttery lining fabric. These rolls are anything between 150cm (60") and 114cm (45") wide. Where possible, we like to use fabric that is recycled or sourced as waste/overstock from garment factories.

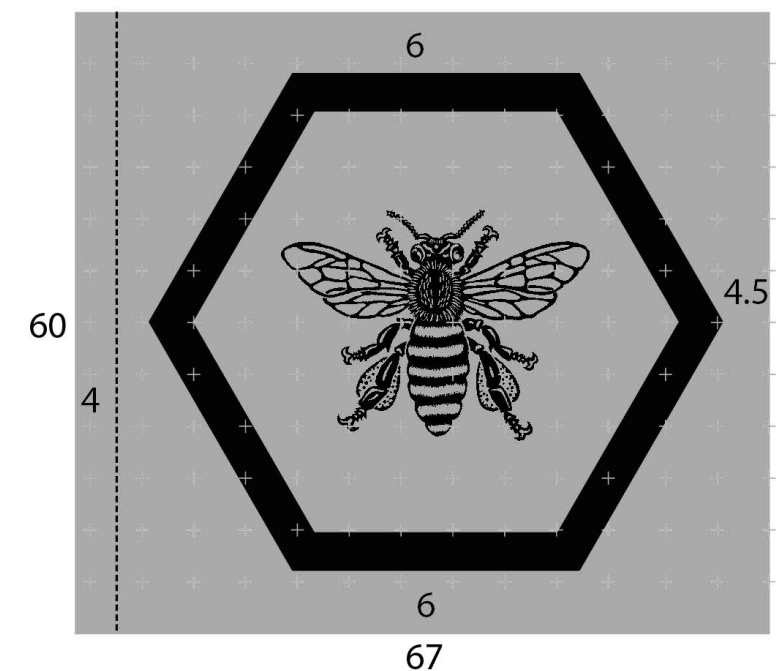
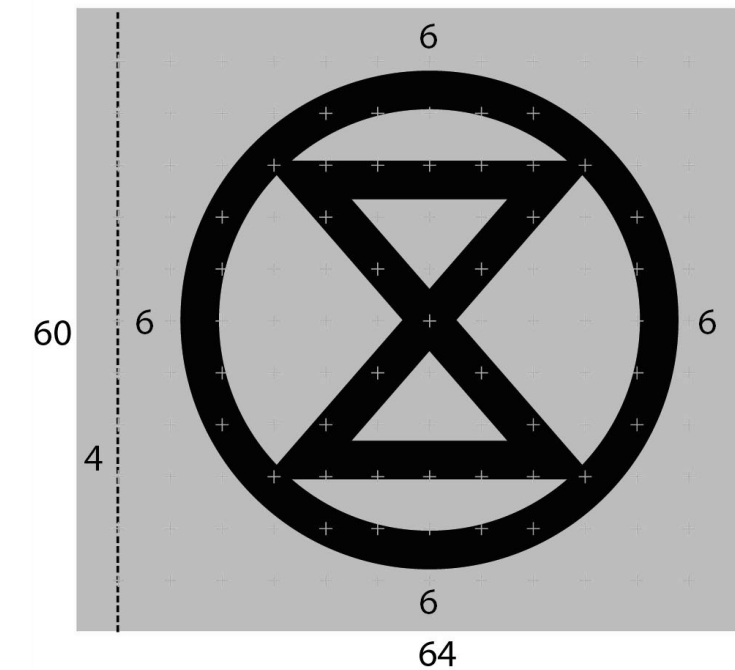
Roll out your fabric and cut down the centre, then figure out the most efficient way to use it.

**The finished flag should be 60 x 64cm wide.**

Cut out your fabric to this size, plus whatever seam allowance you'd like to use for your hems - if you're using an overlocker, you don't need to add a seam allowance.



## FINISHED FLAG DIMENSIONS

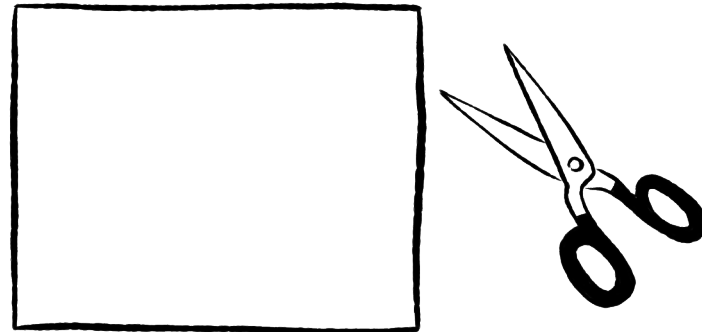


You can download both the flag artworks, sized at 48cm and tiled to print onto A4 sheets, here:  
[tinyurl.com/XRBlockerResources](https://tinyurl.com/XRBlockerResources)

# HOW TO SEW A FLAG

## 1 CUT YOUR FABRIC

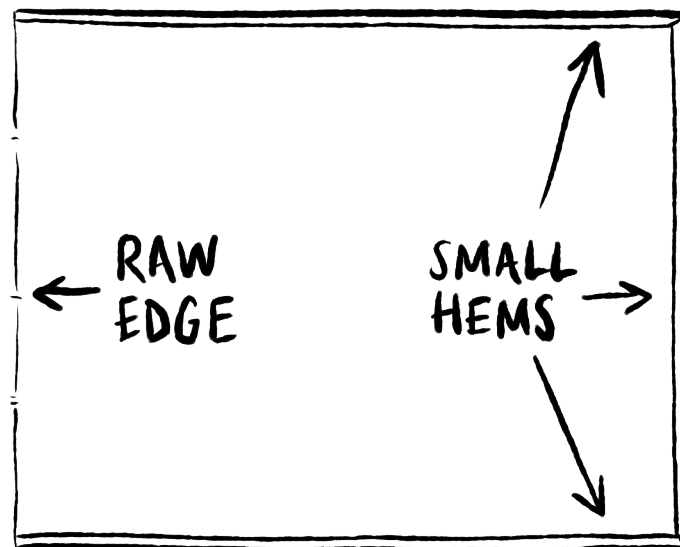
Following the instructions on the previous page, cut out your flags to the correct dimensions. Remember to add seam allowance if needed.



## 2 HEM THE EDGES

Fold over and hem 2 long edges and 1 short edge of your flag.

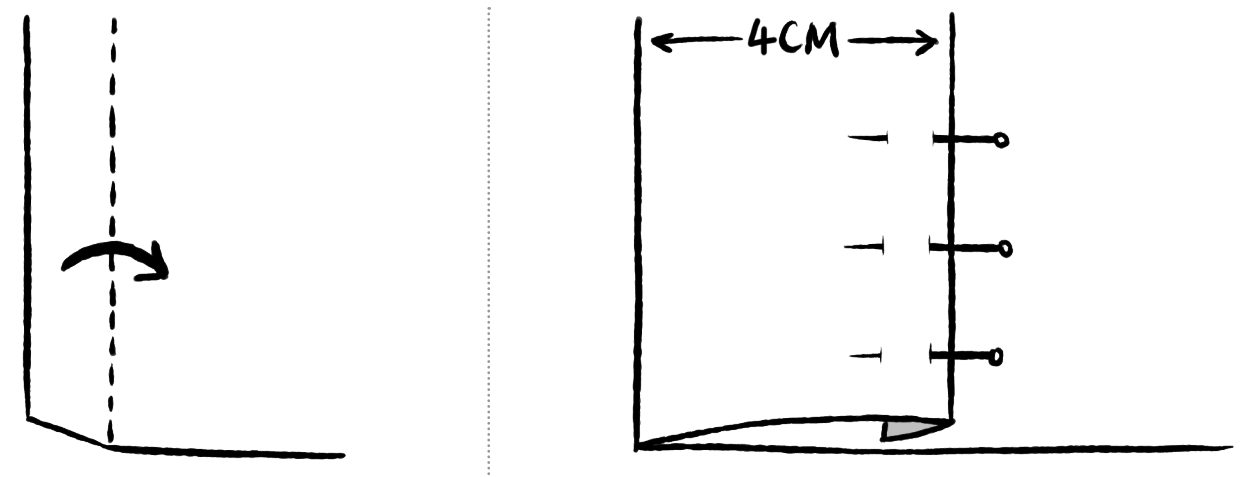
If you have access to an overlocker, this works perfectly and will really speed things up.



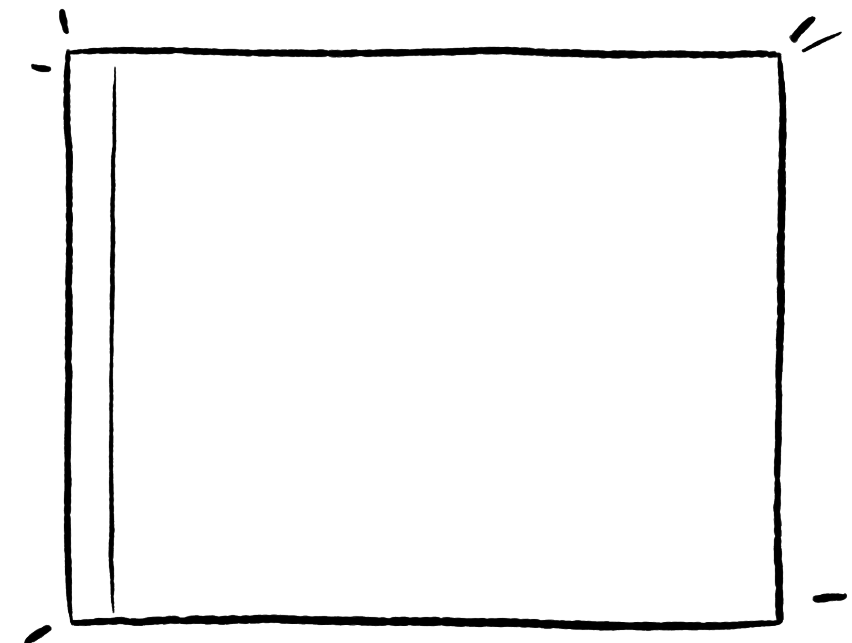
You do not *have* to hem the edges of your flag. It will still wave without this step! However, we really recommend it. We've found that flags with raw edges fray, get caught and torn during actions - and need repairing or replacing soon afterwards. We think it's worth the bit of extra effort to have a really smart looking flag that lasts a long time.

## 3 SEW THE FLAGPOLE SLEEVE

Take the un-hemmed short edge of your flag, fold under 1cm seam allowance and press with your iron. Then, fold over another 4cm to create the sleeve for your flagpole. Use pins to hold this in place.



Sew in a straight line about 3.5cm from the folded edge, removing pins as you go. Sew the top edge of the flagpole sleeve closed. Your flag is ready to be printed!





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# GIANT BLOCK PRINTING

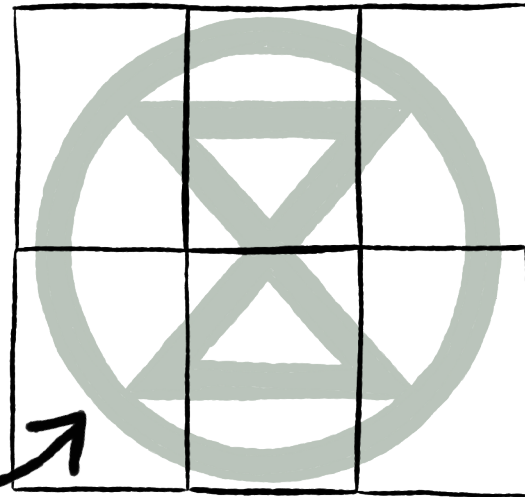
# CREATING A BLOCK

## 1 PRINT OUT THE ARTWORK

Download the flag artwork here:  
[tinyurl.com/XRBlockerResources](https://tinyurl.com/XRBlockerResources)

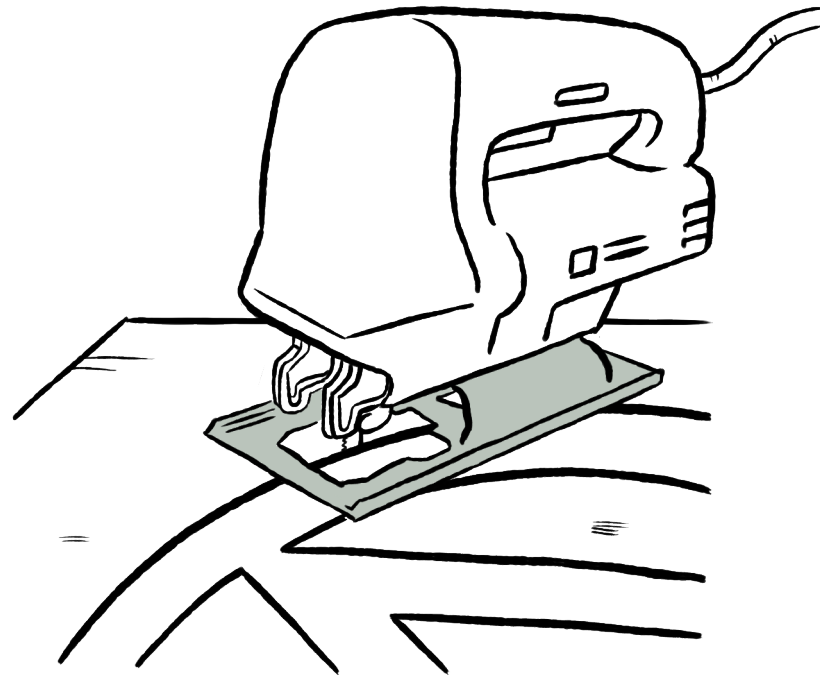
Print it out on A4 and piece it together - make sure it's printing at 100% and your printer isn't scaling it! The symbol should be 480mm across.

480 x 480 MM



## 2 CUT OUT THE SYMBOL

You'll need to cut the symbol from plywood between 6-13mm thick. Tape or glue down the artwork on top of the wood, then mark it out by cutting with a Stanley knife through the paper.



Cut the symbol out using a jigsaw, up as close to the lines as you can. You may need to finish it by hand, with chisels, knives and sandpaper.

## 3 GLUE TO A BACKING BOARD

Attach your finished design onto a 48cm circular wooden board using waterproof glue.

Cut out a couple more 48cm discs of ply to make the backing board (combined the backing board should be over 25mm thick). Glue the cut out symbol and the backing boards together using waterproof glue. Join them together under great weight or pressure till dry.

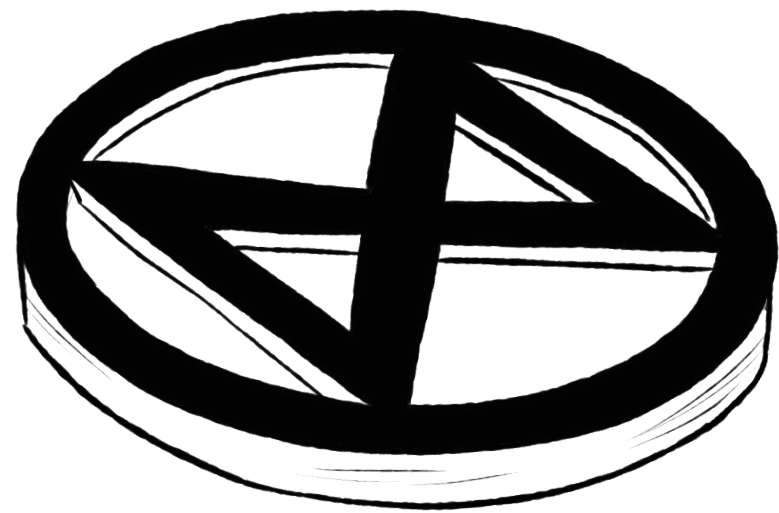
Seal your new flag block with varnish or paint.



GO PRINT!

# YOU WILL NEED

## 1 'XR SYMBOL BLOCK':



480 x 480 MM

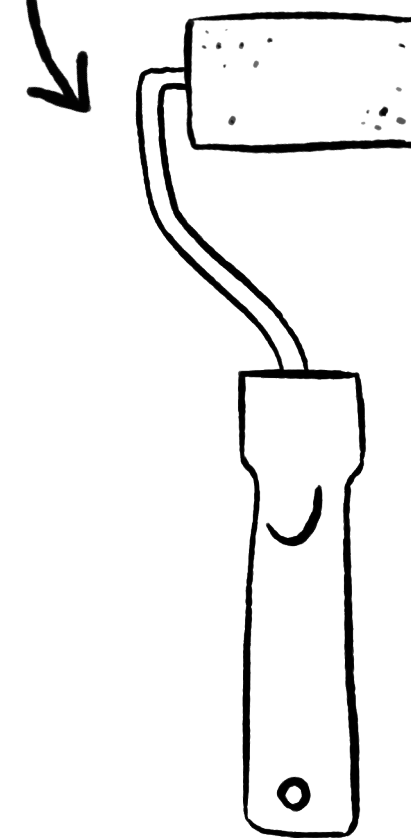


## 2 INK

We use Permaset Permatone - this is standard screen printing ink, and is way thinner and wetter than the Supercovers we use for clothing. Any screen printing ink will do.

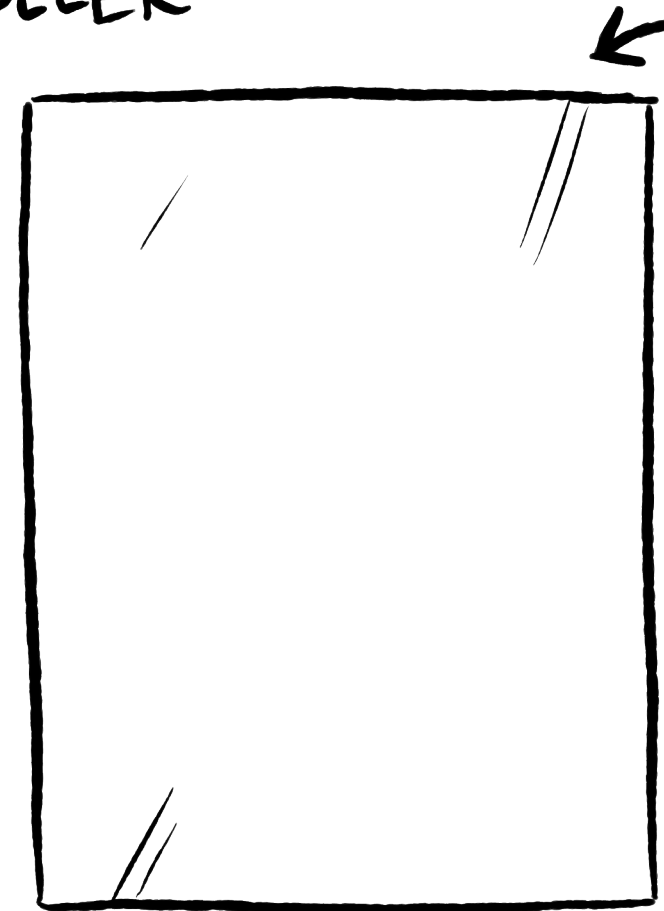


## 3 FOAM ROLLER



## 4 ACRYLIC SHEET

You will need one roller and one sheet for each colour you want to print.



## 5 LOTS OF OLD NEWSPAPERS





# HOW TO PRINT A FLAG

## 1 FIND A FLAT SMOOTH FLOOR TO PRINT ON

We find the floor works best for this, as you need to put a lot of weight on the block to get a good clean print.

Make a bed for your print. You need a firm base with something soft over the top of it. Ideally, use a piece of wood with some old soft fabric.

If you don't have this, old newspapers work well. Make sure you have a stash of these to hand to change in between prints.

You'll need to change the newspaper underneath in between each print, as the ink will bleed through.

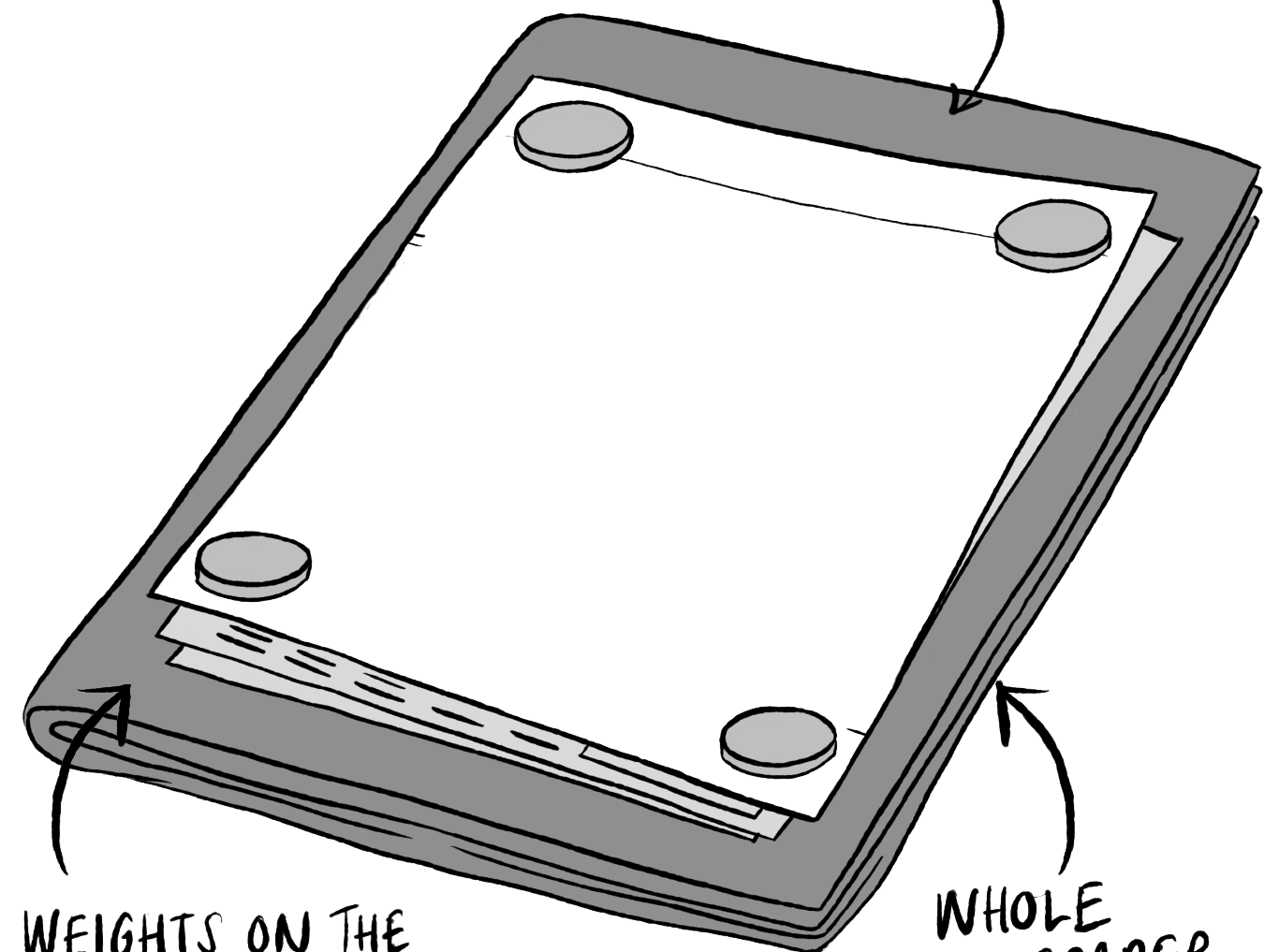
## 2 PREPARE YOUR PRINT BED

Lay your flag out on top of your print bed.

Smooth it out! Make sure there are no wrinkles, lumps or bumps or your print won't come out well.

Be extra mindful of things like page edges, creases or staples in the newspapers. With fabric this delicate, everything will show up!

SMOOTH THE FABRIC OUT REALLY WELL, YOU DON'T WANT ANY WRINKLES ON YOUR PRINT SURFACE



WEIGHTS ON THE CORNERS CAN BE HELPFUL!

WHOLE NEWSPAPER, OR OLD FABRIC  
YOU WANT A NICE SOFT BED ON TOP OF A FLAT FLOOR

### 3 INK YOUR ROLLER

Take your acrylic sheet, and put a nice big dollop of ink in the corner.

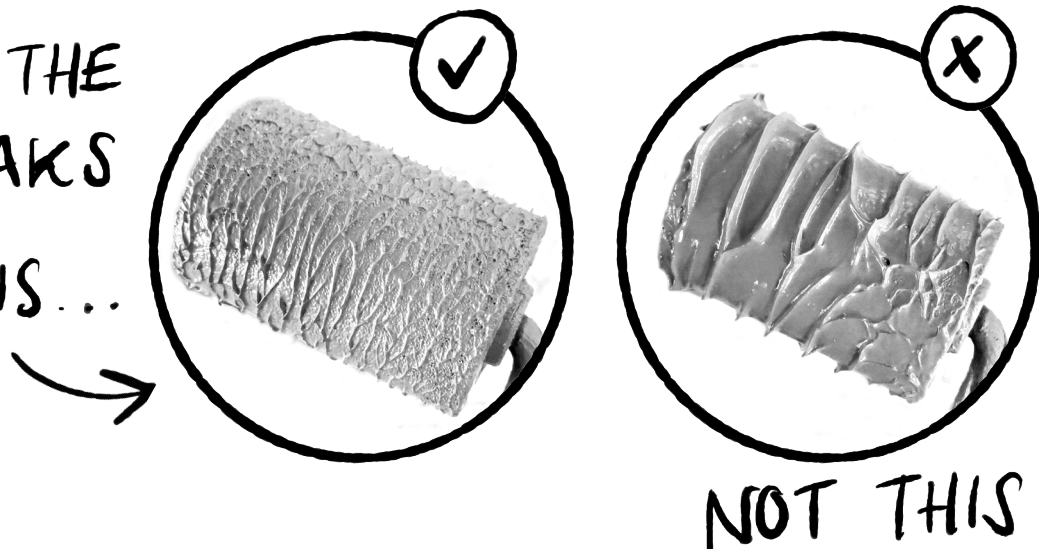
Using your roller, smooth it out across the sheet. Keep rolling, you want a nice thin and even layer.



Try and keep the ink wet or it will get gummy and will ruin your prints. Keep it in the shade if you can. If you can't avoid the sun, a spray bottle with water in can be helpful... but don't water the ink down too much!

Get some ink on the roller by rolling it across the sheet. You need to roll a few times to cover the whole thing.

LOOK FOR THE  
SMALL PEAKS  
LIKE THIS...



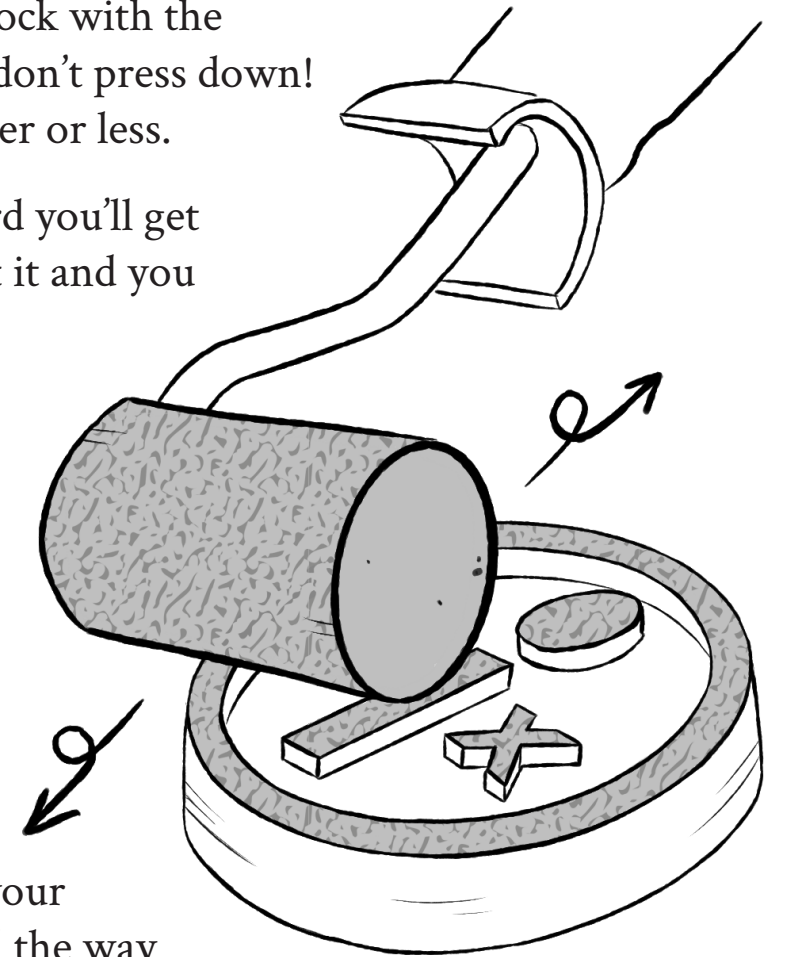
NOT THIS

### 4 INK YOUR BLOCK

Transfer the ink to the block with the roller... be really gentle - don't press down! Use the weight of the roller or less.

If you press down too hard you'll get ink where you don't want it and you won't get a clean print.

ROLL!  
DON'T PRESS



You need a lot of ink on your block so the ink can go all the way through the fabric, then the flag will look the same from both sides.

You need a lot of ink on your block, but only on the print surface. When you see the little peaks and it's glinting you're ready to go.

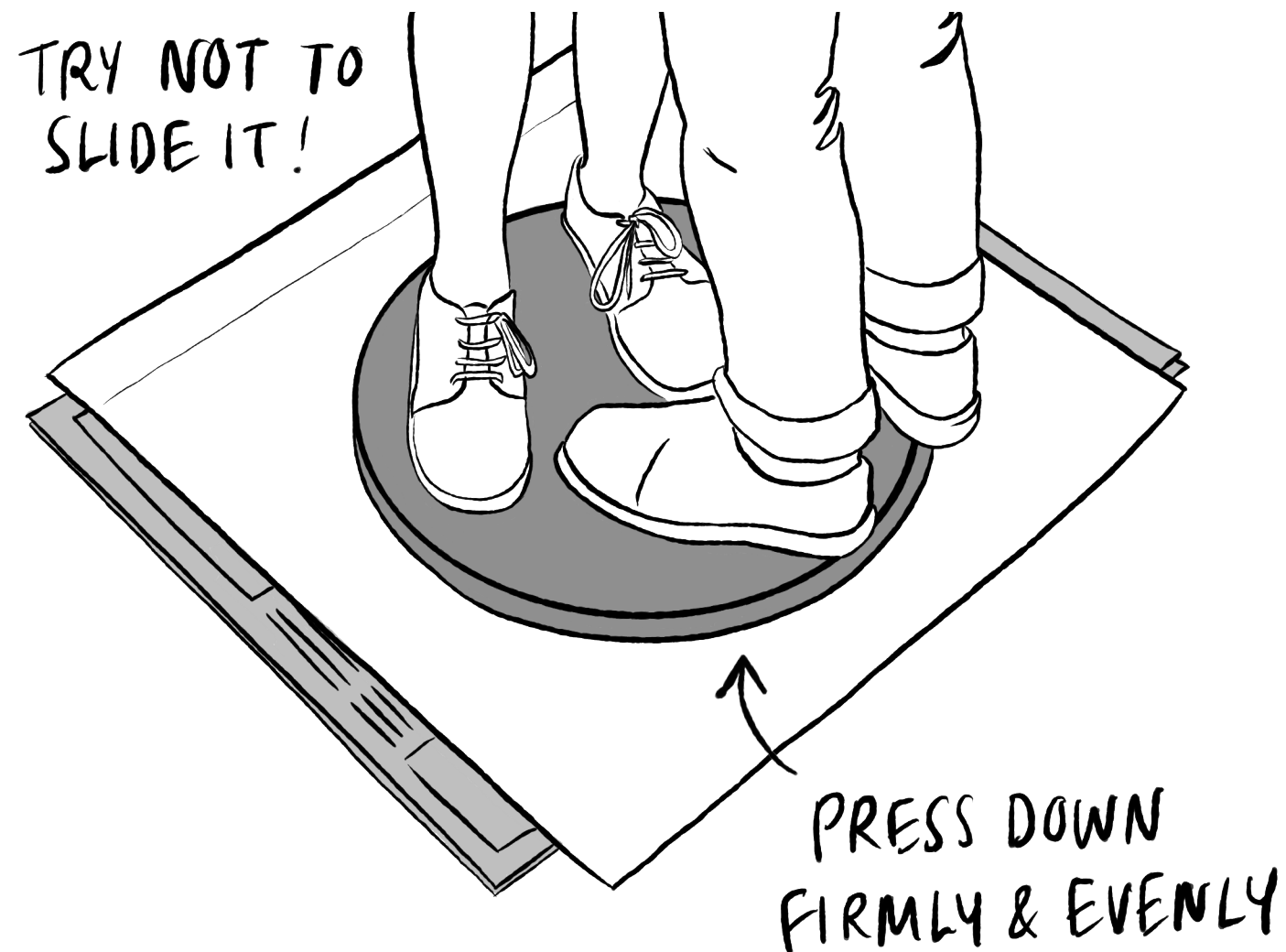


THIS IS  
LOVELY!

## 5 PRINT!

Aiming for the centre of your flag, place the block face down so the inked side is against the fabric.

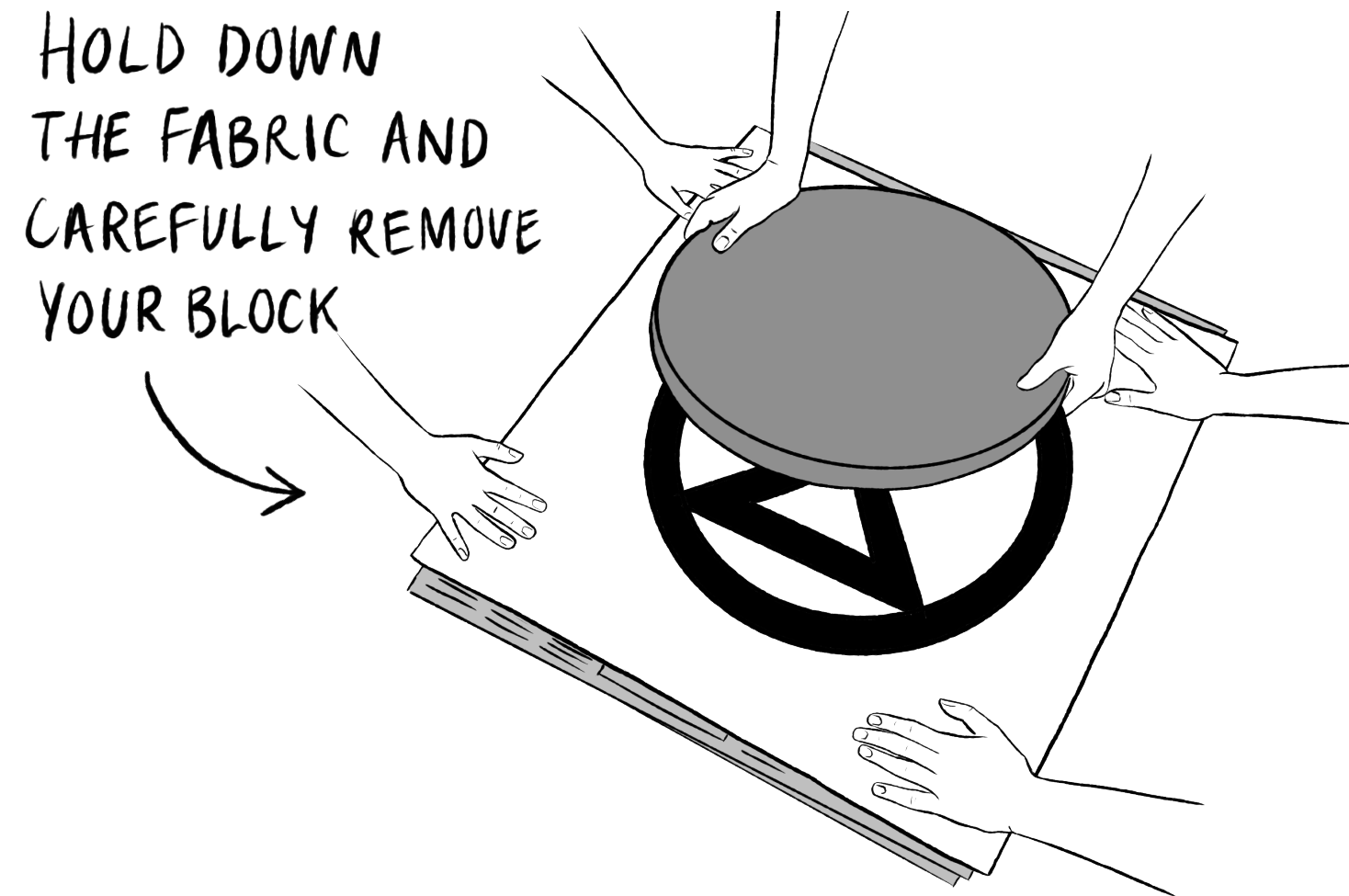
Stand on the block to transfer the ink to the flag. Lighter or smaller flag makers may need to double up to apply enough weight!



You want nice firm even pressure on the block - make sure you get right out around the edges of the whole symbol by standing all over it.

Be careful not to wobble and slide the block.

Have one or more rebels hold the fabric down, whilst someone carefully removes the block.



Gently and carefully peel off the flag from the print bed.

This is where we lose a lot of flags. Be very careful not to let it fold in on itself whilst the ink is still wet, or you will smudge and mark your new flag. **The fabric will be very delicate and fluttery and will try and fold in on itself - go slowly and carefully!**

Some printers add three clothes pegs to the bottom of the flag before lifting, which helps stabilise the fabric whilst they carry it to a drying rack.



## 6 FINISH UP!

Carry your flag slowly and carefully to hang it to dry. This will take 10-30 minutes depending on conditions.



Once it's dry, put a piece of paper over the top and iron for 2-3 minutes (Not too hot! Test your temperature out first on a piece of scrap fabric). Ironing makes the ink permanent and means it won't bleed if it rains.

ADD A FLAGPOLE & GO REBEL! ♥

# LOOK AFTER YOUR BLOCKS!

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

When you're finished for the day, **clean your blocks using water.**

Try not to let the ink dry on the blocks or it'll be much harder to clean off.

Soak the blocks in a bucket of water to help soften the surface... and scrub!

You can use an old chopstick or other pointy implement to get all the ink out of the corners... they need to be super squeaky clean so they'll last you a long time!

Leave them to dry and when they are, pack them away carefully. ♥

Wrap them up so they don't knock against each other and get damaged.





