

Luan's Cyanotype Process

What you will need:

- Cyanotype sensitisser set ([click here for the brand Luan recommends](#))
- Disposable gloves
- A darkened room
- Your chosen surface: Paper, card, fabric (made from natural fibres) or wood
- Brush (for applying the chemicals)
- Bowl (if using fabric)
- Materials for making your image – Luan recommends using plants

The process

1. First you will need to make up the cyanotype mixture. Fill both bottles with water and shake vigorously to mix. Leave them with the caps on for 24 hours to prove.
2. To activate the chemicals, find a darkened space (the darker the better) and wear gloves before mixing equal quantities of each chemical together in a separate container. *The chemicals will keep for 1-2 years if they are kept in their individual bottles, so only use the quantity needed for your respective project.*
3. Staying in the dark room, apply the activated mixture onto the surface that you want to use. The process works well on paper, card, wood and textiles made from natural materials. *If using paper, it is best to apply the solution with a brush. When using textiles, it is easier to soak the fabric in the mixture in a bowl and then wring out before hanging up to dry.*
4. Leave your surface in the dark until it is completely dry.
5. Put the treated material into a black plastic bag (that is protective from light) before removing it from the darkened room – any exposure to sunlight will start to activate the chemicals.

6. Now you can create your design with your chosen materials. Do this indoors away from any natural light.
7. When you are finished, move the design outside into the sun. If it is windy, you could place a piece of clear glass or perspex on top of your piece to stop things blowing away.
8. Exposure time in the sun will vary depending on the intensity of the sunlight at the time, and how deep you want the blue contrast to be. You will need to experiment, but generally between 10-20 minutes will suffice. *It is best to carry out the process on a bright day, and at midday when the sun is at its highest intensity.*
9. After sufficient exposure, remove the materials from the surface and rinse the surface with water for at least 10 minutes.
10. Leave to dry.