

Nature



Art



STEM



# Tree of light



the crafting sustainabilities collective  
researching at the intersection of technology and sustainability

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# Materials and tools

## Part 1

- Paper or glass container to create a plant pot
- Double sided tape
- Prints/decorative paper
- Branches and other found materials from your local area

## Part 2

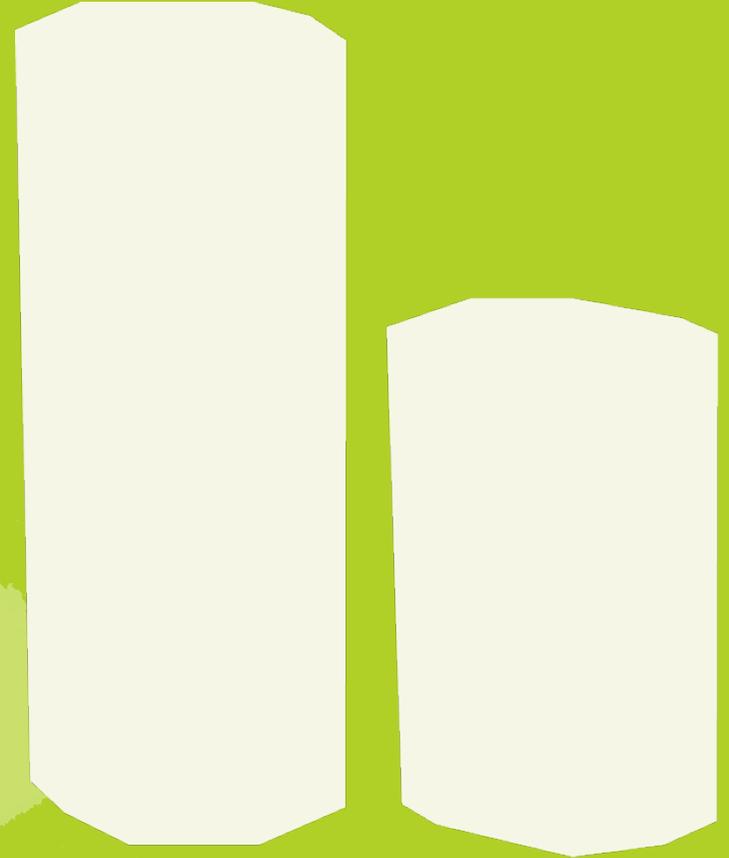
- Watercolour paper 200GSM
- Brayer roller
- Gel plate
- Acrylic paint
- Leaves of different shapes and sizes

## Part 3

- Chibitronics circuit template
- Conductive fabric tape
- LED lights
- Coin cell battery (3V CR2016)
- Paper clips
- Punch hole tool and thread



**Choosing and  
decorating a plant pot**



1.



## Choose the plant pot

Check around your home for 'plant pot' options. Here, we're using the tallest one—24 cm.

2.



## Decorate

This example uses old rice paper prints to decorate the pot. Feel free to create your own or reuse craft materials from home.

3.



## Secure the print

Use double-sided tape at the top and bottom to secure the paper to the pot.

4.



**Your plant pot is ready**

Now that your plant pot is ready, we are ready to fill it with branches!

5.



**Find your branches**

Collect branches locally - take a walk and get creative. What else could go in your pot?

6.



**Secure the structure**

In this example, scrunched printer paper supports the branches. Once secure, it's time to add leaves!

**Creating new leaves  
(leaf impressions)**



**1.**



**Find your materials**

Search your garden or local area for leaves with varied sizes, shapes, and textures to highlight your tree's diversity.

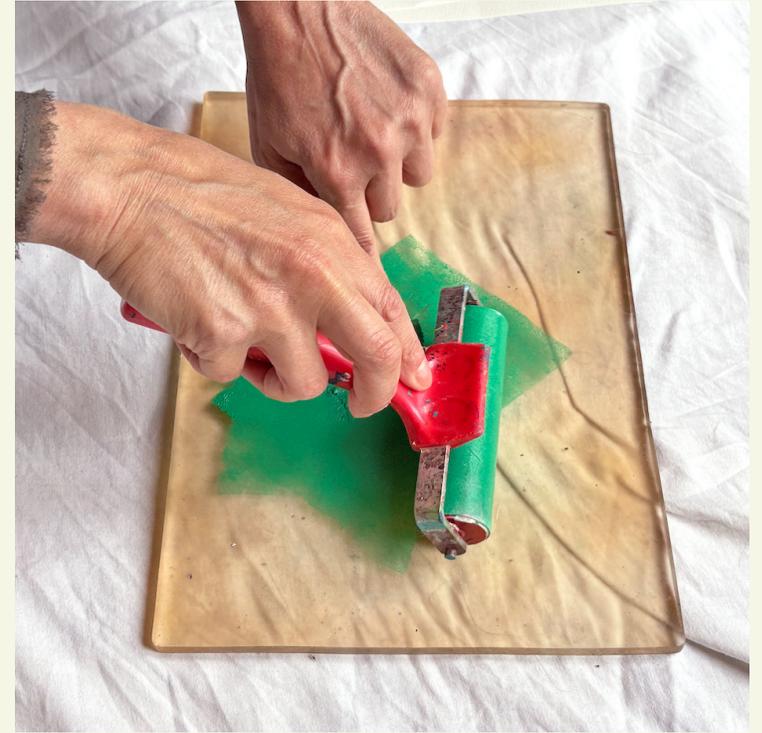
**2.**



**Fold the paper**

Cut a piece of paper that is a bit wider than two times the width of your leaf and a bit taller than the height of your leaf. Fold it in half.

**3.**



**Roll the paint**

Roll paint onto a plastic surface like acetate, glass, or a gel plate (as used here).

4.



### Paint your leaf

Place your leaf on it and coat both sides.

5.



### Create pressure

Place the leaf near the fold, press with your fingers, or hand.

6.



### Inspect the print

Open to reveal the print. If paint sticks, just close and press again.

The background features a light green gradient with two large, semi-transparent green leaves. One leaf is in the top-left corner, and another is in the bottom-right corner. A white, slightly tilted rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the main text.

# **Extending your print techniques with layered gel prints**

**1.**



### **Roll light paint**

To try layered gel prints, roll a lighter coat of paint (5-6 small dots) onto your gel plate.

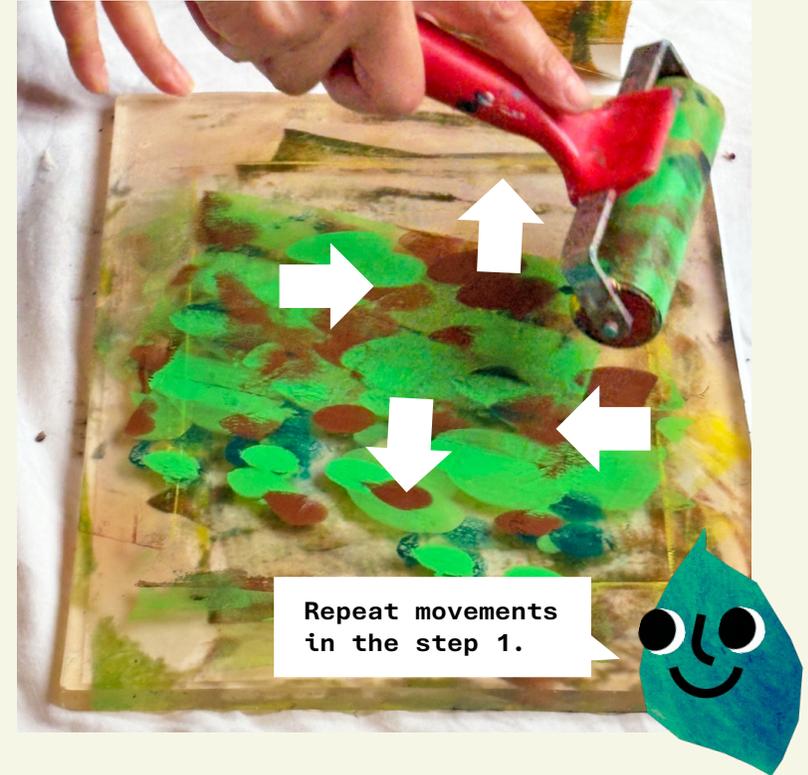
**2.**



### **Lift the base print**

Press paper onto the plate, then lift. If paint sticks, lay it back down and wait a few minutes to dry.

**3.**



### **Roll dark paint**

Roll a darker second layer in a colour that contrasts well. Here, we used a mix of brown and green.

4.



### Compose

Place the leaf on the fresh paint (tip: use the left side), lay paper on top, press, and let dry.

5.



### Lift the print

Lift the paper, gently remove the leaf holding the paper in place, then press down again for texture.

6.



To achieve the best result, make sure to hold the paper in place!



### Cut the shape

Fold and cut it into a single leaf shape. Your leaf is ready!

[Visit our YouTube channel for more printing techniques.](#)

# **Making your circuit**



1.



### Cut the template

Print and cut the circuit template to fit inside the leaf.

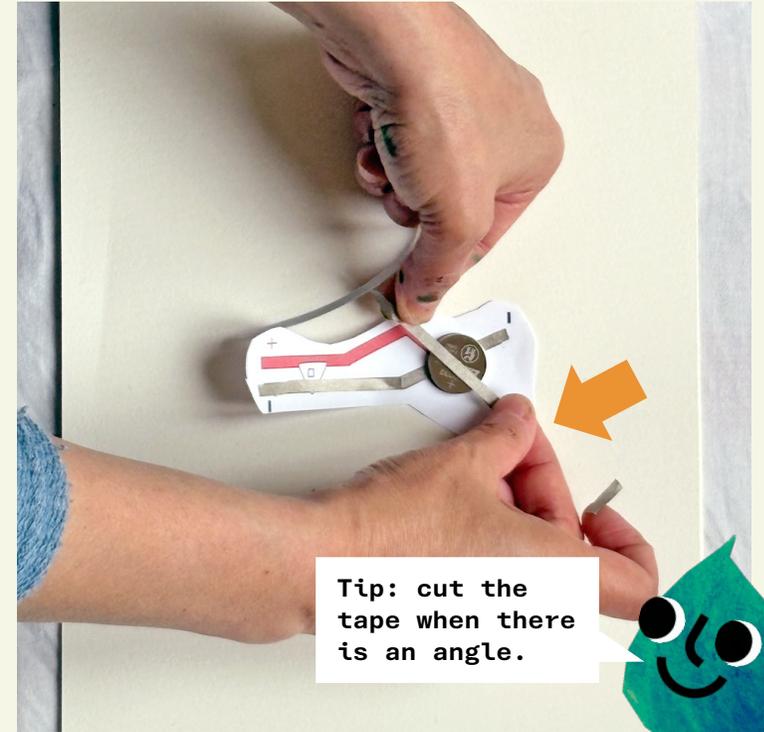
2.



### Cut tape to fit

Use the template as a model to measure and cut your conductive tape.

3.

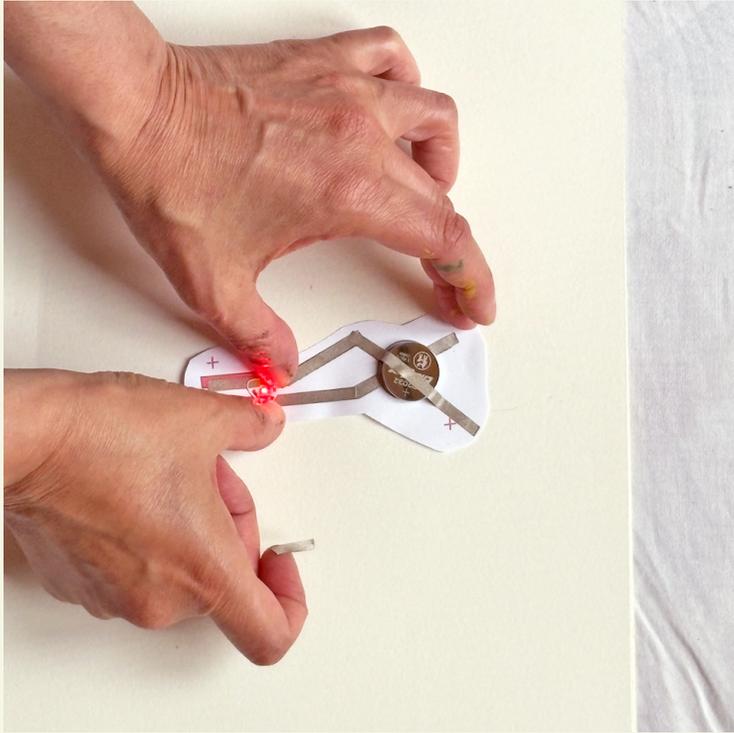


### Lay the circuit

Place tape for the battery's negative side, add the battery, then lay the second tape strip to contact the positive side.

## Part 3

4.



### Add the light

Attach the LED sticker to the circuit, matching polarity—wide side is positive, narrow is negative.

5.



### Create the lit-up leaf

Using double sided tape, stick the paper circuit inside your leaf. Make a hole and use thread to make a loop. Repeat the process!

6.



### Put it together

Mount the leaves on your pot and display your craft!

# Your tree of light is ready!



Want more of a challenge?  
Turn the page!





Enrich the nature materials you include in your pot. E.g. look for branches, cones and other found materials in your local area.



Try scaling the size of the tree. E.g. use a plant pot to make a life size tree.



Leaves are perfect for extending your printing techniques. Have a look at our [YouTube channel](#) for new ideas!



Add your idea here!

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