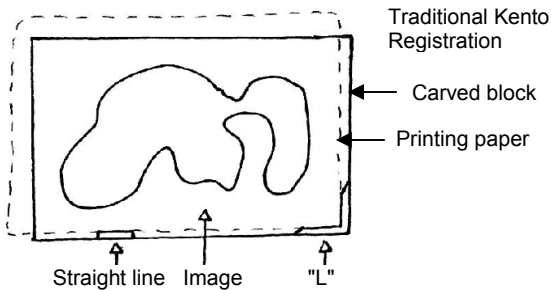


How to Use a Registration Board

A Registration Board lets you use the Japanese method of registering paper onto a block without having to carve registration marks into the block itself.

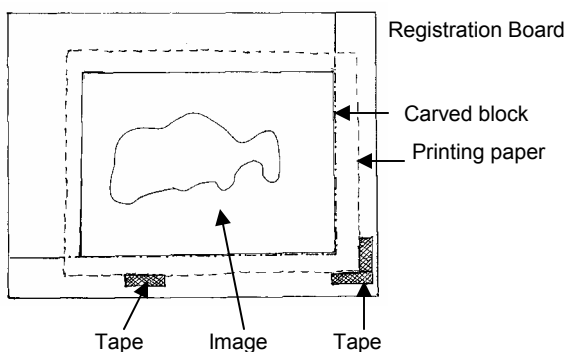
Traditionally, two registration marks, called *kento*, are carved into every block that will be used to create the print. One mark is a backwards "L" and the other a straight line.



The printing paper is carefully placed into the kento and dropped down onto the block. It is a very simple, easy and reliable way to register paper to the carved block.

A Registration Board is a block of wood with a large, wooden, backwards "L" attached to it.

You can carve kento into the "L" but most people use one or two layers of masking or artist's tape to form the marks so they can change the mark's position as needed.



Some people use the "L" without a base but we have found it tends to move around when you least expect it to, so we have mounted the "L" to a wood block for stability. The inner edges of the "L" have been beveled so they will not pick up ink from the block. You can shellac or cover the "L" with tape to keep it clean.

The picture shows a Registration Board with the "L" on the right side. We also make Registration Blocks with the "L" on the left side, for those who are more comfortable placing the paper into the "L" kento with their left hand.

Registration Boards are an advantage if you want to change the margins on your prints. You can move the artist's tape closer or further away from the block to get narrower or wider margins on the printing paper. Also if your registration marks are off a bit, one simple adjustment to the tape on the Registration Board solves the problem.

When you are ready to print, ink up the block. Then place the block firmly into the corner of the "L." Pick up the paper by holding it between the index and middle fingers of both hands and place the paper down into the kento marks, using your thumbs to hold it in place. Drop the paper onto the block and print.

For Registration Boards to work, make sure that the corner of the block going into the "L" is a perfect 90° corner and place the block squarely into the "L" every time.

Registration Boards can be used on a press so long as the "L" is the same height or slightly lower than the carved block and the carved block is the same size or smaller than the base of the Registration Board.



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