

The Easy Way To

TRANSFER

TEXT

&

IMAGES

TO WOOD

*For Pyrography, Carving
or Painting on Wood*

By Sandy Kronberger - www.rusticwoodworking.com

How To Transfer Text & Images To Wood

For Pyrography (wood burning), Carving and Painting

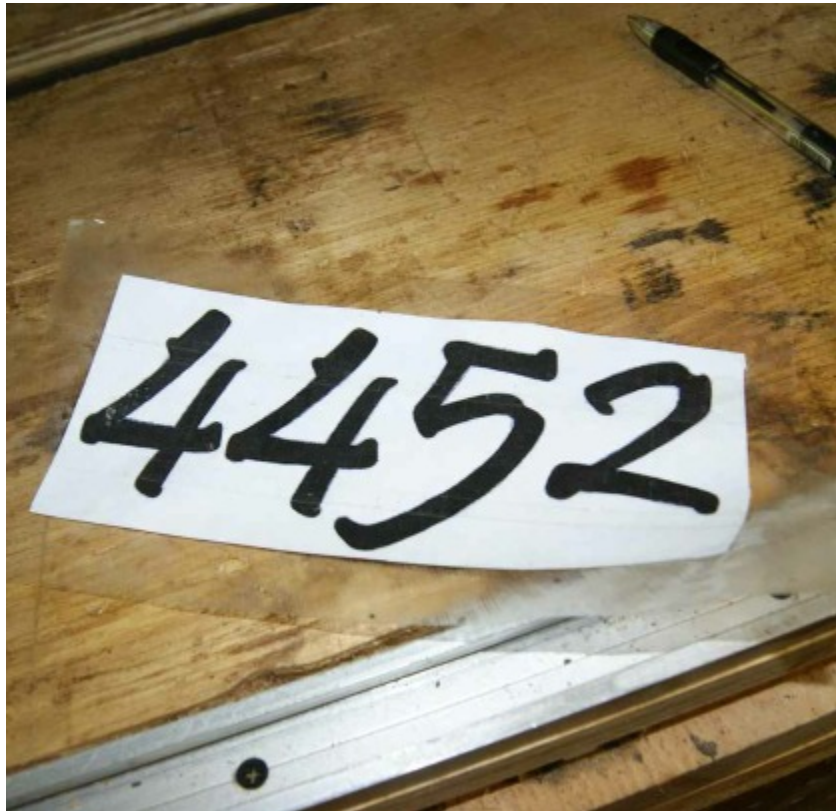
It is very easy and inexpensive to transfer text or image onto a piece of wood. All you need is a piece of paper, scissors, clear packaging tape, a soft lead pencil, and a pen.

The text or image will turn out the best if you can use a computer to print out the text or image onto a plain piece of paper. If you don't have a printer you can sketch whatever you want to transfer onto paper, or you can even use images from magazines, newspapers, or any media.

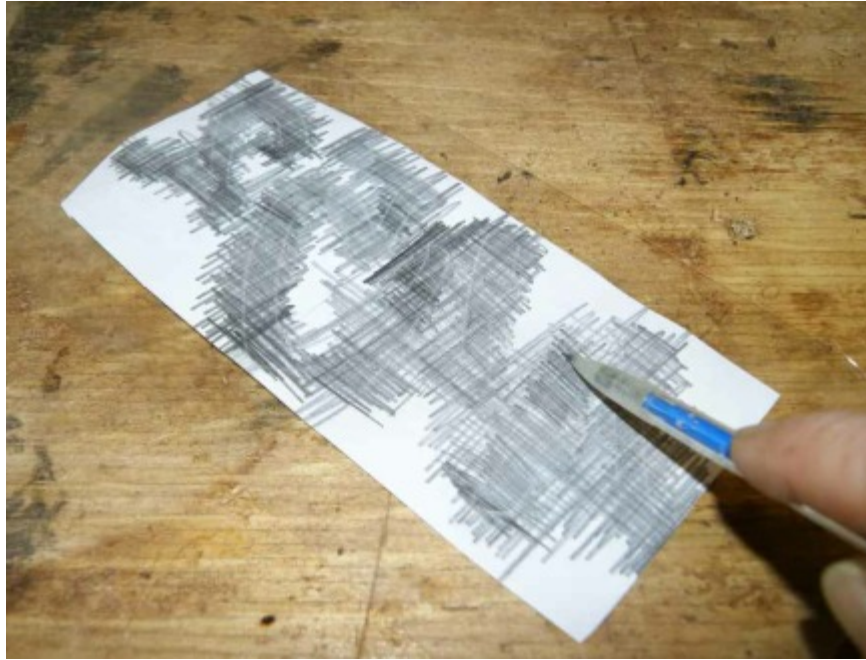
For this example, I simply wanted to wood-burn some house numbers onto a basswood log slice for a friend. I used a graphics program and printed out the numbers. Get creative with different text styles and sizes. The thicker, the better, so the numbers can easily be seen from a distance.

Trim the paper close to the printed numbers. This will help to place the paper in the correct spot of the wood.

Apply clear packaging tape to the front, making sure that the tape overhangs the graphic. The extra tape will hold it in place while you are tracing the image onto the wood.



Flip the paper over so that the back is facing up. Take a #2 soft lead pencil and start shading all areas that will be transferred. Be sure that the outline is heavily shaded with pencil lead so that it transfers well. Shade in different directions, back and forth, and crossways. Using pencil for transfers makes it easy to remove any marks that remain later.



After you are done shading the back, turn it over and position it onto your wood. Press the tape so that the paper doesn't move. Take a regular ball point pen and start tracing the parts of the text or image that you want to transfer to the wood. The tape helps to keep the pen from breaking through the paper, so you can apply quite a bit of pressure to get a good transfer without tearing the paper.



When you are done tracing the image with the pen, remove the paper from the wood. The lines may be a little light, but you can go over them again with a pencil to darken them up so they are easier to see when you are working on your project.

If you are going to be painting your image, you can go ahead and start now. Either oil or acrylic paints can be used on the wood. You can also use nail polish. We do not recommend using magic markers, as they will bleed into the wood and look fuzzy. Stain should not be necessary for cross-grain wood slabs.

For wood burning, use a fine tip and burn the outline of the text or image. You can change to a shading tip if you want to shade inside of the outline as shown.



Protect your project with several coats of Spar Varnish, especially if it will be hung outside. Spar varnish has UV protections, stays pliable, and is made to protect wood outdoors. The wood will last a lot longer if hung under an eave to avoid direct sunlight and rain. Add a regular picture hanger to the back and hang on a nail.



You can obtain wood slices from www.rusticwoodworking.com. Different types of wood and sizes are available.