

**OU Da-wei**  
Supplementary Teaching Materials  
(Junior Secondary)

# Exploring the seal works

# Inscription contents in the seals



國  
梁 李

(Name: Lee Kwok-leung)

Square seal with three characters carved in relief / 2009



閒  
閒  
地

(At ease)

Oval seal with three characters carved in relief / 2008

# Inscription contents in the seals

## Name seals

- They serve as signatures.
- The fonts are rather formal and structured.



Square seal with three characters carved in relief / 2009

## Leisure seals

- There are implications in the messages.
- The fonts are rather lively and diversified.



Oval seal with three characters carved in relief / 2008

# Differences between *zhuwen* (朱文) and *baiwen* (白文) inscriptions



天 妙  
開 想  
(Out of My Mind)

Square seal with four characters carved in relief / 2002



歡 滿  
喜 心  
(Contented)

Square seal with four incised characters / 2003

# Zhuwen (朱文)

- also known as red character style or *yang* carving
- the area of the characters is kept, while the empty area is carved out
- the characters are carved in relief in the seal



Square seal with four characters carved in relief / 2002

# Baiwen (白文)

- also known as white character style or *yin* carving
- only the area of the characters is carved out
- the characters are incised in the seal



Square seal with four incised characters / 2003

# **Art-making process**



1. Press the stone seal on a *xuan* paper to leave a mark of the seal's shape.





2. Draw the squared frame of the seal with an ink brush according to the mark on the paper.

3. Write the words within the frame. You may refer to OU's style of seal script and write the strokes in varied thickness and spacing.





4. When the ink is dry, place the paper side with words on the stone seal.

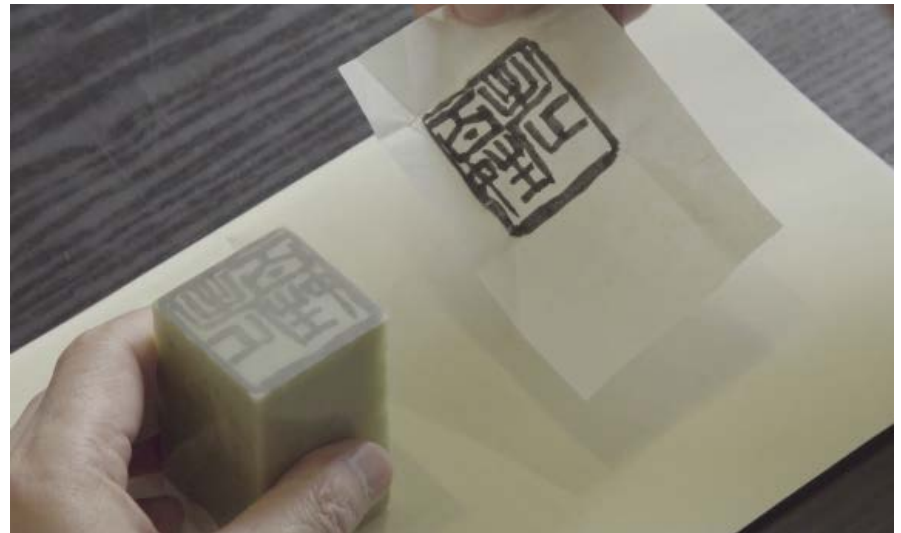
5. Moisten the paper a few drops of water.





6. Place a piece of tissue paper on top and rub the paper to transfer the words on the stone .

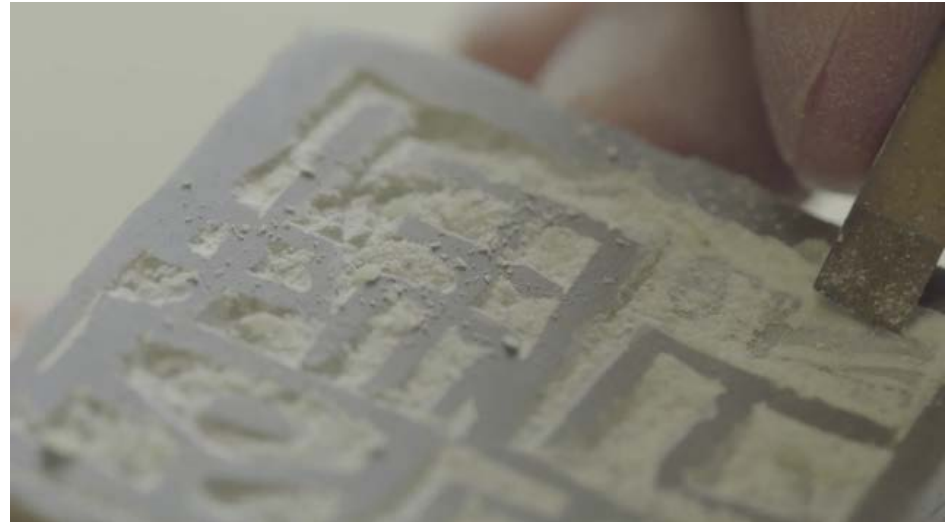
7. Start carving after the words are printed on the stone. Decide whether to make a *zhuwen* or *baiwen* seal.

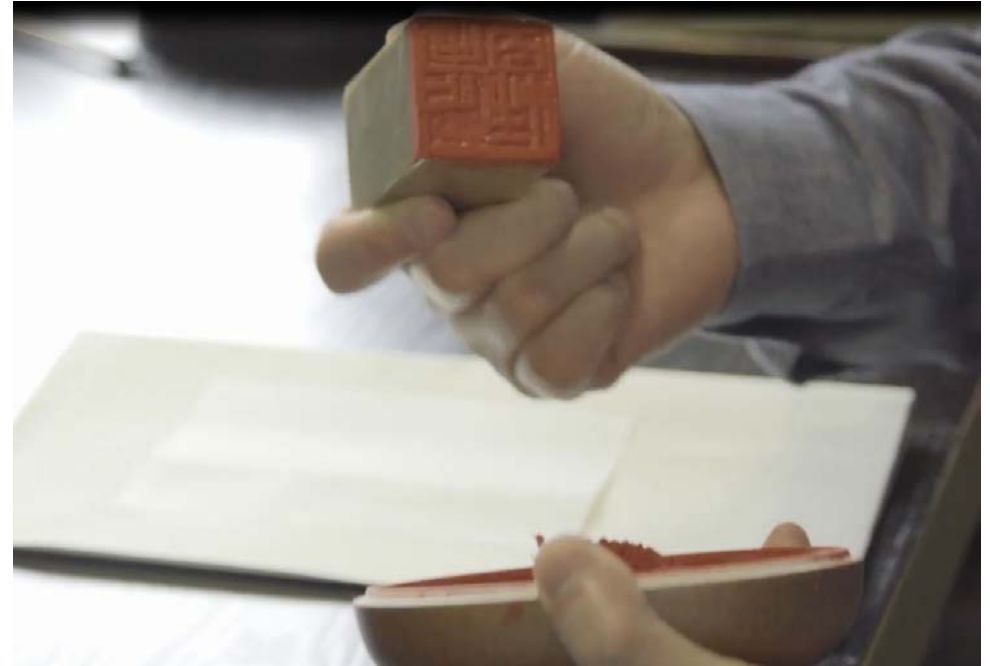




8. This shows how to make a *zhuwen* seal. Carve out the empty space between the characters.

9. Be careful when carving. Do not use too much force. Carve slowly.





10. Before making the print, clean the surface of the seal mark. Rub the stone seal on seal paste until the paste covers the carving completely.



11. Press on the paper, then slowly lift the seal up vertically.



12. Completed.