

TACTILE DIAGRAM METHODS

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Spur wheel: produces a variety of ridged lines on braille paper or german film. Can be used for simple geometrical drawings but not suitable for solid textures or complex patterns</p>	<p>Simple to use. Little equipment needed. Can be copied by thermoforming.</p>	<p>Drawings need to be made in reverse from back of sheet.</p>
<p>Drawing or German film: thin plastic sheet placed on 'jelly' mat. Lines drawn with biro give immediate tactile result</p>	<p>Simple to use. Little equipment needed. Easy for students to use Useful for making graphs, charts, etc for student to complete. Can be used in Perkins.</p>	<p>Flimsy and not long-lasting. Only suitable for simple line drawings. No use for complex maps or diagrams.</p>
<p>Ricoh/Zychem/Minolta paper: pictures, diagrams, etc are drawn onto plain paper, photocopied on to Ricoh/Zychem/Minolta paper, then passed through a heat fuser. All black areas become raised.</p>	<p>Will produce any black and white patterns so is useful for making some maps and detailed diagrams. Easy to produce master from photocopied print diagrams. Easy to make multiple copies from one master. Can be put into Perkins for labelling.</p>	<p>Very expensive paper. Impossible to achieve good discrimination of layers or relief. Simplicity of production may mean inexpert users produce poorly modified and inappropriate diagrams.</p>
<p>Thermoform collage: master copy is made using variety of materials and textures (wire, sandpaper, etc). Copies made by heat and vacuum-forming process onto plastic sheets.</p>	<p>Possible to achieve a great variety of textures and layers. Good degree of discrimination possible. Good for maps. Lots of copies can be made from one master.</p>	<p>Plastic sheets cheap but vacuum-forming equipment is bulky and expensive. Needs lots of skill to make good master copies. Some readers dislike feel of plastic sheets.</p>