

Invisible writing

A message in secret ink is usually written on the back of an ordinary letter or in the blank spaces between the lines and along the sides.

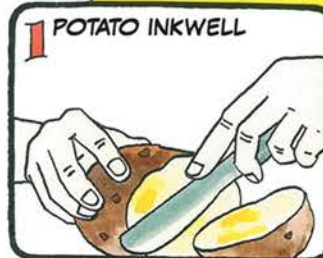
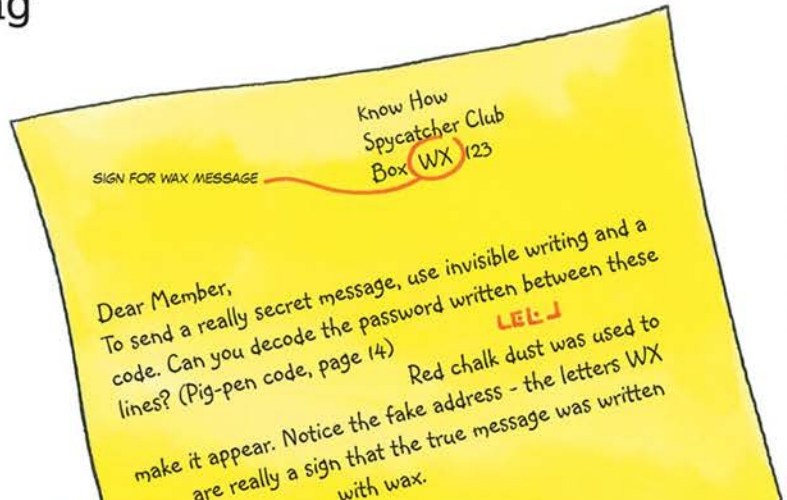
You will need:

- a piece of white candle
- fine powder for wax writing – you can use powdered instant coffee, chalk scrapings or even fine soil in an emergency
- ink or paint and a brush or sponge to make the water message appear
- a potato for the potato ink well
- some paper – use thin paper for the water mark
- a toothpick

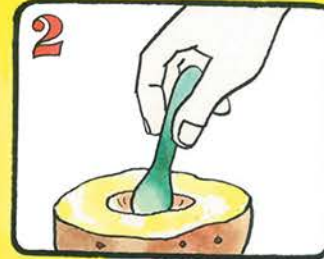
Always mark the message to show your contact how to develop it (make it appear).

Marks to use are:

- wx* for a wax message
- wm* for a water message
- h* for a message that must be heated
- x* on the message side of the paper



1 POTATO INK WELL
Hold the potato like this and cut off both ends with a table knife, as shown.



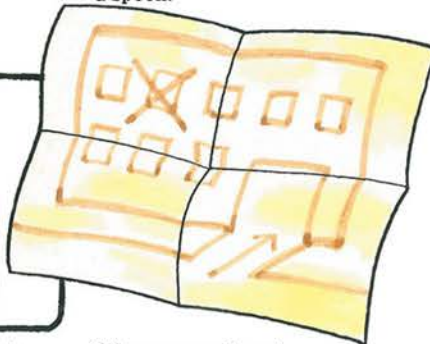
2
Stand the potato on one end. Scoop a hole in the top with a spoon.



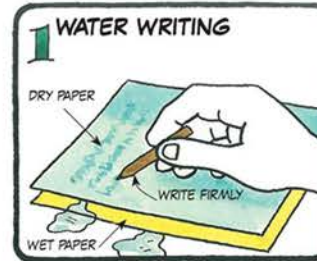
3
SCRAPE
Now use the blade of the table knife to scrape and squeeze juice from the cut top of the potato into the hole.



4
Dip a toothpick into the potato ink to write the message. When the 'ink' dries, the message will be invisible.



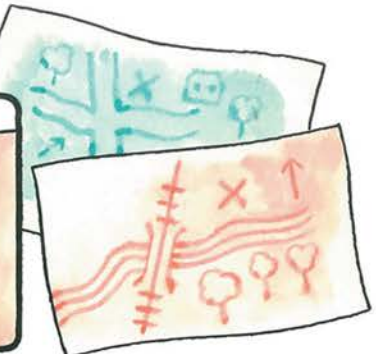
If the message is put in a warm oven (250°F, 120°C, gas mark ½) it will look like this. Make other 'inks' with lemon juice, milk, onion juice or cola.



1 WATER WRITING
Wet some paper thoroughly. Lay it on a smooth, hard surface. Cover it with dry paper and write firmly. The message will appear on the wet paper when held to the light.



2
The message will vanish when the paper dries and reappear whenever it's wet. Your contact can brush it with watery ink or paint to make it permanent.



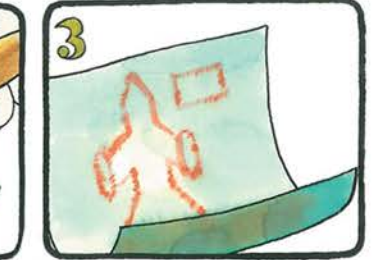
You can make watermark messages on dry paper with a toothpick dipped in slightly soapy water. The soapy shine will help you see what you're doing.



1 WAX WRITING
Wax some paper by rubbing it with a white candle. Lay the waxed side on plain paper. Write firmly to print the message in wax on the paper.



2
Your contact should sprinkle the message paper with powdered instant coffee or chalk scrapings.



3
When he or she gives the paper a gentle shake, the powder will stick to the message and slide off the rest of the paper.

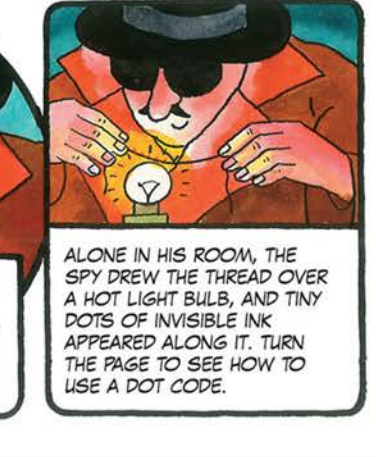


SPY TRICK

BLACK HAT HAD JUST ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT. HE WAS STOPPED AND SEARCHED, BUT WAS FOUND TO BE CARRYING ONLY... A SEWING KIT...



THE SPY WAS ALLOWED TO GO. AFTER ALL, A FEW NEEDLES AND THREADS CAN'T BE MUCH HELP TO THE ENEMY... OR CAN THEY?



ALONE IN HIS ROOM, THE SPY DREW THE THREAD OVER A HOT LIGHT BULB, AND TINY DOTS OF INVISIBLE INK APPEARED ALONG IT. TURN THE PAGE TO SEE HOW TO USE A DOT CODE.

Usborne Activities

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