



**UNDER  
COVER**



## FINGERPRINTING

Fingerprints are an excellent way of identifying suspects and recording important clues found at the scene of a crime! A good detective knows how to dust for prints and get a suspect's prints on paper. Clever spies know that wearing gloves is a must on a secret mission so they can avoid being identified!

Fingerprints are created by oil and sweat that collects between the ridges of skin on your fingers. When you touch a smooth or flat surface, a small pattern is created on that surface. Every single person in the world has different fingerprints. Even identical twins are not identical when it comes to their fingerprints!

There are four distinct types of fingerprints as shown below. Keep this in mind when taking fingerprints and write down the type of print on each card when creating your fingerprint file cards.



**THE  
ARCH**



**THE  
WHORL**



**THE  
LOOP**



**MIXED  
PRINT**

# FINGERPRINT FILE

## Round Up These Materials:

Fingerprint file cards • Ink pad

### What To Do:

Before you begin dusting for actual fingerprints, it's important to create an "active" print file by taking the fingerprints of your family, fellow agents — and of course yourself! Use the fingerprint file cards and ink pad in this kit to keep a record of each person's prints and make an active fingerprint identification file.

### Rolled Impressions:

Have each suspect wash and dry their hands. Start with the right hand and carefully roll each finger on the ink pad, then roll it once in the appropriate spot on the fingerprint file card. Roll each finger only once to avoid smearing.

### Pressed Impressions:

Have each suspect press their four fingers onto the ink pad, then straight down in the space marked "four fingers" on the fingerprint card. Repeat this procedure with the thumb and press it in the designated area.

### Fingerprints On File:

Write the date, person's name, age and whether it was their left or right hand on the card. Make note of any special marks, lines or scars that stand out in the fingerprints. Have suspects wash their hands when done!



# FINGERPRINT MATCH

## Round Up These Materials:

- Completed fingerprint file cards • Fingerprint specimen card
- Fingerprint lifting tape • Magnifying glass
- Fingerprint powder • Paint brush

## What To Do:

Whether you see them or not, your house is covered with fingerprints! Fingerprints are left on objects because tiny ducts in the fingertips give off an oily substance. The oil is left on objects when touched. Start by checking mirrors, windows, door handles and other smooth surfaces. The best way to see prints is to shine a flashlight at different angles onto the surface you are inspecting.

## Dusting For Prints:

Once you've located some fingerprints, sprinkle some white powder over the print. Use the paint brush and very lightly brush the excess powder away, being extra careful not to smudge the print. The powder will stick to the print and reveal it.

## Pressed Impressions:

After you have dusted the prints, choose the best specimens and carefully lift them off the surface using the fingerprint lifting tape. (Ordinary clear tape will work too!) Place the tape over the print and press firmly, then lift it off and attach it to the Fingerprint Specimen Card. Write the date and location under the specimen.

## Fingerprints On File:

Use your fingerprint file card and magnifying glass to help identify prints. Determine what type of print you have lifted and go through your file, looking for any prints of the same type. Use the magnifying glass to find any unique lines, marks or tiny scars that will help you identify the print!