

HOW TO

Screen Printing


Please read all instructions prior to beginning work.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS: Children must be supervised by adults at all times when using knife, screen printing and associated equipment. Make sure the work bench or table is stable and at a comfortable working height.

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED BEFORE SETTING UP TO PRINT

1. Workbench, suitable table (or stable card table) and/or ironing board.
2. Pencil or fine point marker for tracing.
3. Sharp-pointed craft or stencil knife.
4. Cutting mat or cardboard.
5. An old blanket to cover table, or a flat cushioned surface.
6. A flexible plastic spatula, or straight edged firm cardboard to apply ink to the screen.
7. Several sheets of paper for test prints and ironing.
8. Disposable rags or paper wipes for cleaning.

STEP 1




CUTTING THE STENCIL: Choose one of the designs supplied or create your own. Place your stencil sheet over the design and trace. Using a sharp stencil knife cut out the design on a suitable cutting mat or cardboard. (Do not use scissors or heavy-duty craft knife as this will result in inaccurate cutting of the design)

STEP 2



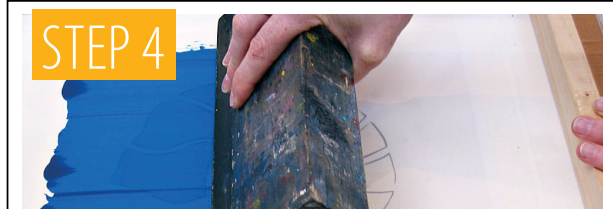
PREPARING THE SCREEN: Place the cut out stencil sheet (centred), reverse side up on the flat side of the screen and tape in position using masking tape. Make sure there are no gaps and all of the silk around the stencil is covered with tape otherwise ink will print in unwanted areas.

STEP 3



SET UP FOR PRINTING: Spread an old blanket (without holes) on a flat stable surface, or use a card table. A stable ironing board with a sheet for protection is suitable for T-Shirts. If used by children ensure adult supervision and adequate safety practices. Material or paper can be used for a test print. Work at a comfortable height. Lay the screen flat side down onto fabric or paper. Work from one end. Place a heavy bead of ink at top of the screen, making sure the ink is slightly wider than the design. Refer to Step 4 Printing for instructions on how to use the squeegee. Try a test print on paper or other blank to ensure clarity.

STEP 4



PRINTING: When ready to print position the material to be printed under the screen (tape material to work surface if desired), ensuring there is adequate ink and that the tape is in position. Place the squeegee above the ink and tilt to approximately a 45° angle. Pull the squeegee toward you over the stencil achieving equal pressure at this angle, until your design has been covered. Repeat 2 – 3 times running ink through each time.

STEP 5



LIFTING THE SCREEN: Carefully, from one side, lift the screen straight up so that it doesn't smudge your printed image. Check your first print for imperfections.

STEP 6



THE FINISHED PRODUCT: After the print has dried (a hair-dryer can be used to assist drying), place a piece of fabric or plain paper (not newspaper) over the print and iron to heat set the print.

CLEAN UP WITH HOUSEHOLD DETERGENT AND WATER

NOTE: If several colours are to be printed on the same item it may be necessary to create registration marks with tape to ensure correct alignment. A hair-dryer can be used to speed up drying of the screen and associated equipment after cleaning. Retain cardboard to protect silk-screen when re-packing the Screenprinting Kit.