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Supply list:

Silk Screen (made from 1 x 4s or bought from dickblick or ordered from amazon.com)
Squeegee
Spoon
Yogurt cups
Painters tape and clear packing tape
Newsprint
Marker or sharpie
Block out or screen filler
Drawing fluid
Registration pins (optional)
Clear transparency
Cardboard
Photoflood bulb
Photo-sensitive emulsion
Paint brush
Access to sink and water source
Screen printing ink Water based (fabric or graphic)
Acrylic extender base
Transparent base
Photoflood bulb at least 200 watt with UV light

Basic Steps in Screen Printing

Following are the basic steps in the Screen Printing Process:

Create a design to be printed.

Assemble the screen frame or use a preassembled frame.

Prepare the screen by degreasing and abrading the fabric mesh.

Apply the design to the screen in one of several ways:

Non-Photographic Methods:

Cut or tear a paper stencil. (An elementary classroom method for very short runs.)

Paint on the screen using block-out, Speedball Drawing Fluid/Screen Filler or liquid tusche, tusche pencils, or tusche crayons. This is a free-style painterly method.

Cut a stencil out of film and adhere it to the screen, following manufacturer's directions.

This hand-cut method is for bold, hard-edge designs.

Photographic Methods:

Direct Method:

Start with a film positive of your design.

Apply photo-sensitive direct film or direct emulsion to your prepared screen.

Coat screens with emulsion using either a squeegee or scoop coater. If using a scoop coater:

Pour emulsion into scoop coater.

Tilt scoop coater forward until a bead of emulsion appears at the edge.

Use a smooth long coat and tilt the screen at a 45 degree angle. You want the coat of emulsion to be smooth. If you have beads of emulsion make sure you go over those dry with no emulsion.

Expose the film positive in contact with the screen to a proper light source. In our studio 30 seconds of exposure time is all you need.

Put transparency in the exposure unit.

Put dried and coated screen into exposure unit.

Close lid and close all latches.

Plug in the Air compressor first.

Once the air compressor stops rattling, it is now time to plug in the exposure unit.

After 30 seconds the screen will be ready to stop being exposed.

To do this unplug the exposure unit first then the air compressor.

MAKE SURE THE OTHER SINK ROOM IS OPEN!

Unlatch all the latches on the unit letting the air leak out a bit before you do.

Take screen to the other room and put into the sink. Take the hose and shoot cold water on the screen. If water drips or puddles around the sink make sure you clean it up for the next folks who use the room!

Make sure all the image of your screen is shot out before you stop shooting the screen out. If you stop and let the emulsion dry it is much harder to fix this, but not impossible. You still want to make sure you shoot out all of the screen image.

Put the screen in front of a fan and let dry. Should take 30 minutes to an hour. Make sure screen is completely dry before you use it!

You take the positive and tape hinge it to the table with clamps on it. Make sure the positive matches up to the screen image. Make sure you use hinge pins to attach and register the image. **PRINT ONTO NEWSPRINT FIRST FOR TEST PRINTS!**

Hold squeegee at a 45 degree angle and make your flood stroke Then pull the squeegee towards you. Check to see if your print is clean and no drips, strokes or pin holes are present. If print is clean you can print onto good paper. If not tape up pin holes.

Once your edition is done you can leave your prints to dry on the drying rack. Repeat for each additional color screen to register.

After you done with your screen you can take it to a car wash and spray with emulsion remover. The studio isn't able to handle washing out and reclaiming screens.

Make sure you clean the screen out of used ink. If it dries it is almost impossible to get out! Make sure screens are clean of ink.

Indirect Method:

Start with a film positive

Expose the film positive in contact with the photo sensitive indirect screen printing film, using a proper light source.

Use the prescribed developer (A & B developer or water, depending on the film) to wash out the positive parts of your design, leaving the film open in those areas for printing ink to pass through.

While the film is still wet, apply it to your prepared screen according to directions.

Blick Complete Photo/Textile Screen Printing Kit
Blick Complete Photo/Textile Screen Printing Kit

Finish the Screen Apply Liquid block-out tape to all areas outside of the film edges that you do not want to print, using a brush, flat plastic scraper or piece of cardboard. Also fill pin holes, if any, with a small brush. Use water-moistened gummed tape or polyester film tape to seal the edges of the screen frame to prevent ink from getting into hard-to-clean areas.

Print the design on the material you have chosen, using a squeegee to force ink through the open areas of your screen.

Dry the prints or garments, heat setting them if necessary.

Clean the ink from the screen using the proper solvent.

Reclaim the screen for future use by removing the stencil. Use appropriate removers.