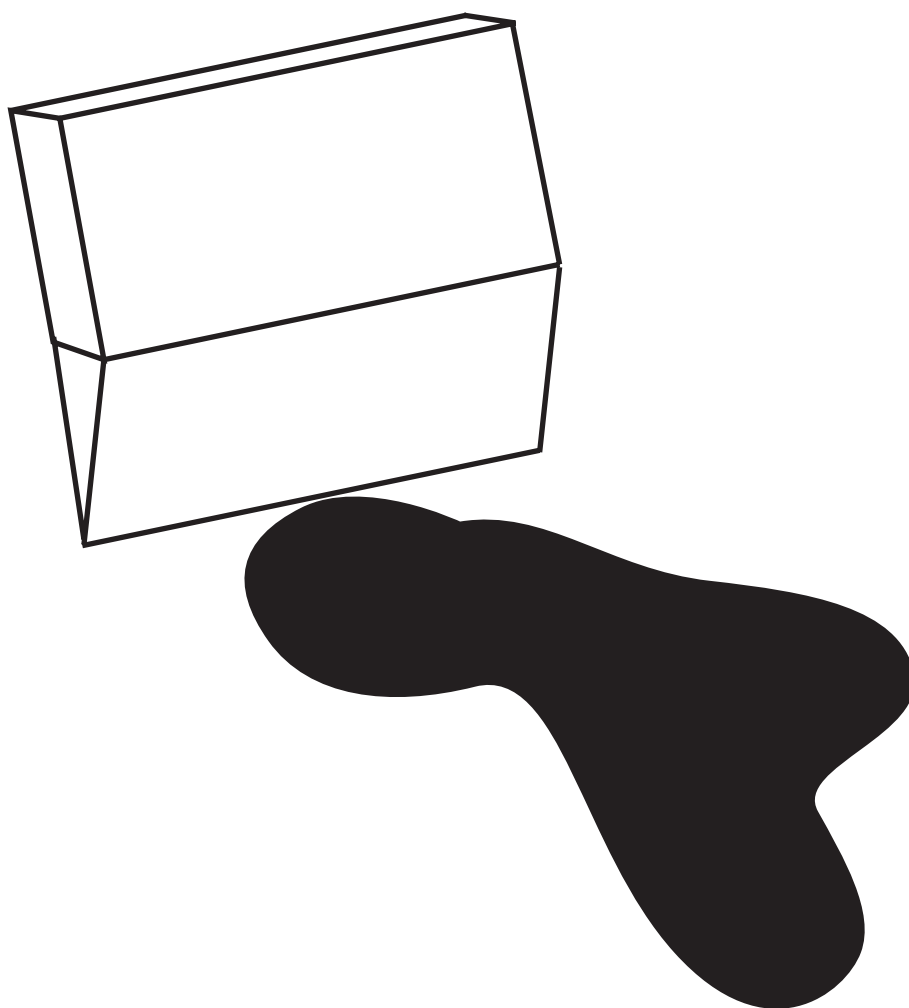


SCREENPRINTING

Technical Guide



SCREENPRINTING

Definition of Screenprinting

Printing technique that uses a squeegee to force ink directly onto a substrate (paper, fabric, etc.) through a taut fabric to which a stencil has been applied. The stencil openings determine the form and dimensions of the imprint thus produced. Screen fabric, now made of synthetic material, was originally made of silk, thus the historical term "silk screen." Today the process is properly referenced as screenprinting or serigraphy.

Photo Emulsion Screenprinting

Scoop coat photographic emulsion on both sides of screen. Let dry. Expose to UV light with film positive on top of emulsion.

Dark areas on film positive will block light from exposing emulsion. Unexposed areas will wash out with water, leaving open mesh. After screen is exposed, washed out and dry, use a small paint brush to fill in pin holes on the squeegee side of screen.

Post expose to harden emulsion.

SCREEN PREPARATION & CLEANING

General Advice for all below Instructions

- Use power sprayer on low pressure first to avoid water mist from containing art material residue.
- If windy outside, use paint brush instead of spray bottles to apply materials.
- To dry your screen, first softly vacuum or squeegee off excess water, then dry in sun or in front of a fan.

Degreasing your Screen

Degreasing your screen will help photo emulsion and Speedball Screen Fill adhere to your screen better, resulting in less breakdown of your stencil when printing and cleaning.

Instructions:

1. Place your screen in the pressure sprayer sink.
2. Scrub both sides of screen with Bon Ami household detergent. Use a soft to medium bristle nylon brush.

Cleaning Water Based Ink off your Screen

Never let acrylic ink dry in your screen. Wash immediately after the last print is pulled. Household glass cleaner can help remove stubborn ink. Adding retarder base to your ink will assist ink from drying out in

Table Top Instructions:

1. Place newsprint under your screen.
2. Using your squeegee, pull all ink to one side of your screen.
3. Remove ink pile with plastic spatula. Save ink for reuse.
4. Remove paper and tape stencils from your screen.
5. Using a damp sponge, remove remaining ink from both sides of screen, rinsing sponge regularly in a bucket of warm water.
(using two sponges simultaneously on both sides of the screen helps on stubborn areas)

Power Sprayer Instructions:

1. Follow steps 1- 4 above, then quickly take your screen to the power sprayer sink.
2. Use low pressure wash to rinse screen with warm water.
Using low pressure will flush out ink and prevent airborne water mist from containing ink residue.
3. Use high pressure wash as needed. Be careful not to damage photo stencils or Screen Filler stencils that you desire to retain.

Removing Screen Filler from your Screen

Never let acrylic ink dry in your screen. Adding retarder to your ink will assist ink from drying out during long print runs.

Instructions:

1. Place your screen in the pressure sprayer sink.
2. Apply Speed Clean by Speedball * to both sides with a spray bottle.
*or 1 cup Arm & Hammer Washing Soda to 1 gallon water
3. Scrub both sides of screen with nylon bristle brush.
4. Apply again to both sides. Let stand in a horizontal position for three to five minutes.
5. Scrub with a nylon bristle brush.
6. Rinse with low pressure to avoid airborne residue.
7. Use high pressure washer. Hold sprayer nozzle several inches from screen.
Starting at the top of the screen, slowly move water stream from left to right, then back. Repeat horizontal strokes until you've reached the bottom of the screen. Take your time and you won't have to do it a second time.

Removing Photo Emulsion from your Screen

Never let photo emulsion remover stay on your screen for more than two minutes. It can permanently harden the emulsion you seek to remove.

Household bleach can be used as a substitute for Kiwo Stencil Remover.

Instructions:

1. Using a spray bottle, spray Kiwo Stencil Remover (diluted 1:20 with water) on both sides of screen.
2. Immediately, for two minutes, scrub the screen with a soft to medium nylon brush to dissolve the emulsion.
3. Immediately, using low pressure, quickly rinse the screen with cold or warm water (to prevent mixing with airborne water mist).
4. Immediately, use high pressure to remove photo emulsion. This will take several minutes, working top to bottom.
- 5 Look very carefully to make sure no clogged mesh remains.
6. Repeat steps 1- 4 as needed, without delay.
7. After you believe steps 1-4 has removed all your emulsion, here is a good way to make sure.

Start at the top of the screen and move water stream very slowly from left to right, then back.

Repeat horizontal strokes, until you've reached the bottom of the screen.

This could take up to 10 minutes.

WARNING:

- Prolonging any of these steps can have a reverse effect and permanently harden the emulsion in the screen.
- Never ever let stencil remover dry in your screen.