

DRAWING FLUID AND SCREEN FILLER



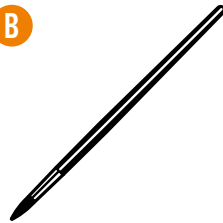
necessary tools

- A drawing fluid
- B paintbrush
- C screen filler
- D squeegee or flat board for spreading

A



B



C



D



draw your image

- You can either sketch your image out on paper first, or lightly draw your artwork directly onto the screen. (Careful not to tear or puncture the screen with your pencil.)
- Make sure you allow at least a 2" margin between your artwork and all four sides of the inside of your screen.
- Lay your screen face down on a flat work surface.

drawing fluid

Anything drawn with drawing fluid will become your printed image, so you may take advantage of the opportunity for painterly lines in your drawing.

- If you are tracing a sketch, place your sketch under the screen.
- Using drawing fluid (A) and a paintbrush (B), paint your desired image. (Fig. 1)
- Try not to let the drawing fluid collect and drip through the screen, or become too thick.
- Once done, let your screen dry completely.

screen filler

The purpose of screen filler is to coat all areas of the screen which you do not want to print. Do not let the screen filler become too thick or drip through the screen. Don't worry if the screen filler does not fully cover all the way to the inside edges of your frame — you will be taping these areas just before printing.

◆ *If you'd like a little texture around the outside your image, you can also intentionally NOT coat the screen perfectly with screen filler, or also dry brush some of the edges for a more organic and painterly textured border when you print. (Fig. 2)*

- Stir the screen filler (C) thoroughly. (Over time, it will settle forming a white layer on top.)
- Working over a sink, carefully drizzle a small amount of screen filler along one end of your frame onto the same side of the screen as your drawing fluid.
- With a SINGLE PASS of your squeegee or any flat-edge tool (D), coat the entire screen including your drawn image. (Fig. 2)
- Do not "overwork" the screen filler over the drawing fluid or it will dissolve some of the drawing fluid.
- Let your screen dry completely.

washing out the drawing fluid

- Once the screen filler is completely dry, rinse your screen front and back with cold or room temperature water.
 - As you continue to rinse your screen, the blue drawing fluid will begin to wash away from underneath the screen filler and reveal your painted stencil. (Fig. 3)
 - Hold your screen to the light to check on the quality of your stencil. If some portions of your stencil are not washing out, scrub gently with a non-soapy scrub brush. Conversely, portions of your stencil which are unintentionally washing away can be touched up and patched with tape or screen filler once your screen is dry.
- Once you have effectively washed out your image, set your screen aside and let your screen dry one last time.

◆ *Knowing that you can paint with screen filler just as easily as with drawing fluid, you can simply paint on the screen filler leaving the screen open where you wish the stencil to print.*



creating your print

See “Creating Your Workspace” (Pg. 2) for tool and workspace descriptions.

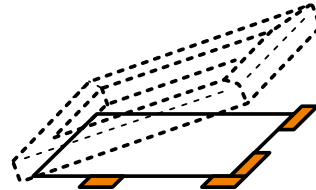
off-contact

To create a cleaner and crisper printed image, it helps to have the mesh slightly up off your print surface until the moment you press it down onto the surface with your print stroke. This is called “off-contact.” A coin taped under each bottom corner of your screen can be an effective way to provide enough “off-contact” for the mesh before you print.

paper

One of the keys to a successful print is making sure your paper is in the right place every time. This is especially true when printing a multi-color image, which requires the art to be lined up, or “in registration.”

With your screen frame secured (if necessary — see “frame base/hinge clamps” in “creating your workspace”), place your sheet of paper underneath your screen and adjust your sheet so that it is placed accurately in relation to your image stencil. You may need to lift and lower your screen a few times to check placement.



Once your print paper is placed correctly, carefully lift up your screen, making sure to not move your paper, and stick two pieces of thick tape or thin cardboard against the bottom edge of your paper, and two on the left or right edge. These registration tabs will stay on the table and act as a “jig” to keep all paper placed in the same area under your print.

fabric

If printing shirts or bags, cut a piece of thick paper, cardboard, or foam board to slide inside the shirt to keep ink from bleeding onto the other side when printing.

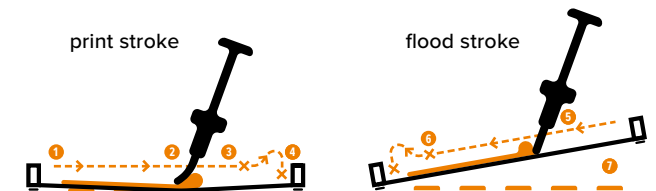
If your goal is printing a single color image on a shirt, rule of thumb for printing shirts is to try and print the artwork three fingers width down from the collar. (Fig. 4)

◆ **Given its tendency to bend and stretch, printing multicolor artwork on fabric can be a bit more of a challenge than printing on paper, but it is not impossible. As long as your additional imagery does not need to line up too closely, you can easily eyeball additional screens over the top of previously printed images and print additional color to great success. Any tighter registration on fabric may require more elaborate screen printing set-ups than provided.**

printing your image

Oh boy, oh boy, now we get to print! Pulling your squeegee is the heart of the craft of screen printing. The speed of your pull, squeegee angle, pressure, and “ink-wrangling” are some of the core skills for a good print.

The full print stroke is comprised of pulling the ink toward you on the “print stroke,” then lightly pushing the ink back up to the top of the screen as a “flood stroke” to re-ink the screen and print again.



test printing

Before printing, it is always wise to print some “test prints” on scrap paper or fabric. This will help you recognize and remedy any issues before any legitimate printing. You can test print on anything you have laying around.



printing steps

additional materials:

- spray bottle of water (optional)

The following steps will guide you through the mechanics of how to print. Good luck! See you on the print side:

- 1 Scoop out and add a few tablespoons of ink along the top of the screen (farthest from you). (Fig. 4)
Do not lay any ink on your design or open mesh.
- 2 Place your squeegee behind the ink, tilted approximately 60 degrees in order to create a sharp print edge. Pull the squeegee toward you and across your image, evenly applying as much pressure as it might require to open a heavy door. (Fig. 5)
- 3 Stop your pull BEFORE you reach the bottom of the screen, and lift your screen slightly to separate the screen from your print surface.
- 4 Lift your squeegee, and place it in FRONT of the bead of ink.
- 5 Applying light to no pressure at all, “flood” the ink back over your screen and image, towards the top of the screen.
- 6 Finish your flood stroke BEFORE you reach the top of the screen, lift your squeegee, and lean it against the back of the screen, behind the ink.
- 7 Lift your screen (Fig. 6) and...

experience the miracle of screen printing

Congratulations, you just produced your first screen print using the drawing fluid and screen filler method! (Fig. 7)

clean up

ink

Using a spatula, squeegee, or hand-held scraper, collect any excess ink and return it to the original jar or any other airtight container — a yogurt container with a removable lid works well. You can easily store any excess ink at room temperature for a few weeks, or even months.

All Speedball inks are water-based, and safe to wash down the drain. Soap and water will easily wash up any excess ink. Ink which has dried into the screen may need to be scrubbed or removed. It is natural that some inks may permanently stain a screen, but this will not affect print quality at all.

work area, tools and supplies

Make sure to pick up and wipe down your work area. Using Speedball Pink Soap or dish soap, and a scrub brush, remove any excess ink from the blade and edges of the squeegee. Let dry. Remove tape from your screen frame and wash away excess ink with warm water before continuing on to removing the stencil.

cleaning your stencil

If you would like to re-use your screen, do not leave screen filler sitting in your screen. The sooner you remove the screen filler, the easier it will be. Screen filler left on a screen over time can become permanent.

- Wash all ink from your screen. Screen filler can be removed with Speedball's Speed Clean. It is natural for some red and black inks to leave a stain on a screen. This will not affect the print ability of your screen.
- Apply Speed Clean to both sides of the screen with a spray bottle or pour directly on the screen. Let sit and soak for 2-3 minutes.
- Scrub both sides thoroughly with a soft bristle brush in all directions until you see the screen filler begin to dissolve or fall away (1-3 minutes.) Let sit for an additional 3 minutes.
- Use a hose with a spray nozzle attachment to spray out the softened screen filler. Hot water works best. The more powerful the hose attachment, the easier the screen filler will wash out.
- Wash your screen once again and let dry.