

Materials List



Beginner (Single Color) Silkscreen

- 1 aluminum framed silkscreens 20" x 24" (please DON'T order anything smaller than this)
 - <http://www.goldupusa.com/> has inexpensive good screens
 - **SEE BELOW FOR SCREEN MESH COUNT INFO**
- Packing tape
- Black acrylic water based ink
- Various printmaking papers
- Vellum for hand drawing stencils (you can also print B&W images onto transparencies)
- Mylar
 - for flap registration
 - for hand drawing stencils

Intermediate (Multi Color) Silkscreen Materials List

- *At least 2* aluminum framed silkscreens 20" x 24" (DON'T order anything smaller than this)
 - <http://www.goldupusa.com/> has inexpensive good screens
 - **SEE BELOW FOR SCREEN MESH COUNT INFO**
- 5-10 tupperwares to store customized ink, go to the dollar store they have cheap ones.
→ Don't use store bought food containers that had say, salsa, in them. Your ink will smell like salsa and it's gross.
- You will need a lot of tape:
 - Masking tape
 - Scotch tape
 - Packing tape (this is used most often)
- Pins and Tabs for registration
- Vellum for hand drawing stencils (you can also print B&W images onto transparencies)

- Rubylith
- Mylar
 - for flap registration
 - for hand drawing stencils
- Paint brushes in various sizes (synthetic watercolor/acrylic brushes work best, you don't need to purchase really nice ones)
- Exacto knife and pack of new blades for cutting Rubylith
- 2 acrylic Black paint markers, one with a fine tip and one with a large tip. Permanent markers work okay (but aren't really opaque enough)
- Old credit card, or old safeway rewards card for removing excess ink from screens
- Various paper
- Tracing paper
- Acrylic water based inks
- Transparent Base
 - Maybe buy a few sample packs from French Paper Co. They have a line of screenprinting paper. <https://www.frenchpaper.com/paper/by-project-type/screen-printing>

Recommended: An apron and a folder for handouts



What screen should I buy?

So let's talk about screens! There are many different options.

The lower number of threads/inch means the mesh will be more open allowing for more ink to be squeegeed through, and the higher the number of threads/inch means the mesh will be tighter together allowing for less ink to be squeezed through and less of a visible "mesh mark" in your imagery which looks like little squares or pixels.

A tight mesh, 230 threads/inch, or higher is recommended for general printing with water-based ink. 190-210 threads/inch are good for simple student work and large flats. The finest mesh, those over 305 threads/inch, is best for photo-emulsion stencils with fine halftone detail. A more open mesh, from as low as 60 up to 180 threads/inch allows for a thicker deposit of ink and is suitable for printing large particle (metallic inks, glazes, etc...) or bold imagery or for printing on rougher surfaces or fabrics. Keep in mind that a coarser mesh allows more ink--and, consequently, more moisture through, which causes paper to buckle.

For halftone printing I don't recommend the HIGHEST mesh counts for your first efforts. I own two 305 threads/inch screens and they are tricky to print within our dry climate.

A yellow or orange dyed mesh is used for direct photo applications. The colored mesh reduces light refraction during the exposure process, yielding the sharpest detail. I suggest all of you go with a yellow colored screen because most of you will prefer photo emulsion to all other methods.

The most manageable frame size number (not the "max" printing size) and the most accommodating to our shop equipment is 20"x24" (please DON'T order anything smaller than this) and this is the size I recommend.