

## **PHOTO-SILKSCREENS WITH PRINTSCREEN**

PrintScreen is a photo-resist that is hardened by exposure to light. Exposed areas become insoluble while un-lighted areas remain water-soluble. The exposed stencil is resistant to both water and solvent-based inks and makes durable long-printing screens on either natural or synthetic fabrics.

Handle PrintScreen under dim room light, avoiding direct daylight or direct fluorescent light. A safelight is not necessary, but for longer periods of time as when the sensitizer is drying, near or total darkness is preferred.

Apply to a stretched screen with a squeegee sized to match the width of the image area. Apply to the image side of the screen-- the side that will be in contact with the printed object.

Dry thoroughly in a darkened area under room temperature with circulating air from an electric fan or hair dryer. Examine for pinholes; if they exist, a second coat of emulsion can be given. The coated screens can be stored overnight before exposure. Longer storage may make development difficult.

Expose through a line (no middle tones) transparency held in contact with the image-side of the screen by a glass plate. On a black background to prevent light from bouncing back up. The transparency (see website) can be either negative or positive, depending on the desired effect. As an alternative to transparencies, a solid object such as leaf, key, etc. can be used to make a line-art "photogram."

Exposure will be quickest, approximately 4 to 6 minutes at a distance of 2 feet, with a high-power halogen bulb (see our website). Other light sources may require a significantly longer exposure. Ordinary household incandescent bulbs will require an impractically long exposure and should not be used.

Wash out by cool tap water, gradually increasing the temperature, to dissolve the unexposed areas, revealing the image. Do not rush this step, as it may take several minutes for the image to appear. When the image is fully developed, blot and dry.

Troubleshooting: If the unexposed areas do not dissolve, it indicates that drying time has been too long, or over-exposed to light. Conversely, if the overall surface blisters or softens, it is because of too short a drying time or under-exposure.

Reclaim synthetic screens with household bleach solution (Clorox, Purex) in hot water, with soaking if needed. On natural silk, omit the bleach.

**Rockland Colloid**

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