

# Simple Screen Printing

## You will need:

**Screen and squeegee**

**Printing ink (for paper or textiles)**

**Fabric or paper to print onto.**

**Card/thick paper for stencils**

**Knives and cutting boards or scissors**

**Parcel tape or waterproof tape for screens.**

**Masking tape for fixing things into place and fixing mistakes.**

**If printing onto bags or t-shirts, you will need a card insert.**



## Creating a stencil:

**1. On a piece of card that is slightly larger than your screen, draw an outline to mark the size of your design (depends on the size of your screen).**

**2. Draw your design direct onto a piece of card and cut out using a craft knife and cutting board.**

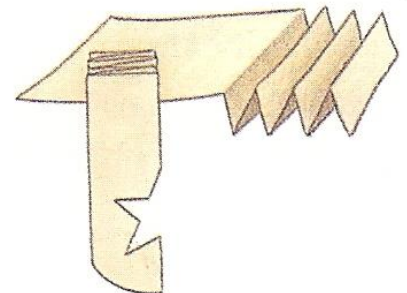
**If you cut out the wrong section, it can usually be taped back into place with some masking tape.**

**3. For more complex designs, where you will be printing with more than one colour, firstly draw your design onto paper and then pick out the sections of the design that you wish to print in the first colour.**

**Use tracing paper to draw over these sections and then place the trace upside down onto card. Draw over the lines to create a pencil 'print'. Cut out your stencil with a knife.**

**You will then need to repeat this process for each separate coloured section you wish to print.**

**4. For young children: They can create a basic stencil by folding thick paper/thin card and cutting out simple shapes.**



**Screen printing:**

- 1. Prepare your screen by taping the back with a water resistant tape, such as parcel tape.**



- 2. Place your paper or ironed fabric, very flat, onto a clean surface.**

**Make sure there are no creases.**

**If printing onto a t-shirt or bag, put a piece of A3 card inside to protect the back.**

- 3. Place your stencil carefully on to the paper or fabric and tape into place, so that neither will move. Cover any exposed paper or fabric with clean card or tape to protect from spillages.**

- 4. Place your screen carefully on top in the correct place.**



- 5. Get a friend to hold the opposite end of your screen, very firmly. Practice pulling your squeegee firmly across the screen at a 45 degree angle. You will need to do this 2 or 3 times and it might be easier to swap jobs with your partner half way through.**

**Practice until you are really confident.**

**REMEMBER: the fabric, stencil and screen **MUST** stay firmly in place!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



- 6. Put approximately 2 spoons of ink at the end of your screen (onto the taped area) and spread across evenly from left to right.**
- 7. Place your squeegee right at the end and get ready to pull. Your partner should be holding your screen firmly.**

**8. Pull the ink 2 or 3 times until all areas are covered and there is no excess ink on the mesh part of your screen.**

**9. VERY CAREFULLY, put any ink on your squeegee back into the pot and lift up the screen, starting at one end. Leave your fabric to dry (or use a hair dryer to speed things up).**

**10. Clean your squeegee and screen thoroughly with soap and hot water. Remove the tape from the edges.**

**11. Once your print is dry, you can add another colour with a second stencil. Alternatively, you can add to your design by hand printing:**

- a. Choose a mark making tool or cut a shape out with polystyrene.**
- b. Choose a colour and apply with a brush or roller.**
- c. Practice printing onto scrap paper or fabric with your shape - keep going until you are confident that you have the right amount of ink.**
- d. Place your printed design on to a clean flat surface and put clean card inside.**
- e. Hand print VERY SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY!**

**12. Once your design is complete, leave it to dry. If printing onto fabric with textile ink you will need to fix it. This usually involves ironing the fabric for a few minutes (read the instructions on the side of the container for exact instructions).**

