CHAPTER 5:

SCREEN FILLER AND DRAWING FLUID METHOD

The Drawing Fluid and Screen Filler method uses water-based materials. The design is painted directly on the screen and produces a painterly effect. It is ideal for the student or artist who likes to draw and paint with a brush. Free-hand, abstract designs are easily created, and both positive and negative prints can be produced this way.

DESIGNING THE PRINT

MATERIALS NEEDED

✔ Scrap paper  ✔ Markers  ✔ Pencils  ✔ Rulers  ✔ Masking Tape

This method allows for more details in the design and a larger edition than paper stencils. As many as 200 prints can be made using either stencil filler and/or a combination of the drawing fluid and stencil filler.

If a negative print is desired, the design is painted on the screen using only the screen filler. For a positive print, drawing fluid is used to create the design or picture, and screen filler blocks out the areas not to be printed.
As with paper stencils, letters do not need to be painted or drawn backwards. Also, there are no pieces to be saved. All details are painted directly on the screen.

1. Make several drawings on scrap paper of the design to be printed.

2. Decide whether the print is to be positive or negative. The design itself will be printed in a positive print. The area around the design will be printed in a negative print.

3. Tape the drawing onto a smooth flat surface using small pieces of tape in each corner of the paper.

**PAINTING THE DESIGN ON THE SCREEN**

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

- ✔ Brushes
- ✔ Speedball Drawing Fluid (blue)
- ✔ Speedball Screen Filler (brown)
- ✔ Screen and Squeegee
- ✔ Newspaper
- ✔ Masking Tape
- ✔ Blow dryer
- ✔ “Lifters” (small blocks of wood or other implements to raise the screen)

4. Place the screen on top of the drawing and lightly trace the design with a pencil on the screen. Make sure the design is in the center of the screen.

5. Using 4 “lifters,” one under each side of the wooden frame, raise the screen so that it does not touch the drawing on the paper.
**Positive Print**

6. Before using the Drawing Fluid, shake the bottle.

7. Choose a brush appropriate for the thickness of the lines or area desired to be printed.

8. Using the brush, trace the drawing onto the screen making sure everything to be printed is covered with the Drawing Fluid.

9. When the entire drawing is painted on the screen, the Drawing Fluid needs to dry before the screen filler is applied. This can be hastened by using a blow dryer.

10. Spread newspaper evenly on a flat, smooth surface.

11. Elevate the screen on “lifters” to keep it from touching the newspaper.

12. Shake the jar of Screen Filler and stir it with a wooden spoon or paint stirrer.

13. Carefully pour some Screen Filler across the very top of the inside of the screen. Make sure that there is enough Screen Filler to coat the entire drawing in one pull of the squeegee. Make sure the Screen Filler is applied in **one pass only**.

14. Using a squeegee that fits inside the wooden frame and covers the entire width of the drawing, pull the Screen Filler smoothly across the entire drawing.

15. Leave the screen on the “lifters” to dry as there may be excess Screen Filler on the underside of the screen as well.

16. When the Screen Filler is thoroughly dry, run cold water over the screen. The Drawing Fluid will wash out of the screen. If stubborn areas of Drawing Fluid remain, use a soft scrub brush to remove them until all areas of the screen to be printed are open.

17. Allow screen to dry thoroughly.
Negative Print

1. Before using the Screen Filler, shake the bottle and then stir it.
2. Choose a brush appropriate for the thickness of the lines or areas of the design to be printed.
3. Elevate the screen on “lifters” so the Screen Filler will not touch the paper when you are painting.
4. Using the brush, trace the pencil drawing already on the screen. *Remember that in a negative print the area around the drawing will be colored. The drawing itself will be the color of the paper or shirt it is printed on.*) The Screen Filler should be thick enough to block out all areas of the mesh of the screen where you do not want ink to go through.
5. Allow the Screen Filler to dry thoroughly.

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PREPARING THE SCREEN FOR PRINTING

The preparation of the screen is the same, whether printing on paper or t-shirts.

1. For both positive and negative stencils, use 2 inch masking tape to tape all 4 sides of the inside of the screen, making sure that the seam between the fabric and the wooden frame is sealed. This precludes ink seeping through the frame when printing.
2. Now it gets tricky! A negative image needs the background area to be defined. Therefore, in preparing the screen, tape can be used to create a border around the image and needs to be smaller than the paper to be printed on. Do this on the underside of the screen with 2 inch masking tape.

Now you are ready to print!