

# Screen-printing start to finish

## Planning & Process

You want to screenprint something, yay! Plan out your project now by creating your design, deciding on what substrate to use and matching an ink to it.

1A. Start by thinking about what you want your project to be. Find inspiration from already made projects and artists you like. Web-sites like Pinterest, Instagram, or even Google image search can be great for this.

1B. Once you have your idea, try making a couple mockups to figure out general things like size, layout, number of colors, etc. I am working with an existing design but will need to modify it.

1C. I used Photoshop and Illustrator to isolate elements I wanted to keep and create a version that is better suited to being a one color screenprinting design. I then printed the design on a transparent film.

### Existing design:



### Finished design:



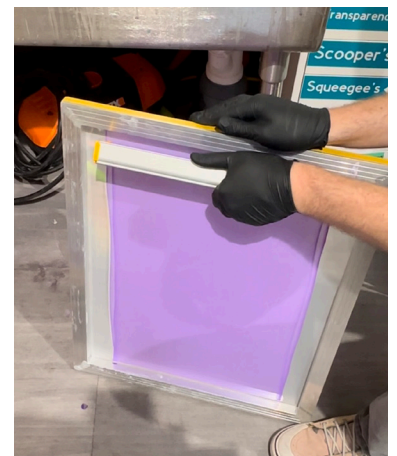
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## Create your screen

Time to create our screen! The first step is to gather everything you will need - a clean screen, emulsion, scoop coater, spatula, paint scraper, and paper towels.



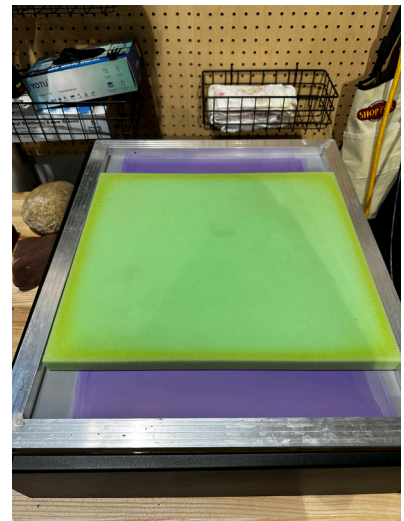
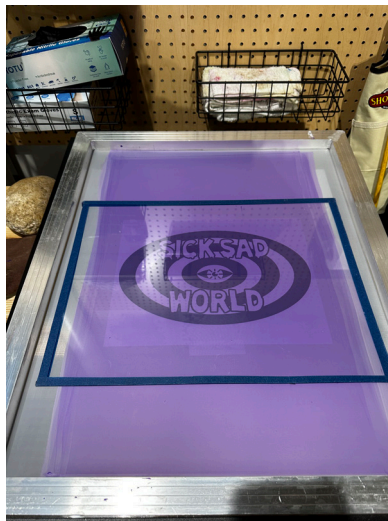
2A. Add the emulsion to the scoop coater and apply the emulsion to both sides of the screen as thinly and neatly as you can. Now, let the screen dry, ideally overnight or for a minimum of one hour.



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## Create your screen

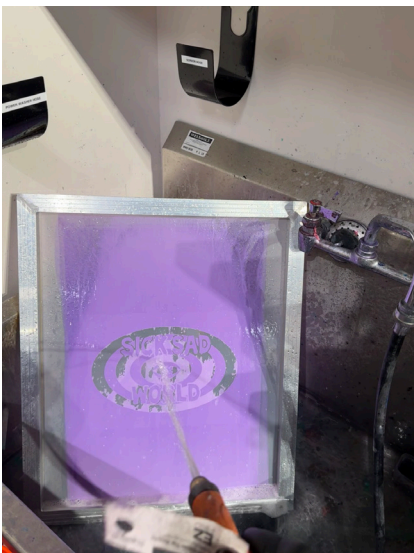
2B. Once the emulsion has dried attach your design transparency to the front of the screen using clear tape. Lay the screen (transparency side down) on the exposure unit. Apply the glass, foam, weight, and sheet on top of the screen. You are ready to expose the screen; Exposure times vary depending on designs, generally 20-40 seconds. This design was exposed for 30 seconds.



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## Create your screen

2C. After exposure, turn the unit off and remove the sheet, weight, foam, glass, and transparency from the screen. Take the screen to the sink to wash out the design. Soak both sides of the screen for at least 30 seconds then spray lightly with water until your design is showing through the emulsion.



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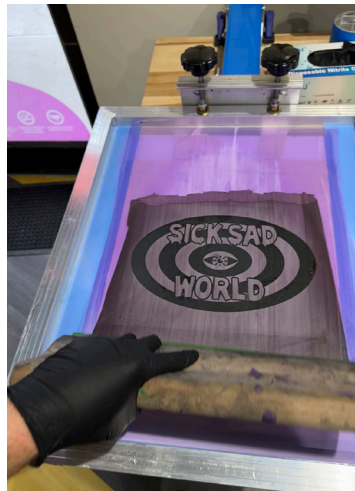
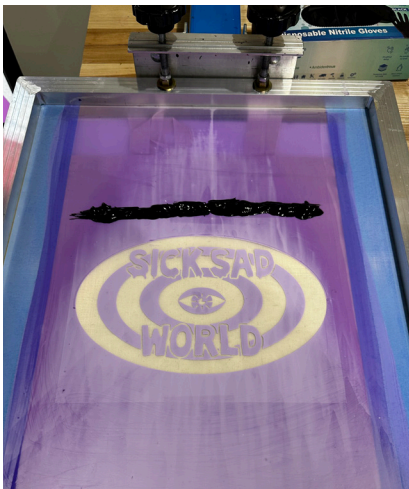
### Pull your screen

3. Time to pull our first print! Apply painters tape on the edges of the screen where the emulsion doesn't cover, and grab your materials. We will need our developed screen, the material we are printing on, ink, squeegee, and gloves.



3A. Secure the screen into the printing arm so that it lays flat on top of your material. Take a minute to check its placement and align your artwork to your material.

3B. Add a line of ink that runs across your entire design just above where the stencil begins. Grab the squeegee and at a 45 degree angle, press it firmly down above the ink and into the screen then pull it down across your design. You can do multiple passes to ensure the ink has transferred through.



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### Pull your screen

3C. Set your squeegee down ink side facing up, lift the screen off of the material and separate them if stuck. Place your item on the drying rack to dry and continue pulling prints if you are doing multiples.

3D. (Fabric Only) Once dried, fabric prints need to be heat set to finish them. You can do this using an iron, and a plain piece of copy paper. Set the iron to a high setting, I used the cotton setting as the tote bag is cotton, place the paper on top of the design, then iron evenly across the design for a minute. This will set the ink into the fabric, making it permanent.



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## Clean up

4. You printed your project, hooray! Now all that's left is to clean up. Scrape any excess ink out of the screen and off the squeegee, it can be placed back in its container.

4A. Remove the screen from the printing arm and pull off any tape placed on the front of the screen. Take the screen to the sink and wash off both sides using water, soap, and a sponge. You won't remove all the color of the ink from the emulsion, but the design area should look clear and color free.

4B. Wash the other tools used and set them aside to dry. Be sure to pack up all materials and put away all tools you used.

