

# SILK-SCREEN

Have you ever skimmed through a design annual and wondered at the amazing silkscreen artwork? Or maybe you purchased a fantastic poster from your favorite band at their last concert and thought, I can do that!

# EVENING M

Well, here's your chance to create your own silkscreen and print that mother! What you do with the finished product is up to you... but don't rule out selling to friends and family to make a quick buck. Materials aren't free ya know!

# AS EASY!

You will need the following:

- foam core
- contact paper (or, you know, shelf liner)
- Sharpie pen
- craft knife
- 12xx silkscreen fabric  
(you can get this online or at an art store)
- screenprinting inks  
(also at the art store, or try your own! See page 29)

# MATERIALS

- squeegee
- stapler
- masking tape
- plastic spoon or tongue depressor  
(no stealing from the doctor's office!)

# DIRECTIONS

1. Cut a frame out of a piece of foam core. You can make this any size, just be sure that your squeegee will fit inside it. Staple the screenprinting fabric so it's really tight around the frame. This may take some fiddling and pulling, but it shouldn't be too hard for a professional such as yourself.
2. Draw a really simple image on the paper side of the contact paper, then cut it out with a craft knife.
3. Peel the backing off the contact paper and carefully stick it to the underside of the screen (the flat side facing the table), positioning it so it is centered in the window. Smooth out any bubbles and make sure it is flat against the screen, especially by the design cuts. This will keep the ink where it's supposed to be. On the inking side (the side with the foam core frame on top), tape the window with masking tape so no ink can escape out the sides.
4. Now you are ready to print! Gather T-shirts, blank cards, paper, your forearm or whatever you want to print onto. You can make about twenty prints before the contact paper begins peeling away. If you are using T-shirts, put a piece of cardboard or paper between the shirt layers because the ink may bleed through.
5. Put a couple spoonfuls of ink on one side of the image and then pull the ink across the screen with the squeegee. Be sure that the ink goes into all the design spaces. You can pull the ink across a couple times, but don't do it too many times or the image will look blurry, rather than crisp.
6. Lift the screen off the print and hang your masterpiece to dry. Repeat the process over and over again if you like. Make stationery, posters, napkins, placemats, shirts, flags, etc. When you're done with the image (and we mean "really done," as you will be throwing your artwork away with this method), remove all items from the screen, wash the ink off the screen thoroughly and save it for another time!