

## DIY Silk Screen with Julia



This is an instruction to Silk Screen using DIY approaches. The idea is to introduce you to silk screen printing with a minimal budget and materials that are easy to recycle including things you may already have at home. We will be using Acrylic paint to print with as this is easy to wash up with soap and water.

### Materials you will need

An old picture frame or cheap canvas about A3 or A4 in size

Parcel tape

Masking tape

Fine net curtain

Staples and a stapler OR tacks and a hammer

Newspaper to cover your work surface

Paper for stencils (e.g. newsprint, clean newspaper, freezer paper or smooth copier paper)

Acrylic Paint

Acrylic Paint and PVA mixture 50/50

Acrylic Silk Screen Medium- See notes at end for DIY alternative to medium

Paper to print on

A bucket and sponge (for cleaning your screen)

## Making a Screen

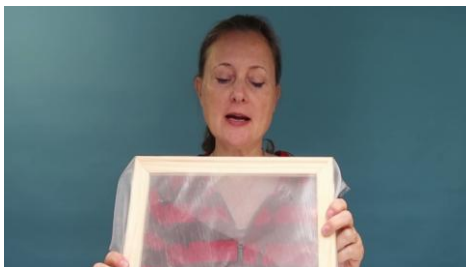


1. You can make a screen from an old frame and some fabric. If you can't find a frame you can buy a cheap canvas from a discount store for just a couple of pounds. Take the canvas off, it's not real canvas and it's easier than building a frame from scratch



2. For your net curtain recommend old fashioned net curtain rather than modern voiles. Make sure the net is fine though.

It is possible to experiment with patterned or slightly coarser net but maybe leave that for another day.



3. Cut a piece of net that fits the size of the frame, leaving an extra 3 to 4cm at each side



4. Staple the net into place on one side

### NOTE

As you can see I am putting my staples on the main surface of the frame, I thought this would be simpler to do because I was using small staples. If you can I would recommend putting your staples along side of the frame using strong staples or tacks and a hammer. This is the usual way to do it.



Pull the fabric tightly as you staple it into place

5. Pull net tightly on opposite side. Work along the diagonals.



6. Staple into place



Continue to pull the fabric tightly as you staple into place all the way round

7. Make sure your net is pulled as tight as a drum. Add extra staples if required.

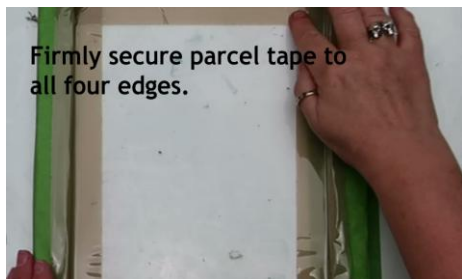
Hammer your staples firmly into place do they are not sticking out.



Tape over stapled area to prevent injury

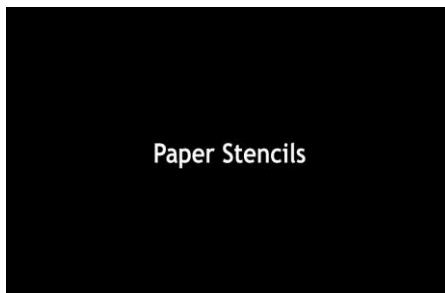
8. Tape over staples to prevent injury. Duct tape is good for this you want to avoid scratching yourself.

## Part 1 - Paper Stencils



1. Apply parcel tape across all four edges. Ensure there are no air bubbles and press down firmly along the edge to make sure it is tight against the net.

Because it is DIY screen printing and we may not be using all the best materials apply tape to both sides to prevent leaks.



2. Paper stencils are a simple way to get started with silk screen. Some paper works better than other paper.

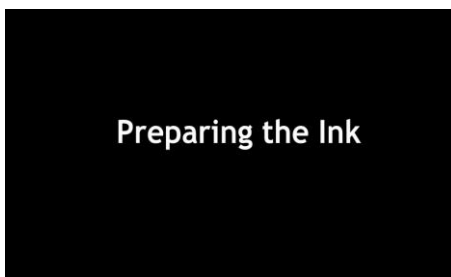
Newsprint is the best material for paper stencils. Some people recommend freezer paper which is plastic on one side paper on the other. You can also use chip wrapping paper, smooth copier paper and newspaper. Newspaper stencils deteriorate quickly because they are already printed on but it's cheap and easy to make lots. Experiment and see what works for you



3. Make lots of stencils. If you ever made paper dolls that's a good way to make several in one go.



4. Attach the stencil to the back of your frame with spray mount or masking tape.



5. Prepare the Ink by mixing acrylic paint with printing medium. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

If you don't have printing medium use some readymade retarder or a mixture of glycerine and water see instructions at end \*



6. Blend the Ink really well so it is the thickness of double cream



7. Line up paper for printing on.

Line up screen over paper.

Before applying ink put a block of wood or roll of parcel tape at one end of your screen so it is tilted and not touching your paper



8. Pour the ink into the frame. You can use a palette knife, spatula or spoon. Don't be stingy with the ink you will be using it for more than one print.

## The Squeegee

9.



10. For screen printing you need a squeegee. If you don't have a screen-printing squeegee you can use a window squeegee.



11. Or a plastic card like an old store card.



12. Draw the ink smoothly up across the screen.



13. Make sure you have covered the surface of your screen with ink. Gently redistribute the ink to go over any bits you have missed

Remove the wooden block or parcel tape from under the top of the screen.  
Rest the screen on the paper

14. Remove the roll of parcel tape from under the top of your screen.

Lay the screen flat over your paper

You are now ready to print



15. Ensure screen is lined up over paper



16. Using the squeegee press down firmly against the net and draw the ink down to the bottom of the screen



17.

- Reveal your print
- Put your print somewhere to dry
- Repeat
- Replace the stencil as required
- Use your spoon or spatula to collect up surplus ink and reuse it

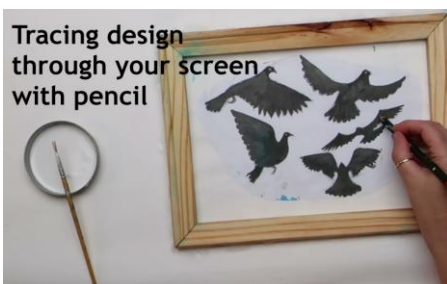




## Part 2 - Acrylic and PVA Stencil

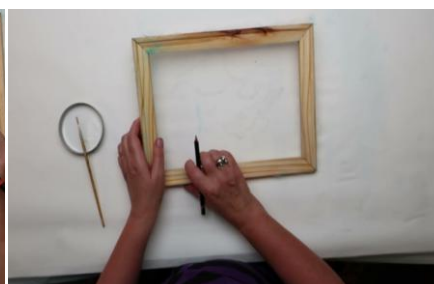


1. Draw your design boldly and clearly. Use a magazine or a printout of a photographic reference if you prefer



Tracing design through your screen with pencil

2. Place your screen over the drawing so the net is resting on top. Draw with a pencil. Use a permanent marker pen if you prefer



3. Once you have finished tracing your drawing you are ready to block out the areas you don't want to print.



4. Block out all the negative space or non-printing area with a screen filler. If you don't have readymade screen filler use this mixture of 50 percent acrylic and 50 percent PVA. Blend well. You can use a small amount of water to aid flow but keep it nice and thick so it stays on the surface of you net and doesn't bleed through.



5. When you have covered the whole surface leave it to dry fully.

When it is dry check for any small holes where you don't want ink to go and fill them in with your PVA and acrylic mix

Allow your screen to dry fully before it is ready to print with



6. Once your screen is dry follow the same instructions for printing as you did in part one.

Remember to apply parcel tape around the edges of your frame to prevent leakages. Because this is DIY screen-printing I recommend parcel tape on the front and back.



7. Apply your ink in the same way as you did in part one. Use the now dried prints from part one to print on the second layer.



8. Reveal your print. Repeat.



9. Make a whole set of prints.

*\* NOTE Ideally use silk screen printing medium but if you don't have silk screen printing medium you will at least need something to make sure the acrylic paint doesn't dry out too quickly. If you have acrylic retarder you can try this according to the manufactures instructions.*

*Alternatively mix 5parts water with one part glycerine put it in a tight lidded jar or bottle and shake it well. You can buy glycerine from the baking isle of large supermarkets or from most chemists. Its better value in chemists. I suggest adding it slowly to your acrylic paint. Use a cup and blend it half a teaspoon at a time making sure you mix it very well. You want your acrylic paint to be the thickness of double cream. The glycerine, water and vinegar medium I used on Video 2 will also work ok. Remember to add it slowly and blend it well*