

**Silkscreen Stencil Care and Use Instructions**

1. If the stencil is a set, cut them apart, following the cut lines. Take a permanent marker and write “back” onto the backing of the stencil. (This way, you will know what side to replace the stencil on.) Take the backing off the silkscreen stencil. Do not let the stencil fold and stick to itself. Place the stencil where you want it, making sure to get good adhesion between the stencil and your surface. Smooth out the stencil by rubbing it onto the surface. Make sure to remove all the air bubbles near the design. Please see tips below specific to which stencil (blue or purple) you are using.

1. Apply your paste/ink by putting a thin even layer over the stencil using a scraper or squeegee. When fully covered, scrape off the excess paint with your selected tool. Return the paint to its container. Work quickly so the paint does not dry and clog up the stencil.
2. Remove the stencil slowly from your surface. Avoid pulling the stencil diagonally so it does not stretch. Before completely removing the stencil, look for areas that did not transfer properly, carefully lay the stencil back down, and re-apply your medium. Clean your stencil immediately or place in a pan of water until you can clean it.
3. Using Cool water, clean your stencil by holding it in one hand and gently rubbing the front of the stencil with your other hand or a stencil sponge. DO NOT clean the back. You can rinse it, but do not rub it. Some staining or discoloration can occur. This does not affect the performance of the stencil. As long as the screen area is clear of all paint particles, it will be fine.
4. Place the wet stencil onto your table face down, and place the clear backing onto it with the word “back” showing and move it around until it is centered. Then squeegee the water out of it, and place it on a flat, dry towel or hang it up to dry.
5. Store the stencil(s) flat in a cool, dry setting; away from any strong humidity. Your stencil(s) can be reused many times, if they are cared for properly.

**Tips**

--If you ever notice a scratch in your stencil that may allow paint through, just place a piece of painter’s tape over it.

--If using a blue stencil and it isn’t sticky enough, try using more pressure when applying. You can also increase the adhesion

 by wiping the back of it with a damp sponge then applying it to your surface. Then let it set a little so the mesh can dry out.

--If using a purple stencil on a solid surface, “fuzz” it first. This involves taking your stencil and sticking it to a LINT FREE cloth

 a couple times. This will lessen its stickiness, so it won’t stretch or tear when you remove it from your surface.

--If your paste or ink gets too dry, simply add a little distilled water and mix it to the consistency of yogurt. Sample size pastes

 dry faster, so please check them frequently if you are saving for another project.

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