



Screen Printing Collage

by *Tonya Hill* for *Speedball® Art Products*

Using a single large screen divided into multiple small square window panes, a class of 15-20 students create their own individual art project that becomes part of the whole. This project allows for many different overall themes or subject matter depending on time of year or current studies. Example: Holiday, Science, Animals, Flowers etc. Students will learn some basic screen printing techniques, mixing and blending colors, and working as a team.

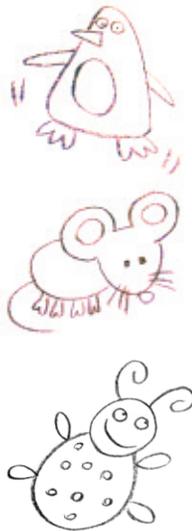
Speedball Fabric Inks are vibrantly colored, easy to use, non-toxic and water-based for easy cleanup. Once heat-set on fabric with a household iron, they are permanent but soft to the touch. Multiple, overlapping, transparent layers of color produce exciting results.

Grade Levels 3-12

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Seal the gap formed between the fabric and the wood frame on the inside of the frame by folding the masking tape and placing 1/4" of it on the fabric and the rest on the frame. On the back, place the tape so it covers 1/4" on the fabric and covers the corded groove on the frame. Replace as necessary.



Materials

Blick Cord-Stretched Frame with 12XX Multifilament Polyester Mesh, 16" x 20" (43428-1008)

Blick 80-lb Premium Construction Paper, Black, (11409-2003). Cut into 4" squares, one piece per student

Speedball® Drawing Fluid, (43306-1007), need one 32-oz bottle per class

Speedball® Screen Filler, (43306-1107), need one 32-oz bottle per class

Speedball® Water-Base Textile Screen Printing Inks (43207-) for printing on fabrics OR **Speedball® Water-Soluble Poster Printing Ink (43205-)** for printing on paper, share six jars assorted colors across class

Alvin® Non-Skid Stainless Steel Ruler, 18" (55632-1018)

Blick Scholastic Golden Taklon size 2 round, (05858-1002), one per student

Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper, 60-lb, 24" x 36" (10209-1005). Cut into 4" squares, need one square per student

Speedball® Diazo Photo Emulsion Kit (43304-1005)

NOTE: this product carries a CL (cautionary label). Read and follow all instructions carefully.

Blick 50-55 Durometer Squeegee 6" length (37204-1006), need one

Oval Poly Sponge (32902-1001), need one

Blick All-Use Masking Tape, 3/4" (23006-1000), share two rolls across class

Blick Economy Graphite Pencils (20302-2009), box of 12, need one per student

Preparation, continued

2. Following the directions on the Diazo Photo Emulsion Kit, prepare the screen and allow to dry.
3. Once the screen is dry, place the black construction paper squares on the screen in a window pane pattern, leaving a 1/2" or 3/4" border around each one. Use a ruler to help keep straight. Lay a piece of glass or Plexiglass® that fits the inside of the screen on top of the squares. Place a 250-watt light bulb 17" above the screen and expose to the light for 20 minutes. Once time is up, remove the glass and squares and rinse the screen with water until all squares are clearly exposed. The window pane screen is now permanent and may be used over and over with the drawing fluid and screen filler method.

Process

1. Have students draw with the pencils on the white drawing paper squares. Assign a theme, such as animals, flowers, shapes, holiday themes, etc. Once two or three students have finished their drawings, they can come up and place it under the screen and trace it using Speedball's Drawing Fluid and a paintbrush (A). Make sure the screen is elevated — not touching the table.
2. When all of the drawings have been transferred to the screen, allow to dry for 15 minutes (B). Mix the screen filler well and spoon on the same side of the screen. Spread with the squeegee to apply an even coat. Avoid making multiple passes with the squeegee so as not to disturb the drawing fluid.
3. Allow the screen filler to dry completely. Once the filler is dry, rinse the screen in cold water (C). Use a sponge to softly massage stubborn areas to completely clear the screen in image area. Allow the screen to dry again and apply screen filler with a brush to modify the design or to block out margin areas so that the screen is completely blocked in non-image area.
4. Allow the screen to dry again and you are ready to print. Place the screen on top of a piece of dry paper or fabric (use water-soluble ink for paper, fabric ink for fabric). Spoon ink across the end of the screen nearest you. With the screen lifted slightly from the table, apply an even blanket of ink with the squeegee. Drop the screen over the paper and make the print stroke by pulling the squeegee towards you at a 45° angle. Lift the screen away.
5. If more than one color is being printed on the same surface, the ink is allowed to dry and then the process is repeated with another screen and different color of ink (D). Scoop away any remaining ink and wash the screen with warm water. The screen can be re-used after cleaning.



(A) Transfer the sketches to the screen using drawing fluid and a brush



(B) Once all the drawings are completed, apply screen filler over the surface



(C) When the screen filler is dry, rinse the screen in cold water



(D) Apply a blanket of ink with a squeegee

Options

- One fun method of printing is “Split Fountain” which is accomplished by pouring or spooning a bead of several colors of ink at the top of the screen and swirling through them with a craft stick to marble them before pulling the squeegee. Each pull of the screen will result in a slightly different effect.

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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas.

9-12 Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.