



Preparing a Silkscreen

Taping A Wooden Silkscreen

Materials

- Wooden silkscreen (with fabric attached)
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Scouring powder
- Scrub brush

1. Scrub both sides of the fabric with scouring powder. Rinse all residue from the screen. Dry completely before taping.
- 2 Lay the screen so the back (flat side) is face up. Cut a piece of tape the length of one edge of the screen and apply it so that it is even with the edge and covers the fabric by at least 1/2".

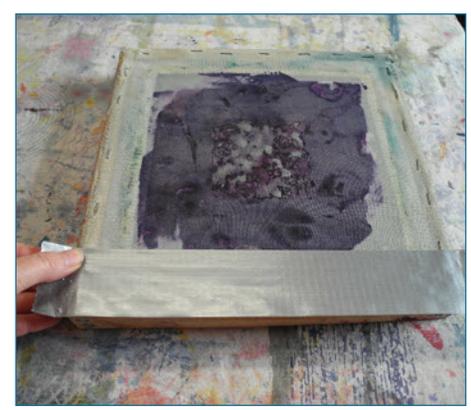
3. Do the same for the other three sides.

4. Turn the frame over so the back is face down. Cut a piece of tape to the interior dimension of one side of the screen. Align the edge of the tape so that it overlaps the fabric by about 1/2". (Use the piece of tape on the back side as a guide for alignment. Then press down on the tape and fold it up the inside edge of the screen.

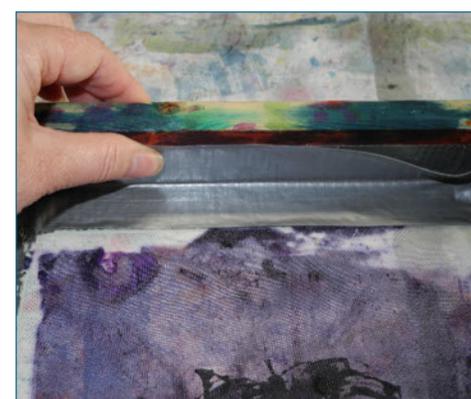
5. Repeat with the other three sides. (Do not be concerned if the tape gets wrinkled or doesn't look "neat". As long as the wood is covered, it will work just fine.

6. Add more tape on the edges of the screen as needed to cover the wood completely.

7. Let the tape "cure" for 24 hours before using the screen. This helps prevent the tape from losing its adhesion when washed.



Apply tape along the back edge of the screen



Tape the interior edges of the screen.



Cover any remaining wood with tape

Why Tape?

Tape helps prevent the screen from getting wet when washed. Too much moisture can make the wood warp. An alternative to taping is to apply two layers of varnish.



Assemble the required supplies



Cut away the old fabric, then remove old staples with a needle nosed plier



Lay the fabric on the back side of the frame. Staple in the center of one edge.

Re-stretching a Wooden Silkscreen

1. Remove the old fabric by cutting it with a craft knife along the inside edges of the silk screen frame. Remove any loose duct tape from the frame.

Tip: Depending on how many times the frame has been re-screened, you may need to remove old staples from the back of the screen. Use needle-nosed pliers to pry the old staples from the wood.

2. Cut a piece of the polyester fabric to fit the wooden frame. Cut the fabric slightly larger than the frame – this leaves more fabric to grip onto while stretching.

Materials

- Wooden silk screen frame
- Polyester fabric (see note)
- Scissors
- Staple gun (light duty)
- Staples – 1/4"
- Needle-nosed pliers

A Note About Fabric

Art supply stores sell fabric designed for silkscreens. This is a finely woven polyester that is required when creating photo emulsion type screens. When using resists or temporary masks (such as freezer paper or friskit), any type of sheer polyester fabric will suffice. Look in the home decorating department of fabric stores for window sheer fabric. Make sure to choose a smooth fabric with no pattern or slubs.

3. Place the wooden frame, back side up, on your work surface. Place the fabric on top of the wooden frame. Staple the fabric in the center of one edge.

Tip: Hold the stapler at a 45 angle to the wooden frame. This helps prevent a "run" from occurring in the fabric.



Preparing a Silkscreen



Staple 1" away from the first staple on each side.



Staple on the opposite side, starting in the middle, keeping the fabric taut.



Pull fabric tightly in each corner and staple.



Re-stretching a Wooden Silkscreen

3. Pull the fabric tightly and staple 1" away from the first staple on each side.

Tip: Larger silk screen frames made from hardwood can be difficult to staple. Use a heavy duty stapler. If the staples do not go into the wood completely, gently tap with a hammer.

4. Staple the opposite side in the middle, pulling the fabric to create a taut surface.

5. Repeat step three on this side of the frame.

6. Continue stapling the fabric to the frame along these two sides, until you are about 2" from the corner.

7. Staple in the middle of one of the remaining sides and repeat steps 3-6.

8. Pull the fabric tightly in each corner and staple.

9. Tape the screen as described in the *Taping a Wooden Silkscreen* section, or coat with two layers of varnish.

Is the Fabric Taut Enough?

It is important to pull the fabric tightly so that it does not sag. It is a bit of a balance - pull too tightly and it creates bumps. Don't pull tight enough and the fabric sags, making it more likely to produce a blurry print.