



## Mayco Designer Silkscreen Instructions

### How to Use:

- **Colour:** To achieve the most intense image, we recommend using products that contain high pigment content. Darker colours will produce deeper colour in the fired result. Use of other colour lines and/or light pigment colours (pinks, tans, light yellow, etc.) may yield less prominent results.
- **Screen Preparation:** Use a Sharpie or a similar marker to draw a line around each design, leaving plenty of margin between the drawn line and the edge of the design. Use scissors to cut along the outline created. Individually cut designs are easier to use versus leaving the sheet intact.
- **Prepare the Colour Paste:** Dispense a 1" wide dollop of glaze onto a plate or palette. Sprinkle a pinch of AC-310 Silkscreen Medium over the glaze and allow to sit for 10-15 seconds. Mix together using a palette knife until the mixture is smooth and contains no lumps. If mixture is still too thin, sparingly add a bit more Silkscreen Medium to thicken. If mixture is too thick, add a small amount of glaze. Remix and adjust as needed. The final consistency should be similar to smooth peanut butter.
- **Surface Preparation:** We recommend beginners learn the screening process by applying to an unglazed bisque. Wipe bisque with a slightly dampened sponge. You'll notice the screen has a smooth side and a coarse side. Screen orientation DOES impact the design created! Place the screen smooth side down on your project, spread your index finger and thumb to press against the screen to keep the screen from moving. Achieve different looks by putting the coarse side down.
- **Apply Paste:** Using your index finger from your free hand, scoop up some paste and apply it in the middle of the screen (you may wish to use a rubber/latex glove to protect against potential skin irritation). Use your index finger (or a squeegee) to gently spread the paste into the open mesh areas of the screen. Vigorous application could cause the screen to shift, which may create smudged, blurred designs. Work the paste from the centre out, using a light, circular rubbing motion (this helps prevent the screen from moving or buckling). You can lift one corner of the screen to see if the design is transferring completely. On curved surfaces you may need to work in smaller sections to ensure the screen comes into contact with the surface and avoid buckling the screen.
- **Removing the Screen:** While the paste is still wet, carefully pull the screen away from your project. If you plan on reusing the screen immediately, you will not have to clean it in between uses until after the 2nd or 3rd usage (the screen's pores may become clogged and result in an incomplete or partial design transfer).

### Cleaning, Care & Storage

With proper care, the Mayco Designer Silkscreen will produce hundreds of images. To clean, use warm water and a sponge and lightly wash away the paste. Do not scrub with abrasives or bristled brushes as it may tear the fine mesh and distort the design. If you are unable to clean the screen immediately after use, allow the screen to soak in water. To dry, lay flat on a paper towel until dry. Store silkscreens in small containers, envelopes, three ring binders, etc. Avoid creasing or crumpling the screens to maximize the screen's shelf life.

### Tips & Suggestions

- Looking for an easy way to make the silkscreens easy to see? Use a wide tip dry erase marker to rub over the silkscreen design on the SHINY side of the screen and voila! The marker will stay on the screen even after washing. You can reapply more marker after the screen is used and cleaned repeatedly.
- Acrylic stains can be mixed with Silkscreen Medium to create designs on non-fired projects. Paste will firm up and become dry after being exposed to air after 10-15 minutes. Covering with plastic wrap during use will keep the paste moist.
- Use of glaze or acrylics without Silkscreen Medium is discouraged due to their fluidity, which could cause smudged designs and loss of detail.
- The properties of the glaze used to create the paste when combined with Silkscreen Medium will be the same in the silkscreen process. For example, a glaze that can be applied to greenware can also be used in a paste that is applied to greenware. (A paste made using underglazes can be applied directly to greenware [or earthenware or stoneware]).
- Silkscreening can also be applied on top of a glaze and fired. Caution must be used when applying the screen and lifting the screen so as not to disturb the underlying glaze. If a base glaze is prone to move and you silkscreen on top, the design will most likely become distorted.
- Silkscreen designs can also be applied to glass. For fusing projects, apply designs to a base piece of glass, then cap with a clear piece and fuse.

Youtube Videos to help

How to apply <https://youtu.be/FQqm9MUf9h8>

Prep & Store <https://youtu.be/70paYni3lvI>