

LEEDS PRINT WORKSHOP

www.leedsprintworkshop.org

Information on Screen Printing at Leeds Print Workshop

Leeds Print Workshop has facilities for textile and paper screen printing. We have 1 large vacuum table for paper screen printing along with 8 smaller portable print beds.

The central table in the workshop has a removable top for use when textile screen printing.

The workshop has a range of screens of varying sizes and mesh counts. These are currently available for members to strip, clean, coat and use (in that order). Technicians can help you coat and expose screens so you become independent in doing this. The cost of exposing a screen ranges from £2.50 - £10 depending on the size. This cost helps us cover the emulsion and stripping chemicals.

There is no charge to hire a LPW screen, the cost is for the screen coating and exposure.

The exposure unit in the workshop is large enough to expose an A1 image on a screen. The coop committee have developed a chart of exposure timings to be found on the wall in the dark room.

The exposure unit doesn't have a vacuum so it is important to make sure the screen is well weighed down with foam and a wooden board - ask a coop member to show you if in doubt.

Positives

A positive is the term for any artwork which you want to expose on screen. It is really important that the image you use is really dense black with no grey areas, and that it doesn't go grey when held up to the light. Ask a technician to show you examples if you are in doubt.

The best results we have had are on standard 80gsm copy paper using a laser printer. Images printed by an inkjet printer are always too grey. Images can also be hand drawn on paper or acetate - but again, the image needs to be as black as you can get it.

Hobs Reprographics in Leeds are where we recommend to get positives printed. They are aware of what our members will need for screen printing.

Please be aware that we do not know exact times for any positives which are on different types of paper and if you expose a positive which we do not recommend, the screen will still be charged for.

Inks

For paper screen printing we supply system 3 acrylic inks and system 3 printing medium. We recommend these are mixed at 1 part acrylic to 2 parts medium.

For textile screen printing we sell pigments and binder FF. We recommend these are mixed at a ratio of 100g binder to 5g pigment colour. Both types of inks are £1.60 per small pot (approx 100g).

Textile inks will need heat setting afterwards in the heat press to make sure the inks are fixed and therefore washable.

The workshop supplies parcel tape, masking tape and newsprint paper for an open access session but all other materials will need to be paid for. Cooperative founder members can offer advice on suppliers of equipment and materials if you wish to use something different than what we supply in the workshop.