
One Color T-shirt Printing with Hilary Williams

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(mellow music) - Screen printing is a great way to get your custom design onto a T-shirt. It's super fun to do for friends' bands or gifts or add spark to an old wardrobe. (mellow music) Today, I'm gonna show you how to print this lovely little sheep that I drew onto a few T-shirts. (mellow music)

Chapter 2 - Printing

Setting Up

- So we're just printing a one color shirt here. Now, I've got my screen all prepped, we did the photo emulsion process to get my stencil of Barley onto my screen. You can also use the tracing paper stencil method to create a stencil to print a t-shirt, if you wanna review on either of these processes, take a look at the introduction workshops. But our screen is ready to go. So I'm gonna put my screen into some hinge clamps. Now, you don't have to use hinge clamps if you're printing on fabric, but I'm going to do it because I'm going to print multiple shirts, so I want to be able to hold the screen in place. If you're just printing one shirt, you can simply lay the screen onto the t-shirt, and screen print from there without the use of the hinge clamps. But I'm going to use them. It's also not so much of a bad idea because when you're pulling, it's nice to have a little bit of resistance too. Screw those in there. Now, the next thing we need to do is register our t-shirts, or get them ready for printing. So, what you wanna do, is grab your t-shirt, and then also grab a matboard. It could also be a piece of cardboard, just anything that has a little bit of stiffness to it, and we're gonna put that inside the t-shirt. Lay the t-shirt out. And just place it inside. This is so that the ink does not seep through the layer of fabric onto the back of the shirt. It's also nice to be able to flatten the fabric along so that you don't get any wrinkles in it when you're printing. So, kinda get it centered on there. Okay. So now I'm gonna take a look at where I want the sheep on the shirt under here. Now, you're gonna have some bulkiness because of the sleeves and the extra fabric, and that's okay, it doesn't need to be as flat as it does when you're printing on paper. But just be aware that that's there. As long as there's no wrinkles right around where you're gonna be printing the image, it should be okay. And you can make contact. So, I'm kinda gonna figure out where I want it. Now, I can print this sheep anywhere on the t-shirt, I could print it at the bottom, along here, I could print it, well, on the sleeve would be a little difficult, on the back, so it's really up to you where you wanna print the shirt. All you need, just make sure that it's gonna be all flat, not gonna have any wrinkles where you're gonna be printing the image. I think that looks pretty good to me, kinda centered, you know. Maybe, not too high. Maybe down a little bit. So once I kinda figure out where I want this shirt, I'm gonna mark it off, so it's not an exact registration process, it's a little bit less exact than if you're printing on paper, but it gives you an idea, and we're just printing one shirt and we're not printing, we're only printing one color. So you have a little bit of leeway there. If I was just printing this one shirt, I would go ahead and ink it up and just print it, and we'd be great, but I kinda wanna print a couple other shirts that are different sizes, so I'm gonna mark all of them off and make sure that I get the image where I want them on each shirt. So I'm just gonna use this pencil here, I've put some newsprint down so I can draw on top of it. And then I can remove it. So this is t-shirt one. So I'll just make a little mark to myself. So I'm gonna set this aside for a minute, and grab my other t-shirts. This one I've already put a cardboard piece in, and I'm gonna make sure I get the right spot for this

t-shirt too. Little low. It might be similar to the other one, because they're a similar shape, but it is a different size. Hm, that looks pretty good. So I'm gonna mark that one off. I mean, if you're, this is great if you're doing just a few shirts. This is number two. Okay, set that one aside. Get my little girly shirt. I think this ones gonna be for me. Mark that off. Hm, let's see. That looks pretty good. Okay. And this might get a little confusing here, but just make sure I get my might wanna be doing this in different colors, really. Okay. So, since I already have this one laying here, registered, actually probably didn't need to mark it. I can just go ahead and print. So I'll print this one first, and then go backwards.

Printing

- So I've got some ink here that's good for fabric or paper. When you're buying ink that you want to print on fabric make sure that it says it is good for fabric too. Some screen printing inks are good for paper only. So this one is good for both. All right so this is gonna be the same process of applying ink. It's a good consistency. Sometimes fabric inks can be a little bit thicker which is a little harder to work with but they end up looking just fine. I'm gonna print a few of these so I'm gonna make sure I have plenty of ink to work with. All right. So gonna be just flooding your image up as you would with any print before you start. Okay. The one thing I like to do when I'm printing on fabric is kinda go back and forth a few times. Unlike paper you kinda have to work the ink into the fabric. Now if you're doing a screen printing commercial, or if you're screen printing commercially for t-shirts you probably won't have to do that but if you're just doing it for home use and the tools that we're showing you right now it's nice to go back and forth a couple times. So gonna go once here. Kinda gonna hold onto it to make sure nothing moves around. And go back, and forth a few times. Okay that's probably good. Let's see how it looks. And the fabric will have stuck to the screen so you'll feel it kind of peel away and that's just fine for printing on fabric. Oh look at this cute little sheep. All right. He's kinda cute. I'll be proud to wear it. So now you can take the cardboard out. You could just let it dry on there if you like but I'm gonna hang it up. And when you're printing with shirts it's important to keep your hands clean because of all the contact you're making with the t-shirts, you could get ink in places you don't want them. Okay. For drawing on t-shirts you can let it air dry which is fine, it takes a little bit longer. You can also use a heat lamp or a blow dryer to get it to dry a little more quickly if you like. So this is the number two shirt so I'm gonna lay this down, and find my number two marks. Find the number two marks. There they are. Okay. So let's do that again. Wanted to use both hands that time. Okay. Oh the little sheepie didn't come out all the way. Oh well. (laughing) That's what happens when you're printing fabric. All right so see that little area there didn't come out quite all the way so that's too bad but we can't really go back and fix it so. It's just a t-shirt for a friend, they'll have to deal with it. Okay last one, let's make it good. This is a number one so we'll find those registration marks. Okay. Okay. Lovely. Doesn't he look adorable. Okay, third one's the charm. (laughing) So you can let these dry over night or you can put a little bit of heater on it or a little hair dryer to speed it up and these are totally machine washable. Turning it inside out isn't a bad idea but I've had shirts that I printed years ago and washed a dozen times and they still look great.