



Designer Silk Screens

Mayco Designer Silk Screens (DSS) are designed and manufactured by Mayco. Designs chosen feature incredibly fine detail, providing design opportunities not achievable using other decorating processes. Every screen has been thoroughly tested on ceramic bisque, using the processes refined by Mayco artists (step-by-step instructions below).

DSS can be used on a variety of surfaces: greenware, clay, earthenware bisque, stoneware bisque or glass. They can also be used on craft surfaces, such as fabric, wood, paper, etc.

How to Use

The recommendations below have been developed to achieve a clear, crisp image on a ceramic surface. As with many artistic processes, variations may lead to alternative results – which may be equally desirable according to each artist's preference.

- **Color:** to achieve the most intense image, we recommend using Stroke & Coat[®], Designer Liner or Mayco Underglaze – products that contain high pigment content. Darker colors will produce deeper color in the fired result. Use of other color lines and/or light pigment colors (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 lines created. Individually cut designs are easier to use versus leaving the sheet intact.
- **Prepare the Color Paste:** Dispense a 1" wide dollop of glaze onto a plate or palette. Sprinkle a pinch of AC-310 Silk Screen 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 Silk Screen 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 a smooth peanut butter. (Watch video for additional support: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXnf9TYeJN0>)
- **Surface Preparation:** We recommend beginners learn the screening process by applying to 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 center 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 incomplete or partial design transfer).

Cleaning, Care & Storage

With proper care the DSS 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. Try to avoid letting paste dry in the screen.

- *To Dry:* Lay flat on a paper towel until dry.

- *To Store:* store flat in small containers, envelopes, etc. Avoid creasing or crumpling the screens to maximize the screen's shelf life.

Tips & Suggestions

- Acrylics stains, such as Mayco Softees™, can be mixed with Silk Screen 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 help keep the paste moist.
- Use of glaze or acrylics without Silk Screen medium for screening 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 Silk Screen 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 Mayco Underglazes and Stroke & Coat can be applied directly to greenware (earthenware or stoneware).
- Silkscreens 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 create a screenprint 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.