

Stenciling: Some Other Ideas and Resources

A **WARNING** before you start:

Stenciling (permanently or not) on public buildings, sidewalks, and other property that is not your own is considered **criminal mischief** and is **illegal** and can even be a **felony**. You can be fined anywhere from \$100 to \$50,000.

Some ideas:

- You can try some other mediums, like crushed-up chalk or charcoal suspended in water (for a non-permanent stencil, experiment to find the desired consistency)
- Experiment with surfaces, like metal, wood, fabric...
- It's a good idea to draw several sketches of your stencil before you start, and ink in the areas that will be blacked out, to get a better idea of how it will look.
- Remember that if you are using spray paint you must do it either outside or in a very well-ventilated area.
- You can stencil your room (with parent's permission of course), your skateboard deck, your guitar, your clothes, your backpack, your binders...the possibilities are endless!
- This is cool: You can mix Golden brand acrylic medium GAC 900 with regular acrylic paint to turn it into fabric paint. Then you can stencil on bags, shirts, whatever. An 8 ounce jar of it costs about \$10. The mixture should be ½ paint, ½ medium. You can get GAC 900 at the University Bookstore, just ask them to show you where it is.
- For more t-shirt and clothing stencil design, you can also use bleach. Fill a spray bottle with a 50/50 water/bleach solution, lay your stencil on the clothing, and spray away. Watch the bleach do its work, and when it's the color you want it, throw it immediately in the washing machine (NOT with other clothes) with a little bit of soap. This looks really cool, especially if you get some random spray marks around the stencil. You can also lay random objects on the shirt (doilies, leaves, paper cutouts, and other flat stuff) and spray them to get a silhouette look. The downside is that bleach tends to eat away at cotton eventually and so your t-shirt will not last forever.
- If you're computer savvy, you can use Photoshop to create images from regular photographs and pictures to stencil. Here is a good tutorial: (<http://www.spraypaintstencils.com/stenciltutorials/stenciltutorial1.html>)

Resources:

Check out Stencil Revolution (www.stencilrevolution.com) for lots of galleries of stencil artwork, tips, upcoming exhibitions, and tutorials. Also, Spray Paint Stencils (www.spraypaintstencils.com) has tons of free stencils you can download, although of course we encourage you to make your own.

Want to see some other awesome stencil art? Look up these artists: Banksy, Shepard Fairey, and John Fekner.