

Simple printing methods, textile focus (printing without screen printing frame)

With simple printing methods I mean methods which do not need expensive or complicated equipment. But the final result does not need to be simple if you combine and experiment with the methods and of course use your design.
Good luck!

Block print

An easy way to make textile prints is to use stamps. I think all of you have tried potato printing... Remember that the stamps will be mirrored. You get best result while printing with a quit thin layer of printing ink.

Stamps can be made in many different ways and by different materials:

- potato
- onion
- corrugated paper
- linoleum
- wood (woodcut)
- styrofoam
- sandpaper
- eraser
- bubble plastic
- cork: either vine corks or stamps cut out of cork thin cork sheets mounted on plexiglass or wood board

The list above is just some examples; you can print with almost everything.

Stamp pad

You will get the smoothest surface on your print if you use a stamp pad. You can make one easily by take a flat underlay like a dinner plate, put a bit of printing ink and over the ink a thin layer of foam rubber or sponge.

Stencil

Stencils can be cut out of steady cardboard, thick plastic film or self-adhesive plastic. The printing ink "dabs" into the holes in the stencil with a brush, dab, sponge or roller. You can also spray the ink upon the stencil.

Other” things” to print with:

- spray bottle (for example those used for flowers or cosmetic)
- different kind of rollers
- brushes
- textile markers
- masking tape: mask and paint, spray etc.
- cake doily. Use as a stencil
- print with nature, leaves for example

Printing ink

Pigment printing ink (acrylic ink) is the “easiest” printing ink to use while printing on textile and the ink we have in our printing studio. It’s important to heat cure the print (follow instruction of the ink from the producer). Recommendation for our printing ink (Kunzl ACRA-K) is iron on back of the fabric with a hot iron (“three dots, cotton”). Iron an area of 20x50 cm for 1 minute. When washing print avoid washing warmer than 40°. If possible, turn textile inside out before wash. Wait at least 7 days before washing your print. If you not are going to wash your textile, you don’t have to heat curing it. When you mix printing ink to different colour shades, especially when you mix light colour, start with emulsion (a non-coloured printing ink, different companies have different names) and add colour. Colour expense: 3,5 dl/m², if you print with an open screen (print without any pattern). The printing ink will get the correct colour shade after drying.

Fabric

Always wash textile before printing or use a textile prepared for printing. Use correct printing ink. You can print on all flat surfaces. Our printing ink (Kunzl ACRA-K) works best on cotton, linen or viscose, like most other pigment printing ink for textile.