

Tools

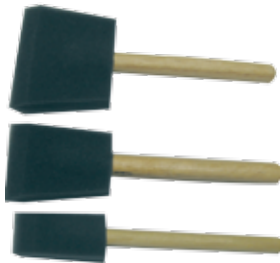
1. Brushes

They must be of good quality and, for bristle brushes, **have the tips perfectly tapered.**



Small gray / watercolor Brushes

Watercolor type brushes are the best suited for painting on silk. They have a fine point while allowing a good reserve of dye. Their major drawback is their price. This is why it is important to clean the brushes properly (see below) in order to use them for as long as possible.



Foam brushes

Available in different sizes, they are inexpensive and are particularly practical for painting backgrounds.

They allow to paint quickly and evenly.

Beware, however, of product overload (see Sheet n°9: «The gutta set» -> Applying colorants).



Flat bristle brushes

Bristle brushes are used with the batik technique to apply wax on the silk. It will therefore not be necessary to clean the brush every time since the wax melts when heated. If it is however necessary to clean it (for a different use), use boiling water and H Dupont's Essence F.



Stencil brushes

These are round brushes with all the bristles cut to the same length. They are needed when painting with stencils or screens.

Brush Maintenance

Follow these rules in order to keep your equipment in good working order for a long time.

After each session, **clean the brushes thoroughly.**

Wash them with Marseille's soap until obtaining white foam, or with 95% alcohol.

(H Dupont Medium alcoholic - 250ml - DU 075 0250 000).

Rinse thoroughly.

Repeat if there are traces of paint left, wipe them on a cloth, then **let them dry in a jar, tip up.**

Always store your brushes with the bristles up.



2. Additional tools

- A compressed air sprayer: use with screens or stencils
- A tjanting: a very precise little instrument used in the batik technique (see Sheet n°10: «Wax - Batik technique»)
- A few small pieces of foam: use them to deposit dye for your backgrounds. Clean with water after use.
- Natural sponge
- Smoothing-Iron
- A hair dryer
- 2 painting pallets or plastic ice cube trays to mix the colors (in the drugstore or tableware department of supermarkets)
- Dropper for dosing color mixes, minimum 5 (1 per primary color + black dye + thinner)
- A protective apron
- Plastic hand gloves - if dyeing, clean with bleach
- A water-proof or plastic tablecloth to protect the worktop
- A wax heater (for example: depilatory wax heater appliance)



...And also

- Rags
- Paper towels
- Small jars or containers with lid
- Cotton swabs: can be used if you don't have brushes at hand. Use one per color, discard after use



Preparing Your Model

1. Create a model

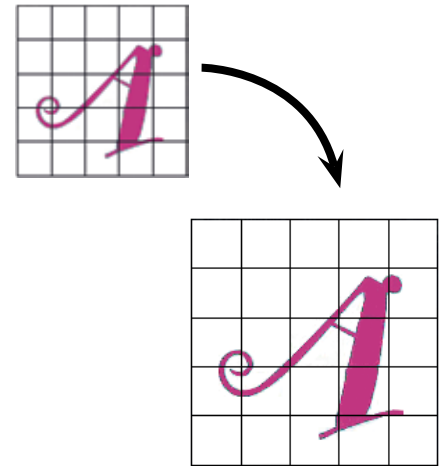
Using tracing paper to transfer the chosen drawing.

Enlarge it using the tile method, or simply with a copy machine.

With a copy machine

Use a scanner and printer or copy machine to enlarge the different parts of the drawing, then assemble the enlargements together with adhesive tape. If necessary, outline the main lines with a black felt pen.

Take a large sheet of white paper, paste the reconstituted drawing on the reverse side. Place the sheet against a window or lightbox in order to see the lines and transfer your model.



Tile method

With the tile method

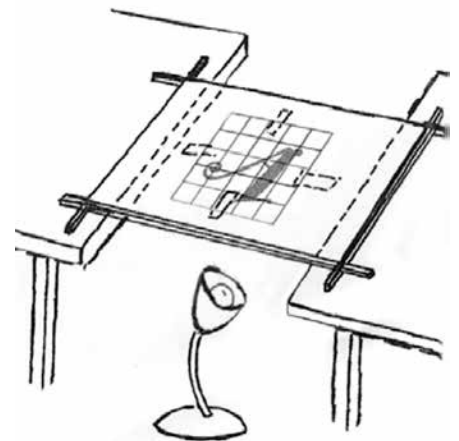
The tile method involves reproducing the design on tracing paper. Grid the layer and then on a large sheet of paper reproduce the grid on a larger scale. Redo the drawing using the tiles as a guide.

2. Transfer the drawing to the silk

Method 1

Resume the transparency method to transfer the design to the silk. Place the frame with the silk stretched between two trestles. Place a lamp on the floor.

The model, the outline of which is made with black felt, is placed on a glass and the frame placed on top. A lighted lamp placed on the ground, under the glass plate makes it easy to follow the path through the silk.



Method 2

For frames with thumbtacks

Fix the drawing you wish to reproduce on a plywood panel (or on your table) with adhesive tape.

Place the silk on the drawing. Pin the top, then the bottom and finally the sides in a staggered way so as not to distort the silk.

Trace the design and mount the silk on your frame.

You can also tape your drawing to the wall and your silk over it. Be careful not to distort the drawing.

For other frame types

Stretch the silk on the frame.

Tape the design onto a plywood panel.

Put the wooden battens on the table and inside the frame.

Place the panel with the design on the battens.

Put the frame with the silk in place and trace the drawing.

Trick

Hold your pencil straight. The tip should be extremely fine and should not catch the silk.

Put your hand on a paper towel so as not to stain your silk.