

Basics - Stencilling on fabric.

Stencilling on fabric is a great way to customize curtains, scatter cushions, table and even bedding linen as well as clothing and accessories. It's an easy way to change your decor and to duplicate a design several times without printing and requires no expensive equipment.

It's been a popular house hold craft for over a century.

Fabrics

Fabric needs to be kept straight when you stencil, try and avoid soft or float fabrics for your 1st project. Always pre-wash your fabric and don't use fabric softener. Remember you can even stencil curtains, cushions, bedding and table linen that you already have to instant change the look.

Colour

Remember the colour of your fabric will have an affect on the colour of your paint, try and avoid dark colours, unless you want the specific look.

Supplies needed

Fabric

Masking tape or adhesive spray (optional)

Fabric Paint - I use [Dala Fabric Paint](#) available at craft stores near you

Paper Towel

Stencil – from [Pokkki stencils and designs](#)

Stencil Brush – also available from craft stores



How to use an apply fabric paint

Always test and practice your colours on a piece of fabric first. Natural fibre fabrics with a fairly smooth surfaces work best. If you paint on an already finished item, place a piece of cardboard in

between the fabric. Tape your stencil with masking tape or even cello tape to hold it down to the fabric. Do not dilute your paint with water as it will bleed under your stencil.

Make sure your brush is evenly covered with paint but do not load it. It should be a dry brush technique, to ensure that the paint don't bleed under the stencil. Your goal is a nice, even effect that is smooth but not thick.

Apply the paint with a gentle stippling, holding the brush straight up and down. Do not use a stroking motion as this again will bleed through on your material. If you get paint on the material and don't want it on, immediately wash it out and dry the fabric with a hairdryer.

To avoid overloading your brush, simply swirl the brush onto a paper towel to remove the excess paint. Gently touch the tips of the bristles onto the back of your hand to check for excess paint. If no paint can be seen on your hand, you're ready to stencil. The most commonly mistake is excess paint, Remember - stencilling is a "dry" brush technique.

Try blending colour on your design by using different colours. After you have removed your stencil you can always cover your stencil bridges and correct any

Detail with a small brush. This works best with minor problems, as the paint will look different when it is brushed on.

If you are trying to decide whether to use multiple colours in your design, simply take a piece of masking tape and begin to cover various stencil openings.

Make sure all the painting is done before you remove the stencil.

When you finished, lift the stencil carefully, immediately place it in water. Careful cleaning and drying of your stencil and brushes will enable them to be used again and again; both can be cleaned with warm water and soap.

Leave the paint to dry for 24 hours.

Heat set your design.

Ironing the fabric for about 20 seconds (more or less) on a LOW setting through a piece of cloth or on the reverse side of your material. Heat-setting will cure the paint and prevent it from being washed off in the washing machine.

HAPPY Stencilling.....