

## SPEED SCREENS™ INSTRUCTIONS

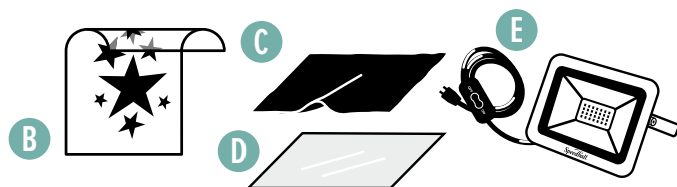


### creating your Speed Screen

- A Speed Screen
- B artwork / design on transparency\*
- C black paper
- D plastic overlay
- E Speedball® exposure lamp



\*Always remember when creating artwork to flip or mirror your image. Any text needs to be mirrored so when printed it is right-reading.



### notes on Speed Screens™

Speedball's Speed Screens™ are pre-coated emulsion sheets negating the need for mixing and coating like what is needed for traditional photo emulsion screen printing. There is no need for chemicals or time waiting for your screen to dry. The best part is your Speed Screen exposes in 1 minute!

The Speed Screens are light sensitive and are kept in a black bag to prevent any unintentional exposure.

◆ **The Speed Screen has two sides, an exposure side (shiny, thick and bright red) and the squeegee side (dark pink).** When it's removed from the bag, the white carrier sheet is on top of the exposure side of the sheet to protect the emulsion. You will need to remove this carrier sheet before exposing your Speed Screen.



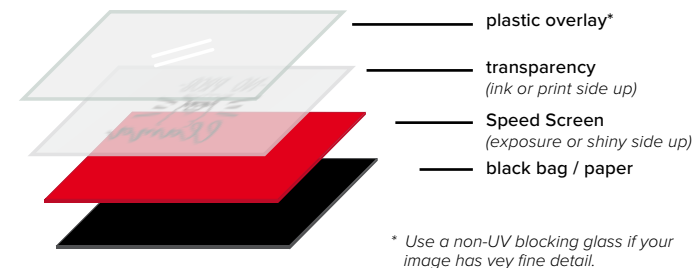
### creating your artwork

The most effective image for use with photo emulsion is any artwork with a clear distinction between the black image (no grays) and the white background. If creating handmade imagery, this would include hard-edged drawings done with black inks on transparent acetate, glass, or plexiglass. (Watercolor washes and light drawings will not expose well.) Another popular and effective way to create an image is to send a high-contrast, opaque image through a black and white laser or ink jet printer on a transparency sheet (B). (Speedball transparency sheets provided in some kits are for use with ink jet printers only.) The more opaque the artwork, the better.

When working with Speedball's Speed Screens, you must reverse/flip your artwork or image on your transparency sheet. Any text needs to be mirrored so when screen printed it is right-reading!



- Microsoft Word or PowerPoint → Shape Format → Rotate → Flip Horizontal
- Adobe Photoshop → Edit → Transform → Flip Horizontal/ Flip Vertical
- Most Printers → File → Print → Settings or Print options → Select Layout → Select Flip Horizontal



◆ **NOTE: Be careful! The printed side of the transparency sheet CANNOT meet the exposure side or they will stick together.**

### preparing exposure area

- Create a light-safe environment or, at a minimum, ensure no direct sunlight will be impacting the exposure area.
- Measure 14 inches and either hang your Speedball exposure lamp or note where you will hold it.
- Place the black paper down centered directly under the lamp.
- Set a timer for 1 minute.
- Have transparency and plastic overlay ready.



### exposing your image

- Remove (1) Speed Screen from the black bag.
- Flick a corner with your fingernail or the tip of your finger until the red film and the white carrier separate. Gently pull them apart. The white carrier will be used later as a placemat to dry the film. (Fig. 1)
- Place your printed transparency (make sure you mirrored the artwork) on the exposure side of the screen. Make sure the non-printed side of the inkjet transparency is in contact with the shiny side of the Speed Screen.
- Lay the plastic overlay on top of the inkjet transparency. Make sure to use a non-UV blocking glass if your image contains a lot of detail. (i.e. Do not use polycarbonate or Lexan).
- Turn on your exposure lamp and hold it 14 inches over your Speed Screen for 1 minute. (Fig. 2)
- Once the time is up, turn off your exposure lamp, remove the plastic overlay and transparency and take your Speed Screen to a sink.



◆ **NOTE:** You will now be working with an exposed screen, but the emulsion is still delicate, so take care to not scratch or scrape the sheet.

## washing out your stencil

The use of a spray nozzle is highly recommended.

- Using warm or hot water, concentrate the water on the exposure side of the Speed Screen. Keep your Speed Screen vertical or against the edge of your sink. (Fig. 3)
- DO NOT soak your Speed Screen or lay it in the bottom of the sink.
- DO NOT use your hands or a brush to speed up the washout process.
- Concentrate the water on your artwork as the water slowly reveals your stencil.
- Continue spraying until all unwanted emulsion is gone and you can easily see your stencil. You can check by holding your screen up to a light and confirm there is no pink emulsion in your stencil.
- Move the water back and forth over your artwork until all areas of your artwork are completely “open”, meaning you can see through your artwork.

## drying your screen

Lay your Speed Screen squeegee side down on paper towel and lightly blot the exposure side of the Speed Screen with paper towel. Lay your Speed Screen back on the white carrier sheet, squeegee side down OR hang up your Speed Screen to dry.

Let your Speed Screen dry for approximately 45 minutes or until all pink areas have reverted to the original dark red color and the sheet has retained its rigidity. A hair dryer or fan can speed up the process.

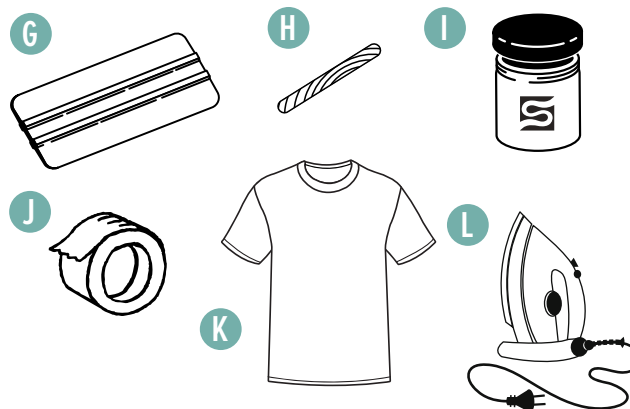
## post exposing your image

Once your Speed Screen is dry you need to post-expose it. This helps harden the emulsion and ensure the stencil can be reused. For post-exposure you will not need your artwork/transparency sheet or the plastic overlay.

- Take your Speed Screen back to your exposure area.
- Place your dry Speed Screen (it can stay on the plastic carrier if you choose) back under the Speedball exposure lamp.
- Hold the Speedball exposure lamp 14 inches above Speed Screen and post-expose for 1 minute. (Fig. 4)

## printing your Speed Screen

- F completed Speed Screen
- G squeegee
- H stir stick
- I screen printing ink
- J painter's tape
- K substrate (T-shirt or paper)
- L iron (for heat-setting fabric)



## notes on printing your image

Pulling your squeegee is the heart of the craft of screen printing. The speed of your pull, squeegee angle, pressure, and “ink-wrangling” are some of the core skills for a good print.

## preparing your Speed Screen

Speedball's Speed Screens can be used both in and out of a screen frame. If using without a screen frame, we recommend using painters tape to firmly hold your Speed Screen in position when printing by taping down each edge of the Speed Screen. (Fig. 5) Speed Screens™ can be easily inserted into a Speedball 8"x10" frame using Speedball screen cord and a flat head screwdriver.

## substrate

You can choose to print your Speed Screen on paper or fabric. When printing on fabric, make sure you are using fabric ink. Place a piece of stock paper or cardboard between fabric layers to prevent ink from bleeding through to unwanted areas. When printing on paper, it is best to print on as thick a piece of paper as possible. Make sure to print on “uncoated” paper.

## test printing

Before printing, it is always wise to print some “test prints” on scrap paper or fabric. This will help you recognize and remedy any issues before any legitimate printing.

## printing steps

- 1 Scoop out and add a few tablespoons of ink along the top of the screen (farthest from you). (Fig. 5)  
**Do not lay any ink directly on your design.**
- 2 Place your squeegee behind the ink, tilted approximately 45-60 degrees in order to create a sharp print edge. Pull the squeegee

