

# SPTF Specialty Ink Workshop a Huge Success

SPTF recently held its first Specialty Inks workshop, given by textile screen printing master Charlie Taublieb. The program was a wonderful success, with the attendees taking home real working experience on a variety of effects. Five people attended the inaugural seminar, along with guest Marcia Derryberry, Editor in Chief of Impressions magazine, and several SGIA/SPTF staff members.



The course took place over three packed days that covered A to Z of the most popular specialty ink applications. Here is a day-by-day account of what students experienced in this practical fast paced program.

## Day One



Charlie began by giving a general overview of the unique artwork layering process and detail limits to keep in mind when working with specialty inks. Discussion then turned



to specific mesh, stencil, squeegee, printing issues and curing requirements needed for working with these inks. With the basics in place, a whole array of sample prints were described and examined.

Two groups were formed, each charged with designing artwork for a particular effect. After a quick screen stretching demo on two different stretchers, the artists were set loose on computers and the other attendees



began stretching screens on both systems. As the artwork continued to be designed and output to film,



stretching carried on until seventeen screens were made. After a quick mesh preparation demo, all the screens were degreased/abraded and dried.



The group reviewed the designs to determine the stencil/mesh requirements and thick film stencil placement/size. Thick film stencil

application was then demonstrated, and the participants applied the remaining thick film stencils before calling it a day.

## Day Two



To start off day two, the color order and ink color was identified for each job, as the last of the artwork was output to film. Positives were then



stripped up on pin registration carrier sheets to prepare for screen exposure. The other remaining screens were coated with direct emulsion, and dried.

To start the screen exposure process, the pin registration system for aligning the positives on the screens is explained. Next, the proper use of an exposure calculator is demonstrated on a direct emulsion screen. Exposing and washing out a thick stencil screen are then shown before participants expose the rest of the screens.





Once the screens were dry, attendees taped and blocked them out in preparation for printing. Focus then turned to the ink, which was discussed and mixed. Participants then setup the first eight color job on press using the pin registration system.



The screens were inked and everyone was given the opportunity to print a sample shirt. Special effects in the design included a three-layer build of high density inks, and application of photo chromic color change caviar beads to the eyes and teeth of a simulated process tiger.



### Day Three



After covering some questions and answers in the classroom, everyone moved out into the lab where printing was the theme of the day. The second job was setup on press, and printing with a brush instead of a squeegee was introduced. Special effects in this six-color job were two brush prints with black and silver, and high density ink with a gel on top to accent the guitar strings. Everyone prints a sample shirt of the second design, and the results of both projects are evaluated and critiqued.



In the meantime, a few more stenciled screens were exposed and prepared for test

printing. A simple SGIA logo design was used to print tinted gel with some silver highlights, giving a striking effect. An additional open area outline of the tiger was then printed to apply some different caviar beads to the entire tiger face. The gel was switched and printed under the tiger and cured to produce a wet look for the tiger design. To finish the day, a final screen made with wire 80 tpi mesh was tested to show its improved ink transfer capabilities.



Participants left with printed samples, an SPTF lab coat, and a reference notebook containing a large collection of articles on special effect printing.

Here are some of their comments about the workshop:

*"As an Art Director, the workshop gave me much more of an appreciation of what can be accomplished in the shop. I had a wonderful time and learned a lot. I would recommend this workshop to any screen printing company, big or small."*

**- Rob Holubecki, Top Promotions**

*"My knowledge of specialty inks has been expanded greatly. My company has never used a specialty ink. I'm sure we will now."*

**- Greg Vaverchak, TeamWorld, Inc.**

*"Charlie is a great speaker, and makes learning fun. He is very good at adapting the class program to fit the needs of the students, and deals well with students of different levels of experience. We will take back info and ideas that can expand and enhance the products we can offer our customers."*

**- Renee Stratmoen, Top Promotions**

*"There was a good amount of hands-on and the instructor was very informative. It gave me a better understanding of what mesh, film and inks to use, and the basics on how to do it."*

**- Mark Wayman, TeamWorld, Inc.**