

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. The pattern I printed was not complete. Why?

(1) The screen was not properly prepared.

The pattern may not be fully engraved on the screen due to processing parameter settings. Please set the processing parameters as recommended. For images, **do not** set the bitmap mode to **Grayscale**.

(2) Some ink became dry on the screen and blocked the imprints of the pattern.

Ink may become dry on the screen if there are long time intervals in batch printing, or if the screen isn't cleaned after use. To prevent this, avoid long printing time intervals during batch printing and always clean the screen before storing it.

(3) The ink was not evenly squeezed.

During screen printing, you need to use the squeegee to squeeze the ink through the screen mesh. If you do not squeeze the ink evenly, some imprints may look lighter or even be missed.

(4) Ink particles were large.

Large ink particles cannot be squeezed through the screen mesh. Select ink with smaller particles. You are advised to purchase ink at xtool.com, as it has been tested and is compatible with xTool Screen Printer.

(5) You squeezed the ink too slowly or fast.

Squeezing the ink through the screen mesh too slowly or fast may affect the transfer of the pattern, causing some parts to be too heavy, light, or even missed.

(6) The ink didn't adhere to the material being printed.

The ink may lack adhesion to some materials due to their texture, resulting in an incomplete pattern. When this happens, replace the ink or material.

2. The ink spread out at the edges of the pattern printed. Why?

This issue generally arises during batch printing.

(1) Some ink adhered to the back of the screen.

During batch printing, some ink may adhere to the back of the screen in the last printing, causing the ink to spread out in the next printing. You can use a wet cloth to remove the ink from the back of the screen before the next printing.

(2) The ink had high fluidity.

If the ink has high fluidity, it may spread unexpectedly. You are advised to purchase ink at xtool.com, as it has moderate fluidity and works well with xTool Screen Printer.

3. I made a screen, but after I used it several times, the printing results became poor. Why?

After being used several times, a screen might not transfer a pattern properly. The imprints of the pattern might become blurry around the edges or lack some details.

(1) The screen may have become loose.

Each printing process puts pressure on the screen, and with increased usage, the screen can loosen, causing the pattern imprint to blur. You need to check the tension of the screen regularly and adjust it when necessary to ensure that it can transfer the imprints properly.

(2) The screen mesh was blocked.

Water-based ink dries fast. The ink left on the screen for a long period may block the screen mesh, causing poor printing results. For water-based ink, you can sprinkle a little water on the screen. Alternatively, you can select ink with a higher fluidity or ink that dries slower.

(3) The screen got dirty.

However carefully you operate the screen printer, ink may adhere to the back of the screen due to something unexpected or leakage and stain the imprints of your pattern. To prevent stains, you are advised to check the back of the screen regularly. If the screen gets dirty, clean it with water or use a wet cloth to remove the ink attached to the back.

4. How do I print a multi-color pattern?

(1) Design or import a multi-color pattern into xTool Creative Space (XCS) and divide it by color into separate layers, with one color per layer.

(2) Mount screens on frames. How many screens and frames you need depends on the number of color layers.

(3) Install the fixing piece on your laser machine and fit the screens with the frames to the fixing piece one at a time, to ensure that each screen is placed in the same position for engraving.

Tips: If you don't have a fixing piece for your laser machine, you need to use some other objects such as wooden blocks to help you place each screen in the same position for engraving.

(4) Position your material on the magnetic board and print using the engraved screens. Ensure that the color of the ink you use matches the pattern on each screen according to your design.

During printing, you can use the three knobs on the front side of the screen printer to fine-tune the position of the magnetic board.

Ensure that the imprints on your material have fully dried before you continue the next printing.

5. How do I print materials in a batch?

To print in batches, place each material in the same position for printing.

(1) For thin materials like cardboard, you can use tape—like crossing two pieces to form a vertex—on the magnetic board to help position each material.

(2) Use the magnetic board and cutting mat included in the kit. Both the board and mat are designed with scale markings. Place the cutting mat on the magnetic board first, and then place each material in the same position of the cutting mat, determining the position using the scale markings.