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Macintosh: Making Multicolored Silk Screen Masters

This article last reviewed: 22 May 1990

TOPIC -----

Do you know of a way to use a Macintosh, scanner and a LaserWriter to make silicon film and, from this film, make multi-colored silk prints?

I read about something like this; I believe that the "system" was called PENTAGRAPH. The article also stated that "CAD is a newcomer to the silk print industry. ..."

Do you have any information on such a product?

DISCUSSION -----

The only process that appears to be similar to what you want is called "silk-screening". If this is what you are looking for, part of the solution is Macintosh-based, and part of it is based on traditional silk-screening techniques. Here is how silk-screening works:

Silk-screening is a photographic process. A light-sensitive emulsion is layered onto silk. This emulsion is exposed through an image on a film positive, much like creating an image on photographic print paper. Once exposed and processed with photographic-type chemicals, the silk lets ink to pass through unexposed areas and blocks the passage of the ink exposed areas. Any material placed under this processed silk screen receives the ink that passes through. This leaves an image on the material under the silk screen. This is the portion of the process that is based on traditional silk-screening methods. A graphics supply house should be able to provide all the tools and materials required for this phase of the operation.

The Macintosh can be used to create the film positive, which replaces the usual photographic film positive. Any software that prints to the LaserWriter can be used to create this image, including graphics and CAD software. Once the image is created, printing an image on transparencies provides the equivalent of the film positive. You will, however, be limited to the size of transparencies that fit into the LaserWriter.

To create multiple colors, use one transparency for each color. This requires some type of color separation capability: either direct color separation in the application, or an application that provides several layers of images--one

layer for each separate color.
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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 5562