

# Creating Films For Printmaking

## Autographic (Hand-drawn) Films

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### Single Matt Drafting Film

Available directly through the [printmaking store](#) in the following sizes:

385 x 530mm	£1.00
530 x 770mm	£1.65
770 x 1060mm	£2.75

Hand-drawn positive films can be used across all photo-based printmaking processes, including photopolymer gravure, screenprinting and photo lithography. In the case of screenprinting, as with digital films, hand drawn films must be totally opaque to stop the UV light. However processes such as photo lithography and photopolymer gravure are capable of reproducing lighter tones and subtle texture that expands the possibilities of working with autographic films.

The two most commonly used films are **Drafting Film**; a single matt film available in 3 sizes directly through the [Printmaking Store](#). And **Tru Grain**; a high quality frosted mylar that can be purchase online from suppliers such as [intaglioprintmaker](#).

### Working with Drafting Film

Drafting Film is a good quality, economic film suitable for producing flat areas with little tonal value and bold textures in screenprinting and lithography. Due to its smooth textured surface it will not hold subtle tones or washes like Tru Grain film and owes itself more to bold graphic work over subtle detail.

The following materials work best for hand drawing opaque images:

Micron Pens, India Ink, Chinagraph, Litho Crayons, Black Acrylic Paint and Black or Red Posca pens which are available in a range of sizes.

### Tips

- All drawing needs to be done on the textured side of the film, not the shiny side
- Cut the film down to the desired size allowing for a 25mm margin on all sides.
- When working across multiple films, draw the layer with the most information first. You can lay each subsequent film over the top to align the colours correctly.
- Write the colour for each film in the margin lightly in pencil.
- After you complete your drawing it is best to hold it up to a light or place it on a light box to check it is opaque enough.
- It may be best to draw over it a second time to assure that it is opaque enough.
- Wet materials such as Acrylic paint and Indian Ink will require a long drying period, preferably overnight.

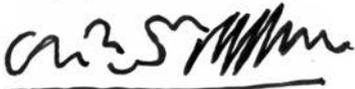
### Working with Tru Grain

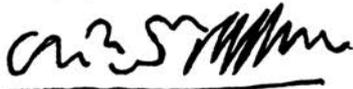
Tru Grain is a high quality textured polyester film which holds tone. Its unique textured surface and very high level of transparency allows the reproduction of very subtle washes and marks without the intermediate stage of photography or laser scanning.

Tru Grain works well with Chinagraph, Litho Crayons and Indian ink. It will produce excellent results for photo lithography and photopolymer gravure techniques and screenprinting. However, it is an expensive choice and requires a great deal of practice to yield the desired results when screenprinting.

Further information on using Tru Grain can be found on this [information sheet](#).

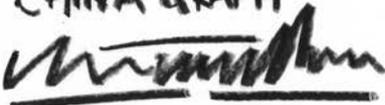
An example of various drawing materials used on Drafting Film (left) and the screenprinted result (right).

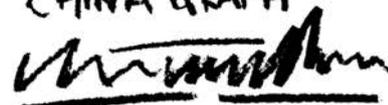
MICRON PEN  


MICRON PEN  


INDIAN INK  


INDIAN INK  


CHINA GRAPH  


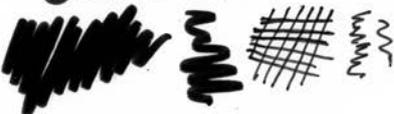
CHINA GRAPH  


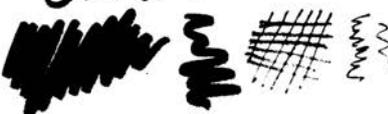
LITHO CRAYON  


LITHO CRAYON  


SOFT PENCIL  


SOFT PENCIL  


SHARPIE  


SHARPIE  


POSCA  


POSCA  
