



Hannah Kopacz

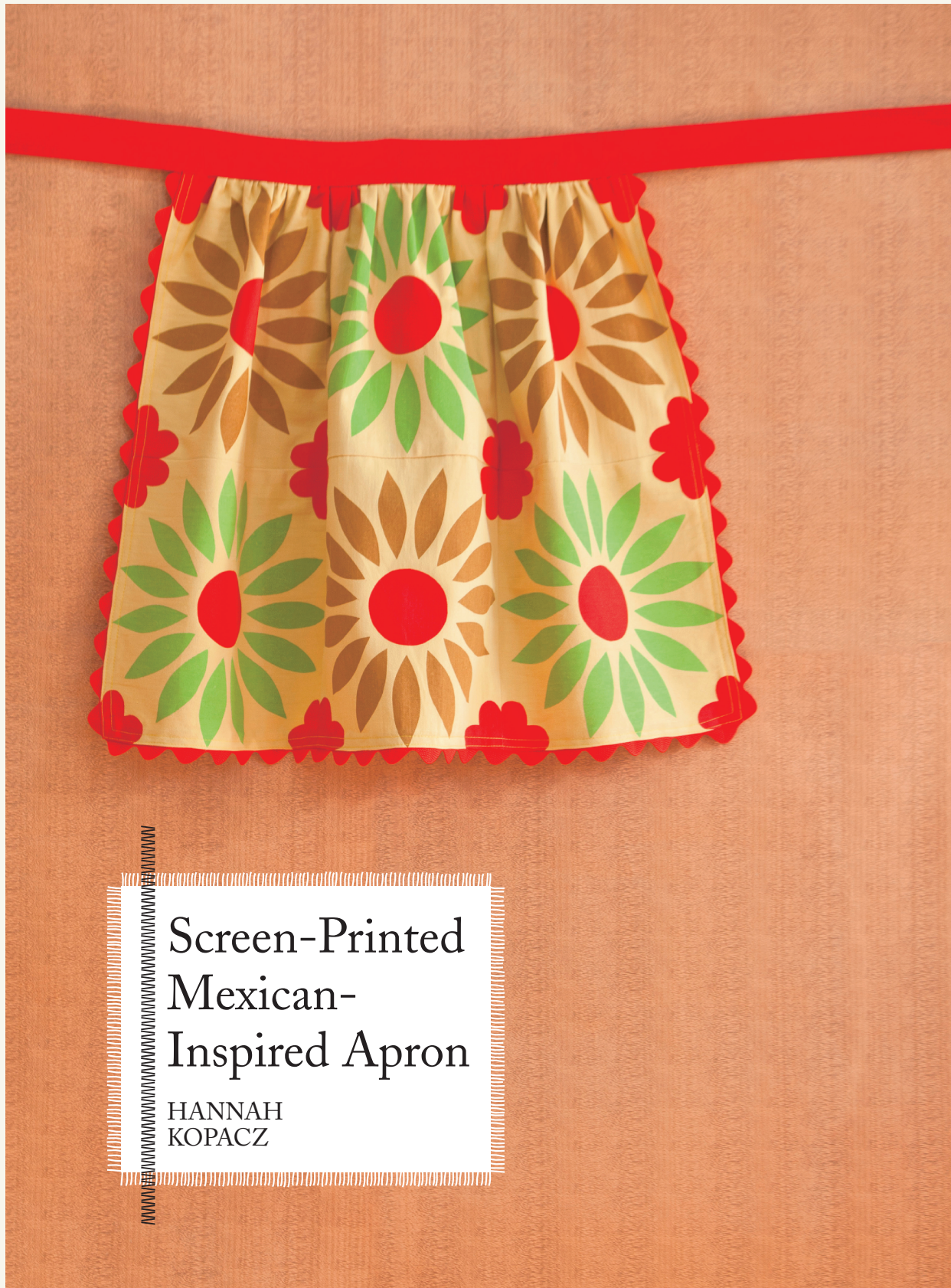
Made with Love by Hannah

Hannah Kopacz discovered screen printing at school, choosing the technique not because of its creative potential but for the punk boys who frequented the studio. She developed her skills through a series of jobs ranging from printing to graphic and textile design for the mass market. Her series of roles working for others ended when she united her design and practical skills and took *Made with Love by Hannah* from a side project to a full-time occupation.

Hannah's home and workspace are packed with collections of kitsch objects and artwork, fabric and trims, which are displayed as a source of constant stimulation. Hannah is a thrift-store enthusiast, and regularly adds to her array of colourful ornaments. Her designs are steeped in a folk style, chosen for its compelling sense of familiarity and a feeling of nostalgia for a time she does not remember but wishes she did. Part of the allure of her work is the hand-crafted nature of the clothing and everyday objects; each carefully made piece stimulates memories of the past.

The outcome of Hannah's reminiscences is a wide range of simply constructed and expertly screen-printed garments, designed and made for women. Keeping a stash of countless sketches, she is never short of inspiration. After making an original drawing, she chooses colours and materials, often dyeing the fabric herself before printing. In keeping with her signature style, Hannah's prints are made in an outdoor Alpine-style shack, with the tools of her craft at the centre. Although her print equipment is modern, her expertise as a craftsperson is part of a long history of printmaking.

The imagery in Hannah Kopacz's work echoes folk style and fairytales. Her playful use of colour, executed with precise skill, makes eye-catching and fun garments.



Screen-Printed Mexican-Inspired Apron

HANNAH
KOPACZ

The design of this fun and festive apron is inspired by traditional Mexican Talavera tiles. Screen printing requires practice to perfect, but the results are a great reward. Making this apron shows off your design and is a good opportunity to practise as you create six panels, each printed in two colours.

MATERIALS

Contact paper.
● Design template from CD.
2 screens, approx. 45cm (17³/₄in) square.
Craft knife or scissors.
Textile ink in 3 colours.
Hinge clamps and board.
Scrap fabric.
Spray adhesive (optional).
6 pieces of fabric, each 28cm (11in) square.
30cm (12in) squeegee.
Sewing machine.
2m (78³/₄in) jumbo ric rac.
Piece of fabric for waistband, 150 x 6cm (59 x 2³/₈in).

General Knowledge

The key to successful screen printing is patience. It is easy to get frustrated if your first prints are not perfect, but it takes some time to work out the ideal ink consistency and squeegee pressure for the best prints on different types of material.

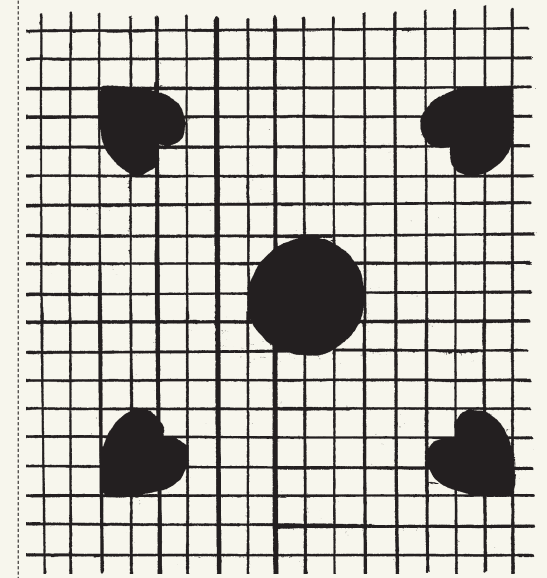
1.

Make the Stencil

Cut two pieces of contact paper slightly larger than the inner dimensions of the screen.

Trace the design on to the contact paper, centring it and using a separate piece for each colour. If you want to print the design in a single colour, trace the entire design on to one piece of contact paper.

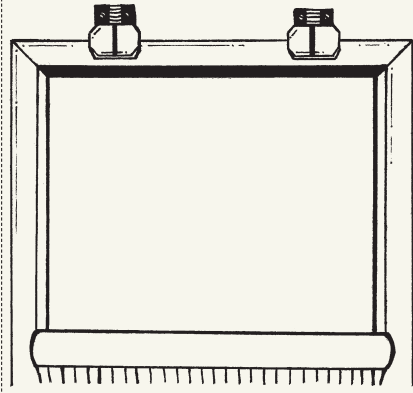
With a craft knife or scissors, cut out the parts of the design where you want the paint to go.



2.

Adhere to Screen

Peel the backing from the contact paper and stick it to the flat bottom of each screen.



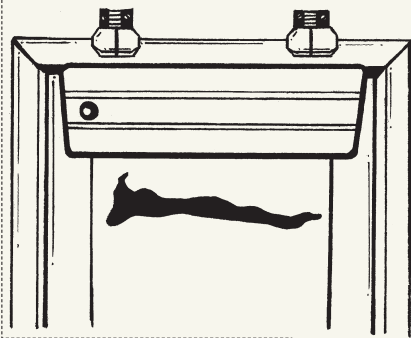
3.

Add Ink

Before handling the ink, protect your clothing and your work area.

Use the original artwork to register the screen. Place the artwork on the board, line up the first screen (red) with the artwork, and clamp. Mark the corners of the artwork on the board and remove the artwork. You will use these marks to place the fabric as you print.

Practise printing on scrap fabric before using the project fabric. If you use a fine film of spray adhesive on the board to hold the fabric in place, it will stay in place if you make an uneven print and need to reprint.



4.

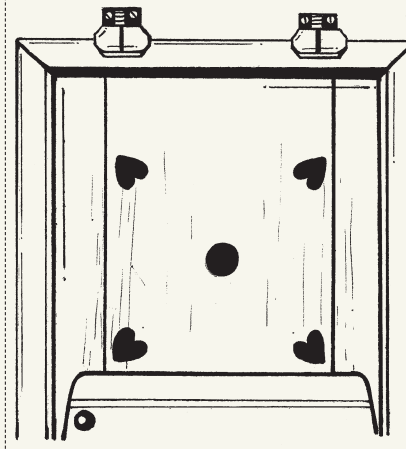
Print

Place the fabric on the board, lining up the corners with the marks on the board. Stir the ink and put a thick line at the top of the screen, above the stencil. Using the squeegee, draw the ink down the screen, making sure it is evenly distributed. If you need to apply more ink, run the squeegee down from top to bottom for a second time.

Print all six pieces with the first colour and allow to dry. Wash the ink out of the screen.

Register the second screen in the same way as the first. Print three pieces with green, wash out the ink and print three pieces with brown. Wash the ink out of the screen.

Iron the prints to heat-set them and make them washable, following the instructions on the ink container.



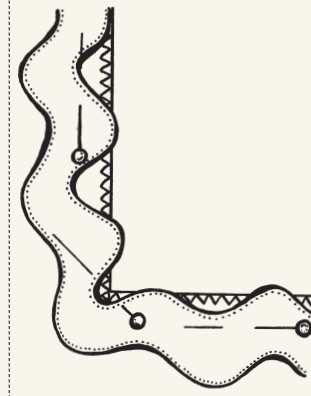
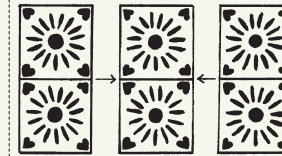
5.

Sew

Lay out the printed pieces in two rows of three. Pin the three vertical sections and sew each section with a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance. Finish the seams with zigzag stitch.

Line up the seams and sew three sections together with the same seam allowance and finish.

Fold the sides and bottom under by 1cm (3/8in) and press. Pin the jumbo ric rac around the sides and bottom, and sew.



6.

Add Waistband

Sew a long running stitch along the top of the apron, and pull the thread to gather the fabric until it measures 38cm (15in) across. Secure the thread with a knot.

Finish all sides of the waistband fabric with zigzag stitch. Press the edges of the waistband under by 1cm (3/8in) on all sides. Pin to the apron, lining up the centre of each piece, and sew with a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.

Sew all around sides of the waistband with a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.

