

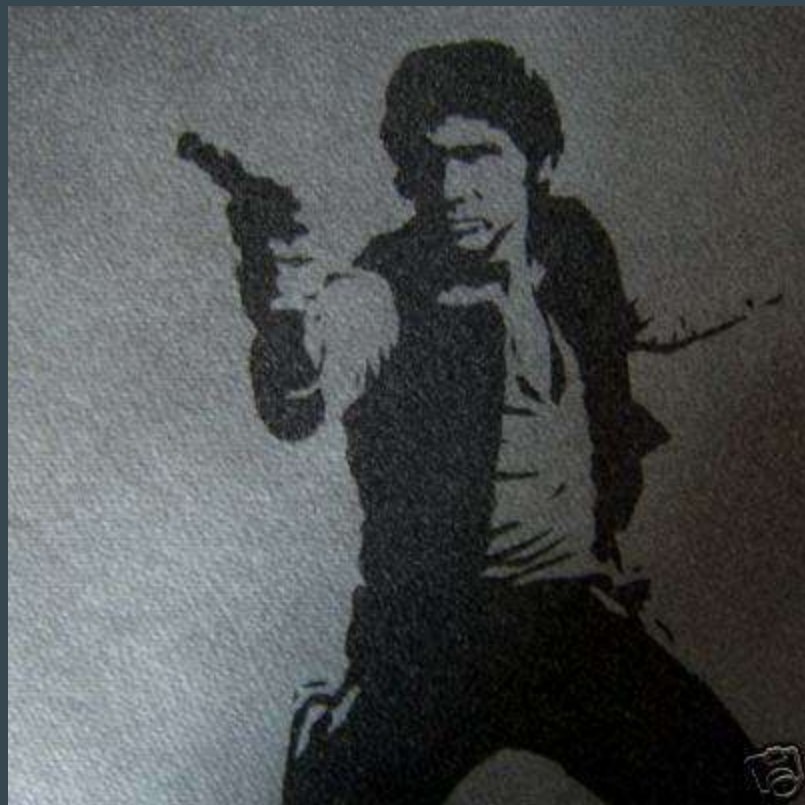
# Stencils

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and instructions on how to create them

Stencils that use only one color to show detail:





















Stencils that use multiple colors to show detail:











**Beyond Simple Stencils: Stencils that are layered or have backgrounds that help create a complex image.**









# Instructions - HOW TO MAKE A STENCIL

## Planning:

- First take a photograph and use levels or posterize in Photoshop to get it down to only 2 (or 3/4 colors)
- then print it out and block out the darkest areas with a pencil (so you can erase if needed)
- Then look at grey tones and decide which ones will become dark/black. Decide if an area is needed to provide a detail that helps to define the image
- There should be clear areas of black/shadow with clean edges. Try to break up large or long areas of black by creating “bridges” (see below)

## Safety:

- Plastic guard should be on the exacto blade whenever it is not in use
- Always have a piece of mat board under the image while you cut. Do not cut directly on table.
- If cutting, always make sure your thumb and fingers are out of the way of the exacto blade!!

## Making:

-Copy image onto stencil paper freehand, using light table, using carbon paper, or taping it on and cutting through both layers.

-Start cutting away areas that will be black. Make sure no area is too long or big.

-There cannot be fully enclosed “islands” of white. There must be “bridges” to the “islands”.

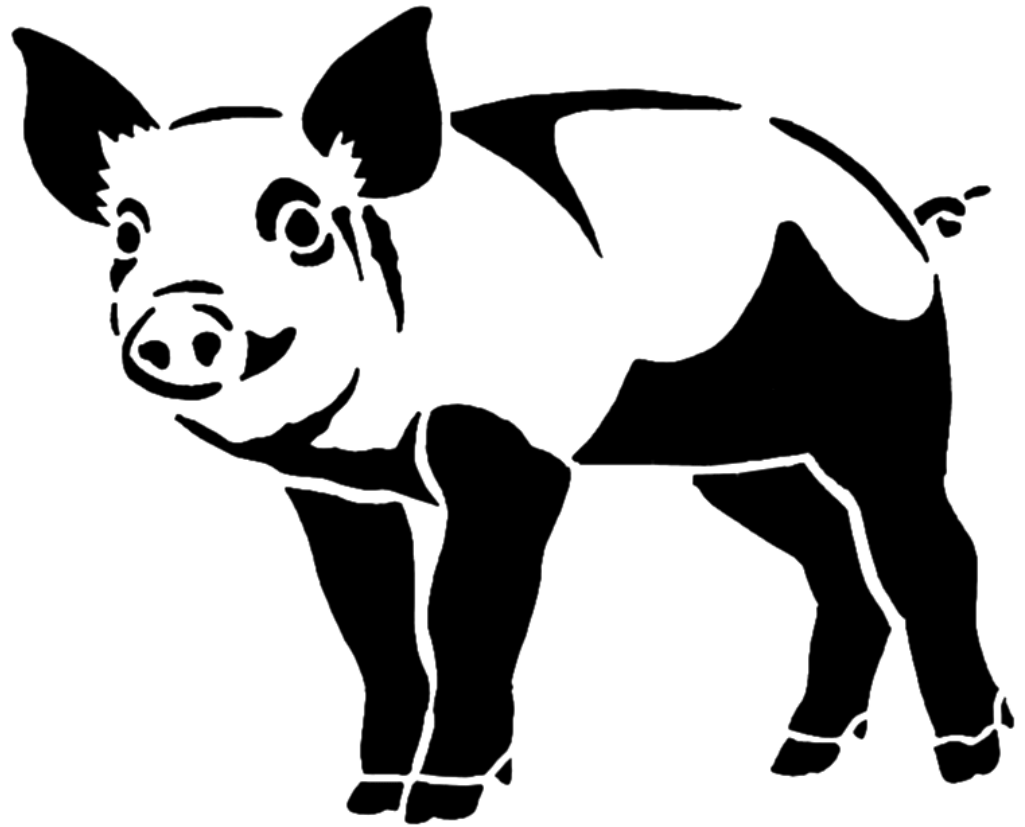
-If you mess up in an area, you can cover it on both sides with masking tape to repair it and then recut it.

-You can tape thread to each side of a cut area to create a very thin bridge.





No white islands!





## Painting:

- Tape down stencil securely. Make sure paint is not too runny, but not too thick
- Put paint on the stippling brush (round/flat brush). Then dab on a piece of scrap paper to get rid of excess.
- Move brush up and down like a sewing machine or jackhammer. DO NOT brush side to side.
- Make sure to go all the way to the edges with the paint to get the complete image.
- Leave the stencil to dry for a few minutes after painting, before pulling the stencil off the paper.