


# the warhol: resources & lessons

Unit Lesson Plans / Creative Thinking & Making / Silkscreen Printing / Handout 2.1 Photoshop Tutorial

## Adobe Photoshop Tutorial, Film Positives for Photographic Silkscreen

1. Download your image and place it in a file on the computer.
  2. Make the image grayscale. Image>Mode>Grayscale.
  3. Crop the image using the cropping tool. 
  4. Save your newly cropped image under a new name. File >Save As. Never save over your original image just in case you need to reconstruct your image at some point in the project.
  5. Using the "Image Size" function, change the size of the image to your intended print size. Image>Image Size>Document Size.
  6. When the dialogue box comes up, make sure the "constrained proportions" box is selected. This checked box ensures that your image stays in proportion to your newly cropped composition. The maximum print size for your final print is 8x10 inches.
  7. Change the smallest side of your image (either the length or the width) to 8 inches. After you do this, if the other side of your image is more than 10 inches, then change that size to 10 inches. The previously selected side will automatically change in proportion to your original image. Keep in mind: neither side can be larger than 8 inches or 10 inches, respectively.
  8. Adjust the image's value distribution. Image>Adjustments>Levels.
  9. In the dialogue box, click and drag the small black and white arrows to the edges of where your graph starts and stops.
  10. Click "OK."
  11. If you want to make the image lighter or darker, use the "Levels" function again, this time click and drag the small gray arrow in the middle of your graph either to the left or right. Notice the value change in your image while you drag this arrow. When you have the values adjusted, click "OK."
  12. Save the file. File>Save.
  13. Make the image high contrast. Image>Adjustments>Brightness and Contrast. Increase the contrast and the brightness of the image. Click "OK." (Gray areas do not translate well to silkscreen.)
  14. Save the file. File >Save.
  15. Bitmap the image. Image>Mode>Bitmap>. In the dialogue box choose "Output = 100" and "Method = halftone screen."
  16. In the next box, change the "Frequency" to "40" and "Shape" to "round." Click "OK."
  17. Save the file. File>Save.
  18. Print the image on regular bond paper. This is your test. Do you like the image? Is it cropped enough? Is it too dark or too light? If you want to make changes to your image, follow directions #1-14 again, making different decisions along the way.
  19. Once you are satisfied with your image, print it onto a piece of transparency paper. Be sure to adjust the print settings. To do this, change the paper type in the drop-down list to "transparency paper" and adjust the ink level to "heavy."
  20. This transparency is your Film Positive. The black areas on the Film Positive must be very dark—almost opaque when you hold it up to the light. Most inkjet printers print dark enough onto transparency paper to use in the exposing process.
- \* Important note: do not get your film positives wet. Water will dissolve the inkjet and laserjet inks.**

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