



StencilSharp® Design Criteria

We offer the following guidelines that should be considered when designing and ordering your stencils. Following these guidelines will allow you to produce the highest quality stencils at the lowest price. Should you have specific questions or needs, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail us for a consultation.

Mechanical Requirements

- **Maximum Stencil Size** — 18" x 18" While this size is most effective for production efficiencies, we are able to handle larger sizes — ask our staff for details.
- **Standard Material** — Polyester (materials other than polyester can be processed, please call to discuss)
- **Standard Thickness** — 3 mil, 5 mil, 7 mil, 10 mil and 14 mil

Stocked Materials

- 5mil Hazy • 10mil Hazy
 - 7mil Hazy • 10mil Clear
 - 7mil Blue • 14mil Hazy
- If you want your specific material processed, we can accommodate your needs. Call us so we can inform you how to order and ship the material. You may find your raw material costs are less using StencilSharp® Services!

StencilSharp® Design Criteria

When you design your stencils, please keep the following design criteria in mind. **StencilSharp® Services** allows you to produce highly creative designs, but the following guidelines need to be taken into account to produce a low cost, successful stencil:

Minimum Feature Size: For consistent high speed production, the minimum feature size (cutout size) is 30 mils in the minor axis of the feature. If features smaller than this minimum are required for your particular design, please consult with a **StencilSharp®** representative to discuss your particular design and we will make every effort to accommodate your needs.

Minimum Feature to Feature Distance: In order to maintain the structural integrity and customer satisfaction of your stencil, we recommend that adjacent features not be placed closer than 30 mils from each other.

The **StencilSharp® Services** also allows you to score information onto your stencil to identify your company, stencil name, contact information, etc. The following list of fonts has been selected to insure that you receive legible and cost efficient scribing, the fonts are offered in size 11 or larger.



StencilSharp® Services File Formats

Your stencil designs need to be converted from your graphics format into a production format before processing. Most designs need to be converted from a Mac .eps or .ai file extension to a PC .dxf format that the **StencilSharp®** production equipment requires to produce your stencil. Since this can be a time consuming process, consult your sales rep to ensure proper lead times. We offer this conversion service free of charge and we retain these production files. Should you desire the production file for your use, we can provide them to you for a per file conversion fee.

To make this conversion as simple as possible, we recommend the following before sending us your files:

We suggest saving your files in the PC extension default of the program used to create the design. For example if you use Adobe® Illustrator®, we request that you save it as a PC .ai file, CorelDraw® files should be saved as a .crd. We can accept the following extensions in PC format: .eps, .ai, .crd, .dxf, .dwg.

Please do not save or export your files from Mac formats to PC .dxf files. A conversion error tends to occur during this process that corrupts the files, instead we suggest saving Mac files in the PC extension default of the program used to create the design; .ai, .crd, .dwg.

Other considerations include:

- .DXF files created in AutoCAD should be saved as R14 or lower.
- Designs in Corel Draw need to have all features and text converted to curves before the file is saved; in Adobe® Illustrator® fonts and/or text need to be outlined. (To “Convert to Curves”, select the feature or section and choose Arrange in the tool bar and select “Convert to Curves”. To “Create Outlines” for Adobe® files, select the feature and choose Type in the tool bar and select “Create Outlines”. These procedures need to be completed for each section containing fonts, letter and/or numbers before saving or exporting your files.)
- If your stencil designs are produced by hand, they will first need to be converted to an electronic format. We can handle this process for you and will gladly assist you in finding the correct format for your resources and needs. This file would also be available upon request at a per file conversion fee.

- **Arial**
- **Century Gothic**
- **Comic Sans**
- **Simplex**



Laser scored identification on 10 mil polyester