

# Thermofax

## Introduction to Thermal Screenprinting

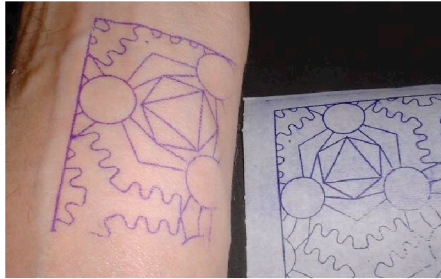
### What is Thermofax?

Thermofax is an obsolete photocopier technology introduced by 3M in 1950. The process involves placing a thin sheet of heat sensitive copy paper against an original document containing carbon, and exposing the two to infrared energy. Where the image on the original contains carbon, the image absorbs the infrared energy and is heated. The heated image then transfers heat to the heat sensitive paper producing a copy of the original.



### Thermofax today.

Thermofax technology is currently being kept alive primarily by tattoo parlors, who use the Thermofax technology to transfer a design from paper to skin using 'spirit masters'.



### Thermofax Screenprocessing

Thermofax machines can also process a lower mesh count (70 mesh) version of the same screen material as in the Print Gocco. Machines cost from \$500 to over a \$1000 reconditioned. Thermal Screenprinting has been particularly embraced by the quilting and fabric art community.

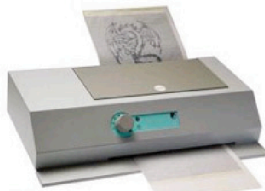


### Thermal Copier

There is a new version of the thermofax on the market, a German machine referred to as a Thermal Copier or Thermal Screen maker. It works on the same principle as the Thermofax, but with a new construction. They are being sold in the US through Marlene Watson and Welsh Products, and cost in the \$950-\$1400 range for new machines.



size A4 - 1350 W - 235 mm / 9.25"



size A3 - 1700 W - 305 mm / 12"

### Thermofax Advantages

Thermofax is much less expensive per square foot than Gocco, and is able to do larger images. Thermofax imagers are readily available and can easily be rigged for processing thermal screens. Machines currently cost from \$500 to \$1000 reconditioned.

### Thermofax Drawbacks

Using a Thermofax machine to make screens is a workaround and it's tricky and temperamental compared to the official methods of making screens. A Thermofax needs to warm up, settings on the dial can vary widely, and the heat/light intensity gradually weakens over time. Eventually, as the lamp weakens, you have to run several sheets through to warm it up and also run a screen through more than once to fully process the screen.

### Thermofax Sources

(as of January 2011)

Thermofax and Screen Materials  
Welsh Products, Inc.  
PO Box 6120  
Arnold, CA 95223-6120  
Phone: 800-745-3255  
209-795-3285.  
Fax: 866-855-4239.  
[www.welshproducts.com](http://www.welshproducts.com)

Thermofax Repair  
and Maintenance  
G.C. Service Inc.  
G Cromas  
1476 E 45th St  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-3004  
Phone: 718-951-8293  
Email: [GCService1@aol.com](mailto:GCService1@aol.com)  
<http://thermofax.net/home.html>

Thermal Screen Maker  
and Screen Materials  
Marlene Watson  
MW Designs  
1278 Via Del Carmel  
Santa Maria, Ca. 93455  
Phone/Fax: 805-937-6415  
[www.marlenewatson.com/mwd\\_print\\_gocco.htm](http://www.marlenewatson.com/mwd_print_gocco.htm)

Thermal Screen Maker  
<http://www.thermocopier.com/>  
Panenka Design Produkte  
Tel.: +49-89-677326  
Fax: +49-89-60061917  
[screenprint@pdpm.de](mailto:screenprint@pdpm.de)