Creating Diagrams

- Keep it simple!! Consider the ability of the VI person. The diagram must match their abilities. If there is too much information on the paper, it will become confusing. When starting, try a variety of samples with the user. This will establish some parameters on what the VI person can and can't understand.

- Zy®tex2 works on all colour printers and copiers. Although the colour will not swell, it can improve the experience of the diagram for non VI users. In this way, the Zy®tex2 can make an exciting art material.

- Try a variety of drawing programs on the computer. You may find one is better than another for creating good shapes/textures for tactile diagrams.

- White correction fluid can be used to modify original diagrams which are to be copied onto Zy®tex2 .

- Try to keep lines of a similar thickness. This helps to make the diagram swell uniformly.

- Try to use blocks of texture rather than blocks of solid black. This creates a more pleasing end product.

For more information try visiting our websites:

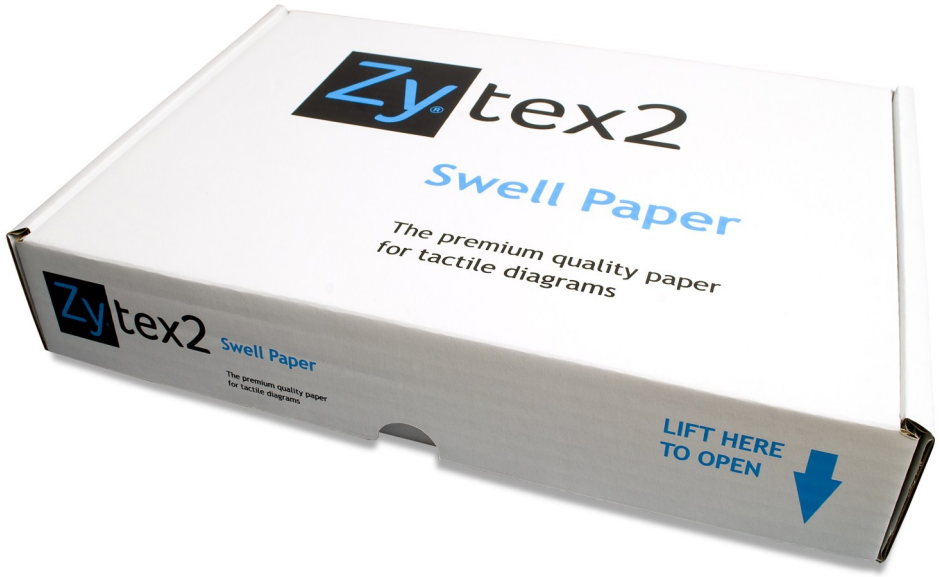
www.zychem ltd.co.uk
www.tactilelibrary.com

This booklet is a rough guide. You may find that you have success with different methods than we have suggested. If so, please let us know, so we can improve this guide for future users.

Have fun creating Tactile Diagrams!

Tactile Library
for the Blind and Partially Sighted

Zychem



Zytex2

User Guide

General Usage

- Always store the paper in its original packaging to preserve the coating.
- The textured creamy side is the print side. The smooth silky side is not to be printed on.
- Make sure all sheets are flat and not stuck together before processing so fan the paper on all sides before putting it in the tray to separate the sheets.

Photocopying

- The faster and cooler the copier, the better.
- Always run a test sheet first and preferably through the hand feed inlet.
- Use the Bypass tray if possible, as the route through the machine is shorter and therefore cooler.
- If the copier has a setting for transparencies or acetates, process the swell paper on this.
- Allow the copier to cool for a few minutes after its previous job before using Zy®tex2 .
- You can also ask your photocopier technician to lower the temperature of the machine down to 180°C. This can be done with all machines.
- Make sure the collection tray does not become congested when using Zy®tex2 . The tray may fill faster than expected due to the thickness of the paper.
- Do not leave the photocopier alone while it is producing the diagrams.

Pen and Pencil

For freehand drawing directly onto Zy®tex2 Swell Paper, it is possible to use pens and pencils.

- Generally the softer and blacker the pencil, the better. A standard 1B or 2B pencil will give good results, or even better a charcoal pencil.
- We have developed a marker pen which delivers consistent results on Zy®tex2 Paper. This is available to buy from us. Other brands of pen may work, but some ink formulations work better than others. For best results use our Zy®marker.

Printing From a Computer Laser/Inkjet

This can be the most practical and cheapest method for transferring images onto the Zy®tex2 Swell Paper. There are some general hints which allows the paper to be processed much easier.

- Fan the paper before putting it in the printer. This separates the paper and makes it easier for the printer to pick up one sheet at a time.
- Once the paper has been through the printer, lay it face down to cool so it does not curl.

There are very few problems that occur with printers, but here are the hints that can avoid the pitfalls.

- Always use branded ink. We have discovered value brands and refilled cartridges do not have the necessary carbon content .
- Some printers do not work with our paper due to the ink. So far it is only Epson and Dell printers which do not have the right ink carbon content.
- Make sure the black lines in the computer program are full black. If they are made up from colour, the printer can make the black up from the colour ink cartridge and then the black will not rise and become tactile. Using greyscale can be a way to avoid this problem.
- With inkjet printers, set the ink level to economy or draft. This stops so much ink being put onto the paper, and it is quicker to dry before it is fused.
- Zy®tex2 Swell Paper has a plasticity coating therefore the ink from the inkjet printer ‘sits’ on the surface of the paper. This means that when the paper comes out of the inkjet, leave it to dry for a long time (longer than touch dry). This will stop the ink from bubbling when fusing and will also stop blurring and smudging.
- Older models of the ‘compact desktop’ laser run a little warm and give the paper a suede like texture but it will still fuse ok. New models are fine.
- The All in One machines which fax, scan, print and make coffee can be considered a best buy as you can use them like a photocopier as well.