

Screen Printing

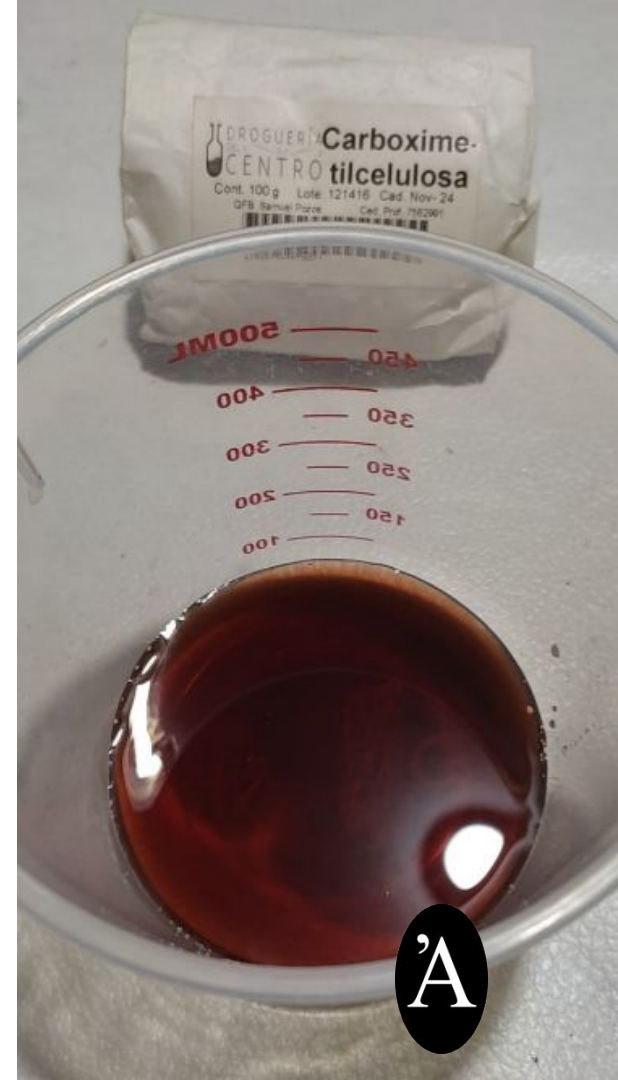
Natural dye

The main problem for doing screen printing with natural dyes is that the dye is too liquid for the process.

To prepare the dye for screenprinting, it is necessary to thicken the compound.

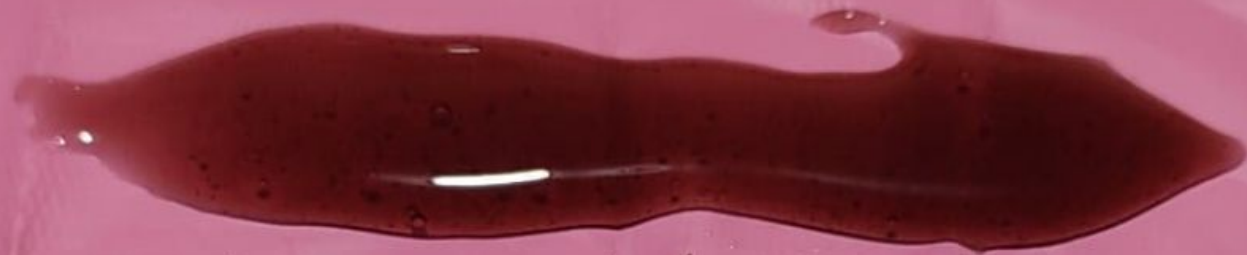
For this, I used Carboximetil Celulose (CMC) adding it little by little with the small spoon.

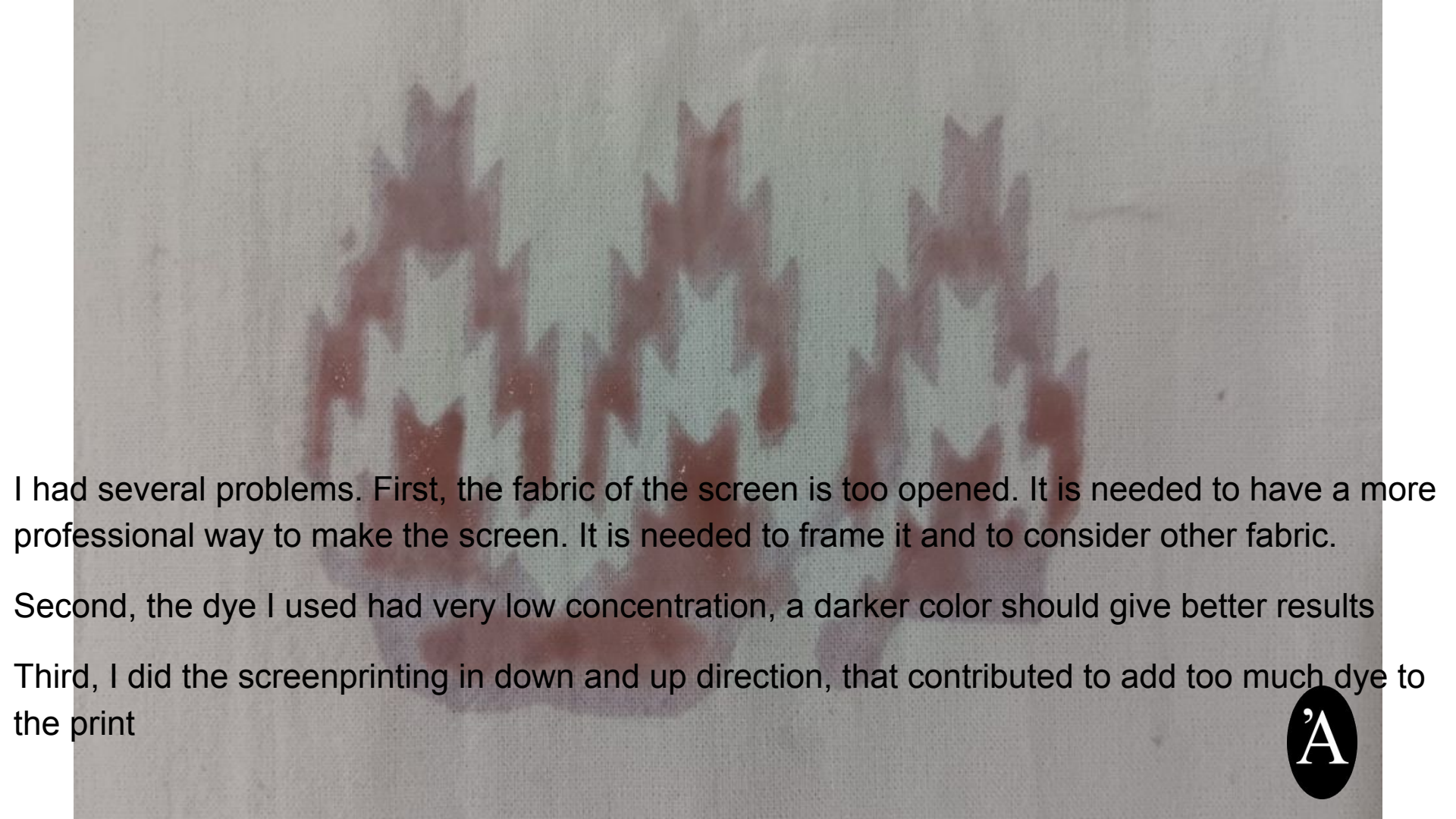
For 50ml I used 1.5 mini spoons of CMC





For testing in this experiment, I decided to use the Zapotec lightning design I found in MZ design page (<https://shopmzmade.com/pages/designs>)



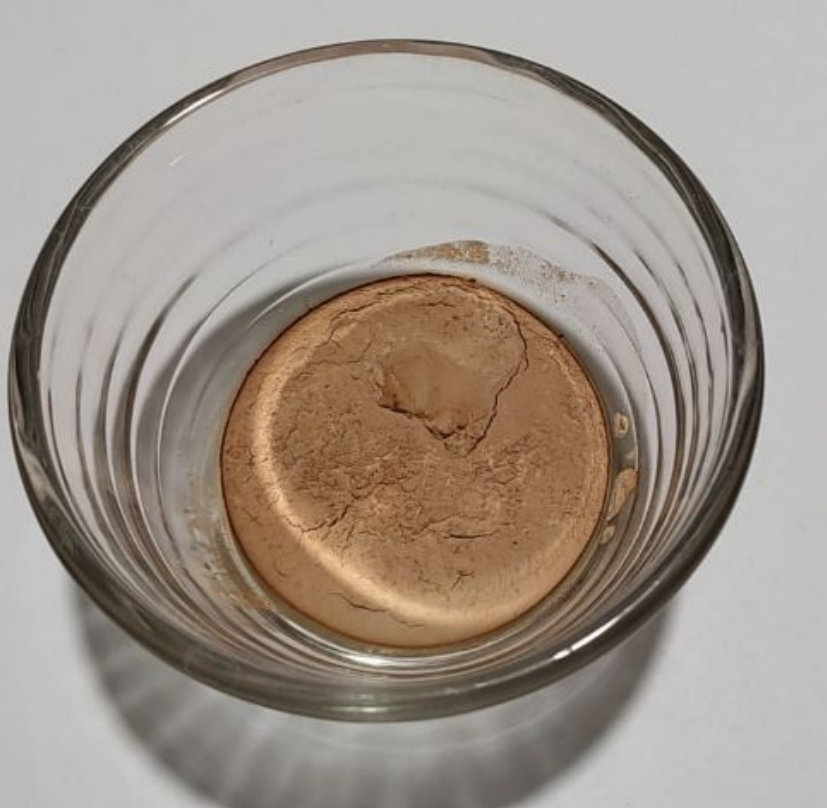
The background of the slide is a screenprint of a red maple leaf on a light-colored fabric. The leaf is centered and occupies most of the frame. It has a classic five-pointed shape with serrated edges. The color is a muted red, and the texture of the fabric is visible through the print.

I had several problems. First, the fabric of the screen is too opened. It is needed to have a more professional way to make the screen. It is needed to frame it and to consider other fabric.

Second, the dye I used had very low concentration, a darker color should give better results

Third, I did the screenprinting in down and up direction, that contributed to add too much dye to the print



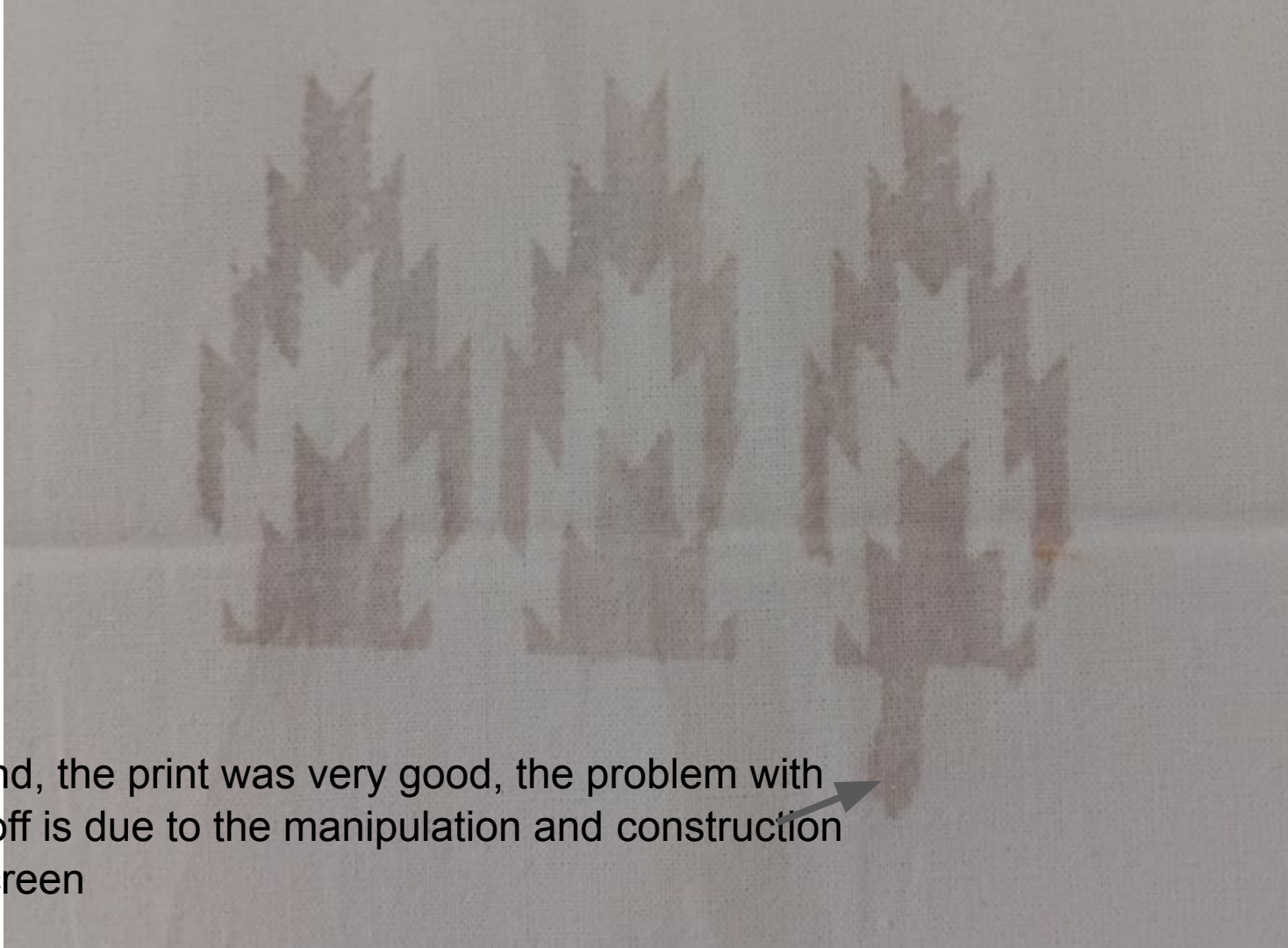


In an attempt to make the dye a bit darker, I added a little of the Oak pigment I made yesterday. In fact, it got a bit darker.









At the end, the print was very good, the problem with the run off is due to the manipulation and construction of the screen





I made an MDF cut seal with the laser cutter to test the ink. It can be improved but I think it is a good solution to avoid run off of the dye.





Printing Seals are a good option with this process, ink does not run off



Final test results. I DO recommend to keep experimenting with this technique

