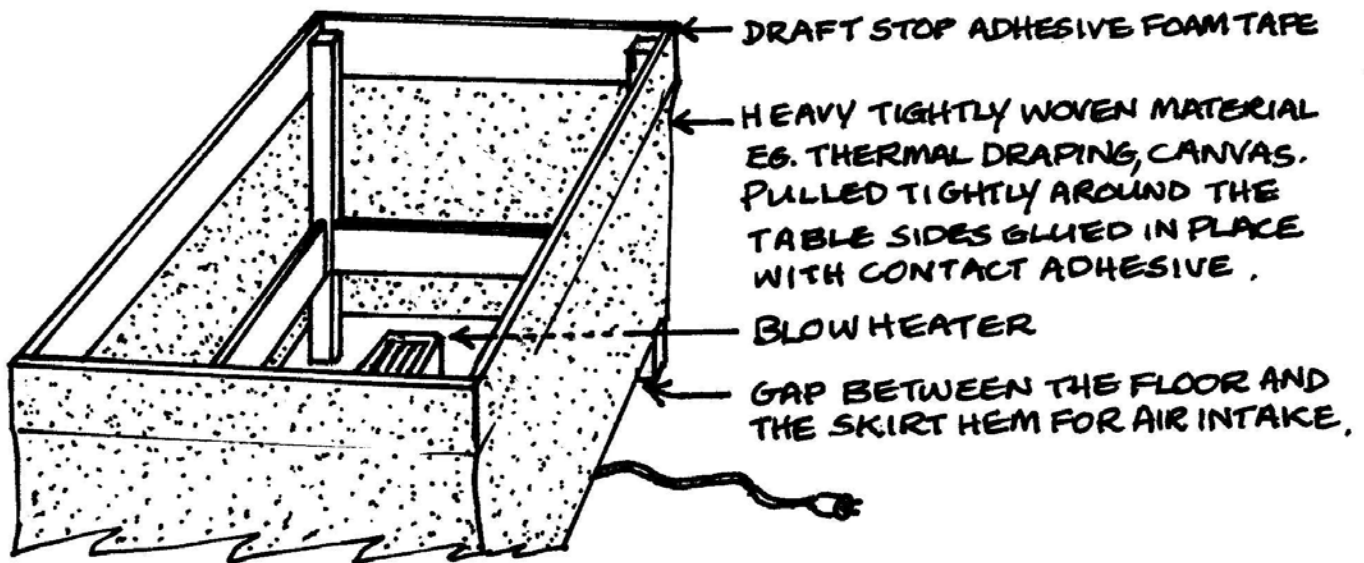
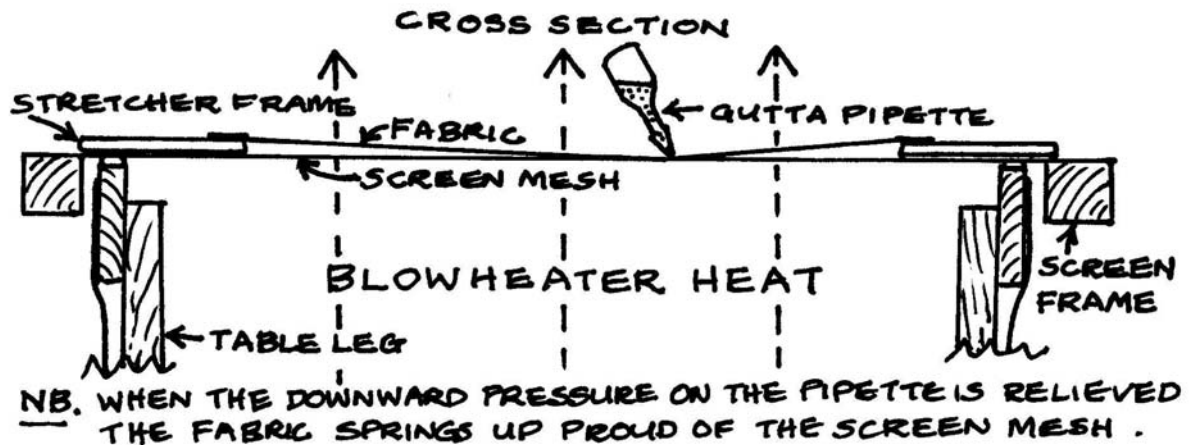


THE BLOWHEATER TABLE: A TOOL FOR LIMITING DIFFUSION AND PROMOTING SHARP DETAIL

The 'blowheater table' is simply a blowheater made more efficient by entrapping all its hot air output and guiding it up through wet fabric being decorated (i.e. wet with painted dye, gutta or print paste etc). This minimises the drying time and therefore maximises definition and detail sharpness. The heat is trapped by a table with no top that has a skirt of heavy material wrapped around the upright four corner legs as follows:



This table should stand at a comfortable working height and the size of the top opening can be made to suit the dimensions of your most popular painted product, bearing in mind that you need to be able to reach the middle of the work on the table without craning your back uncomfortably. If required, the top opening of the table can easily be reduced to accommodate different sizes of stretcher frames by temporarily blocking off unrequired portions with cardboard plywood or hardboard. The upper edge of the table should have draft stop foam tape applied to it so that it forms a seal against the back of the fabric stretcher frames when they're placed on the table. (see [STRETCHER FRAMES TECH. INFO. SHEET 4.](#)) The table's usefulness can be enhanced by making a table top to slot into it so that it can be utilised as a conventional table when the blowheater function isn't required. My table is made so that a perspex marbling trough also slots into it. This trough can be backlit from beneath to facilitate marbling and it also provides a handy backlit surface for photostencil and screen checking. Another useful alternative surface for the blowheater table is a fitted screenprinting screen. The screen mesh should be open (i.e. not blocked with emulsion) so that it allows hot air from the blowheater to pass through it. The screen mesh is very taut which provides a firm supported surface for hand drawing with a gutta pipette. So this porous screen surface supports the hand while simultaneously hot air is drying the gutta as it's being applied to maximise sharp definition. The system looks like this:



- The above screen system is best for applying clear and dye coloured guttas. Any residue from these guttas can easily be cleaned off the screen with water. However, dried-on residue from textile paint based guttas is more difficult to clean off the screen mesh. For this, a specialist textile paint remover available from the local screenprinting product supplier, is required. To prevent clogging the screen mesh with these guttas a piece of material can be laid on top of the mesh under the fabric being guttaed.
- Some of the polychromatic gutta techniques described in INFO SHEET 6 also utilise this screenprinting mesh top for the blowheater table.

BLOWHEATER TABLE USAGES

1. Sharp non diffused painting with unthickened dyes i.e. an alternative to the traditional methods that involve:
 - (a) sizing the fabric with antifusant, or
 - (b) thickening the dye.

This method utilises the blowheater's quick drying effect to stop diffusion when unthickened dye is brushed onto stretched fabric.

NB: With this blowheater method of sharp definition painting, the dyes will tend to congregate on the bottom hot blowheater side of the fabric so there'll be a discrepancy in colour intensity between the top and bottom sides of the fabric.

The advantages of the blowheater method of non diffused painting are:

- Its speed; no preparatory steps like sizing the fabric with antifusant or thickening the dyes are required.
- Its versatility; you can instantly rework sharp definition paintings done with the blowheater simply by wetting them. You could salt, urea, watermark or run technique over the top of blowheater detail. This would not work on top of traditional sharp definition methods like 'antifusant' and 'thickened dye'.

2. Heat can be used to further improve the efficiency and sharpness of traditional antifusant and dye thickener methods of 'sharp definition' painting. The blowheater provides an additional tool for increasing the sharpness and speed of these traditional methods of sharp definition painting.
3. Aiding in the application of water based guttas (Procolour guttas are all water based).

HEAT DURING APPLICATION = QUICK DRYING = SHARP DETAIL
= LESS CHANCE OF SMUDGING WET GUTTA DURING APPLICATION

4. Salt, urea, sugar, watermark and run techniques of painting can have their detail frozen whenever the desired effect is reached. No longer is it necessary to watch beautiful detail dissipate during the process of normal air drying.
5. Screen and block printing detail is also benefited by rapid drying.
6. Marbling work can be snap dried for extra sharp detail.
7. Large fabric lengths can be painted with an elongated blowheater table. One blowheater with robust output would be sufficient for every 1.5 metres of table length, assuming that the width is not more than 1.5 metres.