



Below is a list of tips that, if followed, will ensure that your art will be reproduced at the highest quality possible.

- ✍ **Use a good quality art board:** A hot press board is preferred (such as Bainbridge 182) or a plate finish Strathmore bristol board. Both boards have a very smooth surface and will hold a clean, solid line.
- ✍ **If you order pre-printed boards with non-repro lines, make sure the lines are screened back to 30%-40% so they don't repel ink.**
- ✍ **Use permanent, waterproof ink such as india ink for drawing.** A non-repro blue or light graphite pencil can be used to rough in the strips before inking.
- ✍ **Use light pressure when drawing with pencil.** A waxy pencil may repel ink and cause skipping in your line work.
- ✍ **Clean up any graphite pencil lines with a white film type eraser.** These erasers don't "crumble" and won't disturb ink lines or rough up the board surface.
- ✍ **Work at a consistent original size that is either 100% of reproduction size\* or an easy-to-figure percentage of the final size.** Example: 200% of final reproduction size. Preprinted art boards with non-repro blue frames or black frames can help.
- ✍ **Print your dates and balloon lettering large. Don't hide the dates.** Remember, your art will be reduced to 1/2 its original size if you are working at 200%. A good rule of thumb would be to have your dates approximately 1/8" tall. This will reduce down to about 6-point type at usage size.
- ✍ **Keep your dates from resting on rules or art.**
- ✍ **Clean board surface of all pencil lines, smudges, dust, hair, etc.,** before applying Zipatone screens.
- ✍ **Align your screens as close to a 45° angle as possible.** This will prevent moiré patterns when art is scanned for digital distribution. Use a T-square and triangle, if possible.
- ✍ **Burnish your screens carefully, and uniformly, with the broad edge of the burnisher.** Using the corners creates lines in screened areas, burnish out all bubbles. Use a pin to release trapped air.
- ✍ **Use coarse screens.** If working at 2 times the final size, use 40-lines-per-inch or coarser screens for best reproduction. If working at less than twice the final size, use a screen that will reduce to 65 lpi or coarser at finished size.

### ✍ Things to avoid:

- ✍ **Avoid using felt-tip markers, such as Flair pens.** The black line is not dense enough and doesn't reproduce well. If boards get wet in shipping, the lines will bleed and the artwork will be ruined.
- ✍ **Avoid using "white out" or other correction fluids, and then inking over them.** They repel ink and you will not get a good, black line. Use 3-M Post-it correction tape instead.
- ✍ **Avoid using correction fluid or tape in areas where a Zipatone screen will be applied.** Screen will not photograph properly and will appear blotchy and uneven.
- ✍ **Avoid using screen tint values less than 5% or more than 70%, especially if working at 2 times the final size.** Screens lighter or darker than these, when reduced to the final size, may disappear in the case of the light screen or become plugged and dark, in the case of darker screens.

### \*100% reproduction sizes we provide to newspapers for Daily Comic Strips and Panels:

Strips=	38.5 picas wide x 12.5 picas high
Panels=	1 1/2 col = 19 picas wide (54" web)
Editorials=	3 col=34.5 picas wide (50" web) 4 col=46.25 picas wide (50" web)

As always, if you have any questions, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to call your editor or:  
Digital Feature Services:  
816-932-6727.