

STUDIO TIPS

A clean printer is a good printer, wear an apron or extendible clothing.

MESH COUNTS

Mesh count affects your print image (type of ink, detail of image, and what your substrate is).

1. **110** - Gray tape: No detail (metallic ink)
2. **155/158** - Orange tape: Average detail (GO TO SCREEN FOR APPAREL)
3. **196/200** - White tape: Detailed
4. **230** - Green tape: Fine detail (GO TO SCREEN FOR PAPER)
5. **305** - Black tape: Very fine detail and halftone

DEGREASE SCREEN

- Perform this step when renting a studio screen or using a brand new screen for the first time.
- Spray screen front and back with Degreasing chemical. Work in both side using a clean sponge then rise throughly with the hose.

COATING SCREENS

- Screen and scoop coater must be bone dry before coating.
- Use the thin edge of the scoop coater to coat your screen with emulsion.
- A thin, even coat of emulsion makes a big deal when you're exposing your screens. Don't forget to apply confident, even pressure to the scoop coater.
- Please clean and dry the scoop coater completely for the next person. Place it back on the peg board.

EXPOSURE TIMES

- 110 Mesh: White: 28 sec.
- 158 Mesh: White: 20 sec.
- 196 Mesh: Yellow: 16 sec. // White: 12 sec.
- 230 Mesh: Yellow: 14 sec.
- 305 Mesh: Yellow: 10 sec.

SHOOTING SCREENS

- Always inspect your films! Make sure they look correct and are free of debris and dust before you expose them.
- Make sure times are correct and the vacuum is on throughout the duration of the exposure.
- BE CAREFUL OPENING AND CLOSING EXPOSURE UNIT, always have hand on it and lift gently up.

WASHOUT

- Once your exposure is finished, immediately take it to the washout booth and fully spray it out with the hose.
- Your design should look like the uncoated mesh surrounding the screen!

PREP SCREENS FOR PRINTING

- Make sure screens are completely dry.
- Printing water based ink? Post expose your screens – put your dry screen back in exposure unit for 2 mins.
- Always tape up the inside of your screens (frame facing up) with clear or painters tape.
- Check for pinholes (use scotch tape for this on the back of the screen).

SETTING UP ON PRESS

- Always measure twice and draw measurements on contact papered pallet.
- Make sure the work area is clean and ink is neat.
- Have all tools within arms reach.
- Prepare all inks and once applied to the screen, store them away from your printing material.

PRINTING

- Use the proper amount of ink (hot dog width for >10 of pcs, sausage width for 20-30 pcs)
- Make sure the platen is covered with contact paper.
- Always use adhesive – pallet glue or spray adhesive. New glue application may be necessary before printing.
- Check off-contact.
- ONLY use gloves when applying ink.
- Always test print!

RECLAIMING SCREENS

Step 1. - Remove all ink residue - Orange or Green label

- All ink has been taken off screen and put back in the container. Spray screen with water.
- Spray both sides with appropriate ink remover based on the kind of ink used for your prints. Scrub with rag to loosen ink and spray off with hose.

Step 2: Reclaimer - **removes emulsion** - White label

- Spray both sides, wait 1-2 minutes.
- Scrub both sides of the screen with rag to loosen emulsion.
- Blast out with pressure washer.

Step 3: Haze Remover – **removes leftover emulsion, ink stains, etc.** - Black label

- Draw on 'S' on the screen with pink stuff – scrub both sides.
- Wait a 2-3 mins minutes to let it sink in.
- Blast out with pressure washer.

Step 3: Degreaser - **removes leftover chemicals from screen** - Gray label

- Spray both sides (scrub)
- Rinse with hose.

Clean up:

- Ink spills, general area, all squeegees used. Throw out any garbage.