

# Things To Remember:

- A clean printer is a good printer
- Mesh count affects your print image (type of ink, detail of image, and what your substrate is). **When printing on apparel use the lowest mesh count possible!**
  - Mesh counts:
    1. **110**- Gray tape: No detail (metallic ink)
    2. **155/158**- Orange tape: Average detail
    3. **196/200**- White tape: Detailed
    4. **230**- Green Tape: Fine detail
    5. **305**- Flower tape: Very fine detail and halftone
- Always inspect your films! Make sure they look correct and are free of debris and dust before you expose them
- **Coating Screens**
  - Be as neat as possible. Remember, this is the first step in the whole process! (do this correct, and things should go smoothly)
  - A thin even coat of emulsion makes a big deal when you're exposing your screens. Don't forget to apply hard and even pressure to the scoop coater
  - Please clean the scoop coater completely for the next person
- **Exposure times:**
  - 110 Mesh: Yellow: 3 min 30 sec White: 2 min 30 sec
  - 158 Mesh: Yellow: 2 min 45 sec White: 2 min
  - 196 Mesh: Yellow: 2 min White: 1 min
  - 230 Mesh: Yellow: 1 min 48 sec
  - 305 Mesh: Yellow: 1 min 15 sec
- **Shooting Screens**- Make sure times are correct and the vacuum is on throughout the duration of the exposure.
  - Make sure the image is fully sprayed out and looks good. Your design should look like the uncoated mesh surrounding the screen!
- **Prep Screens**
  - Make sure screens are completely dry

- o Always tape up the inside of your screens (frame facing up) with brown or clear tape
- o Check for pinholes (use scotch tape for this)
- **Set up**
  - o Always measure twice and draw measurements on contact papered pallet
  - o Make sure the work area is clean and ink is neat
  - o Have all tools within arms reach
  - o Prepare all inks
- **Printing**
  - o Use the proper amount of ink (hot dog width for small run of prints sausage width for large run)
  - o Make sure the platen is covered with contact paper
  - o Always use spray glue
  - o Check off contact
  - o ONLY use gloves when dealing with ink
  - o Always test print
- **Reclaiming Screens** : Make sure there is no ink left on screen, use plastisol remover - Orange label - on both sides to remove all ink.
  - o Step 1: Reclaimer - White label
    - Spray both sides (scrub)
    - Wait a few minutes
    - Blast out with pressure washer
  - o Step 2: Haze Remover (yellow liquid) - Black label
    - Spray both sides (scrub)
    - Wait a few minutes
    - Blast out with pressure washer
  - o Step 3: Degreaser (red liquid) - Gray label
    - Spray both sides (scrub)
    - Blast out with pressure washer
  - o Step 4: Rinse well
  - o Step 5: Set to dry properly under exposure unit or away from coated screens
  - o Make sure all ink is clean on frame (inside and outside)
- **Clean up:**
  - o Ink spills, general area, all squeegees used. Throw out any garbage.