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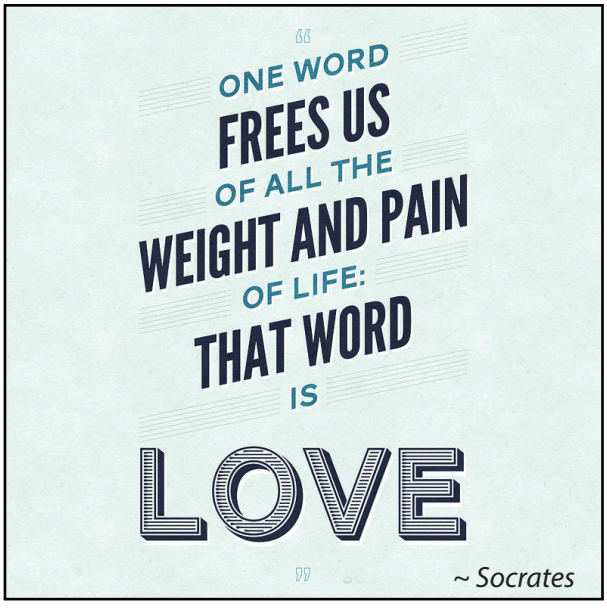
Tips of the MONTH



~ Socrates

Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

~ Henry Ford

Each misfortune you encounter will carry in it the seed of to-morrow's good luck.

~ Og Mandino

Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.

~ Benjamin Franklin

Guide To Choosing And Caring For Your Squeegees

It is important to fully understand how squeegees work in screen printing tee shirts or other textiles in order to achieve the best print quality with ease. Choosing the correct squeegee durometer, size and shape is most likely one of the single most overlooked details for beginning screen printers. The durometer measurement is not the only thing to consider when choosing a squeegee for any particular print job. And proper maintenance and care will also affect the squeegees ability to do its job right. The following is geared more toward textile screen printing but may also be relevant to other printing applications as well.

1- The first factor to consider when choosing the squeegee is the durometer. This is simply a measurement of hardness. These measurements are represented by two digit numbers. A 60 durometer squeegee is much softer than a 95 durometer. The lower the durometer is the softer the squeegee is and more ink will be printed. The higher the durometer is the harder the squeegee is and less ink will be printed. Knowing this when choosing the squeegee will help you optimize print results. Now it may also be helpful to know that rougher substrates to be printed on will require a softer squeegee in general. And contrastingly smoother substrates will need a harder squeegee for best performance. It is also important to note that harder squeegee durometers will be the most resistant to chemicals, inks and other solvents.
2- The second thing you need to look at is the squeegee shape. For the most part a rectangular, cut edge squeegee will suffice for many screen printing applications on flat surfaces of all kinds. When printing bottles or other cylindrical items a "V" shaped squeegee is used in a majority of the printing. Yet another type of squeegee shape is called "ball nose" or rounded. This shape will tend to leave very heavy deposits of ink with less resolution. That means it will print more ink but the edges of the print areas will be less sharp. There are what is known as a standard squeegee and a dual durometer. The dual durometer squeegee combines the values of two different durometer squeegees into one. There are also triple durometer squeegees.

3- The last property to think about when picking your squeegee for printing is the size or length. This is another point many people fail to recognize as an important issue. But the bigger the squeegee the higher the friction is between the mesh and the squeegee blade. That can cause stencil drag which causes mesh distortion and thus registration problems. It will adversely affect not only the registration but the overall clarity of the print and even the consistency of the ink deposit.
Believe it or not the urethane materials squeegees are made of are absorbent. They can actually swell and deteriorate with prolonged contact to inks or other chemicals. That's why it is very important to clean squeegees immediately after printing and to allow them to "rest" between long print runs. When possible use a different squeegee daily for printing duties in your shop. Meaning use a particular one on Monday and then rotate to a different squeegee on Tuesday and so on for the entire week. Rotating squeegees will not only prolong their life span but it will also improve performance. It is also recommended that you keep the blade edge sharp when using rectangular squeegees for screen printing.
It can be daunting to think about all of the major and minor details one needs to consider when screenprinting tee shirts. If you can remember to take the time to work smarter, then your print results will be not only better but much easier to achieve too.

How To Mix Screen Printing Inks By Weight And Volume

When you are involved with any type of screen printing it will eventually become necessary to mix inks at particular ratios. Sometimes the mix will determine the color of an ink and other times we are mixing in an activating additive or a catalyst which will affect the inks performance. In these cases the mixture can be very critical. If the mix is off it may cause problems for your finished product. For working with colors we often use our eyes as a gauge in comparison to color charts to estimate a visual quantity to mix. However, being precise in either situation will actually make the job easier and more easily repeatable.

When you mix the chemicals used in screen making for screenprinting tee shirts you already use liquid measurements of volume for mixing. You can also use this system for inks. This type of ratio will be seen in different formats. For instance when you need one part substance A mixed with five parts substance B you can see it written out in a sentence such as this. Or you could simply see it denoted as a number ratio like this, 1:5. In both cases a particular measurement of volume is used to represent the "part."

American measurements of volume include:

- teaspoon
- tablespoon = 3 teaspoons
- fluid ounce = 2 tablespoons = 6 teaspoons
- cup = 8 fluid ounces =16 tablespoons
- pint = 2 cups =16 fluid ounces
- quart = 2 pints = 4 cups
- gallon = 4 quarts = 8 pints = 16 cups

The metric system uses liters as follows:

- 1 milliliter = 0.001 liter
- 1 centiliter = 0.01 liter
- 1 deciliter = 0.1 liter
- 1 kiloliter = 1000 liters
- 10 deciliters = 1 liter

It is more likely that ink mixing systems sold by ink vendors will use weight as the measurement for mixing. Here you will need a decent scale big enough hold the quantities of inks you wish to mix. In this case you will use the measurements of weight to detriment how much of each ink or ink additive to mix with each other. This type of mixture ratio is denoted by percentages. For instance an additive will be mixed into an ink base 6% by weight. This means you will want to start with a known quantity of the base to work with; for example 100 grams. To mix 6% of the additive to 100 grams of the ink base you multiply 100 by 6% or .06 in decimal format. Therefore we would add 6 grams of additive to the 100 grams of ink base to achieve a 6% ratio

Common American measurements of weight are as follows:

- ounces
- pounds

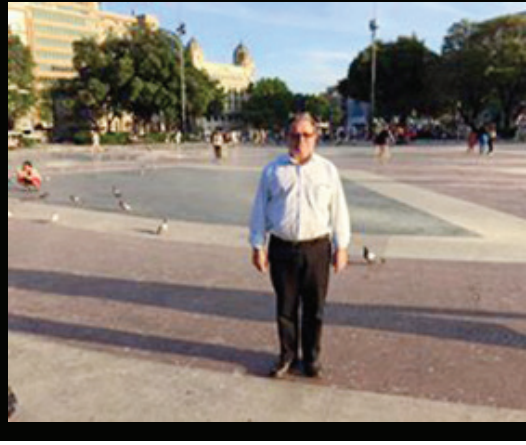
The most common metric measurements used are:

- grams
- kilograms

You may also mix inks by formulas in which you simply add certain weights of each color. Pantone inks are often mixed this way. As you can see mixing inks by volume or weight is not as hard as it first appears to be. Taking a little time to prepare and gather your mixing tools before starting to mix will also help make things easier. And remember when it comes to metric to US conversions or anything related to weights or measurements, the internet is full of help.

News from Printex

Our CEO – Mr. Mustafa Kamal visited Cresa – Spain & Sroque – Portugal for Technical Training and business discussions. Few Pics of his visit .



Ramadan Mubarak

Many Many Happy Ramadan to All from Printex Family. We wish you all the best in the most blessed month of the Year.

Mr. Vitor Simao from Sroque will visit Pakistan during the last week of June.

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