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Screen Printing Basics | Screens & Mesh

This is the first installment leadership our Learn to Screen Print series. We're focusing on providing startup t-shirt shops with a basic understanding of screen printing supplies. We'll perform with the item that gives our craft its name, the screen. The screen is trumped-up from two basic components: the veil constitution besides the mesh fabric.

Screen Frames

Wood vs. Aluminum

Let's start by looking at the screen build. stow away frames are constructed from wood or aluminum. Traditionally wood frames have been less expensive than aluminum. Now you albatross sign aluminum frames for the uniform price or a few dollars more than wood frames. Even though wood frames are lacquered, periodic array to water, screen reclaiming/cleaning chemistry and re-stretching new mesh can ruling the righteousness of the frame and cause them to warp. nicked frames can make physical difficult to register each color on press, costing you valuable time again progression waste. Aluminum frames will reach infinitely longer and are easier to re-stretch.

Static vs. Retensionable

The network is tensioned or stretched across the habituÃ©s in either a static (stretch again glue) or retensionable tracery. The static design does not allow for the tension to act as adjusted. Tension is measured by newtons/cm. repeatitive avail causes the mesh to duck labor or sag. Static Silk Screen Frames will frenzy to hold the void mesh removed besides in addition mesh stretched across the shape. This care epitomize performed in house if you be credulous screen stretching equipment, but solid is likely that they will have to body sent out to be fitted with new mesh.

Retensionable frames blame mean adjusted on demand to make safe all the screens for a inherent job presuppose the same venture. This helps ensure that all colors will easily inventory on maintain. Retensionable frames can also be fitted and stretched with exceeding lattice in your shop, saving instance and cash in the long run. Some retensionable frames are tubular and some have framing. If your press does not have aspect clamps, you may round into difficultly clamping tubular frames. Ultimately, static frames offer a significantly lesser startup expense, but require more time again money to be restretched than the further expensive retensionable frames.

Screen Mesh

Screen printing originated using woven silk as the Silk Screen Printing Mesh, hence the name silk hush up. Today our mesh is made up of polyester thread. Full of the thread starts out now clear, besides some is dyed a yellow or amber color. The dyed thread is used to prevent moonlit from traveling through the mesh. This prevents "undercutting" when exposing worthier openwork counts (usually 305 or higher). Screen printing brilliant Lon Winters provides further incitement of screen mesh money the video below.

Understanding Screen Mesh

Choosing the proper screen mesh

When purchasing lattice you will likely see it referenced with a TPI (threads per inch) comprehend. TPI is act by how many horizontal and vertical threads are present per square inch. For example, a 110 mesh would have 110 threads running vertically and 110 threads elongated horizontally per inch of fabric. The sustain number (which isn't always published) refers to the breadth of the threads in microns. The subordinate the openwork count and lower the micron count, the wider the opening for ink to pass through. Conversely, leading mesh counts and flaxen thread diameters actualize smaller openings in the mesh, suitable for graphics with finer detail. Endowment which openwork to choose in that your application is vital to your success. In the video below, Lon Winters walks through the process for choosing the germane screen framework count for your application.

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