

Screen Meshing

technique focus

TF0017

Your Options

1

Professional Re-Meshing Service:

Dryad Education offer a professional re-meshing service for your silk screens. We mesh any size of frame with any of our standard meshes overleaf. We can collect and deliver your frames back to you ready to use, and also offer best practice advice should you need it. Please contact us for a quote via: info@dryadeducation.co.uk.

2a



Rack Screen Stretcher:

2a. Lay your screen on a level surface, and place the rack stretcher over the top of it. Fasten each side of the mesh into the rack stretcher and use the turning screws to adjust the tension on the mesh until it is drum tight.

2b



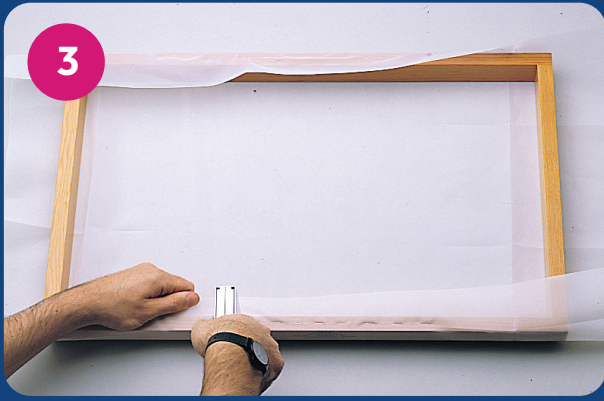
2b. Lay a board or piece of card the same size as the inner area of your frame on top of the mesh. Using a stiff, short bristled brush, paint mesh adhesive onto the frame by applying onto the areas where the mesh is in contact with the frame. Hold the board/card on top of the mesh in place whilst painting the adhesive on to protect the screen printing area of the mesh, then remove it whilst the adhesive is still wet. Leave the adhesive to dry thoroughly.

2c



2c. Using a sharp knife or scalpel, cut the mesh away from the outside of the frame then release the mesh edges from the rack screen stretcher. The screen is ready to mask.

3



Reverse Tacking:

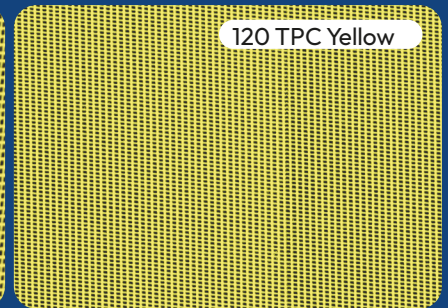
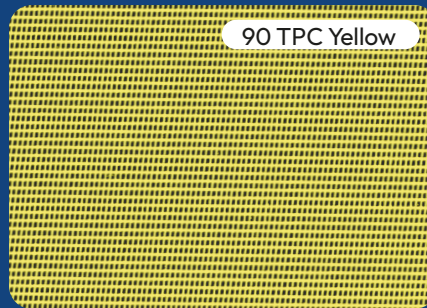
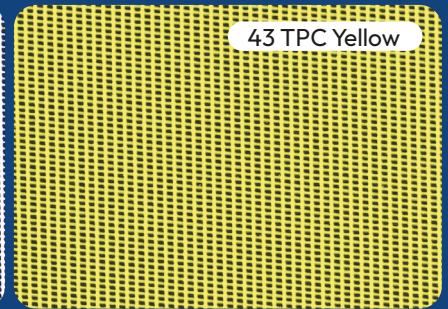
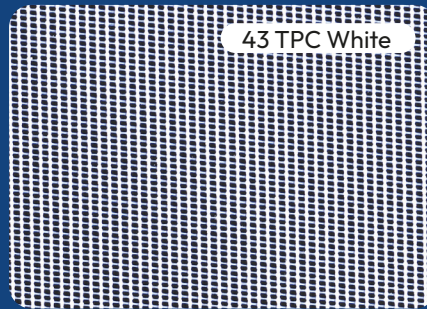
1. Cut a piece of mesh approx. 20cm larger than your frame. Lay the mesh on a flat surface and place the frame on top. Fold the mesh over one side of the frame and place the staple in the centre of the frame, through the mesh, with a staple gun. Stretch the mesh out to each side and staple in place along the frame until the mesh is pulled tight and securely fixed to the frame.
2. Pull the mesh tightly on the opposite side, and staple the centre point. Pull the corners out diagonally up and away from the centre of the frame, then tack in position. Repeat for each end of the screen until the resulting mesh is held drum tight.
3. Trim any excess fabric away from the back of the screen.

Screen Printing Meshes:

Screen mesh is an integral part of the screen printing process. The type of mesh you use depends on the results you want, the type of stencil and material which is to be printed on. Different mesh sizes are used for different applications in the screen printing process.

You just need to remember the following:

- Mesh size is measured by how many threads of mesh there are crossing per square cm (TPC) or per square inch (TPI). For example, a 120 mesh screen has 120 threads crossing per square cm.
- The higher the mesh count, the finer the threads and holes are in the screen.
- The size of the mesh has a lot to do with how detailed your image is and how thick the ink you are using is. If you have an image with extremely high detail, a lower mesh screen won't hold the detail. The fine lines or dots in the image will simply fall through the holes in the mesh not giving you a correct representation of your image.



Screen Printing Meshes

Type of Mesh	PR449A001 43TPC White Monofilament Polyester	PR448A001 43TPC Yellow Monofilament Polyester	PR448A002 90TPC Yellow Monofilament Polyester	PR448A003 120TPC Yellow Monofilament Polyester
General Information	General purpose mesh with an open weave. Ideal for teaching screen printing.	As the white 43TPC version but for those who prefer yellow mesh which reflects less light during the curing of photostencil emulsion giving shaper edges.	A fine mesh allowing good detailed work to be produced, even from photographs. Yellow mesh reflects less light during the curing of photostencil emulsion giving sharper edges.	An ultra-fine mesh giving excellent detailed work and fine lines. Yellow mesh reflects less light during the curing of photostencil emulsion, giving shaper edges.
Screen Preperation	Use Screen Degreasing Gel.		If using Photostencil emulsion, initially prepare with Screen Abrader and Degreaser. Thereafter use Screen Degreasing Gel. Use the abrader intermittently to minimise wear of the mesh.	
Stencil Type	Stencil Card, liquid direct emulsions (Daler-Rowney or Speedball Screen Drawing Fluid and Screen Block/Filler		Stencil Card, liquid direct emulsions (Daler-Rowney or Speedball Screen Drawing Fluid and Screen Block/Filler, photostencil emulsions.	
Inks	Water-based screen printing inks for paper and textiles or Specialist Crafts Printex or acrylic paint with screen print medium.		Water-based screen printing inks for paper and textiles or Specialist Crafts Printex.	
Results	Will produce bold prints. Best results on fabric. Not for fine detailed work.		Will produce fine detailed work on paper, card and fabric when used with photostencil emulsion.	Will produce extra fine detailed work on paper, card and fabric when used with photostencil emulsion.
General Screen Cleaning	Periodic degreasing. Remove ink using Universal Screen Wash.			
Stencil Removal	Use the cleaning method suitable for the stencil and type of ink used. If photostencil emulsion has been used, clean with De-Coating Agent or dissolved Stencil Strip Powder and use a pressure washer if required.			