



Tech Sheets are written by Bob and Kathy Drake. We hope they make your life a little easier. Please call us if you have any other questions.

# SCREEN PREP FOR NEW SCREENS

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Wet screen mesh with cold water. Apply "BOB'S MESH ABRADER" to screen mesh. Use a clean "SCREEN BRUSH" and scrub in a circular motion. Repeat on second side. (This step removes oils and contaminants from the new screen mesh and allows the emulsion to adhere better to the mesh. This process can be repeated as often as needed, whenever emulsion is experiencing difficulties adhering to mesh.) Abrading after every 10 to 20 reclaimings is recommended.



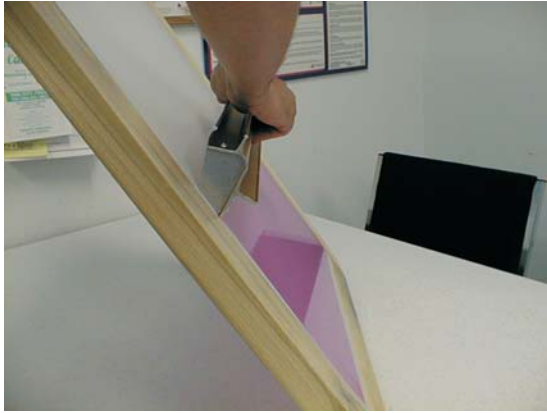
Rinse screen thoroughly with a strong stream of water. It is important to completely remove all residue from the screen. Generally speaking, if you can see bubbles on the mesh, you need to rinse more.

Remove screen from sink. Wipe excess water off the frame (not off the mesh). Place screen in a clean place to dry, preferably a "SCREEN RACK". Screen racks are used to protect the screens from unnecessary abuse. Let screen dry completely. (A dehumidifier can speed the process. Do not use a fan, because it will blow contaminants on the mesh!)

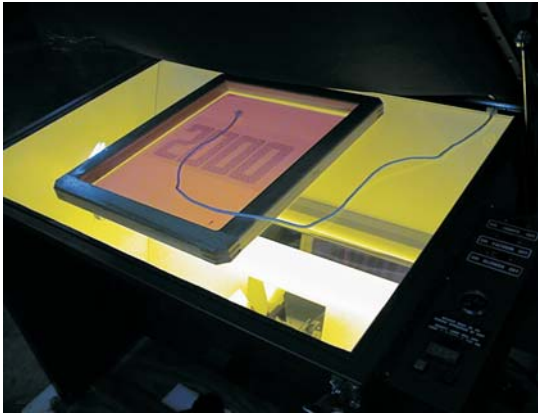


Select a "SCOOP COATER" that is 2 inches shorter than the inside dimension of the screen. Remove protective rubber cover from sharp edge of coater. Run your finger along the sharp edge to make sure there are no nicks (200 grit sand paper can be used to remove minor nicks, otherwise replace the coater if damaged.)

Work under yellow safe light (or under subdued light if you work very quickly!) Fill scoop coater 2/3 of the way with the "S.E.X. PHOTOPOLYMER EMULSION".



Tilt screen on a 45 degree angle. Press scoop coater against mesh at the bottom of the print side of the screen. Tilt scoop coater until angle guides on coater contact screen mesh. Wait for emulsion to come into complete contact with mesh. Press scoop coater firmly against mesh and slowly scrape up the screen. When you reach top of screen, tilt screen and coater straight up and remove coater from screen. Repeat process on squeegee side of screen. Store screen flat under yellow light conditions (or complete darkness) until dry (approximately 2 to 8 hours). Storage temp. should be 70 to 80 degrees (40 to 90 max range). A dehumidifier and air conditioner can be used to speed drying process.



Clean “EXPOSURE UNIT” glass with glass cleaner and paper towels. To expose screen, place film positive on center of exposure unit glass (right reading for direct printing or mirror reading for heat transfers). Place screen, print side down on top of film positive. Drape exposure unit rope, if applicable, over screen and under vacuum fitting. Close lid on exposure unit. Allow vacuum to suck screen to 15 psi minimum. Turn on exposure lights. Correct exposure time is determined through trial and error. Time should be long enough to sufficiently harden the screen, yet short enough that the unexposed areas can be washed out. An “EXPOSURE CALCULATOR” is helpful for determining correct exposure time.



Remove screen from exposure unit when exposure is complete. Place screen in “WASHOUT SINK” and wet both sides with cold water. (Sink should not have white back lights or be near a window or door. Washout can not be done outside!) Keep both side of screen wet for 2 to 3 minutes (Do not use high water pressure!)



When emulsion starts to fall out of unexposed areas of the screen, use “WASHOUT HOSE” to provide a more precise spray. Wash out unexposed screen areas thoroughly. Hold screen up to light for final check that all details have washed out. Using garden hose do a final rinse of screen mesh and screen frame to flush any remaining emulsion particles. Dry screen frame with paper towel (not screen mesh) and place screen in front of fan to dry. After washout, screens can also be placed outside in the sun to dry.

If screen “scumming” (open mesh area clogged by thin, shiny emulsion residue) occurs the following can solve the problem:

1. Increase exposure time by 10 to 25 percent.
2. Thoroughly rinse screen after washout.
3. Dry screen horizontally in front of fan or  
Blow screens dry with compressed air or  
Blot screens dry with clean unprinted newspaper.