

## GELATINE INDIRECT FILMS

### Five Star, Alphastar, Greenstar, Microplus

#### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The four films belonging to the Gelatine Indirect Photostencil range are pre-sensitised films consisting of pigmented gelatine emulsions coated onto a dimensionally stable support.

#### APPLICATIONS

These films are sold strictly for use in the screen printing industry as photo-stencil indirect films. Gelatine indirect films are particularly suitable for the production of high quality, short run prints using solvent based or UV curable inks.

#### WORKING INSTRUCTIONS & SAFE HANDLING

The film should be handled under yellow safelights only. The film should be returned to its container after cutting off the required length. Do not kink the film, as the emulsion may delaminate from the base and inhibit the exposure and adhesion in the damaged area.

#### Exposure

Cut the stencil film to size and place in the vacuum frame with the polyester base in contact with the positive, which should be right reading emulsion side up. Ensure that the vacuum frame and positive are clean. To protect the emulsion surface, cover it with a piece of matt film or masking film, and expose to the ultra violet light source.

## **Hardening**

Immediately after exposure, evenly immerse the photostencil film in the hardening solution for one minute. This should be at a temperature of 19-20°C (66-70°C) and should be ideally made from Autotype Activator Powder (instructions on container). Hydrogen Peroxide can also be used. Recommended concentration is 1.2% (4 volumes) and the same temperatures and time apply.

## **Washout**

Use a fine spray of water at a temperature of 40-50°C (105-115°F) evenly washing the entire stencil. Continue washing for at least 60 seconds after the image area appears free of emulsion; this is especially important when producing fine details stencils. Stencils should then be chilled with cool water for 10-15 seconds. Do not chill with water below 15°C (50°F) as this can reduce adhesion of the stencil to the mesh.

## **Mesh Preparation**

The mesh should be thoroughly pre-treated with Autoprep Gel and degreased with Universal Mesh Prep, thoroughly rinsed and then allowed to dry.

Mesh preparation is recommended as follows:-

Unused Polyester/Nylon - Autoprep Gel then Universal Mesh Prep

Used Polyester/Nylon (Stainless Steel) - Universal Mesh

## **Mounting**

Apply the stencil to a wet screen as this helps to prevent dust and scumming (partial blockage of the stencil open areas). Place the wet stencil on the underside of the screen, emulsion side to mesh. Blot off excess water from the base support with one or two sheets of absorbent paper (unprinted newsprint). Then position the screen on a raised pad of glass or plastic slightly smaller than the inside of the frame, ensuring that the surface is clean and free from high spots.

Between the pad and the screen, lay a sheet of newsprint in order to avoid vacuum adhesion when lifting the screen after mounting the stencil. Using a soft short nap paint roller, firmly apply at least 4 or 5 sheets of clean paper to absorb all surplus moisture. Too light a pressure with the roller will fail to achieve optimum adhesion. Adequate use of paper is necessary to remove moisture and avoid scumming in the open areas.

## **Drying**

Dry the stencil with air directed at the inside of the screen. The fan should not be nearer than 30-35cms (12-18") in order to avoid uneven drying. A cold air fan is recommended but drying can be accelerated using warm air up to 35°C (95°F). Hot drying at excessive temperatures (35°C) or too low a humidity will cause edge curling, brittleness and a loss of adhesion.

## **Blockout**

Block out the open area between the stencil and the frame and after drying spot out any pinholes with Regular or Blue Filler.

## **Stencil Removal**

The screen should first be cleaned of all ink residues, washed out with Autosolve screen cleaner or other suitable solvents. The stencil should then be sprayed briefly with water. Next apply Autogel or Gelatine Stripper stencil remover with a brush to the stencil side of the screen. Allow to stand for 3-5 minutes for the emulsion to soften, then finally brush over and rinse off with a strong water spray.

## **HAZARDS**

There are no known hazards associated with this product when used according to the instructions for the stated application.

## **WARNINGS**

None applicable.

## **FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

The films burn only with difficulty.

Handling: The films should be stored in their sealed plastic containers and kept in a dry, cool environment. The films burn only with difficulty.

Handling: The films should be stored in their sealed plastic containers and kept in a dry, cool environment. Activator solution is used with the film and precautions listed appropriate to this substance should be observed.

## **SPILLAGE**

Not applicable.

## **FIRST AID**

Not applicable in normal use.

## **SHELF LIFE & STORAGE**

Keep the film in the protective tube supplied. Store in a cool place away from hot drying cupboards or radiators. Do not store in a damp place. Correct storage conditions are at a temperature of 15-20°C and at a relative humidity of 45-65%.

Shelf life at these conditions is two years.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

This product is a water dispersible coating on polyester film. Polyester is recyclable as clean scrap polyester film when separated from the coating. A local processor should be contacted. The coating consists of principally gelatine plasticised with water soluble humectant. It also contains a soluble iron salt and surfactant with insoluble pigments and silica. The coating does not contain any materials regarded as ecotoxic or which are EC Black or Grey listed. Tests have shown no inhibitions of activated sludge at typical effluent concentrations and the washings from the coating may be regarded as drain safe and biodegradable.

## **DISPOSAL**

Conventional refuse disposal.

## **PACKAGING**

Indirect Films are available in roll widths of 1.04 and 1.22 metres wide in a variety of lengths. Custom cut sheets are available upon request.

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# Product Data

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