

# **Screen Colour Systems**

## **Aqua Screen (AS) Technical Data Sheet**

### **Application**

Aqua Screen is a low cost water based screen printing ink. It is ready to use straight from the pot, for printing onto natural and synthetic white textiles. The printed garment retains the original soft feel of the fabric when printed through finer meshes. The print becomes wash fast and resistant to dry-cleaning when heat or chemically cured. There is a range of ready mixed brilliant colours available. A separate catalyst (AquaKat GT1234) can be supplied for adding to Aqua Screen to achieve a full cure without heat. All Aqua Screen inks will have the prefix AS in their code number.

### **Finish and Opacity**

Aqua Screen will retain the finish of the fabric when dried. Aqua Screen is a transparent ink.

### **Mesh**

Most types of mesh are suitable in gauges between 32 - 120 threads per cm.

### **Stencils**

Most types of water resistant stencils may be used. Recommended direct emulsions are GT2002 Azo Coat T or GT2017 Azo Coat W.

### **Printing and Drying**

Aqua Screen Inks are ready to print straight from the bucket. If you find the ink is too thick you may add up to 5% of water. This ink requires heat to cure and give a wash fast result. The curing schedule is 160°C for 4 minutes. What ever your circumstances you must test before and during the print run for correct curing. The addition of the catalyst (GT1234) will reduce both the time and temperature needed for a cure.

### **Catalyst and Pot Life**

The catalyst (GT 1234) must be thoroughly mixed with the ink before use. The catalyst is only effective for 8 hours so only catalyse sufficient ink for use in that period. This new catalyst will reactivate the ink another 2 times before the ink has to be disposed of. (The ink will still look OK to use, but after the third addition of catalyst, subsequent additions will not cure properly on the fabric and will give poor wash results.) GT 1234 can be used in various concentrations ranging from 0.5% to 2%. Without heat the catalysed ink will fully cure in 7 days time. Customers should test for the correct concentration of catalyst in their own printing and curing situation.

### **Wash Up**

At the end of the print run used screens and squeegees must be cleaned. If you do not clean the mesh straight after printing, reclaiming the mesh may be impossible. We recommend warm water with 5 to 10% of AQ 1003 Degrease Gel to clean both mesh and squeegee.

### **Standard Packaging and Storage**

Aqua Screen inks are packed in 1 kilo and 5 kilo containers. The inks should be stored in a cool (min 8°C) and well ventilated area. Aqua Screen Ink will last up to 12 months if kept in sealed containers, in cool conditions.

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This information is given in good faith but without guarantee. It remains the printer's responsibility to test each product for suitability under their own unique conditions. Screen Colour Systems has a policy of continuous development which may make this information out of date, if there is any doubt customers are urged to contact the Screen Colour Systems Technical Department.