

Screen Colour Systems

Europaque Technical Data Sheet

Application

Europaque is a range of Super Opaque plastisol screen printing inks formulated for direct printing onto natural and synthetic fabric, most notably T-shirts. Recommended suitable textiles are Cotton and Cotton / Polyester mixes. For Nylon and other difficult textiles the addition of GT1032 Plaxbond is recommended see TDS: "Plastisol Modifiers" for further information. The ink can be printed wet on wet, for most applications or Flash Dried and over printed for better opacity on dark garments. For speciality plastisols see separate TDS: "Speciality Plastisol Inks"

Finish and Opacity

Europaque is an opaque ink. Europaque will give a gloss finish on the fabric when cured. The thicker the ink film, the glossier the appearance will be. A satin finish may be achieved by printing through a finer mesh, with the addition of either Soft Hand Base or Curable Reducer. Various bases & reducers are available which will alter the appearance and feel of the print, see TDS: "Plastisol Modifiers" for further information.

Mesh

All gauges of mesh are suitable between 32 -140 threads per cm. The correct mesh is dependant on the type of effect required and the amount of reducer added to the ink. For Ink used straight from the bucket we recommend 32 – 61 threads per cm.

Stencils

All types of water and solvent resistant stencils may be used. Recommended direct emulsions are GT2002 Polycoat T, GT2014 Azo Coat Super S and GT2022 Azocoat K with 2 and 1 coats.

Printing and Curing

Europaque is ready to print straight from the bucket. This ink requires heat to cure and give a wash fast result. We recommend as a guide, a curing schedule of 160°C for 1.5 - 2 minutes. These timings may be reduced when using an efficient infrared drier. Whatever your circumstances you must test before and during the print run for correct curing.

Wash Up

Under normal conditions the ink will never dry in the mesh. Recommended cleaners are GT650 White Spirit, GT850 & AQ870 General Purpose Cleaners.

Europaque Additives

PM 7001 Reducer One

A quick viscosity reducer / thinner that will evaporate during curing. Recommended addition is 1 to 5 %

PM 7004 Flow Aid

A very effective viscosity reducer / thinner that remains in the printed ink after curing. Maximum addition 3%, too much Flow Aid will impair curing.

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PM 7009 Curable Reducer

A more controllable viscosity reducer / thinner that cures at the same temperature as the ink and so will not affect the curing of the ink. It will also improve the “soft-hand” feel of the print. Recommended addition is 1 – 10%

PM 7006 Thickner Two

A powerful thickening agent that will rapidly increase the viscosity of all plastisol inks. This additive is very effective and should only be used in small amounts.

GT 1032 Plaxbond

Plaxbond Catalyst added to plastisol ink will improve the hardness needed to adhere to Nylon Fabrics. (Plaxbond will reduce the inks viscosity, PM 7006 is recommended to bring the ink back to the original viscosity) To improve adhesion to the nylon material, wipe the print area first with a Ketone soaked rag to remove any water proof coating. Allow 24 hours before testing print adhesion and durability. Once the addition of Plaxbond is made to the ink, the ink will remain usable for 8 hours before going hard. The catalysed ink cannot be left in the mesh over night. Recommended addition is 10 – 15%

PM 8003 Soft Hand Base

Soft Hand Base is an extender base that softens the feel of the printed ink when combined with printing through meshes of 77 – 120 threads per cm. This is especially useful when printing onto white T-shirts. Too much soft hand base will give the print a sticky feel and may lead to fibrillation after washing. Recommended addition is 5 – 30%

Standard Packaging, Storage and Health & Safety

Reducer One, Flow Aid, Curable Reducer are available in 1 or 5 litre containers.
Soft Hand Base is available in 1 or 5 kilo containers.
Europaque are available in 1 or 5 Kilo containers
Thickner Two is available in 60 gram or 300 gram containers.
Plaxbond is available in 0.475 and 0.95 litre containers.

Store in a cool (min 8°C) and well ventilated area. In the event of any doubt, customers are urged to contact the Screen Colour Systems Technical Service Department. See contact details below. See separate Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Health & Safety information. See web site for updates & prices.