

BLUE™

ULTRA-FATEST-EXPOSING, SOLVENT-RESISTANT SBQ TEXTILE EMULSION; EFFICIENT WITH LED EXPOSURE UNITS; EXCELLENT BUILD PER COAT; SUPERB INTERFACING WITH AUTOMATIC WASH-OUT EQUIPMENT; VERY EASY MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC RECLAIMING

BLUE is a ready-to-use, extremely-fast-exposing SBQ-photopolymer direct emulsion formulated for imprinted sportswear printing. It resists plastisol inks—including newer, more aggressive, post-phthalate plastisols—and most washup solvents, making it exceptionally easy to reclaim in automatic equipment or by hand. **BLUE** is especially efficient with fixed or scanning LED units, as well as with fluorescent tubes or other low intensity light sources, or in shops that need high stencil making throughput. **BLUE** has high viscosity (6,000 – 8,000 centipose) that improves control when coating screens by hand. It affords exceptional EOM (emulsion over mesh thickness) build per coat, better mesh bridging—especially on coarse mesh—good edge definition, and fast drying. **BLUE** stencils are durable, will not become tacky under high humidity conditions, have excellent wet strength, and are easy to wash out.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: PREPARE THE FABRIC

Used or surface treated fabric need only be degreased using **Magic Mesh Prep**, **Screen Degreaser Liquid No. 3**, or dilute **Screen Degreaser Concentrate No. 33**. (Mechanical abrasion is an option for new fabric that is not surface treated. It increases the surface area of fabric for a better mechanical bond of the stencil, increasing printing run length. Use **Microgrit No. 2** before degreasing. Abrading and degreasing can be combined in one step with **Ulanogel 23**.) A degreaser, **Magic Mesh Prep** also serves as a wetting agent and antistatic treatment. Screen fabric treated with **Magic Mesh Prep** can be coated with emulsion more evenly and will transfer ink more readily during printing.

Step 2: SENSITIZING

BLUE is fully presensitized. No sensitizer need be added. **BLUE** should be handled only under yellow safe light conditions.

Step 3: COAT THE SCREEN

Method 1: Apply one coat of emulsion on the printing side, then one coat on the squeegee side. Dry the screen thoroughly.

Method 2: Apply two coats on the printing side, then two coats on the squeegee side, wet-on-wet. After each coating, rotate the screen 180°.

Method 3: Follow Method 2 (above). Then, after drying the screen, apply two additional coats on the printing side, wet-on-wet.

Step 4: DRY THE SCREEN

Dry multicoated screens (Methods 2 or 3) thoroughly in a horizontal position, printing side down, at room temperature in a dirt- and dust-free area. Use a fan to speed drying. If using a commercial dryer, dry the screen with warm, filtered air, up to 104° F. (40° C.).

Step 5: CALCULATE THE APPROXIMATE EXPOSURE TIME

Refer to the Base Exposure Table (reverse side). Base Exposure Time X Exposure Variable Factors = Approximate Exposure Time.,

Step 6: DETERMINE THE OPTIMAL EXPOSURE TIME

Make a Step Wedge Test (there is an instructional video covering this on the “Support” tab of our Web site: www.ulano.com) or use the **Ulano ExpoCheck**—carried through to actual printing—to determine your optimum exposure time. Optimum exposure is indicated: ■ At the exposure time when the emulsion first reaches its maximum color density and the edges of the positive do not “resolve.” ■ When there is no suggestion of softness or sliminess on the squeegee side of the stencil. ■ The print best duplicates the test positive *at the level of resolution that the job requires*.

Step 7: WASHOUT THE STENCIL

After exposure, wet both sides of the screen with a gentle spray of cold water. Then spray forcefully from the printing side until the image areas clear. Rinse both sides of the screen with a gentle spray until no soft emulsion is left on the squeegee side, and no foam or bubbles remain. Blot excess water from the printing side with newsprint (unprinted newspaper stock).

Step 8: BLOCKOUT AND TOUCHUP

Blockout Option 1: Before drying and exposing the coated screen, use excess emulsion from the coating step to cover the blockout area.

Blockout Option 2: For non-water based-inks, after exposure and washout, dry the screen. Apply **Screen Filler No. 60** or **Extra Heavy**

Blockout No. 10. Touchup Option 1: Use excess emulsion and re-expose the screen. **Touchup Option 2:** For non-water-based inks, use **Screen Filler No. 60** or **Extra Heavy Blockout No. 10** thinned with water.

Step 9: STENCIL REMOVAL

Use **All-Purpose Ink Wash**, **Eco-Wash 160** or the least powerful ink diluent necessary, to remove all ink remaining in the screen. Use **Screen**

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Degreaser Liquid No. 3 to help remove ink and solvent residues that might impair the action of the stencil remover. Brush **Stencil Remover Liquid No. 4** or **Stencil Remover Paste No. 5** on both sides of the screen. Do not let the stencil remover dry on the screen. Wash the screen with a forceful spray of water. Use **Walk Away Haze Remover** or **Haze Remover Paste No. 78** to remove ink and haze residues.

BASE EXPOSURE TABLE (For 305 threads/in.(120/cm.) white polyester or nylon at 40 in.(100cm.) exposure distance).

LIGHT SOURCE		COATING METHOD		
		1	2	3
Metal Halide				
	1000 watts	17 sec.	43 sec.	60 sec.
	2000 watts	9 sec.	22 sec.	30 sec.
	3000 watts	5 sec.	15 sec.	19 sec.
	4000 watts	4 sec.	11 sec.	15 sec.
	5000 watts	3 sec.	9 sec.	12 sec.
LED				
	Fixed: 8-15 sec., depending on the unit			
Fluorescent Tubes*				
	40 watts	50 sec.	2 min.	3 min.

*Base exposure times are for unfiltered black light, or super diazo blue tubes at 4 – 6 in. (10 – 15 cm.) exposure distance. For plant-light, filtered black light, and "daylight" fluorescent tubes, use at least double the exposure time.

EXPOSURE VARIABLES

Multiply the above base exposure times by *all* factors and variables that apply.

Fabric

metal fabric	2.0-4.0
dyed fabric	1.5-2.0
finer than 330T/in (130T/cm)	0.7-0.9
coarser than 250T/in (100T/cm)	1.1-2.0
high heat and humidity	1.3-1.8

DISTANCE FACTORS

20 inches /50 cm.	0.25	44 inches /110 cm.	1.21
24 inches /60 cm.	0.36	48 inches /120 cm.	1.44
28 inches /70 cm.	0.49	52 inches /130 cm.	1.69
32 inches /80 cm.	0.64	56 inches /140 cm.	1.95
36 inches /90 cm.	0.81	60 inches /150 cm.	2.25
40 inches /100 cm.	1.00	72 inches /180 cm.	3.2

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