

CTS-FAST™

VERY FAST, PURE PHOTOPOLYMER (SBQ) SCREEN EMULSION FOR COMPUTER-TO-SCREEN EXPOSURE SYSTEMS

CTS-FAST is an SBQ-sensitized, pure photopolymer direct emulsion intended for use with computer-to-screen and high-magnification projection exposure equipment. It is recommended for the production of general large-format work, such as posters, outdoor advertising, and other large-scale industrial applications. CTS-FAST is a ready-to-use, high solids emulsion that requires as few as one coat for a good printing edge, even on coarse fabric. CTS-FAST has excellent coating properties, good solvent resistance, and durability. The very fast exposure speed of CTS-FAST makes it ideal for pixel exposures—and, in turn, allows faster throughput, as well as savings on expensive CTS bulbs.

INSTRUCTIONS

HANDLING:

Because it is presensitized and very fast exposing, CTS-FAST should be handled only under yellow light safelight conditions. The recommended coating regimen for projection emulsions calls for one coat on the squeegee side of the screen (followed by exposure from the squeegee side). For improved definition we suggest a thicker coating, using either 1+1 or 2+2 coats on both sides of the screen. After multiple coatings, dry the screen in a ventilated area with the print side of the screen down (if possible). Although CTS-FAST has good solvent resistance, we do not recommend its use with very aggressive inks and wash-up solvents.

EXPOSURE:

Most computer-to-screen exposure units have automatic calibration. The optimum exposure is indicated when: ■ no darkening of the emulsion color is observable if the exposure is increased. ■ The print best duplicates the test image at the needed level of resolution. With high magnification projection exposure units, exposure times generally range from 30 seconds to 6 minutes for 10X to 14X enlargements. Contact the light source or projector manufacturer for base exposure information. Under exposure causes poor adhesion, mechanically weak stencils, and poor image reproduction, whereas overexposure reduces resolution.

WASHOUT AND DRYING:

Most CTS-equipped shops use in-line washout equipment, so that water pressure and washout cycles can be preset. If the washout is done by hand: wet both sides of the screen after exposure with a gentle spray of cold water. Then spray 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). Although the emulsion may appear soft at this stage, this does not detract from on-press durability later, after the stencil has dried. Dry CTS-FAST stencils thoroughly, and touch up if necessary.

TOUCHUP:

If CTS-FAST is used for touch-up instead of **Screen Filler No. 60** or **Extra Heavy Blockout No. 10**, re-expose the stencil.

STENCIL REMOVAL; HAZE REMOVAL:

Whether automatically or by hand, remove ink from the screen using the solvent or solvent blend recommended by the ink manufacturer. With automated equipment, we recommend **Stencil Remover Liquid No. 4** or dilute **Stencil Remover Liquid Concentrate No. 42**. Do not allow the stencil remover to dry on the screen. Use **Haze Remover No. 78** to remove ink and haze residues.

CTS-FAST is a very fast exposing emulsion. Contact the equipment manufacturer for base exposure information or calibration information. Make exposure tests with projectors for each magnification, mesh count, and mesh color.

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