

New: Proprietary “Green” Formulation!



Technical Data Sheet

STA-SHARP® S3S

**NEW FORMULATION SOLVENT-ADHERED KNIFECUT STENCIL FILM;
VOC-FREE; FOR USE WITH WATER-BASED AND MILD SOLVENT BASED INKS**

INSTRUCTIONS

FABRIC PREPARATION

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**. (Roughening is required for new fabric that is not surface treated. Roughening increases the surface area of the fabric for a better mechanical bond of the stencil. Use **Microgrip No. 2** before degreasing. Abrading and degreasing can be combined in one step with **Ulanogel 23** brushed vigorously on both sides of the fabric for several minutes for each side.) Rinse the stencil thoroughly until there are no bubbles on the surface of the mesh. Dry the mesh completely before applying the film.

CUTTING

Always cut on a flat, hard surface under good lighting conditions. Protect emulsion with a piece of plastic against perspiration. A sharp knife with the blade perpendicular to the film should be used for cutting. For peeling, use a dull blade, a pair of tweezers, or adhesive tape. Cut completely through the emulsion but not into the support; otherwise, “burnt” edges may occur. Overcuts close during adhering.

PREPARATIONS FOR ADHERING

Wipe the surface of the stencil clean before adhering using dry, lint-free material. Place a firm, flat buildup board (about two inches smaller than the inside dimensions of the frame) on the work surface. Place a sheet of newsprint on the board to prevent the smooth polyester backing sheet from sticking to the buildup board under high humidity. Place the cut and peeled stencil, emulsion side up, on top of the sheet of newsprint on the buildup board. Place the dry, degreased screen over the stencil. Warped screen frames prevent perfect mesh-emulsion contact, so that adhesion will be poor. (If there is no choice but to use a slightly warped frame, put weights on the corners of the frame.) Have ready two clean, absorbent rags and new-formulation **Sta-Sharp Adhering Liquid**.

ADHERING STA-SHARP S3S

Fold a clean rag into a pad and wet it with new-formulation **Sta-Sharp Adhering Liquid**. (Note: if new formulation **Sta-Sharp Adhering Liquid** is not available, ethyl acetate can be substituted.) In a smooth, continuous motion, slowly wet the squeegee side of the mesh, gently pushing the adhering liquid into it. As the film wets, it develops a brighter green color. Re-visit each wetted area several times to make sure the squeegee side surface of the stencil appears uniformly green—but do not extensively rub over the same spot. Lighter-color spots indicate poor wetting and poor adhesion. Blot small, un-adhered details lightly with the adherent-saturated rag. For larger, un-adhered areas, move the rag with light pressure from open mesh areas toward the stencil edges to help keep stencil edges well defined. Fold another clean rag into a pad. Wait about a minute, then wipe up excess adhering liquid, if any, from the surface of the stencil and surrounding open mesh areas. If possible, set up a fan to blow cold air over the work surface to speed the drying time.

DRYING THE STENCIL AND PEELING OFF THE PLASTC BACKING SHEET

Dry the stencil under a cold fan from the squeegee side. **Because new-formulation Sta-Sharp Adhering Liquid contains no VOCs (volatile organic compounds) it is considered non-hazardous—but it also requires longer drying time than traditional solvent-adhered knifecut films. WAIT AT LEAST 15 MINUTES FOR NEW-FORMULATION STA-SHARP ADHERING LIQUID TO EVAPORATE. OTHER, MORE AGGRESSIVE ADHERING LIQUIDS WILL REQUIRE EVEN MORE DRYING TIME.** The higher the ambient humidity, the longer the drying time should be. When the film is completely dry, the support can be peeled with little resistance; if it cannot, dry the film longer.

STENCIL REMOVAL

Remove aqueous inks with water. Remove solvent inks with **All-Purpose Ink Wash** or the solvent blend recommended by the ink manufacturer. Degrease with **Screen Degreaser Liquid No. 3** to remove ink and solvent residues that might impair the action of the stencil remover.

To remove the stencil, wet the printing (film) side of the mesh with **All-Purpose Ink Wash**. Place the film side of the frame down, over several sheets of newspaper. Saturate the inside of the screen with **All-Purpose Ink Wash**. After a few minutes, lift the screen and pull away the first sheet of newspaper. Most of the dissolved film will adhere to it. Change the bottom sheet of newspaper several times. Finish by washing the inside of the screen with clean rags and additional **All-Purpose Ink Wash** until the mesh is open again.

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