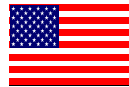




Screen Printers Resource
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

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We would like to remember and say thank you to all of those who have served and to those who gave their lives for this wonderful country.

Newsletter
May 2013

Level Headed by Mike Grey

Sometimes we just don't think straight. At least it seems that way. Just like the roads we drive, nothing seems to be "even". Ever wonder how we get around so well. Imagine if your press could print the same, day in and day out, No changes, No issues. There is something you can do to make things easier and more consistent.

Just like our cars, which always seem to need maintenance of some sort. Not that the way we drive or the condition of the roads has anything to do with it. (Yeah right).

The printing press is a unique machine. It has the ability to print shirts, make cool looking designs, lots of colors and most importantly, make money. If we could only print money on these things, we wouldn't need Tee shirts. (That's another Newsletter).

Anyway. A simple analogy is that if we drive our cars 100 mph everyday to everywhere, things will start to come loose and need to be tuned. Tires, Brakes, Plugs, etc.

Same goes for the press. As we force as much as we can out of these machines, they too need attention. Along with routine maintenance, a usually overlooked area is the pallet/head leveling. This is constantly going out of spec. Yet we fight with the press everyday to make the perfect print as quickly as we can. When heads/Pallets are out of whack, many things happen.

Off contact will be different from pallet to pallet. Registration is affected. Squeegee pressure is all over the place.

A commonly heard excuse is "We don't have time to level the press". So each day we spend 2 to 3 times longer to set up the press and thus there is our lost time. Doesn't make sense or dollars.

Usually a press service tech is needed to do the job right. But as a good race car is tuned to win the race, a perfectly tuned press will perform the way it was intended. It should think for us because sometimes we just aren't thinking evenly!



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What's happening soon?
May 5 Cinco de Mayo
May 12 Mother's Day
May 27 Memorial Day



Did you know? The oldest known "Printed" tee shirt was from the 1948 Presidential Campaign. The logo was "Dew it with Dewey".

Thin is in.....

In the screen print mesh world, there are many thread counts to choose from. Most shops I have been in use almost the same ones. While many printers understand the difference between a 110, 200 and 305. They are unclear on what the term "Micron" means.

Micron refers to the actual thread size of the mesh or thickness of the thread. This determines the amount of open area in the screen. Mesh with a smaller/thinner micron would allow more ink to pass vs a standard/thicker thread. For instance a 305 mesh with a micron of 30 versus 35 would give you a 10% more open area thus allowing more ink to pass

through the screen. This is important because it allows for more control of the print with out changing pressure or making other modifications. This also works well with high density inks using 70-86 mesh count.

Please note though that thinner thread tends to tear easier. You will need to discuss this with those that handle the screens in your shop.

Check with the mesh manufacturer to see what is available and give it a try. Of course it is also important to have the appropriate tension of each mesh count.

