



TLX®

MULTI-PURPOSE DIAZO-PHOTOPOLYMER (DUAL-CURE) SCREEN EMULSION

TLX is a multi-purpose, high speed diazo-photopolymer direct emulsion. Its high solids content (38%, sensitized) provides excellent emulsion build-up per coat and mesh bridging, as well as fast drying. TLX has superb coating properties, humidity resistance, exposure latitude, and durability. Bright green in color, TLX is compatible with a wide variety of solvent- and water-based ink systems. TLX is recommended for imprinted sportswear, P-O-P displays, and advertising specialty printing.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: PREPARE THE FABRIC

Used or surface treated fabric need only be degreased using **Screen Degreaser Liquid No. 3** or dilute **Screen Degreaser Concentrate No. 33**. (Mechanical roughening 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 **No. 2 Microgrit** before degreasing. Roughening and degreasing can be combined in one step with **Ulanogel 23**.)

Step 2: SENSITIZE THE EMULSION

TLX is partially presensitized; therefore, it must be handled under yellow light. Dissolve the diazo sensitizer powder by adding lukewarm water up to the shoulder of bottle. Shake it well. Wait 15 minutes for bubbles to disperse. Pour the fully dissolved sensitizer into the emulsion. Stir with a clean, broad, flat plastic or stainless steel instrument until the emulsion is uniform in color. Close the container. Wait at least one hour for the emulsion to debubble. Write the date of sensitizing on the label.

Step 3: COAT THE SCREEN

Method 1: Apply one coat of emulsion to 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°. Dry the screen thoroughly.

Method 3: Follow Method 2. Then, after drying the screen, apply two additional coats on the printing side, wet-on-wet. Dry the screen again. Method 3 optimizes the definition of printed edges.

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 accelerate the drying. Avoid high humidity. Under humid conditions, dry the coated screen with warm, filtered air, up to 104°F (40°C) in a commercial dryer. Use a dehumidifier in the drying area, if possible.

Step 5: CALCULATE THE APPROXIMATE EXPOSURE TIME:

From the Base Exposure Table below, select the type of light source you have and its wattage or amperage. The exposure times indicated are for 305/inch (120/cm.) white fabric at an exposure distance of 40 inches (= ca. 1 meter), using coating Methods 1, 2, or 3. The exposure time shown for your light source and coating method is your Base Exposure Time. Multiply your Base Exposure Time by all relevant Exposure Variable Factors (table, below) to find your Approximate Exposure Time.

Step 6: DETERMINE THE OPTIMAL EXPOSURE TIME

Make a Step Wedge Test (instructions can be found in the **Ulano Direct Emulsions Technical Data Booklet**) or use the **Ulano Exposure Calculator Kit**—carried through to actual printing—to determine your optimum exposure time. Optimum exposure is indicated: ■ At that exposure time when the emulsion first reaches its maximum color density and the edges of the positive do not "resolve." ■ The squeegee side emulsion is hard and not soft or slimy. ■ The print best duplicates the test positive *at the level of resolution that the job requires*.

Step 7: WASHOUT

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

Step 8: BLOCKOUT & TOUCHUP

Blockout Option 1: With water-based inks, before drying and exposure, 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: When using water-based inks, touch up with emulsion. Let it dry, then expose it.

Touchup Option 2: When using solvent-based inks, touch up with **Screen Filler No. 60** or **Extra Heavy Blockout No. 10** thinned with water.

Step 9: RECLAIM THE SCREEN

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Technical Data Sheet



Remove ink with the appropriate solvent. Rinse the screen with water. Degrease the screen with **Screen Degreaser Liquid No. 3** to remove ink residues. Rinse with a forceful spray. Brush **Stencil Remover Liquid No. 4** or **Stencil Remover Paste No. 5** on both sides of screen. Do not let the stencil remover dry on the screen. Wash with forceful spray of water. Use **Haze Remover Paste No. 78** or **Ghost Remover** and **Ghost Remover Activator** to remove ink and haze residues.

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

| Carbon Arc | Coating Method 1 | Coating Method 2 | Coating Method 3 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 15 amps | 192 sec. | 10 min. | 12 min. |
| 30 amps | 96 sec. | 5 min. | 6.5 min. |
| 40 amps | 72 sec. | 216 sec. | 5 min. |
| 60 amps | 48 sec. | 144 sec. | 192 sec. |
| 110 amps | 26 sec. | 80 sec. | 108 sec. |
| Metal Halide | | | |
| 1000 watts | 44 sec. | 124 sec. | 164 sec. |
| 2000 watts | 22 sec. | 62 sec. | 82 sec. |
| 3000 watts | 15 sec. | 41 sec. | 52 sec. |
| 4000 watts | 11 sec. | 31 sec. | 41 sec. |
| 5000 watts | 8 sec. | 24 sec. | 31 sec. |
| Pulsed Xenon | | | |
| 2000 watts | 116 sec. | 5.5 min. | 6 min. |
| 5000 watts | 46 sec. | 134 sec. | 180 sec. |
| 8000 watts | 29 sec. | 84 sec. | 115 sec. |
| Mercury Vapor | | | |
| 250 watts | 231 sec. | 11 min. | 14 min. |
| 2000 watts | 29 sec. | 82 sec. | 106 sec. |
| 4000 watts | 15 sec. | 41 sec. | 52 sec. |
| Fluorescent Tubes* | | | |
| FT 40 watts | 144 sec. | 6 min. | Not rec. |

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

EXPOSURE VARIABLE FACTORS (Factors for Variables Affecting Base Time)

| Fabric: | | Viscosity Adjustment: | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Steel/metalized polyester | 2.0 - 4.0 | 5% dilution | 0.95 |
| Dyed Fabric | 1.5 - 2.0 | 10% dilution | 0.9 |
| 305T white polyester or nylon | 1.0 | 5% more viscous | 1.1 |
| Finer than 330T (130T/cm) | 0.7 - 0.9 | | |
| Coarser than 250T (100T/cm) | 1.1 - 2.0 | | |
| Multifilament PET | 1.3 - 1.5 | High Heat and Humidity: | |
| Exposure Distance: | | Factor | 1.3-1.8 |
| 20"/50cm | 0.25 | | |
| 24"/60cm | 0.36 | Taped-up Positives: | |
| 28"/70cm | 0.49 | Factor | 1.2-1.3 |
| 32"/80cm | 0.64 | | |

STORAGE: Unsensitized emulsion can be stored for up to 1 year. Sensitized emulsion can be stored for 3 - 6 weeks at room temperature, and up to 3 months in a refrigerator. Store coated screens in cold, dry, completely dark area until exposure.

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