

Autotype Indirect Films

Handling

The films should be handled under yellow fluorescent lighting and returned to their container after cutting off the required length. Do not kink the film as the emulsion may delaminate from the base and inhibit exposure of this damaged area.

Exposure

Place the base support of the photostencil in contact with the emulsion side of the positive. Expose to an ultraviolet light source. Correct exposure can be checked with the Autotype Exposure Calculator. Use the table below to give an indication of the exposure times for the films to various light sources. Over exposure will lead to a thick brittle stencil with poor flexibility and adhesion.

Correct exposure time is equal to lamp exposure time x distance factor x positive type factor.

Exposure variables

Positive type	Factor	Light source distance	Factor
Fine line and raster	0.8	60 cm	0.36
Slide positive line	1.2	80 cm	0.64
Tape and cutting lines	1.1	90 cm	0.81
		120 cm	1.44
		150 cm	2.25
		180 cm	3.24

Exposure time

Indirect film	HPR lamp, 125 W at 50 cm	Metal halogen, 2000 W at 100 cm	Metal halogen, 5000 W at 100 cm
Five star	6-7 min	3-4 min	1-2 min

Hardening

Immediately after exposure, evenly immerse the film in the hardening solution for 1 minute. This should be at a temperature of 19-21°C and should ideally be made up from Autotype Activator Powder.

Washout

Use a fine spray of water at a temperature of between 40-45°C. Evenly wash the entire stencil. Continue washout for at least 30-60 seconds after the image has appeared then chill the stencil with cold water; 15-20°C for 10-15 seconds.

Mounting

Lay a sheet of absorbent paper (newsprint is ideal) on the pad and then place the freshly rinsed stencil film, emulsion side up, on top of this. Position a well prepared, degreased wet screen on to the wet stencil film. Using a soft paint roller firmly apply four or five separate sheets of clean newsprint to absorb all surplus moisture. Failure to remove moisture from the open areas will cause scumming.

Drying

Blockout the open area between the stencil and the frame with one of Autotype's water based screen fillers while the stencil is still wet; this will help registration.

Ideally drying should be under ambient conditions. This may be accelerated with a fan and warmed air up to a temperature of 30°C. High temperatures, especially at lower humidities will cause edge curling, brittleness and lack of adhesion.

Stripping

Indirect film can be removed after use with Autostrip Gel.

Exposure calculator

Can be used to determine right exposure times.