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Academy of Screen & Digital Printing Technologies

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**Mesh Counts and Their Uses**

There are a lot of mesh counts and thread diameters available for printing textiles. Some companies do not have enough of a selection while others have too many different meshes available.

Almost all mesh comes with two or more thread diameters. As textile printers, we generally work with “T” or “M” mesh which is the medium thickness. There are those that work with “S” mesh which is a thin strand and allows for a greater deposit of ink, especially 150/48 for white underlays, but the mesh is very delicate and needs to be stretched to around 20-22 N/cm.

The first three meshes are the ones I recommend for day to day use and what I would recommend they are used for. All of them should be stretched to around 35 N/cm.

110 mesh/80-micron thread.  Underlay for fleece, water base and discharge ink, adhesive for foil.  This is for cotton and poly/cotton garments.  Use when working with polyester inks on 100% polyester. Good for printing an adhesive for foil.

156 mesh/64-micron thread.  Underlay for tee shirts, water base and discharge ink, light and medium-colored shirts where you want strong color. This is for cotton and poly/cotton garments.  Will hold a 45 LPI halftones.  Use when working with polyester inks on 100% polyester. Good for foil when needing fine detail.

230 mesh/48-micron thread.  Printing on top of the underlay, light colored garments, will hold fine detail.  Simulated process printing. This is for cotton and poly/cotton garments.  Will hold a 45 LPI - 55 LPI halftones.

86 mesh/100-micron thread if the thread feels thick.  Use for heavy ink deposits for athletic printing.  Good for printing an adhesive for foil. Tension to 35 N/cm or higher.

305 mesh/34-micron thread.  Used for very fine detail on light colored tees.  Use when printing four color process with 45 LPI - 65 LPI halftones.  This is for cotton and poly/cotton garments.  Tension to 22 N/cm but no higher.

330 mesh/34-micron thread. Used for very fine detail on light colored t-shirts when working with 65 line half-tones and higher especially four color process. .  Tension to 22 N/cm but no higher.

80 mesh/70-micron S thread.  Use for thick capillary film for printing with high density inks. Tension to 35 N/cm or higher.

60 mesh/120-micron thread. Used for a small flake glitter and crystalina. Tension to 35 N/cm or higher.

40 mesh/200-micron thread. Used for large flake glitter. Tension to 35 N/cm or higher.

Depending on the specific manufacturer, the mesh counts may be slightly higher or lower than the ones listed.