Screen Printing Mesh Count Chart

Print and tape to the darkroom wall · screenprintfoundry.com

Mesh (TPI)	Metric (T)	Ink deposit	Detail it holds	Best for	Halftone LPI	Squeegee
24–60	10T–24T	Very heavy	None	Glitter, shimmer, high-density	—	60 soft
60–86	24T–34T	Heavy	Bold only	Puff ink, athletic numbers, foil adhesive	—	60–65
110	43T	Thick	Bold text, spot color	White underbase on darks, block designs	up to 22.5	60–65
156	62T	Medium	Medium	The everyday default — most tees	up to 31	70
180–200	70T–80T	Medium-thin	Fine	Print-flash-print white, lighter deposit	up to 45	70–75
230	90T	Thin	Fine lines, small text	Halftones, water-based, soft-hand prints	up to 55	75–80
305	120T	Very thin	Very fine	CMYK process, simulated process	55–65+	80

- **The one rule:** lower mesh = thicker ink deposit; higher mesh = finer detail and softer hand feel.
- **Only buying one screen?** Buy 156. Add 110 when dark-shirt orders demand a white underbase; add 230 when art has fine lines or you try water-based ink.
- **Halftones:** mesh count ≈ 4–5× your LPI. 55 LPI art needs 230–305 mesh.
- **TPI vs T:** TPI ÷ 2.54 = T. 110 and 43T are the same mesh — check the unit before ordering online.
- **Same number, different screen:** thin-thread (S suffix) versions hold larger openings at the same count — easier ink release, more delicate fabric.
- **Changed mesh count?** Your exposure time is no longer valid. Re-run a step-wedge test.