

How to Sheets - Determine your frame size

Screen Printers normally talk about screen sizes in **Outside Dimensions**; that is the overall size of the frame.

This is important, as, if you order a screen the size you state will most likely be interpreted as the outside size.

The frame will be made up of the following:

1. **THE DESIGN SIZE**
2. **THE FOUNTAIN AREA** (see description below)
3. **THE WIDTH OF THE MATERIAL** that the frame is constructed from.



FOUNTAIN AREA;

This is the area around the design that allows for the movement of the link and the squeegee.

This is an important part of the screen. If your design is too close to the edge of the frame it will make it difficult to expose and print.

Difficulty with exposing:

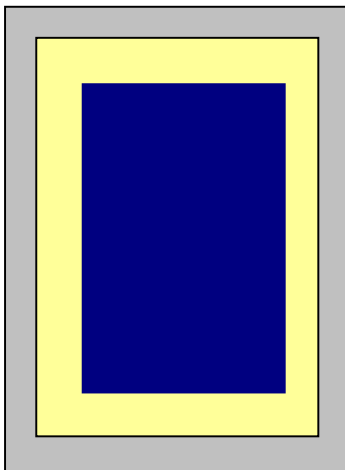
- The blanket for the vacuum frame cannot get right up against the edges of the frame. As a result it will not press the design firmly against the emulsion. This will cause the edges of the design to be rough, not clean and sharp.

Difficulty with printing:

- The ink will get stuck onto the edge of the frame, and as a result all over your hands.
- Also it will slow you down when printing as most of your time will be spent scraping the ink back into the screen.
- Another problem will be that as you get close to the edge you will have to change your squeegee angle; resulting in an uneven ink deposit.


It is safe to make the fountain area 70mm on each side and the top of the design with a larger allowance of 100mm on the bottom of the design.

Therefore:



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Height of the frame} = & \\ & \text{Width of the material} \\ & + 70\text{mm} \\ & + \text{Height of the design} \\ & + 100\text{mm} \\ & + \text{Width of the frame} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Width of the frame} = & \\ & \text{Width of the material} \\ & + 70\text{mm} \\ & + \text{Width of the design} \\ & + 70\text{mm} \\ & + \text{Width of the frame} \end{aligned}$$


 If you don't know the width of the material then you can state the Inside Dimensions of the frame. Standard materials used in the manufacture of frames are 38mm.


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 If you have a particular design that is an odd size, it is not a good idea to tailor your screen to fit only that design. It would mean that you can only use that screen for that size design or smaller. It is better to round up to the nearest paper size.

 Screen Printers tend to work in millimetres.

 Did you know that centimetres was not an original measurement? It was created to decrease the measuring gap between millimetres & metres.