



TECHNICAL

Pad Printing

BULLETIN

Visco Spatula Operating Instructions

Our **Visco Spatula** is a reusable stainless steel ink spatula that makes it easier for you to mix your inks to the correct viscosity level for your application. The **Visco Spatula** works by measuring the time duration for ink to flow down the calibrated openings on the end of the spatula.

1. Begin by thoroughly mixing ink and hardener (if necessary) in uncoated ink mixing cup using a wooden stir stick.
2. Once ink and hardener have catalyzed, start to add thinner slowly while constantly stirring the mixture (typically 5-8% by weight of the ink mixture.)
3. Ink should begin to attain a consistency similar to maple syrup.
4. Now dip the Visco Spatula into ink mixture until all openings are submerged.
5. Lift the Visco Spatula vertically out of the ink mixture and allow the ink to flow back into the mixing cup.
6. Watch the ink flowing down the Visco Spatula and start to count preferably using a clock or stopwatch.
7. Once the ink has evacuated the large opening at the top, the time duration should last 8 seconds until the ink has flowed through and evacuated the bottom opening.
8. Should the ink take longer to flow through the designated openings, then you will need to add thinner several drops at a time. Take a new measurement after mixing in additional thinner.

TECH TIP: Experience will also help dictate the appropriate mixture as a deeper plate or larger imprint may require a longer time duration for the ink to flow through the openings.