

NEANDERTHAL WOMAN FOUND IN GLACIER

By Mick Orr
Applications Training Specialist

This just in: A prehistoric screen maker was discovered in a glacier. The screen maker was in almost perfect condition considering how long she had been frozen in a huge block of ice. Along with the body were a number of items that apparently were used in her trade. A touch-up brush made of Mammoth hair, a crude printing frame, and a roll of Pro/Cap® 50. No exposure unit was found, probably because she appeared to be a one-woman operator with very limited funds.

Remarkably, scientists have been able to make a high quality screen using the Pro/Cap® found in Molly's (named after one of the scientist's wives) block of ice.

O.K., so I made this up. I did so to stress the importance of properly storing heat sensitive products. Yes, Pro/Cap® presensitized capillary film along with all diazo based emulsions are sensitive to heat. If the materials are stored in a warm area, the product will begin to age. The higher the temperature, the faster it ages. In some cases the product can be damaged in a matter of days when stored in temperatures of 110° F.

How can you tell if a capillary film has been heat damaged? There are two ways. The first way is to wait and let your customer tell you about the problem. However, this is not a wise move, as angry customers don't stay customers for very long. The second way is much easier on all of us: test the film. Start by working under yellow lights. The only tools you will need are a razor knife and a pan that is at least four inches in diameter.

Here are the steps you must follow to perform what I call the swell test:

Step one: Cut a one inch square of Pro/Cap® or Magna/Cure®.

Step two: Peel apart the film from its carrier (handle it gently).

Step three: Pour about a half inch of warm water into the pan.

Step four: Drop the bare film onto the water so that it floats. (This test will take about one to three minutes, but it can take up to 5 minutes depending on film thickness and water temperature. If the film has not been damaged by heat it should grow to almost twice its size. It may even dissolve. If the film doesn't grow and/or sinks, it may be damaged film).

Remember to do this test under yellow lights. As for emulsions, the best thing you as a dealer can do is to store the emulsion in a cool area but not in a freezer. Films and emulsions are all susceptible to heat degradation. Keep them in a cool place for optimal shelf life. We at Chromaline try our best to deliver the newest, freshest materials as possible to you. But if the material is not properly taken care of, it not only hurts you, it affects all of us.

And, of course, rotate your stock so that your Chromaline supplies stay as fresh as possible.



Looking for insight on the wonderful world of screen making? Consult the writings of Chromaline's Technical Guru, Mick Orr, Applications Training Specialist.

Mick has been in the screen printing industry since 1970 with printing experience in a wide range of applications from membrane switches, to textiles, specialty graphics to faceplates and more. His hands-on seminars have been appreciated by screen makers around the world.



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