

Printing Problem
Blurring or Smudged Image

<i>Pad Related Possibilities</i>	<i>Corrective Action</i>
<p>Pad durometer is too soft, causing a balloon effect.</p> <p>Pads angle is too small for a curved part, causing an over-compression or stretching.</p> <p>Pad is not centered to the part, or pad is sliding on the parts surface.</p>	<p>Change pad to a harder durometer.</p> <p>Use a slightly larger or less angled pad.</p> <p>Re-align printing pad.</p>
<i>Ink Related Possibilities</i>	<i>Corrective Action</i>
<p>Ink viscosity is too thin, causing a smearing effect.</p> <p>Too slow of a thinner being used, not allowing the ink to tack up.</p>	<p>Blow air on the pad or re-mix ink.</p> <p>Try a faster drying thinner.</p>
<i>Cliche' Related Possibilities</i>	<i>Corrective Action</i>
<p>Cliche is etched too deep, not allowing for ink to dry or tack-up properly.</p>	<p>Re-make cliche with more screen exposure time to achieve a shallower cliche.</p>
<i>Part-Related Possibilities</i>	<i>Corrective Action</i>
<p>Uneven substrate or part surface, causing pad to slide on substrate.</p>	<p>Re-align part holding fixture to be as level as possible.</p>

Troubleshooting Tip

Try to determine what is happening when the pad is hitting the part that is to be printed. Look to see if the part is moving or flexing. Check and see if the pad is not centered or is sliding down the surface. Make sure there is no interference from a wall, step or hole in the part. These obstacles tend to keep the pad from compressing uniformly.

Last, check to make sure the viscosity of the ink is not too thin (watery). The thin layer of ink has to tack up (or slightly dry) before being applied to your substrate.