

Mesh Sizes and Microns

What does mesh size mean? Figuring out mesh sizes is simple. All you do is count the number of openings in one inch of screen (in the United States, anyway.) The number of openings is the mesh size. So a 4-mesh screen means there are four little squares across one linear inch of screen. A 100-mesh screen has 100 openings, and so on. As the number describing the mesh size increases, the size of the particles decreases. Higher numbers equal finer material. Mesh size is not a precise measurement of particle size.

What do the minus (-) and plus (+) plus signs mean when describing mesh sizes? Here's a simple example of how they work. -200-mesh would mean that all particles smaller than 200-mesh would pass through. +200 mesh means that all the particles 200-mesh or larger are retained.

How fine do screens get? That depends on the wire thickness. If you think about it, the finer the weave, the closer the wires get together, eventually leaving no space between them at all. For this reason, beyond 325-mesh particle size is usually described in "microns."

What is a micron? A micron is another measurement of particle size. A micron is one-millionth of a meter or one twenty-five thousandth of an inch.

MESH TO MICRON CONVERSION CHART

U.S. MESH	INCHES	MICRONS	MILLIMETERS
3	0.2650	6730	6.730
4	0.1870	4560	4.560
5	0.1570	4000	4.000
6	0.1320	3360	3.360
7	0.1110	2830	2.830
8	0.0937	2380	2.380
10 – GlassBlast Coarse	0.0787	2000	2.000
12 – GlassBlast Coarse	0.0661	1680	1.680
14 – GlassBlast Coarse	0.0555	1410	1.410
16 – GlassBlast Coarse	0.0469	1190	1.190
18 – GlassBlast Coarse	0.0394	1000	1.000
20 – GlassBlast Coarse	0.0331	841	0.841
20 – GlassBlast Medium	0.0331	841	0.841
25 – GlassBlast Medium	0.0280	707	0.707
30 – GlassBlast Medium	0.0232	595	0.595
35 – GlassBlast Medium	0.0197	500	0.500
40 – GlassBlast Medium	0.0165	400	0.400
40 – GlassBlast Fine	0.0165	400	0.400
45 – GlassBlast Fine	0.0138	354	0.354
50 – GlassBlast Fine	0.0117	297	0.297
60 – GlassBlast Fine	0.0098	250	0.250
70 – GlassBlast Fine	0.0083	210	0.210
70 – GlassBlast Extra Fine	0.0083	210	0.210
80 – GlassBlast Extra Fine	0.0070	177	0.177
100 – GlassBlast Extra Fine	0.0059	149	0.149
120	0.0049	125	0.125
140	0.0041	105	0.105
170	0.0035	88	0.088
200	0.0029	74	0.074
230	0.0024	63	0.063
270	0.0021	53	0.053
325	0.0017	44	0.044