

PAD CATALOGUE





SYDNEY +61 2 9663 3911 | **MELBOURNE** +61 3 9465 0166 **ADELAIDE** +61 8 8234 5466 | **NZ** freecall 0800 883 911

www.astor.com.au

ORDERING CODES

Each Milford Astor printing pad has a unique identification number. Using this number you can figure out the ordering code.

For instance if you wanted to order
Pad number 12 in a 4 shore hardness,
your ordering code would be MAPP1204
the same pad in an 8 shore hardness would be MAPP1208

Each code is listed in the catalogue without the shore hardness (IE MAPP12XX).

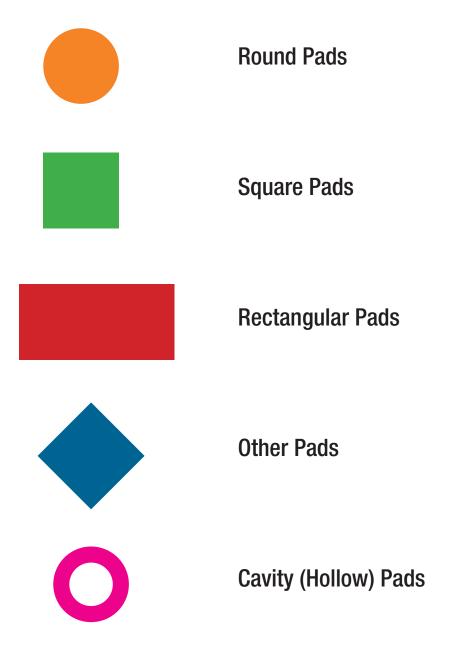
Pads are available in hardnesses of 0 shore to 16 shore. 0 Shore is the softest pad, 16 shore the hardest.

Pad Measurments are taken from the wooden base.

Our customer service and sales representatives are always available to help you if required.



Milford Astor Pad Range



All pads are moulded on to wooden bases and include a central M6 thread for easy attachment.

Aluminium bases are available if required - please ask your representative for a quote.



Pads

Pad life ranges from 10,000 cycles to 100,000 cycles depending on the application. The average lifespan is approximately 50,000. Print surfaces that are flat and free of ridges or protrusions will have a longer life than surfaces that contain these factors.

Extended operation and contact with solvents that are mixed in to ink cause silicone oil that is present in the pads to become depleted. As the pad dries over time, its ability to pick up and release an image is severely reduced. Proper maintenance of pads can significantly extend their life. One easy way is to use silicone oil (order code: MOASILICONEOIL). After each shift, remove the pad from the machine and rub a small amount of oil onto the pad's surface, then store the pad on a shelf positioned on its base. This will allow the newly applied oil to penetrate the pad body.

ACTIVATING YOUR PAD

When using a new pad for the first time, it may take a while to 'run in' and give the print quality and consistency needed.

This problem is usually caused by a build up of excess silicone oil near the printing surface of the pad and will lead to an uneven transfer of ink.

Wiping the surface of the pads with a standard thinner used with ink is a common way of activating the pad and of course helps to clear away some of that silicone from the surface, but if a pad is rubbed too hard or if the thinners evaporate leaving the cloth dry while rubbing it can cause permanent damage to the pad surface, meaning poor print quality and low pad life.

An alternative way to activate the printing pad is to wipe the thinner on to a sheet of plain paper leaving the surface of the paper coated with the thinner.

Next place the paper directly in the print position and start the machine cycle allowing the pad to print directly on to the thinner coated paper, the thinner will now be carried back on the surface of the pad and as it is compressed during its next ink pick up. It will begin to activate directly at the most important area of the pad, the area where our image is going to be picked up / transferred from.

Make around 20 print cycles and then swap the thinner coated paper for a dry sheet of paper and continue to cycle the machine for another 10 - 20 prints until the pad is dry.

The pad is now activated and ready to use without the damage that can be caused by the conventional rubbing of printing pads.

Use Long Life Silicone Pad Oil to rejuvenate and store your pads.

Order Code: MOASILICONEOIL

PAD MAINTENANCE

Although there are no hard and fast guidelines regarding pad life a number of steps can be taken to extend the life of your pads:

Use a strong solvent only for the initial removal of the excess silicone oils on the surface.

Use adhesive tape or the cleaning cycle on the printing machine if the pad must be cleaned during or prior to production. (For heavy soiling a mild solvent such as alcohol can be used sparingly).

Always use tape to remove debris and dried ink before starting a production run.

Use as little pressure as possible on the pad during production runs.

Never print onto an empty nesting fixture, sharp edges can cut your pad.

Ensure that the substrate is free of debris, particularly sharp particles, before printing.

With wood backed pads (those without a threaded insert), don't let the wood screws penetrate into the rubber.

Whenever possible, avoid printing near sharp substrate edges.

Use as large a pad as is reasonable for the job at hand.

Never store a pad on top of another one. Before storing apply a light coating of Long Life Oil (MOASILICONEOIL)

Handle and store the pads very carefully. Keep them away from sunlight in a storage cabinet at room temperature.

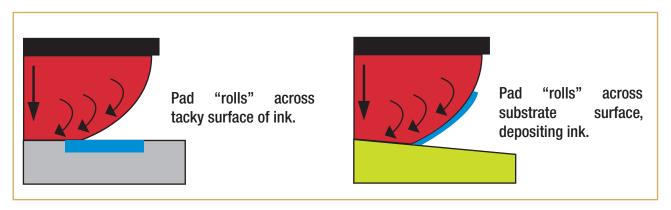
Certain inks have aggressive solvents that will be absorbed by the pad during printing. This solvent absorption will cause the image area to "swell" on the pad, to the point where it will eventually affect the print quality. At this point, stop the machine and replace this swollen pad. This isn't a permanent condition, and if the pad is allowed to stand unused, the solvents that have penetrated the rubber surface will evaporate and the swelling will go down to the original size.



Shape and Size

Shape is the most important variable in selecting a pad.

Choose a pad shape that will achieve a "rolling" action when the ink is both picked up from the cliché and deposited on the substrate. The contact angle should be 30 - 70°. Without this rolling action and contact angle, air can become trapped between the pad and either the cliché or the substrate, resulting in print distortion and pin-holes due to irregular ink pickup or deposition.

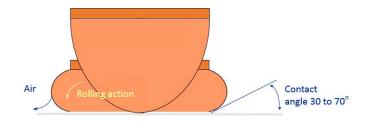


The shape of the pad largely determines how well the pad will achieve this rolling action. Milford Astor keeps hundreds of pads in stock. They are based on three basic shapes: ROUND, RECTANGULAR & BAR

Round pads distort evenly while square or rectangular pads may have higher distortion towards the corners, especially if your pad is only slightly larger than the image being printed. For this reason another important variable to consider is pad size relative to image size.

In screen printing, the larger the screen is in relation to the image size, the less distortion will occur. The same applies to pad printing. The larger the pad, the less the image is likely to distort. Often, the distance between the cliché and the body of the machine (sometimes called the "throat" of the machine) will determine the maximum pad size.

Generally, most pad-printing operators have a favourite shape that covers 90% of their applications. But standard shapes are available for all sorts of unusual applications. An example is a standard shape that will print onto oven-control knobs. These special pads have holes in them to accommodate the raised portion of the knobs and allow the print to be applied to the bevelled edge.



For unusual imaging, a custom pad may be used that combines two different profiles. These "combination" pads can be expensive and they are prone to print distortions unless they are very carefully designed. A preferable solution is to use two separate pads and mount them close together on a single machine. Another advantage of using two pads is that if one is damaged, the cost of replacing it is much less.

Use the following guidelines when choosing a pad shape for a particular job.



- 1. First, try your standard pads that you think would do the job for this particular part. Do a test print to verify if the proposed print area is imaged accurately.
- 2. If the chosen pad shape provides a satisfactory print over just a part of the area, look for similar pad shapes that extends the profile in a way that will cover the entire image. Distortion at the image edges is almost always caused by undersized pads.
- 3. If the obvious pads fail, try ones that may appear to be unsuitable. Perhaps the pad has a sharper angle than would seem to be appropriate, or is clearly too large for the image. This may still solve the problem.
- 4. Irregular ink pickup during the test print usually means air is being trapped between the pad surface and the cliché. Watch carefully as the pad is being imaged to be sure that a rolling action is occurring and the contact angle is between 30 and 70°.
- 5. Whenever possible, ensure that the point or apex of the pad does not come into contact with the image area of the cliché. This tends to thin the ink at that point, causing inconsistent ink deposit.
- 6. If the pad is "overstressed" (that is, too small for the image) or the image is too close to the edge of the pad, distortion is likely to occur. Always use as little pressure as possible to pick up and print the image. If the machine is running too fast, excessive pad pressure can cause distortion as well as poor ink transfer.

If experimentation doesn't reduce the print distortion to an acceptable level, and a custom pad is out of the question, the last resort is to distort the image on the cliché to compensate. This is done by printing a grid onto the substrate and measuring the distortion of the grid to guide in the alterations that are to be made to the original artwork. This will shorten the time it takes to test print, but it won't eliminate the trial-and-error altogether. This method also leads to ongoing problems since positioning of the part and the pad (relative to the image of the cliché) must be absolutely dead on each time the job is set up to avoid distortion.

Remember if there are quality problems with the print image, Milford Astor has expertise that could assist you.

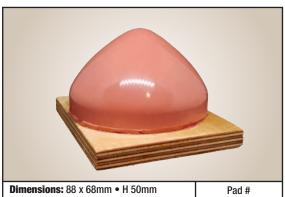






Dimensions: Ø 55mm • H 50m Print Area: Ø 25mm Order Code: MAPP01XX

01



Dimensions: 88 x 68mm Print Area: Ø 62mm Order Code: MAPP03XX Pad # **03**





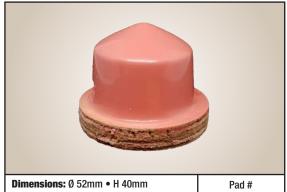












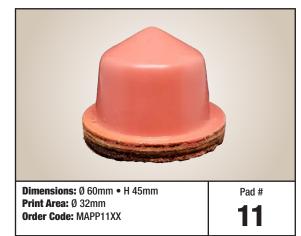
Dimensions: Ø 52mm • H 40mm Print Area: Ø 28mm Order Code: MAPP10XX

10













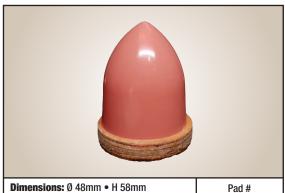






Dimensions: Ø 150mm • H 105mm Print Area: Ø 95mm Order Code: MAPP64XX

64

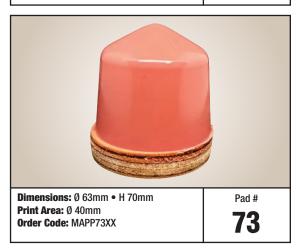


Print Area: Ø 22mm Order Code: MAPP72XX **72**

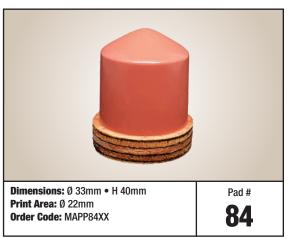


Dimensions: Ø 46mm • H 47mm Print Area: Ø 31mm Order Code: MAPP83XX Pad # **83**





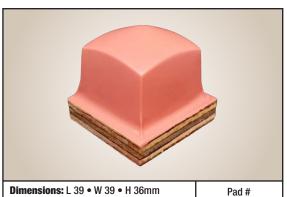












Print Area: 20 x 20mm Order Code: MAPP18XX

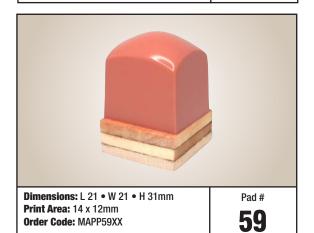
18



Dimensions: L 73 • W 70 • H 64mm Print Area: 46 x 46mm Order Code: MAPP22XX

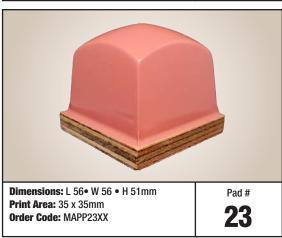
Order Code: MAPP20XX

Pad # **22**



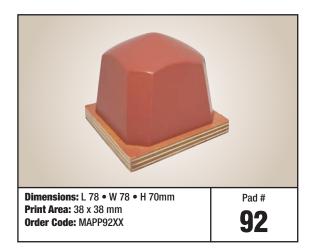






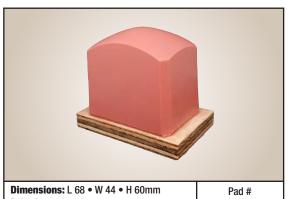












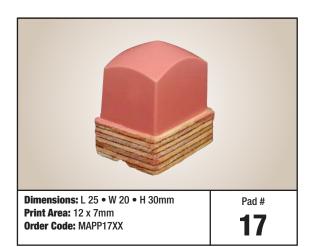
Print Area: 43 x 26mm Order Code: MAPP16XX 16

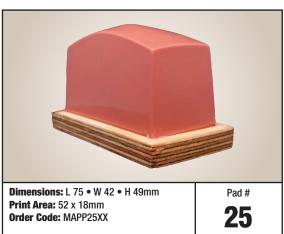




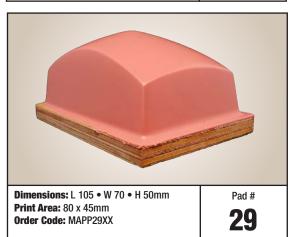
Dimensions: L 78 • W 53 • H 47mm
Print Area: 53 x 28mm
Order Code: MAPP28XX

Pad #
28

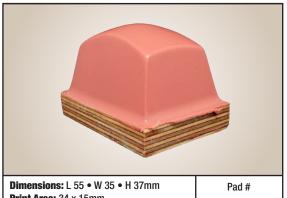






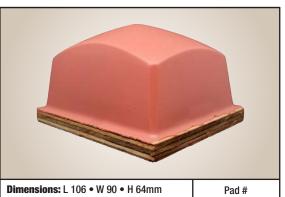






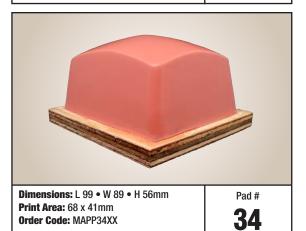
Print Area: 34 x 15mm Order Code: MAPP30XX

30



Print Area: 80 x 62mm Order Code: MAPP32XX

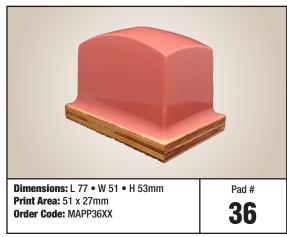
32





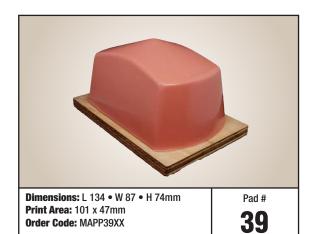












Order Code: MAPP39XX







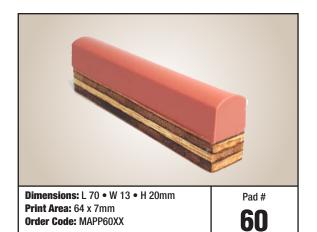








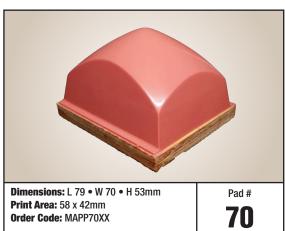


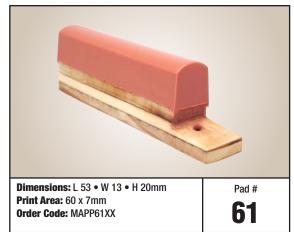


Dimensions: L 126 • W 87 • H 92mm Pad # Print Area: 90 x 70mm **62**

Order Code: MAPP62XX















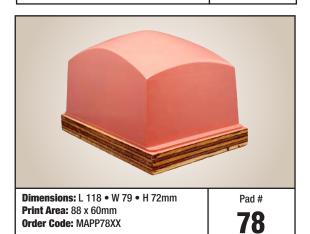


Print Area: 61 x 24mm

Order Code: MAPP76XX

Order Code: MAPP78XX

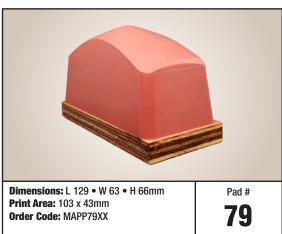
76







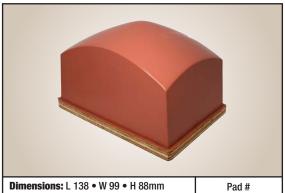








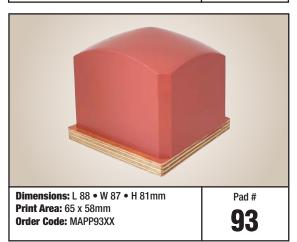




Print Area: 100 x 70mm Order Code: MAPP88XX

88



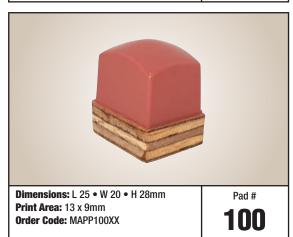


















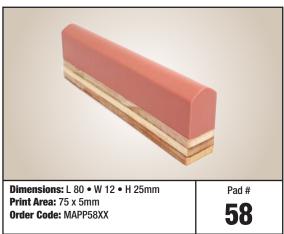
REV 19.5.2021 19



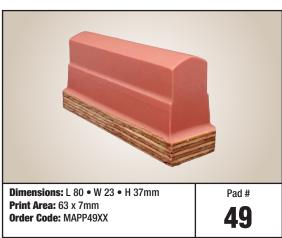


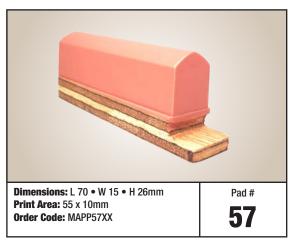










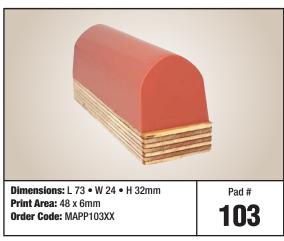










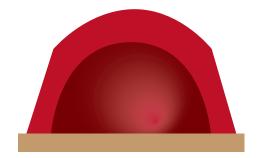






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Cavity pads (or Hollow Pads) are specially made with an air filled space sealed in the centre of the pad (as pictured to the left). The advantage of this type of pad is that you can still have a higher shore (harder) silicone on the print face while having additional flexibility required for delicate parts or where the print has to wrap further around a curved surface.

These pads are ideal for printing onto items such as delicate glassware, fragile circuitry or electrical parts amongst others.

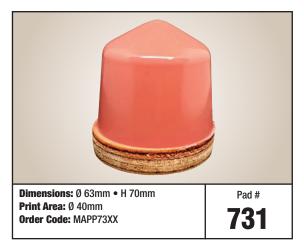




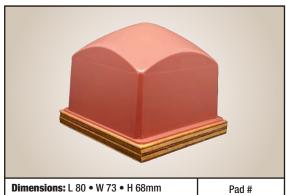












Print Area: 55 x 55mm

Order Code: MAPP80XX

801







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