



Examples of the POLYFLEX® delivery program

- POLYFLEX® Hardcoat Sleeves
- POLYFLEX® Softcoat Sleeves
- POLYFLEX® Air - Mandrels
- POLYFLEX® Rubber & Co.
- POLYFLEX® Transport & Storage Box

Product Notes

Polywest Kunststofftechnik

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Tips for Handling and Storage

Dear Sir/Madam,

With Polyflex Hardcoat and Softcoat flexographic printing sleeves, you have product of a high technical quality at your disposal which will continue to deliver good printing results provided you follow the advice outlined below.

Handling

- Avoid cutting the sleeve surface as this can distort it.
- Allowing ink to dry on the sleeve (particularly on the surface of the Softcoat sleeve) can have a negative influence on the print characteristics under certain circumstances. For this reason we advise covering the sleeve surface with either an adhesive tape or crepe tape.
- Do not expose the sleeves to heat concentrated in any one area (e.g. by trying to remove the plate with a hairdryer) as this may cause partial distortion to the sleeve surface and geometry.
- The sleeve surface can be cleaned using a solvent based cloth (we recommend Ethanol or Isopropanol). We strongly advise against soaking the sleeve. Excess cleaning solutions should either be removed with a dry cloth or allowed to evaporate. Under no circumstances should the sleeves be treated with acids, alkaline - or saline solutions.



Cylinder Points

In order to ensure that the combination air mandrel and sleeve performs as expected the following points should be noted.

Sleeves should slide onto the air mandrel with relative ease once the first row of air holes has been covered. If that is not the case, do not, under any circumstances, force the sleeve onto the mandrel. A prerequisite to mounting the sleeves on the air mandrel is sufficient and continuous air pressure. Under no circumstances should the pressure between the air mandrel and the air supply fall below a minimum of 12 litres/sec (0.4236 cubicft/sec). If you are not in a position to measure the air flow, check the following.

- Make sure that there is no kink or leak in the air hose. Unnecessarily long hoses or hoses with a reduced diameter can also cause a reduction in the volume of air.
- Examine the join between the air hose and where it is connected to the air mandrel. Any leaks here will also cause a reduction in the volume of air.
- Check the air pressure reading on the pressure gauge. The pressure should not fall below a minimum of 6 bar (87 psi). Ideally it should be between 6-8 bar (87-116 psi).



Check to make sure the air holes in the mandrel are not stopped up. Over a period of time dirt can accumulate and block them up.

If you still cannot mount the sleeve with ease on the air mandrel after checking all of the above points, please note the following:
 POLYFLEX sleeves and POLYFLEX air mandrels are technically in tune with each other. Should you be using air mandrels of a different design, on rare occasions it could lead to problems. In this case, please feel free to contact us on how to solve the problem.

During the conversation we usually ask some detailed questions regarding your printing equipment and the air mandrel in particular which you can prepare and note down in the table below.

Checklist	Target	Actual
What is the pressure gauge reading?	6 - 8 bar (87-116 psi)	
What is the diameter of the air hose at its narrowest point?	6 mm (0,236")	
What size is the connection?	1/4"	
Is the air hose connected to anything else?	No	
What is the diameter of the air mandrel measured just behind the first row of air holes?	Target size + 0,02 mm (+ 0,0004")	
If you are not using a Polyflex air mandrel		
What is the length of the air mandrel?		
How many air holes are distributed around the end of the mandrel? (Recommended: 4 for diameters up to 121,074 mm (4,767"); 6 for diameters >= 121,074 mm (4,767") -248,398 mm (9,779"), 8 for any above 248,398 mm (9,779")		
What is the diameter of the radial air holes at the end of the air mandrel?	2,0 mm (0,0787")	
How many more air holes are distributed across the width of the mandrel?	Length <= 1500 mm (59") 1 pce. >= 1500 mm (59") 2 pce.	
What is the diameter of the air holes across the mandrel?	1,2 mm (0,047")	

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Storage

- Storage at high temperatures and exposure to humidity can sometimes have a negative effect on the life of the sleeves.
- Sleeves stored standing upright should be secured against falling over. Sleeves should not be stacked on top of each other.
- Sleeves mounted on an air mandrel should be stored so that no weight or pressure is exerted on the sleeve itself as this can have a negative effect on the concentricity of the sleeve.

Choice of Tape

- Depending on the type of work, a tape with good adhesive qualities should be chosen that prevents the edge of the plate from lifting but can still be removed fairly easily.