



SHRINKAGE

THREADS Cotton fabrics shrink relatively little, in line with other cotton fabrics that you are used to working with. You might want to print your image, say, 1/4" larger in the width and length to allow for shrinkage.

However, the THREADS silk weaves shrink quite a bit more. (We could manufacture fabrics that shrink somewhat less, but that would increase the prices of already expensive fabrics quite a lot.) This might not matter that much for some abstract patterns, but in a pattern that contains a perfect circle, it might end up looking like an oval. Also, photos can end up looking somewhat distorted if you don't take the shrinkage into account.

To test shrinkage, we measured approximately how much 8 1/2" x 11" silk fabric sheets shrank after being rinsed in fabric softener. We then used that information to calculate how much you should change the aspect ratio of your images (in your graphics software) to make the images look right after you rinse the fabric:

Silk Chiffon 10mm:

- Width shrank 1/8" (1.5%)
- Length shrank 9/16" (5.1%)
- Elongate the aspect ratio of the image by 3.6% {This is calculated by solving for x in this equation: $(1 + 0.051)/(1+0.015)=(1+x)$.}

Silk Charmeuse 19mm:

- Width shrank 1/8" (1.5%)
- Length shrank 13/16" (7.4%)
- Elongate the aspect ratio of the image by 5.8%

Silk Crepe de Chine 14mm:

- Width shrank 3/32" (1.1%)
- Length shrank 1" (9.1%)
- Elongate the aspect ratio of the image by 7.9%

Silk Crepe de Chine 23mm:

- Width shrank 1/8" (1.5%)
- Length shrank 1 11/16" (15.3%)
- Elongate the aspect ratio of the image by 13.6%

(Shrinkage -continued) -

For example, if you want to end up with an image on Silk Charmeuse that is 7.5" square, you should print it:

in the width:

$$(1 - 0.015) * x = 7.5''$$

$$0.985 * x = 7.5''$$

$$x = 7.5''/0.985$$

$$x = 7.6''$$

in the length:

$$(1 - 0.074) * x = 7.5''$$

$$0.926 * x = 7.5''$$

$$x = 7.5''/0.926$$

$$x = 8.1''$$