

1. Are triple blade squeegees worth bothering with?

First of all, what are triple blades?

The hardness of a squeegee blade is measured in shore, this number denotes the hardness of the rubber in the blade.

Named after its inventor, Albert Ferdinand Shore, Shore hardness offers different scales for measuring the solidity of different materials.

We can use a special tool to measure the shore, or we can just use our fingers.

A very simple equation would be:

Softer rubber blades push more ink through the mesh with some loss in detail. Harder blades push less ink through the mesh with a higher retention of detail.

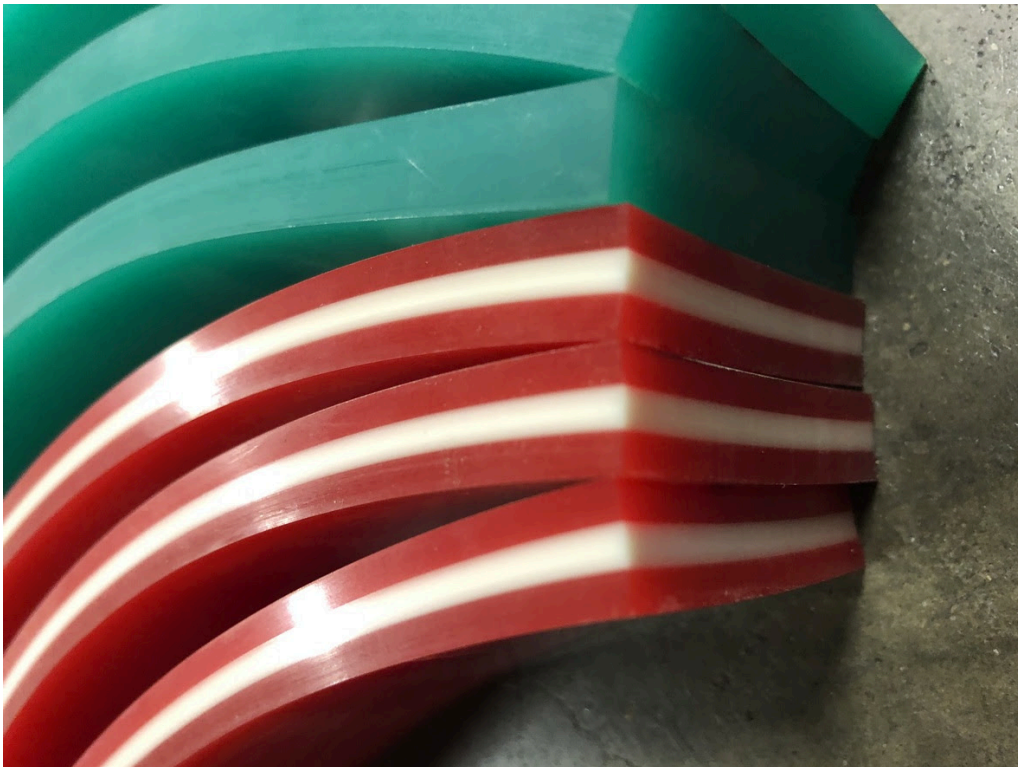
When I started printing, we had three basic choices,

=====

- • Soft 65 shore (red)
- • Medium 75 shore (green)
- • Hard 85 shore (blue)



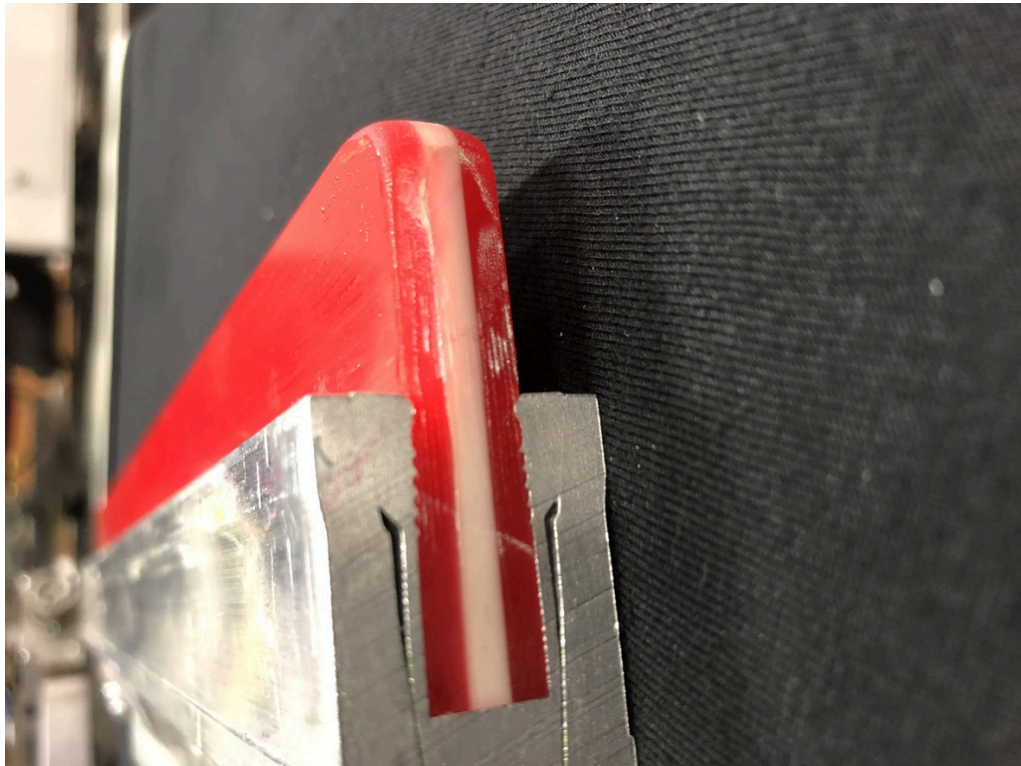
Life was simple, the colour of the blade denoted the hardness and there were only three choices. (We will skip the edge definition for now! I don't have the time to cover why we would use a half round blade).



The composite or triple blade was born

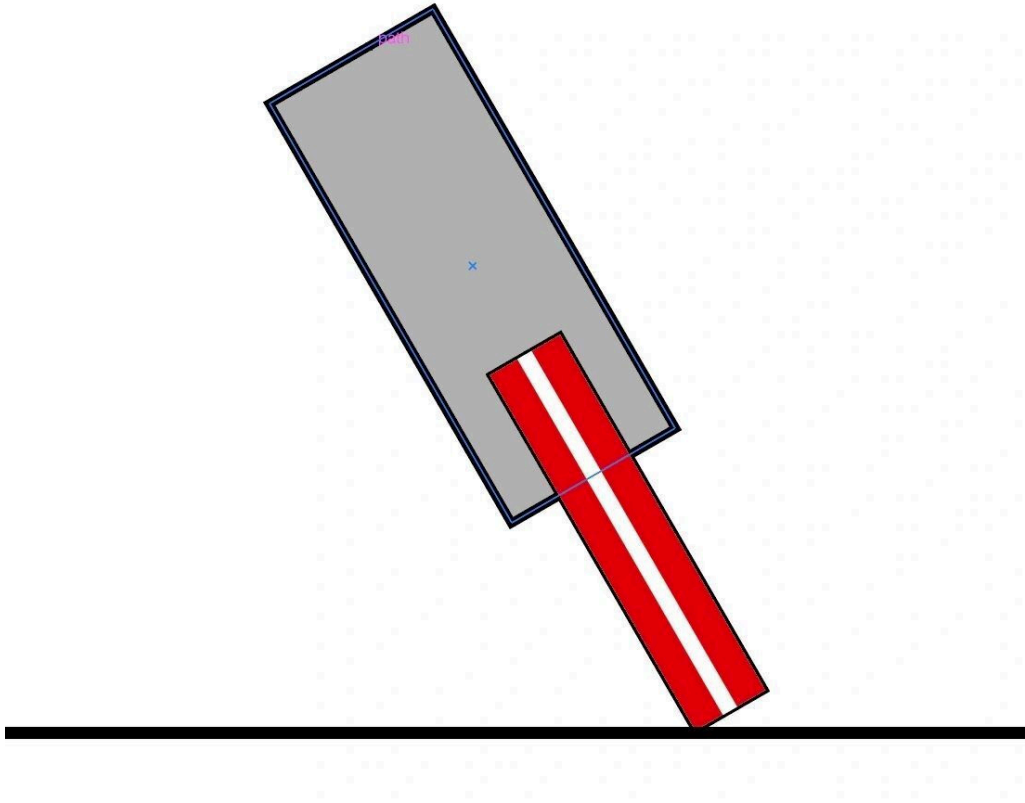
There were occasions when we would need something between a 65 and a 75 shore blade, the only issue was that a step of only 5 shore didn't quite cut it! We wanted the edge of a 65 with the stiffness of a 90. The introduction of stiffening devices was trialled but in all honesty, they were impractical to use and clean!

The blades with metal fingers along the edge not facing the ink, did a great job of not allowing the rubber to bend but were impossible to clean. The blades with an extended holder on one side would also reduce the bend of the blade, but they could only be used one way round.



By making a sandwich of Red 65 rubber, White 90 rubber and red 65 rubber we have created the perfect solution. The part of the blade that touches the ink and forces the ink through the mesh is still soft enough to deliver good opacity, but its bend is reduced by the stiffener sandwiched in the middle, ensuring we keep detail also. The pattern is repeated with a 75-shore sandwiched onto a 90 stiffener, this gives us detail and a super sharp print.

The answer to the original question is a simple yes, Triple blades give us the detail we crave without the compromise in power usually associated with a harder blade.



©2024 Palmprint Consultants Ltd | WF2 8NN

[Web Version](#) [Forward](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®