

# DISCOVERING SILK MESH

- For many years Treetops tried to source a lightweight open-weave silk fabric for our clients, but nothing ever seemed just right. So in 2016 we decided to design our own exclusive fabric which is now being woven exclusively for us. Here are some tips and techniques about working with our Silk Mesh.
- One of the Mesh's main attributes is its stunning luster, glowing colour and textural appearance. The open-weave structure of this fabric really helps make these elements stand out.
- Natural Eco Printers will also love the results of printing and dyeing on this fabric
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- When nuno felting with the Mesh, it embeds beautifully onto the surface of your felt lending both luster and texture to its surface, even more than a silk gauze would.

The mesh will create a gorgeous texture in any of the areas left open in your nuno felting

- The Mesh also possesses sensational drape because of its open-weave structure. Wearables made with it will contour elegantly around the body.

- Here are a few challenging aspects of working with the Silk Mesh. Due to its open-weave structure you will not be able to use the traditional method of snipping and ripping. One must pull a thread to cut on the straight of the grain. Please watch our video 'Pulling a Thread in Silk Mesh' for step-by-step instructions.
- **NEWS FLASH! We have just discovered you can indeed 'Snip and Rip' our Silk Mesh fabric. Simply make a 2cm (1 inch) snip. Then hold your hand approximately 30cm (12 inch) apart on each side of the snip and then just rip (pull hands apart)... I usually cut the last little bit left on the selvage with scissors so the last few threads don't pull. Cheers!**
- Once you make a cut into the fabric, you will find it will continue to fray because of its open-weave structure. You will need to think about how to finish off these cut edges. A few suggestions would be: 1. Use creative machine embroidery to secure the edges. 2. Hem the edges by hand. 3. Fold the fabric back onto itself so that the fold becomes the edge. 4. Simply felt the edges with wool.
- Open-weave fabrics have less structure holding the threads in place and some thread slippage or snagging can occur, usually in larger areas of the fabric. It is therefore important to make good design choices when considering how to use the Silk Mesh.
- We currently offer over 15 colourways exclusively on line at [www.treetopscolors.com.au](http://www.treetopscolors.com.au).

By Nancy Ballesteros, Treetops Colour Harmonies, May 2017