

10/7/20

Yesterday we collected our screens from Creative Plastics, and today we set them up at home. We are pleased with how they look and feel at the table. The height of the screens seems right when you are sitting down. The height and width of the centre opening is right. The width of the screens means they protrude about 10cm beyond the corner of 86cm square table. The screen is very definitely comfortably between you and your left opponent or your right opponent. While you are sitting still at the table the screens are firmly in place. If you strike the table from the side the screens vibrate a little, perhaps a slight wobble, but there is no sense of insecurity.

They are 3mm thick and eight panels, for four tables, needed both us to carry them. To put them onto the table, we lifted one on to the table oriented from corner to corner, and then one of us held it while the other lifted the second screen and "dropped" it into the slot. You need to be careful to lift it high enough and get it lined up properly or you start putting stress onto the sheet and this is bad.

There are a lot of reflections in the pictures. We didn't see them when we were sitting at the table trying it out and taking pictures.

The sheets arrived with plastic coverings on both sides. This took a bit of time to peel off. We made a big mistake and tried to peel one covering off while a screen was on the table interlocked with another. This put too much stress on it, and the screen cracked. I mended it with Sellotape and most of the pictures above are of the mended screen – see if you can spot the Sellotape.

This taught us a lesson. You need to handle them carefully, and by the middle because their weight exceeds their ability to be moved, and especially to be at all twisted, by the ends.

We sat down and had a long talk about it. We asked ourselves if it would be better if they had been thicker. If they were thicker, they would be too heavy for us to move. Ironically, if your club is set up permanently, you probably either do not need to move them much, and they will be fine at 3mm. Or you can get some strong arms to set them up and leave them.

So, we successfully peeled all the coverings of the other six sheets handling them carefully by the middle, usually with one hand holding the two sides of the "slot" together and there were no further accidents or near accidents.

We have found a couple of boards to put around the pile of eight to protect them in transit to the club and an old sheet to keep them clean and not scratched.

So far, apart from one bit of mended damage, so good.

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