

PRINTING TIPS

Expression

Printing

- Expression has a very smooth, tight surface, is not highly absorbent and may require longer drying times or adjustments to the ink and press systems.
- It may be necessary to run shorter piles in the delivery end of the press.
- Press or paper temperature may be too low. Precondition paper prior to printing as low temperatures retard ink drying.
- Allow enough drying time before turning or working a job.

Inks

- Discuss the job (including the paper) with your ink manufacturer before running it. The best cure for drying problems is prevention. All uncoated papers are not the same.
- Avoid soy based inks as soy oil is a slower drying oil.
- Fountain solution pH is important. Keep fountain pH in a range of 4.2 to 5.5 as high acidity slows drying.
- Use only the recommended dryers for the ink being used.
- Do not overuse dryers. Too much will “plasticise the ink, rendering it nondrying.
- Additives for accelerating drying can greatly reduce drying problems. Example: Graf-O-Stec (Graf-dryers) - 1% to 3% added to ink. Add at the press just prior to the press run.
- Several additive dryers can be added to the fountain solution to increase the ink's drying ability.
- New inks are available containing rapid setting properties.
Example: Alpha-temp Springer III inks available from Hostmann-Steinberg
- Use of a coated or large particle size spray to improve drying.
- Have the ink manufacturer increase the strength of the ink so you can run a thinner film which is easier to set.
- Inks made with Reflex Blue take a longer time to dry. Review with ink supplier.
- Inks used for printing on film, such as Morrison Ink's Tough-Dry, will set and harden to a tough film within hours.
- Ink formulating approaches can greatly assist in resolving slow ink drying problems. Discuss with your ink supplier.

NOTE: Many slow drying problems are the result of inadequate oxidation potential in the vehicle or lack of available drier catalysts. Oxidation potential can be rectified by incorporating more oil or alkyd into the vehicle or by the use of fully drying materials such as linseed or tung oil in place of semi-drying oils, such as soy.

Varnishing

- For large solids, overprint the nondrying ink with an overprint varnish containing dryers or with transparent size.

Printing tips provided by Mohawk Fine Paper

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