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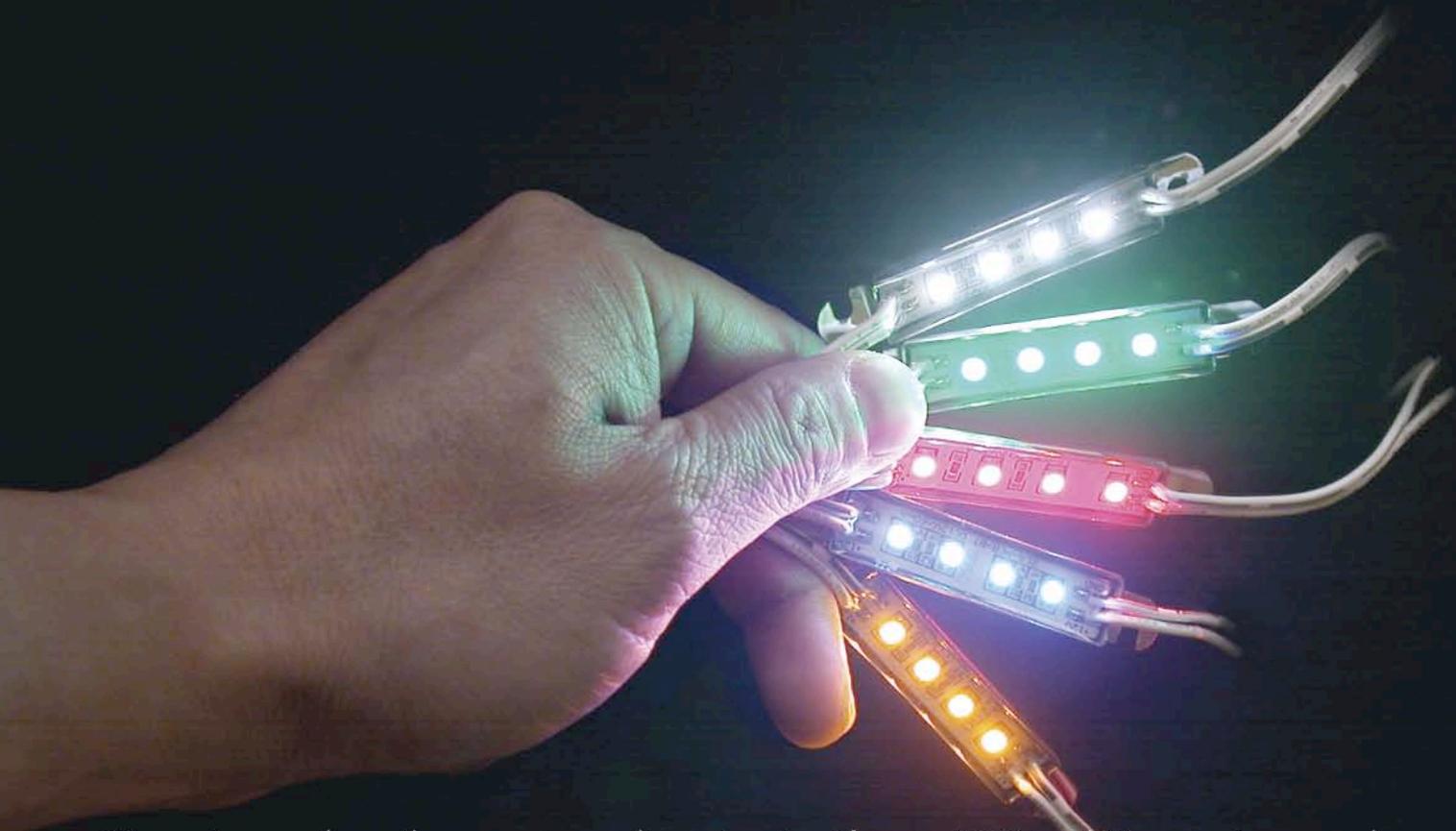
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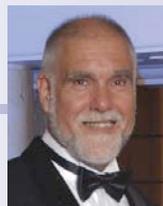
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Join the Sign Update Forum

Having now completed my third visit to smaller sign makers, first Essex, then Durham and now Birmingham, I feel the sign industry isn't in that bad a shape, work wise. I wanted to say the word recession, just to keep in line with the rest of the media, but thankfully at the moment there isn't one. I'm not referring to the suppliers of the industry, but the end user i.e. the sign maker. As I write this page I am in the process of visiting Gloucestershire sign makers. So if there are any Gloucestershire sign makers I've not made contact with, then please let me know urgently if you would like to be included in our Gloucestershire feature. Believe it or not, some are so busy they haven't the time to talk about their achievements with me, I just hope it's not me! Whatever the reason, it's a comfort to know some of you are doing very well.

Over the next few weeks we are launching the new Sign Update Forum and Website. I know there are other forums and websites out there, but, what makes ours different and why would you want to use this one?

1) Easy to Navigate Forum - Many have flashing adverts and are difficult to navigate. We intend to keep advertising to a minimum and concentrate on revenue from the Buyers Guide, which you are only exposed to when you choose.

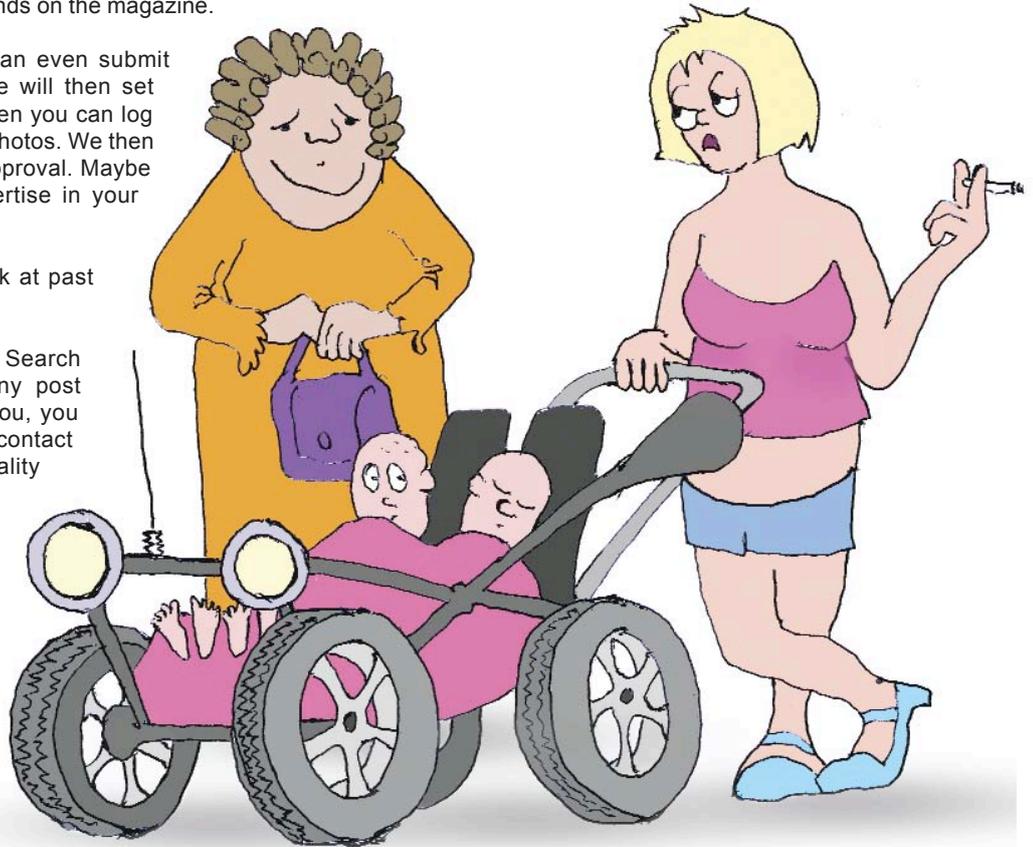
2) Buyers Guide - This has been a popular part of the magazine for many years, and now allows you to efficiently search for exactly what product or service you are looking for and to go directly to a supplier's website. This will be of great benefit to those who can't lay their hands on the magazine.

3) Many articles of interest - You can even submit articles yourself - just email us. We will then set your user ID up as an author, and then you can log in and write articles and even insert photos. We then publish your article, subject to our approval. Maybe you would like to share some expertise in your specialist area?

4) Archive from the magazine - Look at past tutorials and articles.

5) Improve your website's Google Search Engine ranking - At the end of any post on a forum or article submitted by you, you can put in a link to your website or contact details at the bottom. The more quality relevant links you have to your website the better your ranking in Google, which means more website traffic. So, remember, we are only a click away. Having said all that, don't forget to read the magazine.

Roger Hinchliffe



"Ever since Donald's had to sell the car because of the price of fuel, he has taken an interest in my pram."

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Zünd launches new G3 cutter range

In Autumn of 2007, Zünd Systemtechnik AG, based in the Rhine Valley of Switzerland, announced its decision to withdraw from the digital printer market in order to take full advantage of the opportunities arising from the synergies of digital printing and finishing.

With over 13,000 flatbed cutters "Made in Switzerland" installed worldwide, Zünd is globally recognized as a leader in digital cutting and finishing.

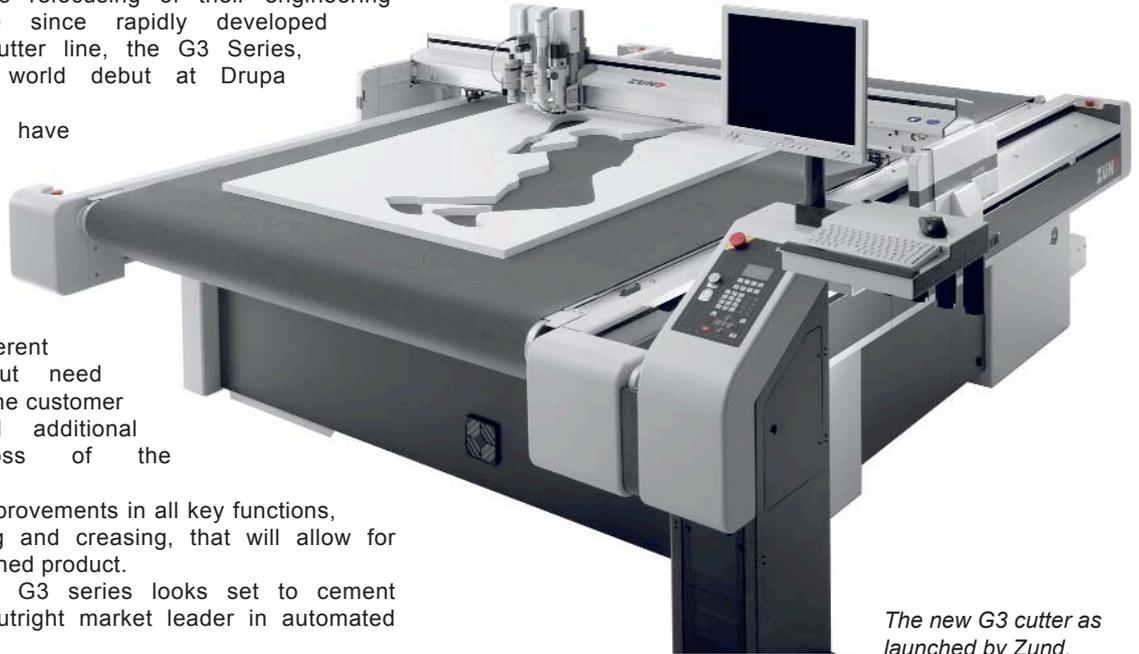
As a result of this refocusing of their engineering resources, Zünd have since rapidly developed their next generation cutter line, the G3 Series, which was given its world debut at Drupa earlier this year.

The new machines have been developed for greater accuracy and performance, and will include new features such as 'Hot Pluggable' cutting tools, this automatic tool recognition allows swapping of different tools on-the-fly, without need of system recalibration. The customer can then freely add additional modules without loss of the initial investment.

There are further improvements in all key functions, including cutting, routing and creasing, that will allow for even better quality of finished product.

All told, the latest G3 series looks set to cement Zünd's position as an outright market leader in automated cutting and finishing.

The new G3 will be installed at the Zünd UK premises in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, with a series of soon to be announced Open Days planned to formally launch the product to the UK market. In the meantime, for further details on the new G3 cutter series, contact Peter Giddings at Zünd UK on Tel: 01727 833 003, or email sales@zund.co.uk



The new G3 cutter as launched by Zünd.

All wrapped up with Arlon Xscape

For your entire vehicle wrapping media requirements Victory Design recommends the Arlon Xscape products. Featuring Xscape bubble free technology, which allows vehicle wrap fitters to achieve speedy installations, while maintaining high enough tack to ensure a long term bond.

Gabriel Maxwell, Director of print media, Arlon describes the benefits of this product range; "bubbles disappear with the press of a finger."

For full vehicle wraps, Victory recommends the Arlon DPF6000X, a 2mil cast extra formable film with tinted, repositionable, bubble releasing adhesive. DPF6000X has a high gloss finish and is the ideal choice for complete vehicle wraps. The media is soft allowing for maximum flexibility around curves and deep channels. The adhesive has a strong bond eliminating the need for adhesive promoters and primers. This product has an outdoor durability of up to seven years (unprinted) and is available at 1370 and 1560mm wide.

Also recommended is the Arlon Xscape 4560 GTX, which is an excellent application for partial vehicle wraps with flat or slight curves. 4560 GTX is a 3 mil high gloss, white PVC film with tinted permanent adhesive. This product has an outdoor rating of five years (unprinted) and is available in widths of 1370mm and 1560mm.

To extend the life of your prints with a laminate, Victory Design recommends the Arlon series 3220 crystal laminate, a matched system product for the Xscape product range.

To learn more about vehicle wrapping, Victory Design are holding various vehicle wrapping training courses which are delivered by professional vehicle fitters and will provide hands on experience in learning vehicle wrapping techniques.

For more information on the Arlon products and training courses contact Victory Design on 01246 570570, visit their website www.victorydesign.co.uk or email sales@victorydesign.co.uk



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Gandinnovations reaches new heights with the NanoJet UV digital printer

Gandinnovations a world leader in grand format digital printer innovations launched its newest grand format UV digital printer, the NanoJet, at Drupa.

The NanoJet uses the latest in digital print technology and is specifically designed to print outstanding photo-realistic quality outputs.

Equipped with a silicon nozzle plate, the NanoJet uses 24 Spectra high performance print heads. This 15 pico litre head is specifically designed to deliver high resolution droplets. Printing at speeds of 220sqft/hr (20.4sqm/hr) in photo-realistic mode with superb results, the NanoJet has a print area of

4' x 8' and prints in six colours at 800dpi, using Gandinnovations UV-curable branded inks.

The strong vacuum table on the NanoJet holds virtually any rigid material in place up to 5 cm (2") in thickness and the specially designed table uses a linear motion system to control movement, ensuring perfect registration on rigid and flexible materials every time. Ideal for high quality display printing on glass, acrylics, Dibond, aluminum, wood, Steel, Coroplast, form-board and styren, the NanoJet is a true winner for any printshop needing to output photo-realistic quality products.

For further information visit www.gandinnovations.com



nano

Gandinnovations latest UV digital printer, the NanoJet.

Mimaki introduces new high solvent ink

Mimaki Engineering, a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting machines for the sign/graphics, industrial markets and textile/apparel, is pleased to announce its new generation of HS ink. This new ink has a lower odour and prevents media shrinkage due to solvent migration, and has enhanced colour reproduction by using a new light black ink.

There are two types of solvent ink on the market; one is a high or aggressive solvent ink, which features fast-drying and strong ink bonding on the media. The other is a medium durability, environmentally friendly light or eco-solvent ink, which does not include toxic substances like Cyclohexanone. Mimaki's JV5 series can use both the high (aggressive) solvent ink, HS1 and the eco-solvent ink ES3. The reason is to meet the various requirements in outdoor signage, as well as indoor uses such as aqueous-based dye sublimation and pigment ink for photographic applications.

To make the most of ultra-high speed printing of the JV5 series, HS ink is the most suitable due to its faster drying time, which is much faster than eco-solvents.

The newly developed Eco-HS1 ink vastly improves the work environment and health conditions. Also, the inks will dramatically reduce odour to the same level of SS21 ink, which is used for the JV33 series. Innovations like expanded color gamut, improved Magenta, a newly added light black ink, provides a smoother gradation and a more glossy finish. In addition to these attributes, shrinkage of media (especially thin self-adhesive PVC) is prevented. Eco-HS1 ink is suitable for fleet graphics using thin self-adhesive PVC where prints are exposed to intensive mechanical stress or abrasion. Improvement in the permeability of the ink on the media due to residual solvents, helps shorten job turnaround time from printing to the next job. UV and water resistance is further enhanced by an improved Yellow ink.

For further information visit www.mimakiusa.com

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HP Introduces HP Designjet L65500 printer with HP Latex inks

HP have introduced the HP Designjet L65500, a 104 inch device that is the first printer to feature HP Latex Printing Technologies including HP Latex Inks and HP Wide Scan Printing Technology. This printer offers print service providers (PSPs) a versatile print system that can produce a broad range of applications on a wide range of materials, including most low-cost, uncoated, solvent compatible media and is suitable for point-of-purchase displays, transit signage, wall murals and exhibition graphics, vehicle graphics and fleet marking plus a variety of exterior and interior event signage.

Together, HP Latex Printing Technologies provide durable, odorless prints, sharp, vivid image quality, application versatility and high-productivity, enabling PSPs to increase their print capacity and grow their business while reducing the impact of printing on the environment.

New water-based HP Latex Inks provide many of the benefits of solvent-ink technology without imposing the typical environmental, health and safety considerations. Odorless prints produced with HP Latex Inks emit extremely low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). No special ventilation is required, facilitating an improved printing environment. HP Latex Inks are not classified as hazardous waste and are non-flammable and non-combustible.

"From HP's perspective, environmental matters are growing in importance and we want to make sure that we are providing the best solutions for both our customers and the environment," said Santi Morera, vice president and general manager of large format printing commercial solutions for HP's Imaging and Printing Group. "The HP Designjet L65500 Printer with HP Latex Inks offers print service providers a compelling new alternative that will allow them to expand the variety of outdoor and indoor applications they can offer to environmentally conscious customers while also improving their overall printing atmosphere."

The HP Designjet L65500 Printer, HP large-format media and HP Latex Inks are designed and tested together to provide optimal results with every print. HP designed 14 new large-format media – including five recyclable substrates for optimal results with HP Latex Printing Technologies. A proprietary new HP media surface-treatment technology, developed together with the HP Designjet L65500 Printer, produces a wide colour gamut and makes it possible to achieve both durability and sharp, vivid image quality on materials that don't typically print well with solvent inks.

HP Wide Scan Printing Technology delivers high productivity and high image quality using two proprietary HP technologies working together; HP Wide Scan Printheads and the HP Optical Media Advance Sensor (OMAS). The HP Designjet L65500 Printer with HP Wide Scan Printheads enables consistent, high-quality output at breakthrough print speeds, approximately 800 square feet/hour for outdoor-quality prints and 400 square feet/hour for indoor-quality prints.

For seamless integration with customers' existing workflows, HP is working with major software RIP vendors to develop solutions for the HP Designjet L65500 Printer, including Caldera Graphics, ColorGATE, Ergosoft, ONYX Graphics, Wasatch, AIT and SA International.

Additionally, HP will be launching a 'Registered Developer Program' intended to ensure adopters of HP Latex Printing Technologies will have the ability to select from a wide range of substrates suitable for new and existing applications.

More information about HP Latex Printing Technologies is available at www.hp.com/go/hp_latex_printing_technologies. More information about HP Designjet L65500 Printer is available at www.hp.co/go/designjetL65500



HP Designjet L65500 which features HP Latex Printing Technologies.

HP Wide Scan Printhead.

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19mm available in white only

height	3mm	5mm	10mm	19mm
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75mm	£0.50	£0.68	£1.24	£2.38
100mm	£0.77	£1.02	£1.59	£3.40
125mm	£0.96	£1.36	£2.38	£3.96
150mm	£1.07	£1.87	£3.28	£4.53
175mm	£1.29	£2.15	£4.08	£6.22
200mm	£1.47	£2.49	£4.64	£7.93
225mm	£1.98	£2.94	£5.66	£8.78
250mm	£2.26	£3.40	£6.79	£10.19
275mm	£2.54	£4.08	£7.76	£11.59
300mm	£2.83	£4.81	£8.72	£13.87
375mm	£3.73	£5.66	£10.75	£15.85
425mm	£4.53	£6.41	£12.46	£18.68
500mm	£5.38	£7.47	£15.85	£21.51
600mm	£7.36	£10.30	£20.15	£26.04
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100mm	£0.90	£1.36	£2.71
125mm	£1.13	£1.70	£3.40
150mm	£1.36	£2.15	£4.30
175mm	£1.70	£2.61	£5.20
200mm	£2.26	£3.29	£6.79
225mm	£2.83	£4.18	£8.38
250mm	£3.06	£5.38	£10.76
275mm	£3.51	£5.89	£11.77
300mm	£4.30	£7.36	£14.72
375mm	£6.40	£9.06	£18.11
425mm	£7.81	£10.19	£20.37
500mm	£9.62	£13.01	£26.04
600mm	£11.66	£15.85	£31.69
1200mm	£45.28	£62.26	£124.51

no minimum order

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height	colours	brushed	mirror
50mm	£1.02	£1.24	£1.87
75mm	£1.42	£1.59	£2.38
100mm	£1.86	£2.16	£2.71
125mm	£2.38	£2.67	£4.00
150mm	£2.71	£3.63	£5.43
175mm	£3.17	£4.36	£6.55
200mm	£4.53	£5.10	£7.64
225mm	£5.32	£5.89	£8.83
250mm	£6.22	£7.02	£10.53
275mm	£6.79	£8.60	£12.87
300mm	£7.69	£9.62	£14.48
375mm	£9.06	£10.92	£16.39
425mm	£10.53	£13.01	£19.53
500mm	£14.72	£16.02	£24.04
600mm	£18.11	£20.37	£30.51
1200mm	£54.33	£61.12	£91.70

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Medite Exterior comes in a raw form
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height	6mm	12mm	18mm
50mm	£0.34	£0.85	£1.47
75mm	£0.79	£1.47	£2.26
100mm	£1.14	£1.81	£2.76
125mm	£1.52	£2.66	£3.79
150mm	£2.26	£3.63	£4.69
175mm	£2.43	£4.35	£5.77
200mm	£2.83	£5.10	£7.13
225mm	£3.56	£5.89	£8.04
250mm	£4.08	£7.02	£10.19
275mm	£4.87	£8.60	£11.59
300mm	£6.22	£9.62	£13.93
375mm	£8.82	£10.92	£15.96
425mm	£10.19	£13.01	£18.68
500mm	£11.54	£16.01	£21.51
600mm	£13.58	£18.11	£26.04
1200mm	£40.75	£54.33	£73.58

no minimum order

stainless steel

height	1.2mm satin brushed	1.2mm polished	2mm satin brushed	2mm polished
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75mm	£3.46	£3.71	£4.61	£4.94
100mm	£4.20	£5.06	£5.60	£6.75
125mm	£4.82	£5.43	£6.42	£7.24
150mm	£5.19	£6.05	£6.92	£8.06
175mm	£7.29	£8.27	£9.72	£11.03
200mm	£9.23	£10.62	£12.31	£14.16
225mm	£10.86	£11.61	£14.48	£15.48
250mm	£11.67	£12.47	£15.56	£16.63
275mm	£12.90	£14.81	£17.20	£19.75
300mm	£14.81	£16.24	£19.75	£21.65
375mm	£21.11	£22.78	£28.15	£30.37
425mm	£23.61	£27.29	£31.48	£36.38
500mm	£29.63	£32.22	£39.50	£42.96
600mm	£35.80	£40.73	£47.73	£54.31

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Visitors enjoy open day at Simplex.

Sign Update recently attended an open day held by Simplex and its suppliers at Simplex Ltd's premises in Lancing, West Sussex.

The visit made for an interesting day with sign makers, existing and potential customers, being among the visitors.

One new product on show was nylon coating for poles or steelwork on signs, available in gloss finish in a range of colours. The coating is resistant to knocks, light impacts, solvents, and abrasives such as salt, sea and sand. Designed not to chip or crack in service, it is ideal for landscaped areas where strimmers are used around the bottom of poles.

Chris Burton, Managing Director of Simplex, showed visitors another new addition to the company's range – anti-graffiti lacquer. For the open day the lacquer had been applied over a panel with vinyl lettering, but it can also be used on panels prior to vinyl lettering. It is also equally effective on screen printed and digitally printed panels and a wide range of substrates including powder coat or wet sprayed metal panels and structures, foamex, and painted MDF.



Four pole types are available – round, quad slot, square and D shaped plus a gently curving walltrack. Composite holder allows for a single 3mm sheet of Dibond or aluminium to be slid between round poles for a more price conscious project.

One further advantage of the Pole and Plank system is that it allows for 2mm aluminium or composites, and is approved for use with Dibond from Alcan Composites, offering choice in finish and the durability and quality of Dibond.



The new anti-graffiti lacquer has a clear gloss surface finish, which allows permanent markers, aerosol paints, acrylic paints and dyes to be simply wiped away using the approved cleaning fluid from Simplex.

On-site spraying is also available so furniture in a park or other public place, for example, can be protected the same way. The lacquer has been fully tested and approved by Railtrack for which it is recommended for train rolling stock.

The anti-graffiti lacquer was demonstrated to be easily removable with anti graffiti cleaner which is available from Simplex.

The Pole and Plank system is an important part of Simplex's range and attracted plenty of interest. Pole and Plank is designed to avoid the shortcomings associated with similar products.

The planks locate inside the post channel to provide the panels with extra support. A simple yet clever locating method uses steel pins screwed into the ends of the plank. This gives a greater tolerance in the extrusion and therefore less resistance as the plank slides down the pole freely without the need of a heavy hammer.

The posts are designed to include integral ribs, which allow for the insertion of a standard 60x40mm steel hollow box section and results in a snug fitting internal steel support, effectively becoming part of the pole and providing extra strength on large signs.



Visitors at the open day also saw a mixture of letters fabricated in-house at Simplex, extruded profiles and sign systems.

The HB Modular Sign System, a recent addition to the company's range, is an elegant, robust and flexible solution for all internal signing requirements. It comprises strong, lightweight, extruded interchangeable aluminium profiles and signs are only 6mm thick, with no visible frames or fixings.

Continued on page 14

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CEE Signs is the formation of several leading CEE sign manufacturers with one point of contact who have come together to offer a full and comprehensive range of signs using the latest technologies and manufacturing techniques.

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Visitors enjoy Simplex open day.

Continued from page 12

The Accord15 modular system from Apco is a complete modular system for virtually any signage need, from simple personnel and identification signs to complex directionals and directories. On show were both the End Clip System and Side Track System, which share a wide range of modular components.



Lighting being installed on a back-lit sign.



The front panel constructed using a Dibond panel with edges routed and folded.

Braille and tactile splash panels from Simplex's System 4 also attracted much interest. System 4 is Simplex's versatile curved directory system whereby a sign can have its appearance completely changed without replacing the whole unit.

Machinery for cutting, rolling, guillotining, routing and engraving was also demonstrated.

Three companies that supply and work closely with Simplex had stands at the open day – Nova Aluminium Systems, Alcan Composites and Sign Gear Systems.

Nova Aluminium Systems

Nova Aluminium Systems supplies the sign industry with aluminium profiles for the production of sign boxes, frames, directional signage and overhead lighting requirements. Simplex and Nova have shared the design of the Pole and Plank system which has proved to be such a success.

Alcan Composites

Simplex uses Dibond by Alcan Composites extensively, most notably for its Pole and Plank systems but also for trays, fascias and specialist bespoke fabrications. Dibond has significant benefits compared to similar looking products coming from East Asia, especially its excellent durability, whatever the weather, and identical colour finish from different batches.

In addition, many imported products contain lead and cadmium so cannot be recycled, at a time when customers are increasingly requesting ethical products from sign makers. Alcan Composites has set up a recycling facility for Dibond with its distribution partners, Robert Horne Sign & Display and Thyssen Krupp Materials, where off-cuts are collected free of charge and almost 100 per cent recycled.

On display were some recently developed new finishes, such as the Dibond Stucco, which has an uneven raised texture of traditional stucco plaster with a highly reflective surface.

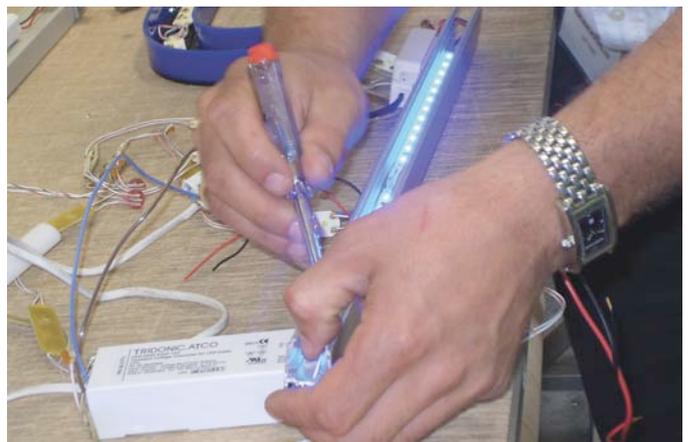
Sign Gear Systems

In answer to one sign maker's question about how easy it is to replace an LED, Guy Young, Business Development Executive of Sign Gear Systems, gave a quick demonstration.

With enthusiasm, he cut the cable either side of an LED in a chain and replaced it, without having to strip any wires, and re-connected using just 3M Scotchlok crimps and hand crimping tool. He didn't even have to turn off the power as LEDs are low voltage. The LED replacement took only seconds.

Other demonstrations on Sign Gear Systems' stand emphasised that all LEDs are not equal, using his past experience and with the aid of a calculation tool, he showed how to use the right number and type of LED for each application, and the illumination of various signs and built-up letters using LEDs. With LEDs that can give from a gentle glow to over to three meters of intense illumination, Sign Gear Systems displayed LEDs for all applications.

Further information on the Simplex range can be found at www.simplex ltd.com or by telephoning 01903 750333. Contact Nova Aluminium Systems at www.nova-aluminium.com or tel. 01179 556463. Contact Alcan Composites at www.alcancomposites.com or tel. 01977 681 782. Contact Sign-Gear Systems Limited at www.signgear.co.uk or tel. 01527 547521.



GRAPHTEC



The latest model in Graphtec's high-end FC7000Mk2 Series has the same proven features as its big brothers, and is priced extremely favourably for a machine with all its capabilities. Perfect tracking over an enviable 15 metres and ease of use makes this 24 inch cutting plotter the ideal accompaniment to digital printing for the serious signmaker.

With typical Graphtec robustness and reliability the FC7000Mk2 cuts vinyl, window tint and screen printing films, sandblasting rubbers and other tough media with effortless ease and consistent accuracy.

Graphtec's unique Advanced Registration Mark Sensing (ARMS) system automatically compensates for more distortions than ever and prevents twisting or skewing of pre-printed data. ARMS works on four point axis alignment, instead of the usual two or three point alignment used by other systems, and the result is a noticeable improvement in cutting accuracy especially on longer length work

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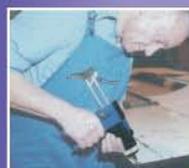
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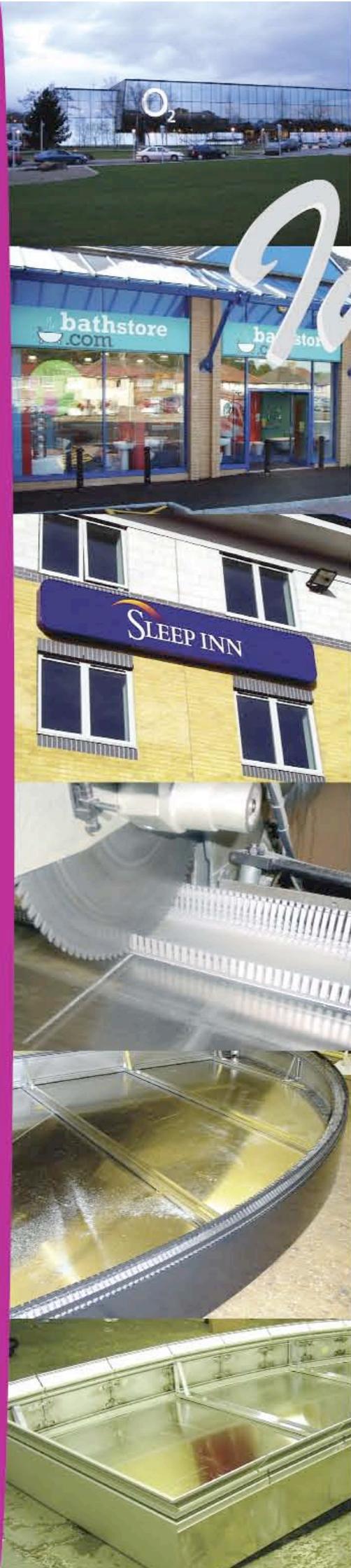
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Speed Flex is part of the Alumiflex/Signcomp USA family, a worldwide network of trade suppliers all with matching systems protected by patents in all major countries, benefitting customers involved in pan-European contracts, while providing peace of mind that the system they are using has undergone certified wind-load testing. Very important, especially during the very windy weather, and bearing in mind insurers may not cover wind damage for systems which are not test compliant.

Bend It, Shape It, Any Way You Want It

An increasing number of flex face cases supplied by Insight are now customised by notching the extrusion as shown below, giving the outside shape of the case freedom from the standard rectangular format. This can take the form of simple radius corners, as shown above-middle, to large arcs (bottom-left), oval boxes, complicated large letter shapes, or even curved-back cases (bottom-right) to fit on to curved fascias.



Third Generation Flex Holders

Now secures a wide range of materials from 380 to 750 g. No preparation is required to the sign face, so no welded seams, no rods, no holes. Simply clip direct to the edge of the material with custom designed pliers.

Increased Tensioning

With its redesign, the tensioning channel of Speed Flex Integral now has the capability for even further tensioning of the face.



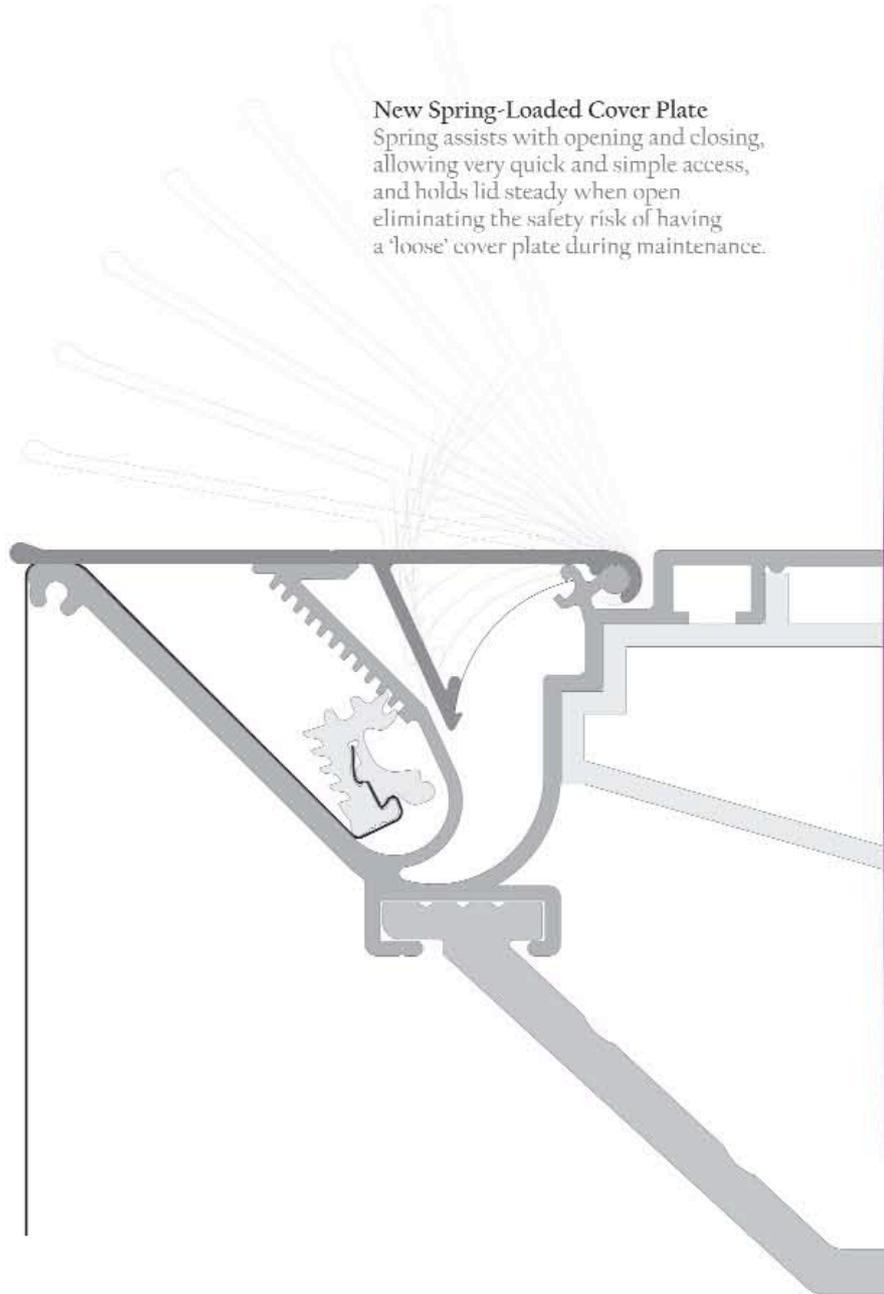
Fast, Silent Tensioning

Thanks to the new modifications, Speed Flex now accommodates the Alumiflex tensioning tool, for a more refined tensioning experience.

Available from the end of April 2008, Speed Flex Integral MkII is the first of the new MkII system, with all other variations to be upgraded during 2008.

New Spring-Loaded Cover Plate

Spring assists with opening and closing, allowing very quick and simple access, and holds lid steady when open eliminating the safety risk of having a 'loose' cover plate during maintenance.



Insight Sign Systems provides a nationwide made to measure service, with cases made up to standard or bespoke shapes, powder coated to most RAL colours, supplied complete with high quality digital printed faces. The Speed Flex range has many variations, including hinged, retro-fit, and the unique Frontloader.

Durst announces development of thermo-formable UV cured ink system

Durst in conjunction with SunJet, the inkjet ink division of Sun Chemical, has developed a thermo-formable UV cured ink system for use with its digital printing presses.

The new ink, called Rho TH Ink, will allow Durst's customers to access new markets for advertising, displays and decoration of functional items. New opportunities include co-ordination of traditional advertising and point of sale displays with moulded and formed displays. There are also huge opportunities in the customisation of sports and protective equipment such as cycle helmets.

Technically, the flexibility of the ink allows full forming on styrene, acrylic and many other plastic materials commonly used in displays and functional equipment. Highly challenging moulds with 90 deg edges and more than 10 cm (4 in) depth showed exceptional good results on a wide variety of thermoplastics.

New and novel ink chemistry was developed by SunJet in order to satisfy the technical requirements of inks, which stretch and extend during the forming process after they have been cured with exposure to UV energy.

Like all Durst UV inks, the new ink is still environmentally friendly and does not need to carry the N sign for environmental harm. Durst worked with companies involved in the manufacture of formed displays and protective equipment to ensure that the print quality and post formed articles achieve full acceptance.

Dr. Richard Ploock, CEO of Durst, commented: "We have worked with SunJet to ensure the new and unusual properties required for the thermoforming conditions have been achieved whilst maintaining the reliability and print quality that our customers are used to seeing from our machines and importantly, fulfils Durst's requirements for absolute environmental protection. The ink specialists and marketing staff at Durst have worked with our customers and with SunJet chemists to specify performance from the printer and ink which allows full forming on the widest range of materials. I am very pleased to have partnered with SunJet on this project".

For further information call 0043 485 27 1777.

Brilliant edge lit signs from Metal master

Following four years research and development Metalmaster launch A-Blade™, a nice range of "Razor-Thin" edge lit signs. The product range features the award winning flat-light-system, designed by BrightCo (Italy), a cutting edge lighting specialist.

A-Blades are now available in six ultrathin panel sizes, eight light injector sizes and 16 different decoration combinations. All this allows sign designers to meet any customer requirements with thousands of layout options. The professionally finished edge-lit signs are all delivered "Plug & Play" so all that's required is to install them which takes a matter of minutes.

The A-Blade range features exquisite Italian design and robust British engineering, making them a most elegant and reliable edge lit sign, which can be easily wall mounted, suspended or fixed to a third party surface.

For further information and to purchase samples call 0208 670 5042 or visit www.edge-lit-signs.co.uk





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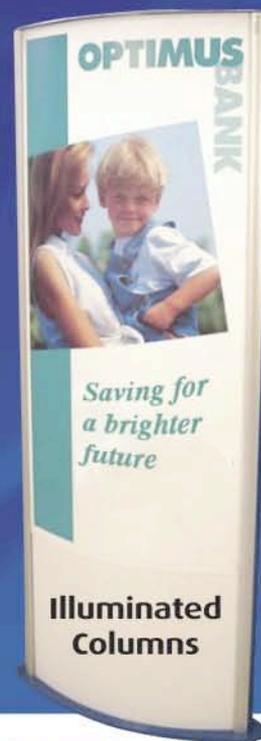
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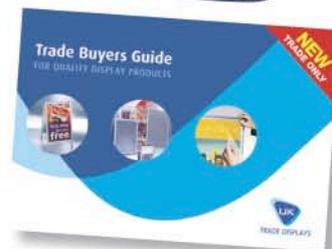
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TRADE DISPLAYS

New ezy sign comes in a pack, just assemble

Ezy sign from Tradefocus is a new and cost effective product, which opens up new markets to smaller sign companies that have limited manufacturing capability.

Based on the principle of "flat pack" furniture, ezy sign was developed as a result of customer demand.

"We were inundated with customers, especially one-man businesses, who were losing orders because they don't have the facilities in-house to manufacture the entire job. Now Ezy sign means they can compete in the market and no longer lose these orders," explains Elaine Davies, Marketing Manager at Tradefocus.

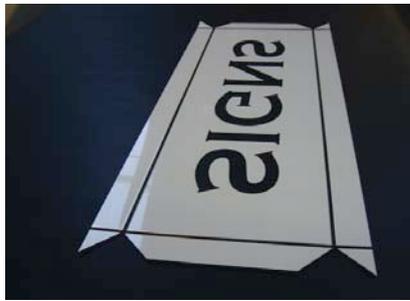
Working from design and sizes provided, Tradefocus manufactures the part of the order a sign maker can't produce in-house and delivers it in a kit pack, along with easy to follow instructions for assembly. The sign maker is able to finish the sign at their own premises, without expensive or complicated equipment, just an ezy sign starter pack.

Ezy sign starter packs include a glue gun and clamps plus enough glue and VHB tape to complete at least half a dozen signs on average.

Elaine adds: "At Tradefocus we pride ourselves on our quality of work and service, while understanding the need for tight timescales, so sign makers can be confident of meeting all their customers' requirements. We believe no one else provides this service and ezy sign's competitive price ensures the sign maker makes a profit too."

Tradefocus is an established sign making company operating in both the retail and trade industries with expertise in signage and display originating from its sister company, Signfocus. Tradefocus provides CNC routing, flame polishing, fixing templates and locators, engraving and a full trade manufacturing service from its West Yorkshire base.

To find out more email trade@signfocusltd.com or telephone: 01274 747788.



The new Ezy Sign from Tradefocus, based on the concept of "flat-pack", making.

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Universal Laser Systems announces availability of the VersaLaser platform series

Universal Laser Systems, Inc. (ULS), a leading manufacturer of CO2 lasers and laser printing solutions, recently announced the availability of its new VersaLaser® VLS3.60, VLS4.60, and VLS6.60 platform series, an expansion to its desktop product line.

"We are excited to introduce the new VersaLaser platform series. Expanding our VersaLaser portfolio to include a platform solution provides our customers with a broad range of entry-level, powerful, and versatile laser solutions that can process multiple materials and diverse applications with speed, accuracy, and fine feature detail," said Michael Flanary, Chief Operating Officer for Universal Laser Systems.

Designed to meet the demands of custom, one-off items to identical mass-produced parts, the VersaLASER platform series offers customers laser power up to 60 watts with a work area up to 32x18in (813x457mm). The VersaLaser platforms utilise Universal's patented Rapid Reconfiguration™ technology, which enables customers to change laser power within seconds and without tools.

"With the addition of the VersaLaser platform series, our customers now have a comprehensive suite of solutions that meets their individual business needs," continued Flanary. "Our systems are designed with seamless integration of Universal's CO2 laser, laser system, and advanced Laser Interface+™ materials-based Windows print driver that optimises the customer's workflow process, improves operation efficiencies, and expands customised application offerings."

For more information on the new VersaLaser platform series visit www.versalaser.com or www.ulsinc.com



New VersaLaser® system from Universal Laser.



Boldscan Café Barrier System.

New water filled base

Boldscan recently launched its new water filled base. This multi-functional base unit gives the ability to stand the Quiverwing and Quiverquill flags on solid surfaces when other options are not suitable. The stable 440mm diameter base weighs up to 12kgs when full of water and dispenses with the need for a cross brace stand with water base options.

It has been further developed for use with Boldscan's Great Graphic Barrier System range and is of particular interest to the café market where the only option is solid heavy steel bases, with all the initial carriage costs and health and safety implications.

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Lampshade PVC is illuminating media for printers and the signmaking trade

Essex based Martin Dannell & Co Ltd, have introduced their rigid print media to the market after successful and extensive trialling. Originally designed for use in the decorative lighting industry for its ability to light well, its application as print media has proved an immediate success.

Available at 150cm wide and in two thicknesses 280 and 390 micron, this economical substrate shows many advantages.

MD media has been specially engineered to give a solid vibrant print. It is strong, UV stable, flame retardant, antistatic and ideally suited for exhibition, outdoor use and numerous point of sales applications where rigid and stable substrates are required. The PVC surface has been specially calendared to give very even profile, ideally suited to print.

One groundbreaking feature is that Martin Dannell can laminate textile or decorative papers to the PVC to give an interesting, stylish and attractive look to the back of the printed product. It makes the product amazingly tactile and is an in-house process that is unique to this family run company. This level of innovation and quality, is combined with the friendly and reliable service for which Martin Dannell are well known. Their print media has been on test with several companies for over a year now and has met with excellent results.

Kim Konstantinovic of Kamset Digital says: "The Dannell 300gsm and 400gsm plastic material has been an extremely useful product for us. We have a Vutek QS2000 UV Flatbed printer, which prints and adheres beautifully onto this particular product. We use it extensively for outdoor posters, removing the need for expensive encapsulation and with the additional benefit of not wrinkling or cockling suffered by paper prints. Martin Dannell have provided an exceptional service, particularly in emergencies, and consistently supply on time with a pleasant and helpful sales team."

For more information email: enquiries@martin-dannell.co.uk or call David or Jamie: 01992 700311.



Originally designed for the decorative lighting industry, Martin Dannell's rigid print media is also ideally suited to print.

GCC extends co-operation with EasySign

GCC Europe B.V., a global forefront equipment-manufacturing provider in the visual-tech industry, recently announced the next step in its cooperation with the company EasySign, the developers of EasySign software.

In order to meet the market request, GCC Europe and EasySign have defined a cutting software solution, called EasySign GCC edition. The software will be bundled with the GCC Jaguar IV and GCC Puma III cutting plotters.

The brand new EasySign GCC edition offer an entry-level cutting solution suiting all market needs. Customers will be able to start production immediately. GCC customers have the ability to enlarge their signmaking functionalities by upgrading the EasySign GCC edition to a higher EasySign licence. This enables them to work with even more specific tools specially made for signmaking. Also this modular structure of EasySign offers GCC customers a way to expand their borders to large format printing (RIP), Print & Cut, routing and engraving. Everything can be done within the same trusted environment of EasySign.

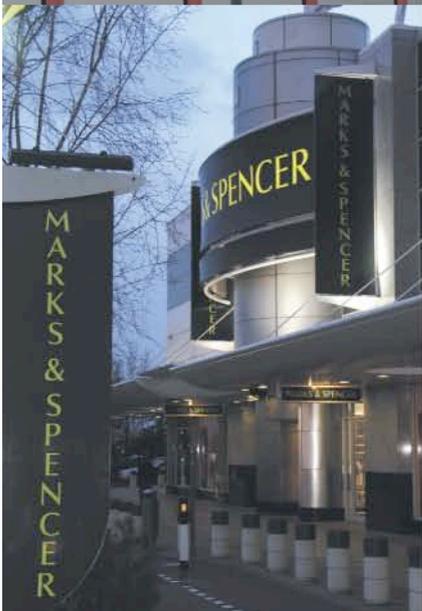
"With its comprehensive GCC driver features, bi-directional page size detection, job segmentation and full support of the GCC

AASII positioning system, EasySign GCC Edition software is optimised for great signmaker cut experiences." said Paul Schoofs, CEO at EasySign. "Working together with GCC, we are pursuing ways that bridge program can redefine how signmakers design and interact with jobs they accomplish. It will show GCC users the power and efficiency of professional sign software".

The brand new EasySign GCC edition is a result of the close co-operation between EasySign and GCC.

Every day the demand for additional signmaking functionalities, like large format printing and print & cut is growing in the market. To keep up with today's pressure and demands EasySign provides a software solution which offers end-users a way to upgrade their entry-level software (EasySign GCC edition) to an advanced cutting workflow by simply entering an additional code. In the end we would like every end-user to benefit from the 'all in one' signmaking solution.

If you would like to have more information about the EasySign software, EasySign B.V. or GCC Europe B.V., please take a look at www.easysign.com, www.gccworld.com or contact us at marketing@easysign.com



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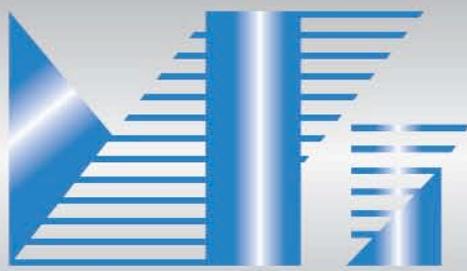
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Acrylic Flat Cut Letters

Height	50mm	75mm	102mm	127mm	152mm	207mm	228mm	254mm	305mm	380mm	457mm	533mm	610mm	762mm
3mm	0.55	0.68	0.78	0.98	1.28	1.68	2.35	2.65	3.55	5.35	5.95	7.70	9.50	14.50
5mm	0.85	0.98	1.25	1.55	1.95	2.85	3.55	3.95	4.45	6.90	8.50	11.65	14.70	22.50
10mm Black/ White/Clear		1.96	2.50	3.10	3.90	5.90	7.10	7.90	8.90	13.80	17.00	23.30	29.30	45.00

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Logos

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Options

Add 10% Gold and Silver UV Stabilized

Add 10% Locator and paper template

Add 20% Extended typeface

Quotations for Spraying

To Pantone, Ral and B.S. colour references to all materials

Moulded Acrylic Letters (price includes locator and paper template)

Height	152mm	203mm	254mm	305mm	380mm	457mm	610mm
Coloured including Gold and Silver	3.95	5.95	9.45	10.20	13.90	17.20	29.50

Standard styles : Helvetica Bold, Times Bold, Clarendon Medium

Quotations on request for non standard styles and logos

All prices are exclusive of VAT

Delivery at £16 per consignment up to 45lb in weight

Leopold Professional Imaging to distribute Biedermann low cost laminators

Leopold Professional Imaging has recently announced the distributorship for the Biedermann range of Cold and Warm Laminators together with a range of low cost adhesive films and laminates.

Biedermann Laminators are manufactured in Germany to a very high standard, being well built and particularly robust, says Leopold Professional Imaging.

Hot and Cold models feature a substantial top pressure roller up to 130mm in diameter thus giving constant and even pressure over the media. They can accommodate thicknesses from paper to board up to 25mm thick. Roller pressure is adjusted manually, guaranteeing even pressure over the whole width of the machine.

The Warm models have heated silicone rollers that make it possible to laminate up to a temperature of approximately 60oC and eliminating silvering on certain types of media.

The speed of lamination is controlled by a foot switch, in conjunction with adjustable speed motors allowing up to four metres per minute maximum throughput. The drive system can also be reversed for ease of loading.

All models can be fitted with an optional roll take up unit for use with roll applications. Additionally a roll feed is available for applications where double sided lamination is required.

For safety, all models feature a physical finger guard as well as an optical barrier thus making the unit acceptable for UK health and safety requirements.

For further information call Leopold Professional Imaging on 0208 441 4310.



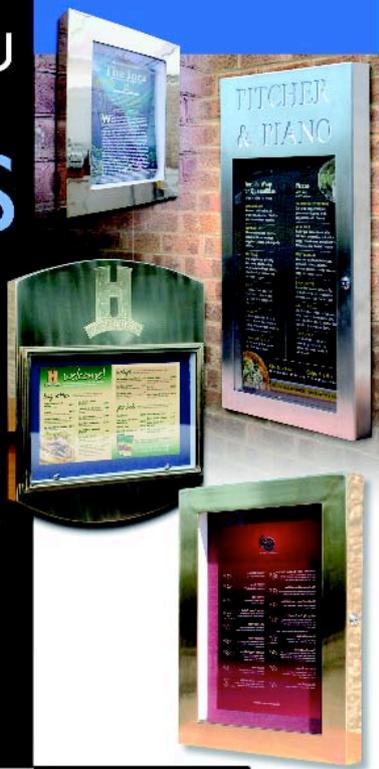
Leopold RollLam 160W.

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Indoors or outdoors, the TopSail stands tall and delivers the marketing message over a large graphic area (3x1m). Portable and lightweight (15.1kg net weight), it packs into two carry bags for storage or transport to another event. TopSail is easy to erect as the telescopic pole rises in stages to a maximum height of 5.4m.

The 2m tall Voyager II is another great way to promote your client's company outdoors.

Voyager II has a unique graphic connector rail to the base unit. This gives the banner graphic movement akin to a sail, thereby reducing the risk of being blown over in windy conditions. Base units on both system can be water-filled for extra stability.



Promotional price
£99
per system including carry bags (excludes graphic)

Promotional price
£59
per system including carry bag (excludes graphic)

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ArtCam launches the latest range of software for signmakers

Delcam, a leading developer of advanced Computer-Aided Design & Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) software solutions has now launched ArtCam 2009, their latest software range for the signage industry.

ArtCam 2009 enables sign-makers to either hand draw or design their sign in a familiar CAD package before importing the scanned image or data directly into the software. Alternatively, designs can be created directly in ArtCam itself, providing sign-makers with a versatile approach to their design process.

Working from a flat or three dimensional view ArtCam users can specify the height, depth and shape that they would like to add to specific areas of their artwork. Similar to Photoshop, ArtCam provides an easy to use layer system where design sections can be put on individual layers, ideal for making any later or additional changes.

If the designer wishes to create a low relief background for their sign, perhaps a picture to go behind some text, ArtCam's new patented embossing technology is extremely useful. With ArtCam 2009 the user can take any 3D model and freely move and rotate it into position. A custom perspective effect can be applied to the model and then the 'Embossing Tool' will reduce the model within seconds to almost any height on the design, whilst still maintaining all the prominent details and illusion of depth from the original model.

For the lettering the user can choose from ArtCam's true-type font library or custom make their fonts using ArtCam's 'Font Editor'.

To add a highly textured or decorative finish to the sign, rather than sandblasting or hand carving, ArtCam provides a vast array of texture and sculpting tools. Alternatively users can use their own personalised sculpture brushes created using their preferred imported textures or own tool design.

Another particularly useful tool is ArtCam's 'Inlay Wizard'. This wizard enables the creation of precise male and female parts for inlaid text and graphics that will generate a perfectly flat surface finish. For illuminated signs, this will also ensure that all unsightly shadows are avoided.

At the end of the design process approval is often required before machining can take place. To do this, rather than taking screenshots or sending large cumbersome files that may block e-mail accounts to the authorising parties, ArtCam's new 3D PDF viewer becomes invaluable.



Users can simply click on 'save 3D view' for an accurate file that can then easily be e-mailed to all parties involved. This can then be opened with an Adobe Acrobat reader and tilted and turned to see all sides of the model.

Once happy with the design the sign-maker can then select the tools they want to use for machining from a database of over 250 routers and machine tools. To prevent material wastage the software not only nests the pieces to be cut on their selected material according to their true shape, but it can also run a simulation of the pieces being machined using the chosen tools and the given material block dimensions. This has proven extremely beneficial to current ArtCam customers as they can change their chosen tools before machining and recalculate the toolpaths, saving them not only time but protecting their bottom line.

To find out more about ArtCam 2009 and the support provided go to www.artcam.com or <http://forum.artcam.com>

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...slide fasteners into position and tighten

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Illuminated solutions from Universal

As part of an expanded product portfolio, Universal Aluminium Systems offers a wide choice of illuminated sign solutions. They include Flexcase (for single-or double-sided flexible-face signs), Wedgeflex (a new addition to the range of flexible-face options), Dualcase (for single-or double-sided illuminated signs featuring an acrylic face), the complementary Slimline narrow-profile alternative and Slimlight (an advanced trough light system for top illumination of signs, posters and associated displays).

The Flexcase tensioned illuminated system has been developed in close collaboration with sign makers, lighting specialists and substrate manufacturers. It is available in three different formats: Standard (for single- or double-sided signs in any shape or size), Light Duty (for smaller single-sided canopy and fascia signs up to a height of 3,000mm) and Double-Sided (for pole-mounted or suspended signs).

Universal's latest incarnation, Wedgeflex features an innovative flexible-face retaining facility and hinged access to allow easier and faster replacement of the skin. It will fully complement existing flexible-face systems in the Universal range.

For both Flexcase and Wedgeflex, Universal is now offering a new facility whereby the flexible PVC skins can be supplied either digitally printed to the customer's own specifications or blank for decoration to be applied after delivery.

Described as one of the most versatile aluminium sign box systems ever developed, Dualcase allows single-or double-sided illuminated signs to be fabricated from the same basic system and to thus enable sign makers and end users to benefit from faster fabrication, ease of maintenance and a more aesthetic appearance. It will accommodate a host of different applications, accept any type of face panel up to a thickness of eight millimetres and is available in anodised or powder coated finishes and in a wide choice of RAL colours. The complementary Slimline system can be adapted to allow the fabrication of both single-and double-sided flat panel signs.

An advanced trough light system, Slimlight is the perfect solution to effective top illumination of signs and displays. Apart from its elegant appearance, it provides savings in energy consumption of up to 30 percent, while the T5 fluorescent tubes emit the maximum immediate illumination of up to 1.5 metres.

Further information is available at www.universal-aluminium.co.uk or by telephoning 0117 955 9091.



Illuminated Flexcase flexible-face box sign.



Size:
750 x 500mm*
(*Image area)

Folding Swing Sign

This folding swing sign is easy to transport and store. Folds flat for easy storage. Manufactured from 25mm square tubing with 1.2mm zinc coated steel panel.

Bus Stop Sign
A useful sign for marking meeting points or giving direction. Suitable for indoor and outdoor use. Available with lightweight or located base (as shown).

Available in 3 heights
1 metre high • 1.5 metre high
2 metre high



Available in 2 sizes in any combination
635 x 457mm (A2)*
530 x 450mm*
(*Image area)



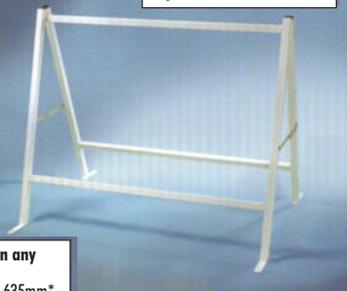
Handysign

This lightweight and easy to move 'A' board is manufactured in 1.2mm zinc coated steel.

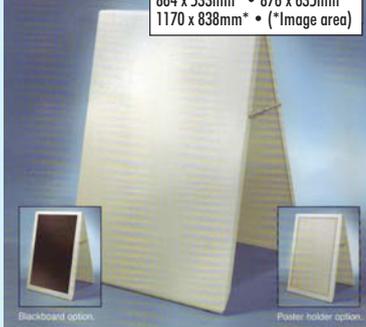
- Powder coated in white as standard
- Integral carry handle

Easy to assemble.
Custom made to your own requirements and sizes.

Banner Frame
The easy way to display your banners. Fabricated from 25mm square section steel tubing, this double or single sided frame comes in a modular easy to assemble system.



Available in 3 sizes in any combination
864 x 533mm* • 876 x 635mm*
1170 x 838mm* (*Image area)



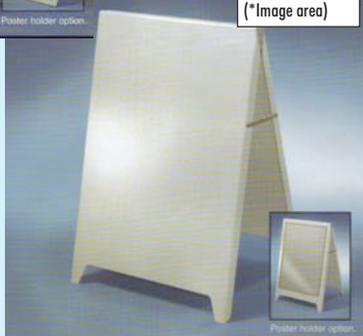
Pavement Sign

1.2mm zinc coated steel. White powder coated. Available in 3 sizes and 4 styles. i.e. Standard, poster, blackboard and poster blackboard.

Size:
915 x 610mm*
(*Image area)

Legged Pavement Sign

- Manufactured from 1.2mm zinc coated steel.
- Powder coated in white as standard
- Two heavy duty metal side stays and legged feet
- Double folded sides give extra strength



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Three in one plastic bending solution from Awltech

Sign manufacturers using a variety of plastic and acrylic materials (typically, PMMA, PP, PS and PVC) can now dramatically speed up production and save on operating costs using the latest Awltech HRP/D semi-automatic heat-bending solution.



Awltech's new plastic-bending machine for speedier production on a wide range of thermoplastic materials.

Bristling with innovation, the machine's key characteristics are its speed of set up (there is no traditional 'dwell' period before the system is operable) and the inclusion of a special conveyor belt facility, plus an integral speed controller that ensures a continuous supply of the material to be processed.

In operation, the HRP/D is in fact three machines in one. It provides a three-metre heat-bending capability from below only, a similar two-metre capability from both above and below and a semi-automatic heat-bending facility for the high-volume production of plastic components. The height, position and temperature of the heating elements are all readily adjustable to accommodate different processing requirements for specific applications. The machine also includes a pneumatic material hold-down facility and an electronic timer and security system.

The HRP/D, which can be supplied with four upper and four lower heating elements, has a working length of 3,000mm (below) and 2,000mm (above) and will accommodate thermoplastic sheet materials up to a thickness of 20mm. Remarkably compact in relation to its production capabilities, this latest innovation from Awltech can save both time and money for manufacturers using a wide range of thermoplastic materials.

For further information and a free explanatory DVD, e-mail Andy Gleeson at info@awltech.co.uk or telephone 01483 569232.

EFI and 3M team to deliver exceptional display graphics quality

EFI, a world leader in customer-focused digital printing innovation, recently announced the commercial release of its new 3M Piezo Inkjet Ink Series 2800 UV for use with EFI's Vutek QS2000 and QS3200 super-wide printers and a wide range of opaque, clear and translucent 3M media.

Acting as a system, 3M Piezo Inkjet Inks and 3M media ensure vibrant, long-lasting four- or six-colour graphics when used with Vutek QS2000 or QS3200 printers. The inks are specifically designed for use with 2- and 4-mil 3M Controltac Graphic Films, and 3M Scotchlite Reflective Graphic Films, as well as with a wide range of rigid materials.

These UV-cured inks are durable, weather resistant and have excellent colour retention. Their flexibility makes them suitable for use on curved, corrugated or flat surfaces, with or without rivets, when producing fleet and vehicle graphics, indoor and outdoor signs, banners and flexible sign faces. They have a wide colour gamut and excellent adhesion to 3M media.

3M Piezo Inkjet Ink Series 2800 UV comes in cyan, magenta, yellow, black, light magenta, light cyan and white and is available immediately.

For more information about the Vutek product line and other solutions from EFI, visit www.efi.com

Vista system offers personalised inserts for show room display boards

Vista System International now offers personalised display boards that are ready for mounting on showroom and lobby walls for maximum sales impact. The new boards allow sign pros to order customised inserts that include company information and logo.

Vista's display boards have served its customers for years and have been one of its leading promotional tools. The boards include various sizes of signs, including special tabletop models, a miniature directory, and ADA sign samples. Now, Vista has re-designed its display boards to an even better standard, including personalised inserts that feature the customer's details and logo.

These new personalised display boards are the latest

in a series of tools the Vista System product development group has designed as sales aids for its fast growing network of signage professionals.

The special personalised display boards are offered to Vista's customers who have joined its Ambassadors Club.

For further information, visit www.vistasystem.co.uk



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Hillside Group makes an investment to offer integrated design and print service

Rochdale-based commercial print and design specialist, the Hillside Group, has invested in a wide format digital press and laminator to give it the ability to offer truly integrated design and print services to its broad range of clients. The 30-employee company, which offers litho, web-fed digital and a full portfolio of finishing services, has installed a Roland DG SolJet PRO III XC-540, 54-inch wide press along with a laminator to keep revenue in-house and retain control of the entire production process.

The wide format press was supplied by North West Paper, a subsidiary of The Paper Company (PaperCo). The decision to invest was made by Hillside Group Managing Director, Peter Moore, after he saw the six-colour SolJet PRO III XC-540 in action at an event held in early April by North West Paper at Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry. The event, the first in a series, was extremely successful for North West Paper and PaperCo as it was attended by more than 100 commercial printers and achieved in excess of £150,000 in wide format sales on the day.

Peter Moore said: "Print technologies do not exist in isolation. They are complementary because most marketing campaigns require a range of printed products and services. The wide format Roland DG machine gives us the ability to offer integrated campaigns, which may have an element of conventional offset print, personalised and short-run print from our digital presses, as well as wide format work. Last year alone, we outsourced around £13,000 worth of posters, so this investment will allow us to keep that turnover in-house and develop additional revenue streams with wide format as we make our client base aware of the opportunity."

The SolJet PRO III XC-540 has bolstered the Hillside Group's existing arsenal of print equipment, which includes two Komori litho presses, a six-colour B2 and five-colour B3,

as well as a an Océ VarioStream 9000 high-volume digital press. The new press can deliver a print resolution of 1,440dpi and gives the company the ability to produce a wide variety of applications, including vehicle graphics, signs, point-of-purchase (POP) displays, banners and labels. The Hillside Group operates a 24-hour production schedule and its client base includes LA Fitness, Carcraft, as well as local councils and advertising agencies.

"As well as opening up new revenue streams the XC-540 also gives us ownership of all production stages of a campaign, which helps us to control colour management and reduces the time it takes for us to get a job to market. Previously we had to send a disc to Manchester to get wide format work printed, which could take up to three days. Having an in-house wide format capability means that we can run off posters or banners in a matter of minutes. Retaining control over all elements is critical when you're delivering integrated campaigns across multiple technologies," added the Hillside Group's Peter Moore.

PaperCo's Digital and Technical Solutions Manager, Phil Tomlinson, said: "As a supplier of paper, consumables and hardware to the commercial print sector, we are seeing an increasing interest from traditional print companies in wide format technology. Not only does an investment in wide format give the printer the opportunity to make impressive margins, but also the ability to offer truly integrated marketing campaigns. Furthermore, from a technical perspective, wide format technology draws on skills that printers already have in-house."

PaperCo expects to announce the details of further regional events shortly.

For further information visit www.paperco.co.uk or www.rolanddg.co.uk



Peter Moore from the Hillside Group and Jerry Davies, managing director, Roland DG (UK).

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Quality sign fabrication for the trade

Leading trade-only supplier SignTec has reported a surge in the demand for its sign fabrication capabilities. It follows major investment in new production equipment and the creation of a team of highly skilled specialist fabricators. Apart from the guaranteed high standard of workmanship and the reliability of its services, the company is renowned for the degree of discretion and confidentiality it offers sign makers engaged in major corporate ID and similarly high-profile signage projects.

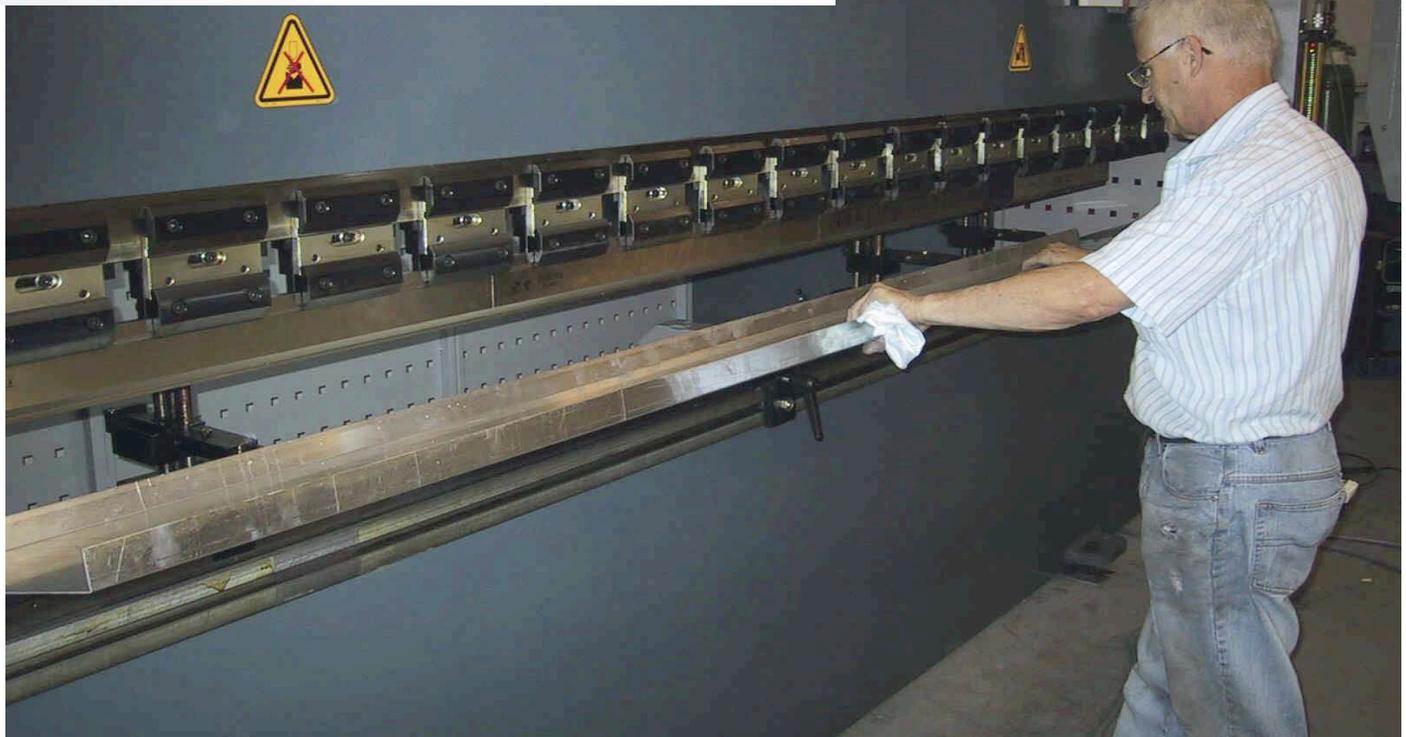
Pivotal to this success has been installation of the latest Durma four metre-wide press brake machine coupled to a four metre-wide Durma guillotine, supplemented by installation of an XYZ 6010 CNC router. Collectively, the production equipment installed has enabled SignTec to offer the trade a total manufacturing capability from a single and accessible source.

This includes, typically, folded trays, sign fascias, double- and single-sided sign cases (including intricate or bespoke formats), built-up and flat-cut letters and logos, panel work and general sign fabrication involving aluminium and stainless steel. Finished products are available in a choice of finishes, including powder coated, to any BS or RAL colour.

The Durma press brake machine, in particular, has been designed to offer greater operator control over the handling of materials at all stages of the production cycle, whilst also minimising or invariably eliminating frequently encountered problems like whip up, dishing and bowing. The XYZ 6010 router has a work area of 3,048 x 2,095mm and a table height of 810mm. It will cut and shape a wide range of signage materials, including acrylic, aluminium composite sheet (ACM), stainless steel, aluminium, solid timber and medium-density fibreboard (MDF). Key features include a high-speed and high-torque drive motor to accelerate production and to provide greater flexibility of use.

For a number of years, SignTec has been providing the sign trade with a wide range of manufacturing facilities. Expansion of its fabrication capabilities has underpinned the growth and commensurate profitability of the company and has allowed continuing inward investment in new technologies.

For further information, visit www.signtec.co.uk or telephone 01525 850500.



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self-adhesive materials

Reliability and accuracy wins customers

Tekcel routers have a pedigree that can be traced back to the very early days of computer controlled cutting and engraving in the 1980s. Sold worldwide, they have earned an impressive reputation for technological innovation and rock solid reliability, even in the highest production environments.

Today, the Tekcel range fulfils the requirements of companies, both large and small and with very different needs.

Blackburns Metals Ltd, a stockholder of aluminium and stainless steel with 10 centres in the UK is a major supplier of sheet metals to the sign trade and has recently launched a sign and display division.

Guy Hammond, National Product Manager – Signs at Blackburns, says: “We have been supplying composite sheet to the sign industry over the last 18-24 months and are looking to complement those items with products that are more than just sheet, such as boxes and flat panels. Therefore we needed a machine that would cut not only aluminium but also stainless steel and the new line of aluminium composite materials (ACM) we’ve introduced.

“We checked the market to see what works well and felt Tekcel was a better machine all round. We were given demonstrations on all the materials we cut and were impressed with the router’s performance and the presentation. We liked the leadscrew system on the Tekcel and the reliability it provides. Both Karl Weston, Managing Director, and I felt confident about choosing Tekcel.”

Huw Davies of Tekcel says: “Reliability and consistent accuracy in cutting hard core materials was critical to Blackburns’ choice and Tekcel is proven capable of providing trade level service, day in, day out. Sign companies are the biggest critics of poor quality work and Blackburns knew that a number of businesses successfully supplying the trade already use Tekcel routers.

“The E Series is built to tackle any and every sheet material processing application and was ideal for Blackburns requirements. The series builds on the speed, accuracy and durability of previous models to offer unrivalled levels of performance and productivity, with bed sizes all the way up to 4100 mm x 2100mm available from stock.”



The Tekcel E Series being delivered to Blackburns Metals.

Key to the reliability and consistent accuracy Guy and Huw speaks of is the re-circulating ball leadscrew systems that feature on every axis of the machine, including two on the x axis to drive the gantry up and down the bed. This leadscrew technology is complemented by powerful servo motors, digitally controlled to provide smooth acceleration and pinpoint positioning.

Huw explains: “In engineering terms, ball leadscrews ensure the highest degree of cutting accuracy and virtually eliminate the possibility of drive failure due to wear. There are other routers that use cheaper rack and pinion drive systems but they can be subject to excessive wear, which may result in a progressive loss of cutting accuracy with the possibility of production down-time and expensive repair costs for the owner. In contrast, I don’t know of one Tekcel router that has ever required a replacement leadscrew.”

Material hold down is also significant when it comes to successful routing. All Tekcel routers benefit from a ‘hole and pocket’ vacuum bed system, based on a foam bed surface and an aluminium slat table with vacuum control valves. Options of 10hp or 20hp vacuum pumps are available to ensure maximum hold down during the machining process.

Guy adds: “Health and safety of machine and operator was also uppermost in our minds. The Tekcel was more robust than others and we liked the fact that it can be bolted to ground. We have a lot of forklift trucks driving around and while the machine is protected, this gives added safety in case of an incident.”

A further benefit to Blackburns and any high production environment is the versatility provided by Tekcel’s innovative Auto Tool Change system. A pneumatic tool rack raises and lowers a potential assortment of up to 18 cutters from a ‘hidden’ compartment at the front of the E Series router whenever a tool change is required.

Tekcel doesn’t spare the horsepower when it comes to spindle motors either. Blackburns’ E Series is fitted with a class-leading, 10hp HSD motor that features electric fan-cooled ceramic bearings for high productivity and an extended motor life.

Tekcel routers are fully supported by a team of factory-trained technicians and applications specialists that deliver a comprehensive training, maintenance and support service. This means training on the customer’s site, tailored to their individual needs, and including health and safety and machine maintenance.



The E Series, built to tackle any sheet material processing application.



Ready to go, the V Series router at Pinseeker.

Another business that needed a router but has very different production needs is Pinseeker Ltd, which specialises in producing prestigious signage for golf courses across Europe.

The Cheshire based company manufactures all the signage required in and around a golf course, from tee markers and clubhouse signage, to course etiquette boards and car park signs. Working with a range of materials, including hardwoods, natural granite, cast granite, cast bronze, etched zinc and stone, its upmarket signs tend to involve crests and other insignia, which have to be routed.

Pinseeker had been using an old table top Gerber router for a number of years, but as its range of sign products has been developed; a bigger machine capable of more complex routing became necessary.

David Fairclough, Managing Director of Pinseeker Ltd, says: "We knew Julian Sage from when he was with Spandex and have been looking at Tekcel routers for a couple of years. It was just waiting for right time to make the investment."

"We were completely impressed by the build quality and the quality of finish of the Tekcel."

Julian Sage of Tekcel says: "The versatile V series fitted in perfectly with Pinseeker's business needs. Tekcel systems are very good at reproducing rendered 3D work using ArtCam software, which is included with our machine packages."

Pinseeker chose a V Series with a bed to accommodate an 8x4ft sheet and fit the available workspace. Because of the particularly complex nature of its work, the company upgraded from ArtCam Insignia to ArtCam Pro.

Tekcel's leadscrew technology was also critical here because Pinseeker produces not just 2½D, but full 3D signage that has to be excellent every time to satisfy the top end of the market it serves.

Pinseeker personnel received comprehensive training on the new V Series router and ArtCam Pro 3D software, which was delivered onsite by Tekcel.

David, who is delighted with the new router, says:

"What's impressed us most is the pure speed of what we can do now. We produce a lot of wooden signs and what used to take hours by hand now takes five minutes once the jigs are set up. We've increased output by four or five hundred per cent, easy."

In addition to the comprehensive range of CNC routers, Tekcel has introduced a new and exciting range of high quality, solid carbide cutters to the market. Go to www.tekcelcnc.com or tel. 01275 342668 to find out more.

For further information on Blackburns Metals, visit www.blackburnsmetals.com or tel. 01902 431 800. Examples of Pinseekers' signs and more details are available at www.pinseeker.co.uk or by telephoning 01606 738833.



Tekcel routers are fully supported by a team of factory-trained technicians.

HP Scitex technology allows Bluetree Design to capitalise upon its digital opportunity



Bluetree Design & Print Ltd's HP Scitex XP2700.

HP recently announced that Bluetree Design & Print Ltd has installed an HP Scitex XP2700 Printer to maximise productivity without compromising print quality.

Bluetree Design was established as a lithographic screen printer; however, in recent years, the digital branch of the company has rapidly grown and now accounts for 25 percent of the company's business. The company, based in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, specialises in the production of banners, posters, point of sale displays, point of purchase items, vehicle livery wraps and other promotional items for its customers, which include major high street retailers and financial institutions.

The HP Scitex XP2700 super-wide format digital printer can produce the highest quality collateral and utilises HP Scitex UV curable ink to deliver vibrant colours, high colour consistency and a wide colour gamut.

It is a highly versatile printer and offers users the option of switching between four and eight-colour printing for maximum productivity and cost effective printing. This roll-to-roll printer, with multi-roll option, has the ability to print on a wide range of flexible or rigid substrates including uncoated PVC, polyethylene, mesh, vinyl, Tyvek and Yupo.

"We have experienced a massive increase in demand for our digital services in recent years," said Bryan Shirley,

managing director, Bluetree Design and Print Ltd. "Buying this printer has allowed us to maximise productivity, print on a much greater variety of substrates and produce a wider range of applications. We felt that the HP Scitex XP2700 was the only press available on the market that could deliver this and continue to help us meet the changing needs of our customers."

Reaching high speeds of up to 110sqm/hr, the HP Scitex XP2700 can produce collateral quickly allowing Bluetree Design to fulfil its customers' orders within the shortest possible time. Bluetree Design's HP Scitex XP2700 features the optional Multi-roll Printing Kit to maximise productivity and increase the printer's capacity. The printing kit uses a split input shaft that facilitates simultaneous printing on two different rolls, up to 1.6m wide. The printer features different motors for each roll ensuring that the roll is driven independently with its own print queue.

"The Multi-roll Printing Kit was a huge influence in our decision to buy the press," said Shirley. "We can print two jobs at the same time, using different diameter substrate rolls if necessary. This has allowed us to shorten fulfillment times significantly and increase our flexibility, ensuring that we can offer our customers a digital printing service that is capable of meeting and exceeding their requirements."

For further information visit www.hp.com



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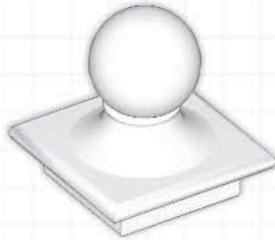
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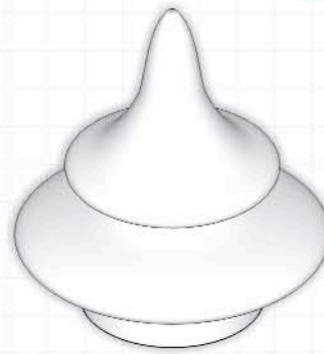
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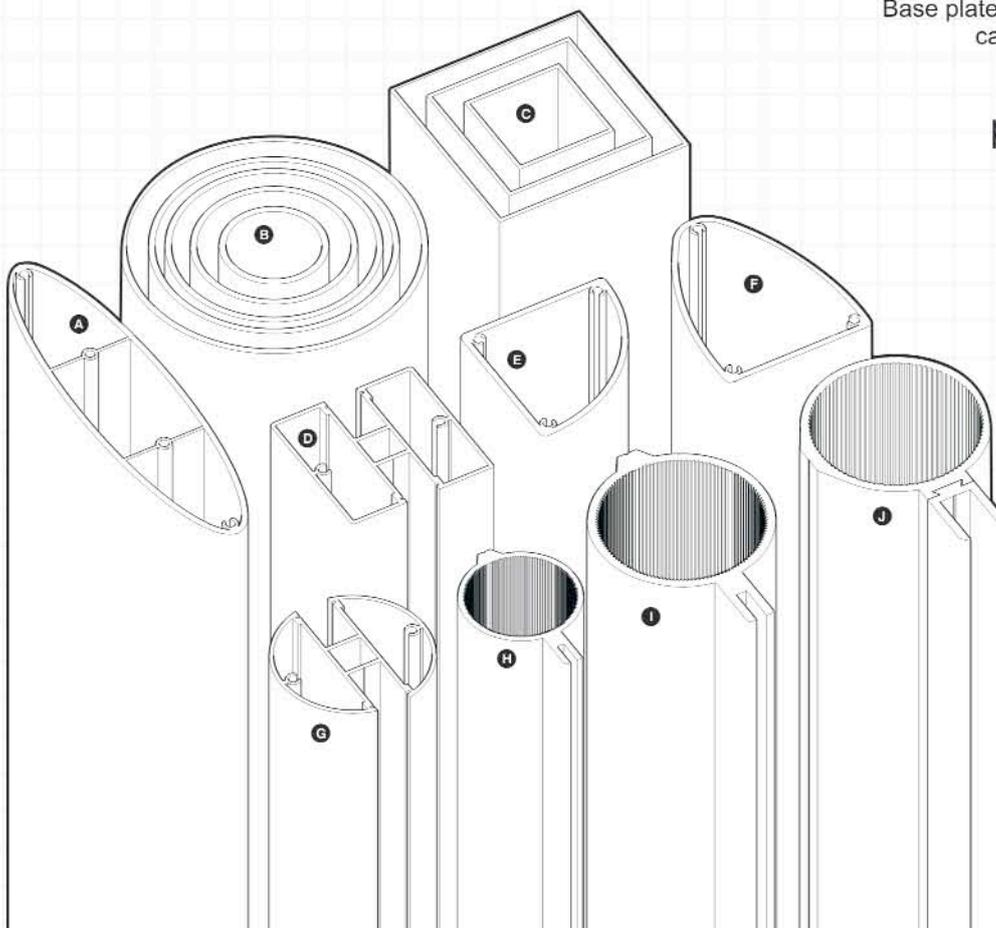
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XYZ router meets special requirements at Digital Factory



Digital Factory adds the XYZ 6010 CNC router to its mainstream production facilities.

For a growing number of sign and graphics producers, the addition of a CNC router to their mainstream production facilities has invariably resulted in new business opportunities and increased profitability. Woking, Surrey-based Digital Factory is one company that can certainly testify to these dual benefits following the installation of an XYZ 6010 CNC machine.

Established in 1998 by Cyrus Norton and Ray Turner in a garage housing just one printer, two computers and a workbench, Digital Factory now operates out of two busy sites totalling 6,500 square feet and employs a staff of 12. The company provides a wide range of sign and graphics solutions, primarily to the point-of-sale, exhibition and special event markets, using various production processes, including digital printing, vinyl cutting, lamination and cardboard engineering.

Whilst Digital Factory has a strong in-company resource for the type of products it manufactures, tighter price constraints and increasingly shorter lead times have led to a realisation that it is necessary to machine even more of the work undertaken in-house in order to sustain decent margins and support future growth.

As Cyrus Norton explained: "At Digital Factory we can process much of the work on our digital cutting table but have increasingly been asked to manufacture products involving acrylic, aluminium composite materials like DIBOND, medium-density fibreboard and laminates. For this reason, we purchased an XYZ 6010 CNC router incorporating the machine's optional Automatic Tool Change (ATC) facility to enable us to handle these materials in-house and also to allow us to switch seamlessly between cutting, V-grooving, bevelling and drilling to precise tolerances using the ATC system."

The XYZ router installed at Digital Factory has a table height of 810mm and a processing area of 3048mm (length) x 2095mm (width). It is one of the 6000 series renowned for their robust construction, extreme reliability under continuous operation and

ability to process large sheets of material with speed and accuracy. The ATC provides an easy and convenient way of processing work requiring multiple tooling using the eight-position carousel. There are a total of 16 tools available in every cutting file, with one to eight of these tools being accessed automatically without operator intervention and tools nine to 16 being used manually. With the ATC facility, the correct tools for a given task are always selected, thereby ensuring optimum engineering excellence and no compromise on the quality of finished products.

To support the XYZ 6010 machine, Digital Factory has opted for Delcam's ArtCAM Insignia CNC routing and engraving software. Coincidentally, this powerful and multi-faceted software package is now supplied by XYZ as an alternative program to its standard Toolpath offering.

On the quality of the technical support provided by the XYZ team, Cyrus Norton continued: 'From the original sale of the machine through to installation and after-sales support, and notwithstanding the knowledge gained on this kind of machinery through use for a number of years of a digital cutting table, the service provided by XYZ can simply be described as excellent.'

In conclusion, Cyrus Norton stated that the most likely addition to the existing machine would be the XYZ Intelligent Cutting System™ (ICS). This powerful Cut-to-Print facility incorporates the new I-Cut® compensation algorithm technology to provide unparalleled degrees of accuracy when processing both digitally printed media and thicker sign-making substrates. It also features I-Script® workflow communication to allow connectivity with all of the industry-leading digital printers and RIPs.

For further information on XYZ routing solutions, visit www.axyz.co.uk or telephone 01902 375600. For more information on the services provided by Digital Factory, telephone 01483 474666 or e-mail sales@digitalfactory.co.uk

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Koolkut revolution at Signwise

Signwise, a busy sign specialist in Peterborough, had for many years relied on an ELU 'up and over' saw for cutting sheet materials. With the business growing, and health and safety requirements becoming more strict, the machine was becoming seriously limiting, and in 2003 Jim Wise, Managing Director, took delivery of a Koolkut KK21S vertical panel saw from Sagetech Industries.

"The ELU really was becoming a problem," explained Jim. "It needed at least two operators to cut a sheet of any size, created enormous amounts of dust and was a health and safety disaster just waiting to happen." On top of all that, cutting sheet materials on the ELU was both slow and inaccurate.

Jim came across Sagetech's Koolkut range at a sign show, where the machines were being demonstrated. "I liked Sagetech immediately," he remembered. "They were obviously enthusiasts, not just looking for a quick sale, and took the time to make sure they understood what I needed. They even arranged for me to see a Koolkut in operation at a customer site after the show."

Signwise's Koolkut works hard for its keep. In use every day, it cuts a variety of materials, including foamex, acrylic, polycarbonate, Reynobond, Dibond, ply and aluminium. "It's the ideal machine for a sign maker - we use a very wide variety of materials so versatility in cutting capability is essential," said Jim.

The Koolkut has revolutionised the way the company does business. Before the machine arrived, Signwise bought in cut-to-size sheets, on a two-day lead time. The Koolkut allows them to buy in stock of 2m x 3m sheets, and cut the sizes they need when they need them. It also allows them to make much better use of off-cuts, most of which were previously wasted.

"It's a much more efficient process," Jim observed. "It's less stressful, less wasteful, much quicker, more economical, more accurate, cleaner, quieter and safer. On top of all that, cutting sheets, on the Koolkut is an easy one-man operation."

Jim reckons the Koolkut paid for itself in savings and improved profits after about a year, and declares it excellent value for money. He's impressed with Sagetech on the customer service front, too, praising the company's after-sales support and technical knowledge.

"The Koolkut is an excellent machine at a very reasonable price, from a great supplier, and I'm happy to recommend it," he summed up.

For more information on the Koolkut range of economically-priced space-saving vertical panel saws, visit www.sagetech.co.uk or call 0118 970 1950.



Signwise consider the Koolkut KK21S vertical panel the ideal machine for signmakers.

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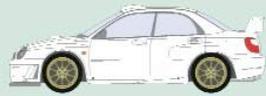
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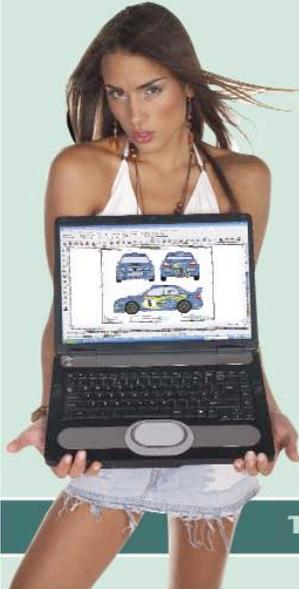
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Responding to customers for 20 years

For nearly 20 years Doro Tape has been keeping a finger on the pulse of the ever changing vinyls market and responding to customers needs, with the result that the company now boasts a large portfolio of top quality vinyl for every job imaginable.



Dorotape's range includes metallised and special effect films as well as silver and gold for vehicle wrapping.

The most popular ranges of Doro Tape's standard vinyl include the new, softer Aslan C118 polymeric films, great for a large variety of applications, including vehicle graphics, and the Ritrama L100 monomeric films, ideal for most general signage. Both of these are 70 microns and come in a great selection of colours, including metallic silver and gold.

Some really stunning designs can be created with standard coloured vinyl, particularly when used in conjunction with Doro's fantastic specialist films, such as the Gemstone range, mirror, metallised and holographic effect films, and the beautiful colour-changing Aurora and Andromeda among others. Also popular is the Carbon fibre effect vinyl, which, being from the Durable range, has a five year exterior life, and is resistant to staining, cracking and delaminating.

All films in the S-FX Durable, and S-FX Plus ranges can be printed using digital (solvent ink), thermal heat transfer, and screen printing techniques, giving further scope for some really special visual displays and graphics.

Doro Tape has recently added the brand new Shine series; a stunning range of glossy coloured metallic films in cherry, azure, magenta, violet and emerald. The films are made up of a metallised polyester, with a coloured soft PVC laminate on top, giving a high quality film with a two-year exterior life.

Also new to Doro this year is a brand new line in glass etch effect vinyl for window graphics, called the EL300 Dry Apply by Aslan. Perfect for graphics on glass, this silver etch film has a special patterned adhesive surface that allows air to escape easily during application. No need for wet application (in fact not recommended), it gives a perfect bubble-free finish. With an outdoor life of up to seven years, this easy to apply vinyl is a great addition to the wide variety of etch effect films available at Doro.

With lots more ranges and a separate website full of digitally printable media, Doro Tape believes it really can offer a vinyl to suit every job.

For more information, either call the team on 08451 651636 or log on to www.dorotape.co.uk or www.dorodigital.co.uk



Colour-changing Aurora film from Dorotape.

Versatile portfolio from Metamark

Today's signmaker needs a materials portfolio that's versatile enough to cope with anything that comes his way – something the materials company Metamark has recognised and responded to.

Metamark's MD class digital materials have a very good appetite for ink and, consequentially, says Metamark, have a characteristic depth and potency of colour noticeably lacking in other self-adhesive materials. The market evidently likes the results and Metamark materials are often specified as reference materials by printer manufacturers looking for the most flattering results from their hardware.

Metamark is convinced that the application of digital printing has much broader appeal than is currently satisfied by the legions of purely white materials that are available. Accordingly, it has applied its expertise in manufacturing printable materials to make other materials print compatible. The company offers brushed and mirrored metallic finishes, a totally clear product with cleanly removable adhesive, and a range of window manifestation films.

Printing on an etch effect film adds a dimensional detail or a wash of colour that the unprinted product misses. Metamark's etch effect films are able to handle the effect of ink without any problems.

The crystal-clear adhesive used on the etch effect films is designed to withstand humidity and extremes of temperature that would compromise the performance of lesser products.



Metamark offers a wide choice of colours and materials.

Even when printed, there's no way Metamark's adhesive will betray its presence on the applied graphic.

Having a material for every job a signmaker undertakes still means offering a whole range of coloured self-adhesive vinyl for cut and applied applications. Despite the soaring popularity of digitally printed materials, coloured vinyl is still among the industry's most commonly used materials and its application is widespread.

Selection of the right coloured vinyl is driven in the main by the performance requirement of the end result. Metamark has expended much time and effort in engineering materials that are the equal of the high-speed hardware they have to work with.

Metamark stabilised around a solid formula for its cut and applied products some time ago. With a high performance face-film and adhesive system supported by a highly stabilised liner, Metamark SignVinyl exhibits characteristics that make it a natural choice for signmakers looking for a material that simply works.

Despite the expanded market opportunity and the advance of the hardware technology that's blurring the edges of the signmaker's market, there clearly remains room for deep specialisation. Metamark is a good example of this. Signmakers need a material for every job and so Metamark is right there with the answer and is keeping its customers at the cutting and printing edge.

Visit www.metamark.co.uk for more information.

Range of materials makes Spandex a one-stop supplier

Spandex stocks a vast range of products, in the greatest range of widths, for delivery to customers next day. Many materials are available in short length rolls so customers can order exactly what they need to get the job done.

Spandex is the only UK supplier to offer the Avery, 3M, MACtac and ImagePerfect product portfolios making the company a one-stop-supplier for all sign makers and digital printers' day-to-day requirements.

With ImagePerfect Spandex offers the most comprehensive portfolio of carefully selected digital and signage materials to the market. Using the latest technological innovations available, ImagePerfect materials are custom made to Spandex specifications and carefully tested to ensure they meet its stringent quality standards at competitive prices.

In addition, Spandex stocks materials from several other manufacturers plus inks for many popular solvent and UV printers.

Whiteboard and Clearboard Films are two of ImagePerfect's latest products. These laminated polyester/PVC films have been specifically designed for creating and repairing whiteboards. Both films are resistant to most mineral oils, fats and fuels, aliphatic solvents, mild acids, salt and alkaline solutions. The adhesive has a low initial bond to enable repositionability but builds to form a permanent, waterproof adhesion to most substrates.

Also new are IP 2411 and IP 2412, printable wall papers that have a canvas and sandblast look, respectively.



Printable and personalised wall paper from Spandex.

Due to their non-woven backing, these wall papers are very easy to apply with wall paper glue (for non-woven liner) and have first class removability. The printed material can be cleaned with warm water and soap, using a soft sponge, and the printed graphics are also scrub resistant. Both test results can be categorised as the highest standard in the wall paper industry, says Spandex.

IP 2411 and IP 2412 can be used to personalise home interiors, show rooms, trade shows and many other applications.

For more information about Spandex's products and services visit www.spandex.co.uk or tel. 0800 772633.

Confident vehicle wrapping for Bartuf Graphics

The recently introduced 3M Controltac™ Plus Graphic Film IJ380 from William Smith is proving to be a run-away success for vehicle wrapping applications.

Digital print specialists, Hull based Bartuf Graphics Ltd has been delighted with the performance of the material.

"Having been disappointed with the poor performance of all the vehicle wrap vinyls we had tested to date, we trialled the latest 3M offering IJ380 from William Smith," explains Bartuf Commercial Manager, Terry Horscraft. "We were immediately impressed with how well it handled and put our whole installation team through the training course."

IJ380 is specifically designed for application of large format graphics onto recessed and corrugated surfaces. It is a highly innovative film that 'remembers' its new shape. Because there are no internal stresses left in the film after application it does not 'relax'. IJ380 has been developed for perfect 3D conformity, and stays in position even in the most difficult application areas with no need for cutting to relieve stress.

This not only enables valuable time savings to be made, but also eliminates many of the risks involved in full vehicle wraps.

"We have used IJ380 on all our vehicle wraps since taking it on board and have had excellent results on all types of vehicles from small cars to large trucks. Areas on vehicles such as deep recesses and complex curves which have always been a problem in the past are now confidently dealt with using IJ380.

"We have worked with William Smith for many years now. They are a company that offer excellent back up and technical support and are always prepared to go the extra mile" adds Terry Horscraft.

For further information, visit www.williamsmith.co.uk or tel. 01833 694707.



IJ380 has been developed for perfect 3D conformity, even in difficult application areas.

Shine on with Nikkalite from Victory

Victory Design Ltd provides an array of signmaking vinyls. One of the latest to be added to the range is Nikkalite reflective vinyl.

Nikkalite is one of the leading reflective brands in the UK sign market and a variety of Nikkalite products can be sourced through Victory Design, the main one being the F4300 Series promotional grade.

Nikkalite F4300 is recommended for vehicle markings, commercial and industrial signage and has up to five years' durability when applied using the manufacturer's instructions. It is especially popular with users because of its conformability and soft characteristics, which makes it easy to apply. The Nikkalite F4300 is available in six colours; white, yellow, red, blue, orange and light green, at 610mm and 1220mm wide.

This product also has excellent lay flat characteristics, making it suitable for screen printing.

Don't forget, Victory Design also offer free delivery on all orders over £100.

For more information about Nikkalite and the range of materials from Victory Design, visit www.victorydesign.co.uk or tel. 01246 570570.



Nikkalite F4300 provides up to five years' durability.

Vinyls for signing and vehicle marking



Mutlifix 5000, 3-5 year monomeric film with a large colour range.

A long standing product, popular with Victory Design customers, is the Multifix 5000 series. This three to five year monomeric film with a large colour range is particularly well liked because it cuts, weeds and transfers with ease and is ideal for general sign work.

Also available from Victory Design is a variety of Jac sign vinyl products including both a five and eight year range. Jac Graphics, an Avery Dennison company, is a leading manufacturer of self adhesive films. The Jac serical range is recommended for medium life applications such as exterior/interior signage, public transport graphics and point of sale displays. Jac Serisign high performance film has up to eight year exterior durability and is recommended for vehicle and fleet markings, promotional graphics and longer term exterior signage.

Victory Design also recommends Arlon vehicle wrap products featuring X-scape bubble-free technology for full and partial vehicle wraps. Arlon DPF6000X has a high gloss finish and is the ideal choice for complete vehicle wraps. The media is soft allowing for maximum flexibility around curves and deep channels. Arlon DPF 4560GTX is an excellent application for fleet and partial vehicle wraps with flat surfaces or slight curves.

For more information, visit www.victorydesign.co.uk where both the Multifix and Jac vinyl colour swatches are available online. Alternatively, tel. 01246 570570.

Avery Quick Mount - the name says it all

Avery Dennison Graphics and Reflective Products has added a new and versatile gloss white multi-purpose solvent inkjet film to its Avery Graphics portfolio. With a prime focus on making graphics application (and removal) quick, clean, and easy.

Avery MPI 3601 Quick Mount is a prime candidate for short-life graphics where time is of the essence at the application point, for example, for bus, tram, and other public transport advertising where vehicles are only available for a very limited 'window' of time.

A benefit of Avery MPI 3601 Quick Mount's extra-thick 150-micron caliper is its 99 per cent opacity, which makes successful over-posting of existing graphics possible. The high caliper of the monomeric calendered film also makes it very easy to handle and gives a smooth finished result on all flat surfaces.

This special face film is partnered with a high-specification removable adhesive, which enjoys clean removability characteristics for up to a year after application. Taken together, these benefits make the product a useful stock item for exhibition and event graphics, indoor and outdoor advertising, vehicle decoration, and whenever over-posting is desirable.

Developed for printing by super-wide format solvent inkjet and airbrushing, Avery MPI 3601 Quick Mount offers quality print results in addition to its physical properties. It is also compatible with Avery DOL digital over-laminating films for added durability (up to two years) and surface protection.

Avery MPI 3601 Quick Mount is available from Avery Graphics distributors throughout Europe. More information available at www.europe.averygraphics.com

Highly conformable 3M films impart enhanced graphics reliability

Three inkjet-printable films from 3M are providing outstanding graphics reliability, particularly when used in vehicle graphics applications. They are 3M IJ380, 3M IJ40C and 3M IJ180-10, each of which can qualify to be supported by 3M's renowned Matched Component System (MCS) warranty. This is recognised globally as the most powerful and comprehensive graphics warranty available. Subject to compliance with 3M specifications and recommendations, it provides a performance guarantee for the entire graphic and each individual component within it (material, ink, printer, etc).

Following extensive research and field trials, 3M now offers a powerful solution to the problem of material adhesion on surfaces with deep corrugations or three-dimensional graphics manifestations found typically on many commercial vehicles. Some graphic films used in vehicle wrapping applications have been known to fail as a result of the material either lifting in the vehicle recesses or cracking due to the high stress levels imposed.

By combining the next-generation 3M Controltac™ Plus Graphic Film IJ380 and 3M Scotchcal™ 8580, this latest 3M vehicle wrapping solution has comprehensively resolved these problems, leading to its use as a preferred solution by a number of major blue chip companies. Described as 'the intelligent printable film solution' with virtually no memory, IJ380 is an ultra-conformable premium-grade, 50 micron-thick cast film with a permanent grey adhesive and gloss finish. It is supported by a five-year external performance warranty and incorporates 3M's proprietary Controltac™ adhesive technology. This allows the film to be repositioned before activation of the adhesive to ensure precise alignment of the graphics in every application.

Designed for application to flat surfaces, 3M IJ40C includes 3M's patented Comply™ adhesive technology that assists bubble-free application without affecting the smooth appearance of the face film. With Comply, special channels in the pressure-activated adhesive allow trapped air to escape to guarantee fast and easy application of the film in every situation. IJ40C is a white calendered, 75 micron-thick matt or gloss film incorporating a grey pigmented and pressure-sensitive solvent-based acrylic adhesive and polyethylene-coated paper liner. It is suitable for both exterior and interior intermediate applications, typically signs and displays (including backlit), and fleet and window graphics and comes with a warranty of up to three years.



A Volvo wrapped with 3M IJ380. 3M Perforated Window Marking Film 8173 was used for the windows.

Developed for medium- to long-term removable signage and fleet graphics (including those involving corrugations and rivets) and offering a performance life of three years, 3M Controltac™ Plus Graphic Film IJ180-10 is a 50 micron-thick white cast film that provides excellent hiding power due to the grey pigment in the adhesive. IJ180C features the Comply adhesive technology and both versions are available in a range of colours. A custom colour-match service is also available from 3M.

For further information, visit www.3m.com/uk/graphicsolutions

Get great results with Graficast and Grafitack

Changing the colour of a vehicle couldn't be easier using Grafityp's 10 year cast vinyl, Graficast™.

Neil Varley, managing director at GN Signs Ltd would certainly agree. He was delighted with the final result after Graficast was recommended to him and used for the first time recently.

Neil explained: "Having used cast material from another company in the past, I was put off using cast vinyl when covering large difficult areas on vehicles. On the strength of this job I am now quoting on a fleet of 10 vans as an alternative to spraying."

Graficast is available in 47 high gloss colours, including some with grey adhesive to make it more opaque, as well as metallic silver and gold. Graficast can also be used for many other applications. It is extremely thin and flexible making it easy to conform over indents, rivets and corrugations and because of its make-up, will stand up to the most extreme outdoor conditions.



Grafitack self-adhesive vinyl from Grafityp.

Graficast is produced by Grafityp in Belgium and takes premier place in the vast range of Grafitack self-adhesive vinyl portfolio.

The Grafitack range holds a vinyl type for every application including the ER Series, which is a GEF film (Grafityp Eco Film). This film is free from chlorine and plasticizers, making it safe for use in schools, nurseries, the food industry and nuclear power plants where the use of PVC signs and products is not allowed.

The 200/300 series is suitable for use outdoors for up to seven years. For short term work like exhibition stands, the Promo Series is ideal; whilst the TR100 & TR101 etch effect materials will provide stunning results in shop windows and on mirrors. These are just a few of the films available from Grafityp which offers numerous roll widths and colours in all their ranges.

For further information tel. 01827 300500 or email sales@grafityp.co.uk, alternatively visit the website www.grafityp.co.uk and complete the information request form.

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To obtain costs for in-between sizes, simply price to next foot up. For example, 16' 3" long Budget T5 would be priced at 17' 0", costing £187.00 + VAT.

Budget T5 is only available in white or black finish.

Delivery in two working days is only available for orders faxed in writing from account-holding clients by 9:30am. If you do not have an account, you can pay by credit card.

Delivery on orders under £200.00 will be charged at £15.00 + VAT.

No existing discounts or rebates will apply for this product. Discounts for orders over £2,000.00 may be available.

Budget T5 can illuminate sign depths up to 1,800mm. to any continuous length. Bracket size will vary.

Made-up units will be supplied in interlocking sections to a maximum length of 3,500mm.

Budget T5 is a downlighter only, IP rating IP65.

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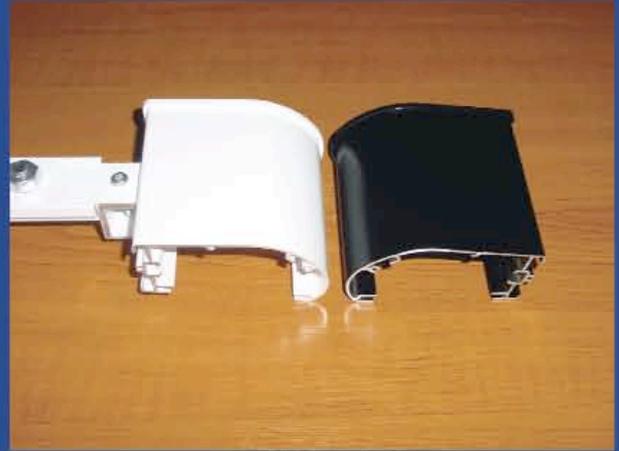
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Also available in satin black finish, fitted with reflectors @ £12.00 per foot*.



Four sizes of fixing bracket are available, to suit signs up to 2,400 mm high. Brackets can slide to any horizontal position on the unit—essential when trying to catch high points on profile cladding.



Not all fixing surfaces are even, our brackets offer telescopic adjustment to compensate for this, unlike other 'fixed' brackets which would either require packing out, or cause stress on the fixings.

CAREFULLY DESIGNED PROFILE ELIMINATES NEED TO ANGLE LIGHT



The above photo shows Highlight in normal position (not angled). Illumination is even, and the unit blends into the background. Angling of the light is only required on sloping fascias.



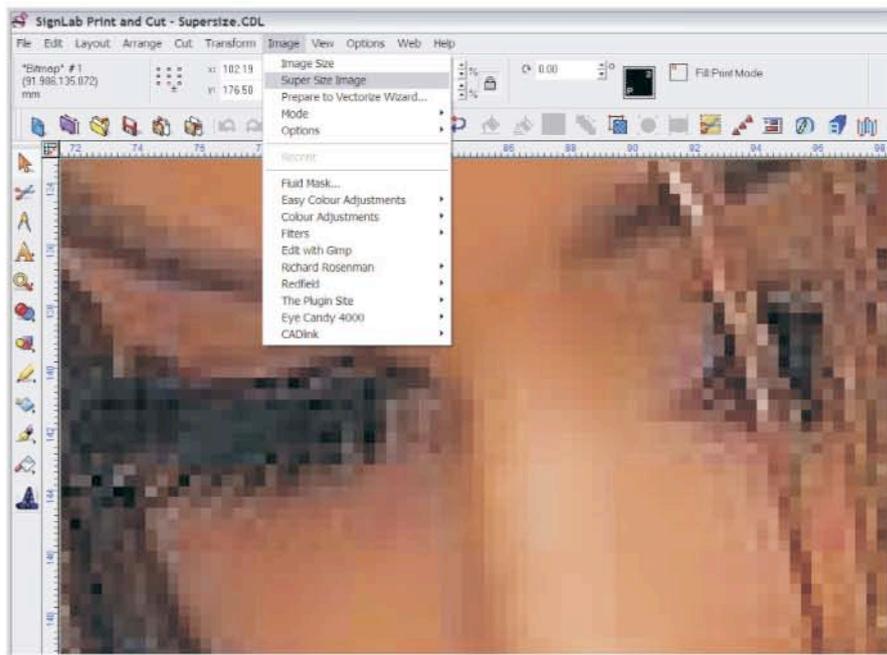
The above photo shows Highlight angled inward, resulting in glare at the top, and dullness at the bottom. The profile also becomes highly noticeable.

DESIGN Tutorial

SUPERSIZE ME!

SignLab 8 Print and Cut includes a great new image re-sampling tool called "Supersize"

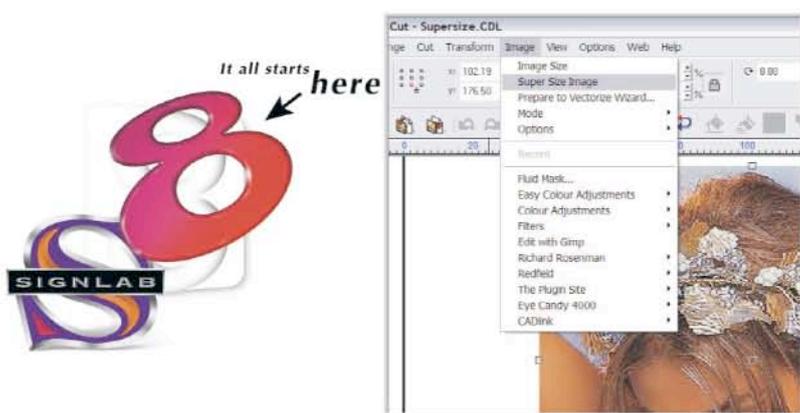
Despite the trend in high quality digital cameras, signmakers are still being supplied poor quality artwork for large format reproduction. The new supersize feature can dramatically improve image quality, saving you time and money. Have a look at this simple example to see just how easy it is to use.



This tutorial is bought to you as part of Info Source, CADlink's dedicated online information and training facility. Info source has been created to provide Signlab and other CADlink software users with a wealth of knowledge and advice to enable them to get the most from our industry leading products. Info Source has hours and hours of video and written tutorials available for you to watch or download and what's more this content is updated every month. This unique educational facility is free for all to use, even if you are not yet a Signlab user, Why not check out info source and see what you're missing!



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01

More often than not, the images that are provided by the client are not always suited for large format reproduction, an image that looks ok on the screen will sometimes not look as good once printed. Like Photo shop, Signlab has a built in Bicubic re-sampling feature that can improve images of a lower quality however, heavy blurring can often occur in the finished results. It's possible to purchase additional software products that are designed specifically for enhancing poor quality images, but this comes at an extra cost, the good news for users of Signlab 8 is that there is a fantastic new plug-in that will dramatically improve the quality of your images. With the image selected go to the "Image Menu" and select "super size"

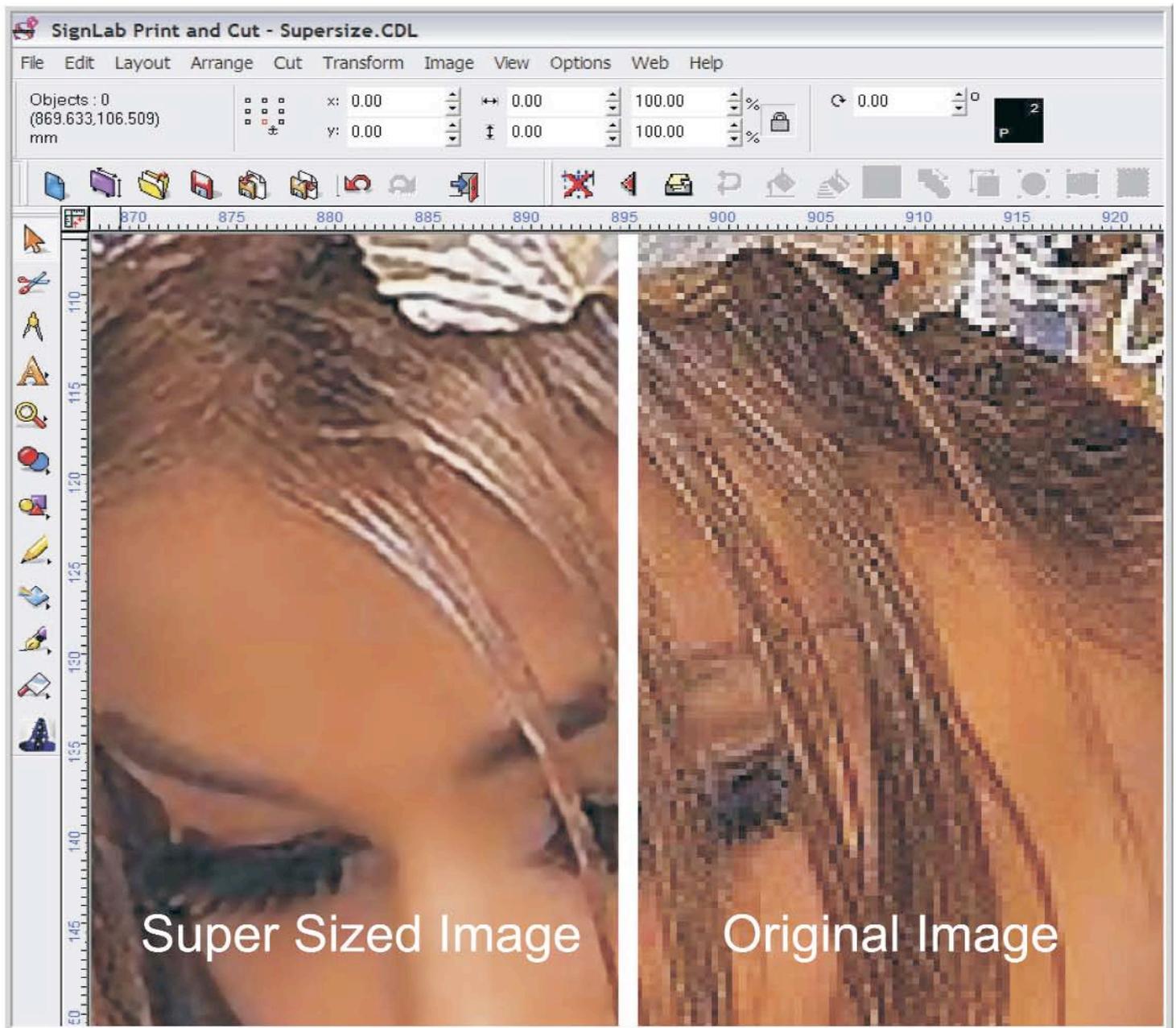
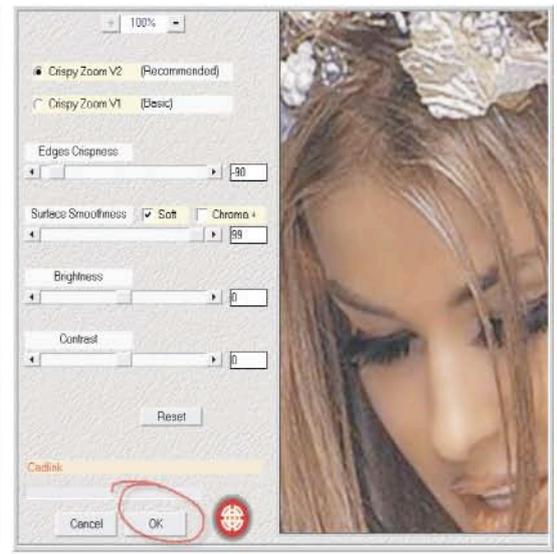
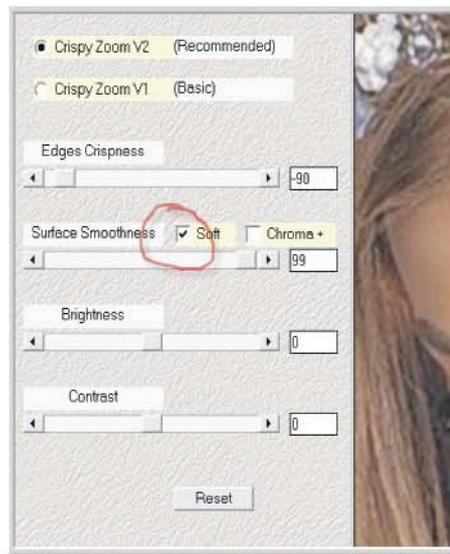


02

The current image resolution is now displayed in the smart bar. I have the choice of increasing the size by pixel width, resolution or as a percentage, for this example I am going to increase the size by 300%. Once I have made this choice I must click "Apply". In the next stage, my image will be placed in the new "Super Size" interface.

03

The Image has now been placed in the Super Size window; from here it's simply a case of adjusting the various property sliders to suit the type of file you are working with. Typically with a photo such as this, you will need to reduce the edge crispness down and increase the surface smoothness to its maximum. With most photographic work, ticking the "Soft" box will also improve the results. It's important to remember that the settings used here are not suitable for all types of image, if you are using Super Size to clean up bitmaps ready for vectorisation then you would need the properties to be almost the opposite of what we have set here. Once you have achieved the desired result, simply click "OK" to return the image to Signlab.



The finished print will be of a much higher quality, thanks to the new Super Size feature in SignLab 8 print and cut. Super Size is just one of many great new plug-in effects that can be found in this latest release of the industries leading Sign Making Software, for more Information or to get your hands on a Demo CD, contact CADlink Technology Corporation on 01462 420222.

Spandex installs Europe's first Gerber Solara ionx at Alpha Sign Systems

Spandex, the pioneering one-stop supplier of complete and innovative solutions to the digital printing and sign making industries worldwide, has announced the first European installation of its recently announced Gerber Solara ionx flatbed/roll-to-roll, wide-format, UV inkjet printing solution. UK-based, Alpha Sign Systems took charge of the versatile Solara ionx at the end of April, after deciding that the printer's numerous feature-rich attributes and cost-effectiveness provided the best all-round package to enhance its wide-format digital offering.

According to John Teteris, Alpha Sign Systems' Managing Director, the Gerber Solara ionx stood out from the competition, thanks to its very favourable price/performance ratio, which he believes, will reduce production time to around a third. Mr Teteris was also impressed with Gerber's low-temperature Cold Fire Cure™ technology and advanced GerberCat™ cationic UV inks, which are cured at room temperature to expand the range of printable substrates. The combination means that heat sensitive plastic, vinyl, fabric and paper-based materials can be printed without concern over ink adhesion or material damage.

"Cold Fire Cure technology and GerberCatinks give us the ability to print onto a vastly increased range of flexible and rigid materials as they enable a strong and flexible mechanical bond that is immediately usable," he explains. "Unlike UV flatbed printers that cure in the traditional way, the Solara ionx delivers printing with no thermal impact to the media. This will significantly extend our capabilities, as well as ensure that printed output will meet and even exceed the standards expected by our customers.

"I'm also pleased at how Spandex has positioned the Solara ionx on price," he adds. "Certain other machines we looked at were much more expensive and didn't offer the blend of speed, quality, versatility and value that together, make a real difference to revenue."

Should they require it, the Gerber Solara ionx also provides Alpha Sign Systems with additional flexibility by managing certain applications, such as vehicle graphics, that can only currently be produced on the company's solvent printer.

"Thanks to the ultra-flexible GerberCat ink bond and an ability to easily switch from true flatbed to true roll to roll formats, we have the piece of mind that, if increased production demands called for it, the Gerber Solara ionx could handle vehicle graphics with ease," says Mr Teteris.

Another key feature that persuaded Alpha to select the Gerber Solara ionx was its ability to deliver high print quality at impressive speeds. As a result, Mr Teteris and his team are able to produce print output at up to 60sqm/hr on rigid and flexible, outdoor-durable graphics that are immediately usable.

"Basically, we are confident that both our service offering and competitive advantage will be greatly increased as a result of this installation and look forward to introducing its capabilities to our customers," he concludes.

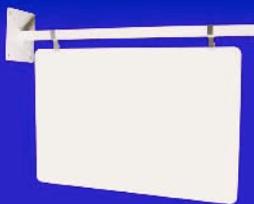
Alpha Sign Systems celebrates twenty years in business this year and provides full project management across a large and diverse portfolio of signage applications; including banners, POS, advertising hoardings and modular sign systems.

For further information visit www.spandex.com



Steve Pridham, Spandex; John Teteris, Alpha Sign Systems; and Derek Yuill.

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Join the printmax community - and look to never turn down another job

Get connected to a whole new world of business is the thinking behind the printmax community - the new and innovative 'sharing' system aimed at small and large businesses alike who will be able to benefit from 'sharing' their machines and in house print and finishing capabilities.

By creating a physical forum for registered users to see what printers are available to them within the community, clients will be able to go after new areas of work and actually be able to fulfil it, which historically they may have had to turn down. Ultimately through the printmax community, we can help them grow their business – which is something we at printmax are passionate about.” continues Michael.

There are certain criteria to becoming a member in order to protect members and ensure that, ethically, the scheme benefits customers - but the benefits are numerous. The scheme enables members, by using community business, to keep their machines busy all year round, offer more services that historically they have had to turn away, Mix & Match community machines for finishing, compare competitive quotes from trusted community members and get first dibs on printmax hardware and consumable deals.

“The scheme relies on trust and communication from all members but this seems to be the selling point that appeals to our customers. The market is ripe for a new and refreshing outlook on the way large format print and finishing is handled and I hope that our Community sets the standard” says printmax MD, Michael Bolton.

To find out more about the printmax Community or for more information on any of the products and services available from printmax visit www.printmax.co.uk or call 08700 200 090.



The printmax community website.

Robert Horne acquires Vink Plastics UK

Robert Horne Group has strengthened its presence in the UK plastics market with the acquisition of Vink Plastics UK, a national distributor with a key presence in the Sign, Graphics and Construction industry.

Dave Allen, Robert Horne Group's Managing Director stated "This signals our commitment to sustained growth within the plastics market which compliments our position as market leader in the graphic display industry. We will continue to develop this market both by organic growth and possible future acquisitions.

"For Vink customers, this means business as usual, but with the added benefit of access to a wider range of specialist brands and added value services."

For further information visit www.roberthorne.co.uk



Paul French, Divisional Director of Robert Horne Sign & Display (right) and Nigel Turner, Managing Director of Vink Plastics UK (left) shake hands on the deal.

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Popular choice as Andrew Wilson becomes managing director of B&P Graphic Systems

Chertsey-based B&P Graphic Systems has appointed Andrew Wilson as its new managing director. He takes over from David Burton who has moved onto Fujifilm Sericol as European sales director.

Wilson has been with B&P for more than 10 years, starting in sales before moving to a management role and, subsequently, to the position of sales director. Prior to joining the company he was with engraving specialist, Gravograph, where he was involved in the software side of the operation.

With comprehensive knowledge of B&P Graphic Systems and the full Uniform product range, Wilson's experience made him the logical choice as managing director of the well-known company. Having witnessed at first-hand the growth of the wide-format digital printing market during the past decade, he is quick to acknowledge present day industry trends and changes and his direction will reflect the current and future buying trends within this sector.

"We're going to concentrate on what we do best," states Wilson. "Our strong relationships with manufacturers such as Agfa and Mutoh give B&P a very strong advantage with entry-level and mid-range systems which use UV-curable and solvent-based ink technologies. Additionally, we're going to boost the potential available with digital textiles, a market sector which is growing in the UK."

Wilson also plans to build on customer support and to develop what he describes as being a fresher and more friendly approach. As such, he is also taking direct responsibility for B&P's engineering division which he believes is a key element to the company's success.

The Uniform brand of wide-format products will continue to be enhanced, with new machines, materials and consumables coming online throughout the year. This will include more environmentally aware media, as well as economy and premium ranges to suit all types of output.

"After 10 years spent wholly in a sales environment, I'm excited about the prospect of being in a general management role which encompasses all that B&P Graphic Systems offers," concludes Wilson. "However, my pragmatic business approach is based on the knowledge that, in economic terms, the current climate means we will continue to present a stable and positive environment for all of our existing and potential customers."

For more information please contact Andrew Wilson at B&P Graphic Systems on 01932 568555, or e-mail awilson@bplightbrigade.com



Andrew Wilson, managing director, Chertsey-based B&P Graphic Systems.

Colleges line up to take part in PaperCo's Brief Encounters competition

PaperCo is launching its Brief Encounters 2008 competition for second year graphic design students, working closely with UK universities and art colleges.

This educational initiative, part of PaperCo's defined corporate responsibility policy, aims to encourage students to work to a realistic commercial brief.

Veronica Heaven, corporate responsibility director, says: "PaperCo takes its role with education very seriously and this is the fifth year that we are running our working with education scheme. We are delighted by the enthusiastic response of the colleges this year to our latest challenge. At each round of awards we are amazed at just how imaginative the work submitted is and we have high hopes for some eye-catching material with the briefs we have set this year."

There are two briefs for students to choose from. The first is a sign and display exhibition stand and the second is a point of sale or mailing product to promote an office paper recycling system.



Veronica Heaven, corporate responsibility director.

The sign and display stand can be up to three panels, each panel being 900mm wide and 2.2m high. The students are encouraged to create visible and eye-catching messages that would draw attention and interest from Government and corporate end users and office staff and designers from the commercial business world.

Those wanting to follow the POS/direct mail brief to promote recycling of paper amongst office users are encouraged to use clever and witty copy that works with their designs and to make the piece itself sustainable/recyclable.

For both projects students have to submit a one side A4 proposal or rationale to explain their design and production choices.

The judges for this competition will be announced at a later date.

For more information call 01273 441560 or visit www.paperco.co.uk

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5 mm	£1.30	£1.70	£1.70	£2.20	£2.60	£2.97	£3.90	£5.00	£5.60	£6.70	£8.50	£11.50	£15.20	£28.00	£62.00

Add 10% for Gold & Silver Acrylic

WHITE FOAM PVC LETTERS (BLOCK FONTS)

Size mm	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	380	460	610	762	1200
3 mm	£0.65	£0.90	£0.90	£1.05	£1.24	£1.43	£1.99	£2.20	£2.50	£2.70	£3.60	£5.00	£7.13	£12.00	£15.00
5 mm	£1.22	£1.27	£1.27	£1.80	£2.02	£2.25	£2.75	£3.20	£3.50	£4.20	£5.33	£6.76	£10.75	£16.50	£25.00
10 mm	£1.50	£1.70	£1.70	£3.50	£4.00	£4.56	£5.47	£6.61	£7.50	£8.40	£10.80	£14.50	£19.00	£27.00	£48.00
19 mm	£3.00	£3.50	£4.00	£4.50	£5.80	£7.56	£8.24	£9.89	£11.94	£13.50	£15.00	£20.09	£28.00	£40.00	£80.00

Add 10% if Drawplan & Simplefix Locators are required

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E: sales@newimagesigns.co.uk

Three new franchisees for Signarama

Sign*A*Rama has announced that it has appointed three new franchisees. Two of the new franchisees are in Scotland, Kilmarnock and Edinburgh, whilst the third franchisee is in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. Sign*A*Rama now has five Scottish franchisees.

Sign*A*Rama's Edinburgh Central franchise is owned by John Charlton. Since opening at the end of March John has already signed contracts with the Hilton Group, Visit Scotland and Lothian and Borders Police. In addition to a full range of sign services John is offering his customers a range of complementary advertising services.

Having worked for Scottish Enterprise for 20 years, James Smith is the proud owner of Sign*A*Rama's Kilmarnock franchise.

He decided on a sign franchise as he felt that it would enable him to use both his engineering skill and business expertise. He is looking forward to the daily interaction with customers and the constant challenges that running his own business will bring.

Sign*A*Rama's Potter's Bar franchise is run by Disheel and Kumal Patel. The brothers chose a sign franchise as they felt that it would put their graphic design skills to good use. Having previously run their own furniture store they chose a franchise with Sign*A*Rama as they wanted to be part of the world's largest sign franchise operation.

Sign*A*Rama sign franchise has 900 locations in 50 countries and is a full service company designed to handle the signage and branding for any size company worldwide.

For further information visit www.signarama.co.uk

Clarity Professional team relocates to larger premises Solihull

West Midlands based MIS developers, Touch Systems, relocated to brand new premises in Solihull recently. The move follows a rapid growth in the Sales, Support and development teams during 2007 and also the introduction of the marketing department.

Since 2000, Touch Systems have developed Clarity Professional, a CRM / MIS system for the sign and digital print industry. With a record number of new companies implementing the software during the last quarter Clarity Professional is quickly becoming the number one estimating and quoting software for small to medium sized enterprises.

Clarity Professional is completely scalable and can grow with your business. With the addition of extra modules such as Purchase Orders, Production and Goods Handling, it gives the user a tailored solution suitable for their needs.

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Software to streamline your business

Whether you are a one-man-band or an organisation with 50 employees, you can add licenses at any time which can easily be networked with your company database.

Matthew Smith from Ellard Signs & Graphics explains "Before we used Clarity Professional, we produced all of our estimates, quotes and invoices by hand. As the business grew, this method became more and more impracticable. Choosing to computerise our processes was quite a big step, but Touch Systems made it easy for us. We chose to use Clarity Professional because essentially, it made our lives easier by saving us time and effort. Now we can produce and print quotes in just a few clicks of the mouse, whereas before we had to write everything out. Now that we've experienced the benefits there's no way we could go back to our original system of working."

Clarity is also surprisingly affordable. From only £9 per week for a single user system it is the perfect choice for those looking for an 'off the shelf' product such as this.

To find out more information about Clarity call the sales team on 0121 248 2448 or go to www.claritypro.com



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European winners announced in MACtac worldwide awards

The European session of the sixth MACtac Worldwide Awards has taken place with more than 200 finalists selected from thousands of entries.

Work from printers, applicators and end-users from all over Europe was submitted into four different categories: Vehicle Graphics, Interior Signs, Exterior Signs and Technical Achievements. A special Advertising Prize was also awarded to the entry considered most relevant and ground-breaking from an advertiser's point of view. The top prize for Exterior Signs was won by a UK company, Jupiter Display.



The judging panel included sign industry magazine editors, technical, advertising and creative experts across the fields of application, printing and design. Roger Hinchliffe of Sign Update (left) and other judges.

European Prize Winner for Exterior Signs: Jupiter Display (UK)

The astonishing colours and visuals of their giant ampersand sculpture were designed to decorate the space between two roundabouts. The jury found the execution particularly original, and a genuine contribution to the image of the city.

Products: IMAGin JT 5929 and LF 3999.

Special Mention: Cardesign Kft. (Hungary)

Cardesign was commended for the intelligent use of vinyl graphics to hide a roof window in an ancient building and so comply with local legislation.

Products: IMAGin JT 5529 P, JT 5817 one-way-vision film.



**European Prize Winner for Vehicle Graphics:
Kask Design s.n.c.**

Based in Italy, Kask decorated a "family of cars" for the FIAT Cinquecento 50th Anniversary rally, inspired by Walt Disney's movie "Cars". The original design and human touch make them particularly attractive.

Products: IMAGin JT 5915 P (one-way-vision film) and LF 3399, MACmark 9800 Pro.



Special Mention: Fischnaller Beschriftungen, Austria

Fischnaller's 2008 European Football Championship promotion involved 17 locomotives wrapped in football visuals and the national flags of participating countries. The graphics conveyed a strong sense of movement, whilst a 3D effect added even more impact to the message.

Products: IMAGin JT 5529 P, JT 5829, LF 3399 and LF 3999.

**European Prize Winner for Interior Decoration:
PK Media b.v. (The Netherlands)**

PK Media's unique mix of nature and graphics saw a forest background printed onto the windows of a dinosaur exhibition. The natural sunlight outside brought the forest – and the dinosaurs - to life.

Product: IMAGin JT 5899 R.



Outstanding Technical Achievement: Alligator (Sweden)

The perfect registering of graphics on this 'chequered car decoration' was achieved on a tri-dimensional shape and left no room for error at the application stage.

Products: IMAGin JT 5529 M B-Free, MACmark 9800 Pro.

Special Mention: Publi Tresignies b.v.b.a. (Belgium)

Publi Tresignies achieved a perfect total wrap application with tri-dimensional shapes on a "one man" vehicle.

Product: IMAGin JT 5529 P.

Advertising Prize: Print Studio d.o.o. (Croatia)

Promoting clothes and shoes on a bus shelter, Print Studio created an eye-catching display that made a strong impact, with high quality graphics attracting and keeping the attention of passers by to effectively communicate the advertising message.

Product: IMAGin JT 5829.



Regional winners - UK & Ireland

1st Prize: Creative Window Film (UK)

Creative Window Film worked with 90 children to design a unique decoration at children's library. Their drawings were applied to transparent vinyl over windows, allowing natural sunlight to add a magical atmosphere.

Product: MACmark 8400 translucent vinyl.



2nd Prize: Kokoon Limited (UK)

Kokoon Ltd decorated studio offices with visuals which appear to be suspended in mid-air and give a real feeling of space.

Products: IMAGin JT 5828, LF 3898, MACmark 8900 Pro.



3rd Prize: Raccoon (UK)

Raccoon gave 25 of the world's most expensive cars a sense of humour for the Gumball 3000 Rally (London - Asia - London).

Products: IMAGin JT 5929 Bubble Free, MACmark 9800 Pro.



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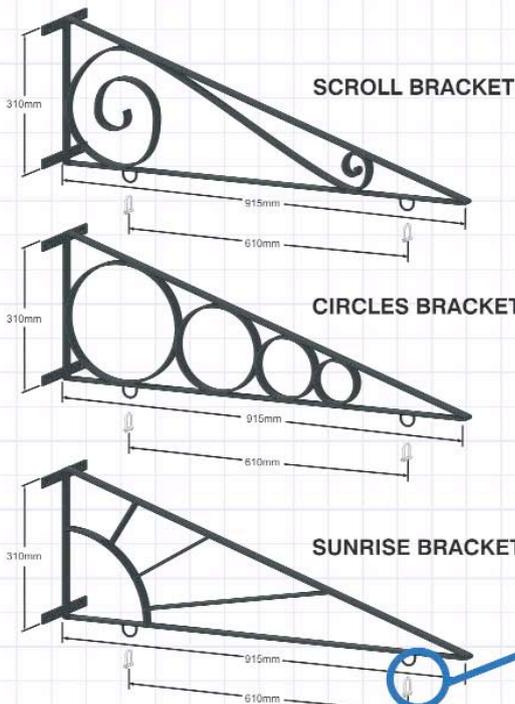


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Artist chooses precision cutting plotter to help create Liverpool Cityscape

When British artist Ben Johnson was commissioned to produce a portrait of the city of Liverpool, he created a stunning cityscape – and vital to completing the finished work in time was a Graphtec FC4100 cutting plotter.

Ben Johnson was born in Llandudno, Wales, studied at the Royal College of Art in London, and had his first solo exhibition in 1969 at the Wickesham Gallery, New York. In 1990 he was made an honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the only contemporary painter to be so honoured, for his contribution to the public understanding of contemporary architecture. Today, he is an internationally-renowned artist with work in private and public collections across the world.

The Liverpool Cityscape was commissioned by National Museums Liverpool, with the Liverpool Culture Company and Professor Phil Redmond CBE and Alexis Redmond, in celebration of Liverpool being European City of Culture for 2008

The remarkable detail in the picture is typical of Ben's work. This is achieved by cutting thousands of differently shaped and sized stencils, assembling the stencils in layers, spray painting and hand-finishing with small sable brushes. Ben has been using the Graphtec FC4100 cutter in his work for five years.



Each building was recreated using traditional perspective, and the help of many assistants. Photo © Simon Webb.

He explains: "Before I had the Graphtec I was cutting out stencils by hand with a scalpel. But then I thought 'signwriters cut letters and intricate shapes all the time and they don't do it by hand, surely I could use what they use'. So I approached five companies and tested five different machines. The one with the greatest accuracy was the Graphtec, and I chose that."

Even using the automated cutter, producing a cityscape is a time-consuming and labour intensive task. The Liverpool Cityscape took three years to complete with Ben and six assistants working full time, and others, including students, friends and volunteers, helping at different stages. It is Ben's largest work, 8ft x 16ft, and most complex to date and is calculated to have taken in excess of 24,000 person hours.

The lengthy process starts by Ben considering different views of the city and deciding which he wants to represent. In Liverpool, he chose a vista of the city's famous skyline from a point high above the River Mersey. The area covers 170 hectares, includes both of the city's football grounds and shows the extent of redevelopment in recent years.

Where some artists make sketches, Ben takes photos, and a lot of them. For this project he took approximately 3,500. He also consulted with architects and historians, as well as the people of Liverpool, to get a real feel of the city's individual character.

Using his photos, Ben directed a team of three draughts people in making a grid on which to individually reconstruct each building, or groups of buildings such as terraces. They were recreated using traditional perspective, rather than vectorisation by a PC. This stage generated 1,500 sets of individual drawings, equivalent to around nine years of full-time work for a single draughtsperson,

From those drawings some 23,000 vinyl stencils, not counting foliage, landscape and water, were cut, which is where the Graphtec plotter came into its own. The consistent accuracy of the FC Series produces sharper and cleaner characters with better edge definition for signmakers, and this was equally as important in Ben's project because the smallest cut shapes were just 0.4mm.

By contrast, some measured several metres and the Graphtec cut these with the same superb accuracy. The FC Series is designed for a production environment and several features contribute to its consistently accurate tracking, even over very long jobs and when left unattended.



Ben spray painted the Liverpool Cityscape before hand-finishing with small sable brushes. Photo © Simon Webb.



Part of the Liverpool Cityscape, created with the help of a Graphtec cutting plotter. Photo © Ben Johnson 2008. All Rights Reserved DACS.

"We used the Graphtec a lot. Towards the end when we had seven large stencils to cut, five metres long and all the other bits, it was running for seven days continuously, 24 hours a day, with no problem," says Ben.

The exceptional registration on the FCs was just as important as some stencils had to be cut out in vinyl, put back on the machine, and registered to each other and themselves.

The photos are handy reference tools when Ben is spray painting in colours but he says getting colours and shading correct is more down to the instinct of an artist.

As work on the Liverpool Cityscape neared completion, Ben and the team took up residency at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool for six weeks and opened to the public while finishing the painting.

"I thought we'd have three or four people a day wandering in - but we had 51,000 visitors," says Ben. "Often we'd hear people say 'he's using computers, photos and cutters, he's cheating'. But I explained they are just tools and we use whatever's available."

"Opening to the public was quite disruptive on time but it did allow me to do something I especially wanted to, which was to demystify process of art. I gave 34 talks during that time, explaining the process. Too many artists wrap their work in mystery but being an artist is mainly a lot of hard graft. Practically all the way through this project I've worked 12 hours a day."

Ben deliberately chose not to put people in his Liverpool Cityscape.

He explains: "With people in it, they become the focus of attention. But having no figures lets people put themselves

into the painting, which I know they do. I hear them talking about where they went to school, where their father and grandfathers worked."

The Liverpool Cityscape is now on show in The Walker Art Gallery until November, along with Ben's panoramas of Jerusalem, Zurich and Hong Kong plus paintings representing Chicago and Paris. This is the first time that these works have been exhibited together and the exhibition, Ben Johnson's Liverpool Cityscape 2008 and the World Panorama Series, forms part of the city's celebrations as European Capital of Culture. As well as Ben's work, also included is a selection of historic views of Liverpool, demonstrating the long-standing tradition into which the new cityscape fits.

The Liverpool Cityscape will serve as a lasting legacy of Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year and will move to a permanent home in the Museum of Liverpool when it opens in 2010/11.

"The experience in Liverpool is the highlight of my career and the finished work is a tribute to the people of Liverpool," says Ben.

To find out more about Graphtec's range of cutting plotters, including the new FC7000Mk2 Series and its unique Advanced Registration Mark Sensing (ARMS) system, visit www.graphtecgb.com or tel. 01978 666700.

For further information about Ben Johnson and his work, go to www.benjohnsonartist.com. The Walker Art Gallery is open daily and admission is free. Go to www.walkerartgallery.org.uk or tel. 0151 478 4199 for further information.

Tried and tested solutions from SignTec

The range of modular sign and display systems from trade-only supplier SignTec has truly stood the test of time. Providing a seamless combination of strength and style, the solutions remain a preferred choice of sign makers, architects and designers engaged in themed directional and information signage programmes.



Sleek styling in an attractive location.

Evolution of the Monoform self-curving system can be traced back to the popular Sculptura design that sign makers have been using to create monolith signs for well over 20 years. With the addition of new aluminium extrusions and a simple internal tensioning system, individualistic curved signs can be produced in single and double-sided freestanding or wall-mounted formats.

A 'quick change' system, Insertz enables signs and graphics to be replaced or updated simply by removing the protective anti-glare front panel using a suction tool supplied. In addition to digitally-printed or cut-vinyl graphics, Insertz readily accepts any flexible material up to 1.75mm thick (including acrylic, engraving laminates



Co-ordinated signage creates identity and practicality.

and even metal substrates) but can also be as equally effective when displaying nothing more than simple paper graphics generated in-house on an office computer. Featuring an elegantly curved profile, Insertz is available in a choice of eight industry standard sizes or five component lengths that can be cut to size for customised applications.

The Slatz directory system is arguably the simplest and most versatile solution for interior signage requirements. It can be used to co-ordinate an entire signage programme (including wall-mounted, freestanding, projecting or suspended single and double-sided formats) and has been described by a number of end users as a "design classic". As the name implies, SlimSlatz has a slimmer profile at less than eight millimetres, whilst offering all of the benefits of the standard Slatz system.

For further information, visit www.signtec.co.uk or telephone 01525 850500.

Boldscan launches versatile Crescent L Stand

Described as unique, the L stand configuration of Boldscan's new Crescent 'L' Stand offers many new enhancements and can be used singularly or in multiples. It has the ability to curve and link together to offer a practical and cost effective option to pop ups, it's not limited in length and can be added to in the future.

The system is sold singularly and in sets of three. It's quick and easy to assemble and each unit displays a graphic 800mm x 2000mm. There are also optional lights which can be used with each unit.

Debbie Johnson, Boldscan's new Business Development Manager, stated that Boldscan is committed to developing and expanding its range of products into 2008, the system can be used with a wide range of media, including PVC, card and more.

Graphics can be supplied through Boldscan's bureau service if required.

To find out more, telephone Boldscan free on 08002 983838 or visit the new online shop www.boldscanshop.com



The Crescent L Stand from Boldscan Ltd.



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Modular excellence from Signscape

Key products in the range of systems from Signscape include the Fingerpost directional, the Post & Panel wayfinding and the Infocurve directory solutions. They are capable of adding a distinctive style to any signage project and can be supplied powder-coated or wet-sprayed in a choice of BS or RAL colour to accommodate individual design concepts.

The stylish Fingerpost offers a choice of signpost 'arm' (square, round and chevron-ended) in five different depths. The swivel socket design allows the arms to be positioned at any chosen level and rotated to point in any direction. The arms can be mounted onto standard 76mm round or square posts or alternatively fitted to square posts using flat brackets.

The Post & Panel solution provides a comprehensive range of systems to suit any signage project. There is a wide choice of post size for large and small applications (including round, D-shape and square formats), supporting double-sided panels in depths of 100, 150, 200, 250 and 300mm and fabricated panels to virtually any size.

Featuring an elegantly curved design, the Infocurve directory solution has been developed to incorporate extruded panels from Signscape's Infotex range as well as made-to-measure larger panels. It is available in freestanding, wall-mounted and suspended formats and shares a common central frame construction that acts as a template to define the curvature of the sign face.

For further information, visit www.signscape.co.uk or telephone 01934 852888.



The Post & Panel system, providing useful visitor information.

Displayhub shows off latest digital technology



Freestanding high definition digital displays from Sign Systems Ltd.

Displayhub is a stylish and versatile new sign system brought bang up to date with the latest digital technology.

The exciting and sophisticated range from Sign Systems Ltd comprises of freestanding and wall-mounted high definition (HD) digital displays with 32" and 42" screens plus simple yet powerful software.

Vibrant and crystal-clear images in wide-screen give outstanding image quality, whatever the environment. Displayhub is a perfect solution for advertising, as a wayfinding aid, welcome board, information point, and much more.

Integrated PC is included and the system's powerful control package allows displays to show image and video files, flash content, websites, PDFs and RSS feeds. Content can be made fully interactive using touch screen technology.

Special offers or promotions can be uploaded to network locations centrally, with access also available locally. To effectively monitor promotions and other advertising, there's a full logging facility for each display, which includes the number of times each screen or advert is shown and in the case of the touch screen, touched.

The useful scheduling facility controls content on one or more displays and enables different access settings for user groups. A snapshot of all displays across the network can be viewed centrally at any time and displays remotely scheduled to turn on and off.

Displayhub has an elegant powder coated steel frame, finished in anthracite grey RAL 7016 as standard with a wide range of other RAL colours available.

Options include touch screen technology, wi-fi, and crisp, hi-fidelity sound system.

To find out more visit www.signsystemsltd.com or telephone 07817 339197.

Multiple configurations possible with Locate post & panel system

More than 50 different modular sign configurations can be achieved using the Locate post & panel system from Universal Architectural Aluminium Systems. It also provides a choice of seven panel widths from 50 to 254mm and is currently the only system on the market offering a dual-colour post facility to enable a more individualistic appearance. In addition, fabricated aluminium panels to customers' specifications are also available.

Offering fast and simple installation, Locate is an all-metal assembly comprising a variety of post profiles (including round, square and D-section) and seven standard and any number of customised cut-to-size panel profiles that can be supplied in a mill or powder-coated finish. Two-way post profiles for 'V'-shaped assemblies are also available together with decorative finials and crossbars.

Overhead lighting units and a wall-mounted version of the system are also supplied as required, together with 60mm square and round post profiles to accommodate smaller applications. The panel edge profiles allow the use of different materials, including acrylic,



A Locate Post & Panel sign.



A close-up view of the Locate Post & Panel system as a raw aluminium assembly at Universal's factory.

foamed PVC and sheet aluminium, as well as Universal's Direx panels and the Unilight overhead lighting unit.

For more details visit www.universal-aluminium.co.uk or telephone 0117 955 9091.

Stylish Stylos for Sheffield City centre

Superbly engineered Stylos fingerpost signs from William Smith have been specified by Sheffield City Council for an extensive wayfinding project. Around 35 Stylos units, incorporating special design features, are being positioned in and around the City centre.

The Stylos fingerpost is a highly adaptable multi-directional sign system, the popularity of which is ably demonstrated as a result of its adoption by numerous local authorities engaged in street refurbishment and town and city centre information and directional signage programmes. The system can be supplied either as a finished unit or in component form for on-site assembly and can also be used for other related applications such as boundary and sponsorship signs.

Each unit can have 'fingers' pointing in up to eight different directions and at various levels. A special fixing component makes it difficult for Stylos to be vandalised, while the arms or fingers can be removed and/or added to at any time. The fingerposts can be finished in any stove-enamelled colour to match BS, RAL and Pantone specifications to enable seamless integration of the signs into urban and rural environments. For areas of poor natural light or reduced lighting, Stylos is available as an illuminated variant.

For the Sheffield City centre project, the fingerposts were supplied in a brushed and anodised silver finish, with all of the arms stove-enamelled white and both faces covered with 3M Scotchlite reflective material protected by an overlay film.

Each post had up to four arms to meet the directional requirements of the relevant area and featured the familiar Stylos 'Polo Mint' finial.

For further information, visit www.williamsmith.co.uk or telephone 01833 690 305.



An example of the Stylos fingerpost system.

Nocturnal get ready for expansion explosion

The past three years have been a challenge for the Birmingham based firm Nocturnal. Ultimate quality and service have always been the foundations of the business but the scope was limited to the sole capabilities of its founder, Richard Phillips. After an extensive search for like-minded industry professionals Richard now believes he has the perfect team to become an industry leader in the UK.



The in-depth knowledge of both the creative and practical application allows them to produce the finest results with the minimum of expense and frustration. Design and production departments work closely to find the ideal solution.



Mainly due to the outstanding attention to detail practiced at Nocturnal, the company has completed some fantastic projects and has an enviable customer base. Providing top notch signage for brand names such as Bang & Olufsen, Mercedes-Benz, The Prince's Trust and Halfords, to name a few.

The Nocturnal design studio, headed by Geoff Bishop, produces graphics to agency standards, which are designed to fit the purpose perfectly.



Richard believes the time is right for a quality no nonsense sign and graphics business to fill the gap left by the increasing number of digital print providers. As time goes by more and more mainstream sign companies are jumping into large format digital print and losing focus on the small to medium enterprises. Service in the Midlands has been dropping for years with increasing numbers of rivals searching only for large volume clients.

Nocturnal has been held back due to the level of professional support available, but the times have changed with increasing numbers of industry experts seeking out the much improved working environment that Nocturnal can offer. The increased focus and determination of the company to produce only the finest quality signage has also helped fuel this; not to mention the career options the next five years will bring both locally and nationally.





The ambition of the management is to carve out a clear message to all business sizes and types that the perfect solution can be found at Nocturnal. Clients can benefit from a host of services and products including thoroughbred design, high quality signage fabrication and installation, digital printing and vehicle livery.

Unrivalled career opportunities are available for all sign industry personnel, including sales, project managers and production staff. Experienced vinyl fitters and vehicle graphics installers are also required.



To find out more, contact Richard Phillips at Nocturnal, email enquire@nocturnalonline.co.uk or tel. 0121 747 9800.

Fast track to your own business with FastSigns

An extremely steep learning curve at the start of Martin and Janie Drury's FastSigns® career was no obstacle to success, as the couple, who own and run the Birmingham sign and graphics centre, are now celebrating 12 years in the business.

Both Martin and Janie decided to turn their back on corporate lifestyles and take the plunge into self employment. Despite being raw recruits to the reprographics industry in 1996, they now pull in significant contracts from a wide range of well known city centre names, including Birmingham City Council, plus advertising agencies, retail, construction companies and event management organisations.

From its base in Great Charles Street, Queensway, FastSigns Birmingham offers a full range of custom signs and graphics including banners, vehicle graphics, floor and window graphics, safety and identification signage, exhibition graphics and exterior signage.

"This business has enabled us to put all of our skills and career experience to good use," commented Janie. "It provides us with a challenge that we relish, and we're very proud of our achievements to date. The sign industry is moving at a rapid pace and we're looking forward to meeting the needs of our customers for the next 12 years!"



Martin and Janie Drury of Fastsigns.



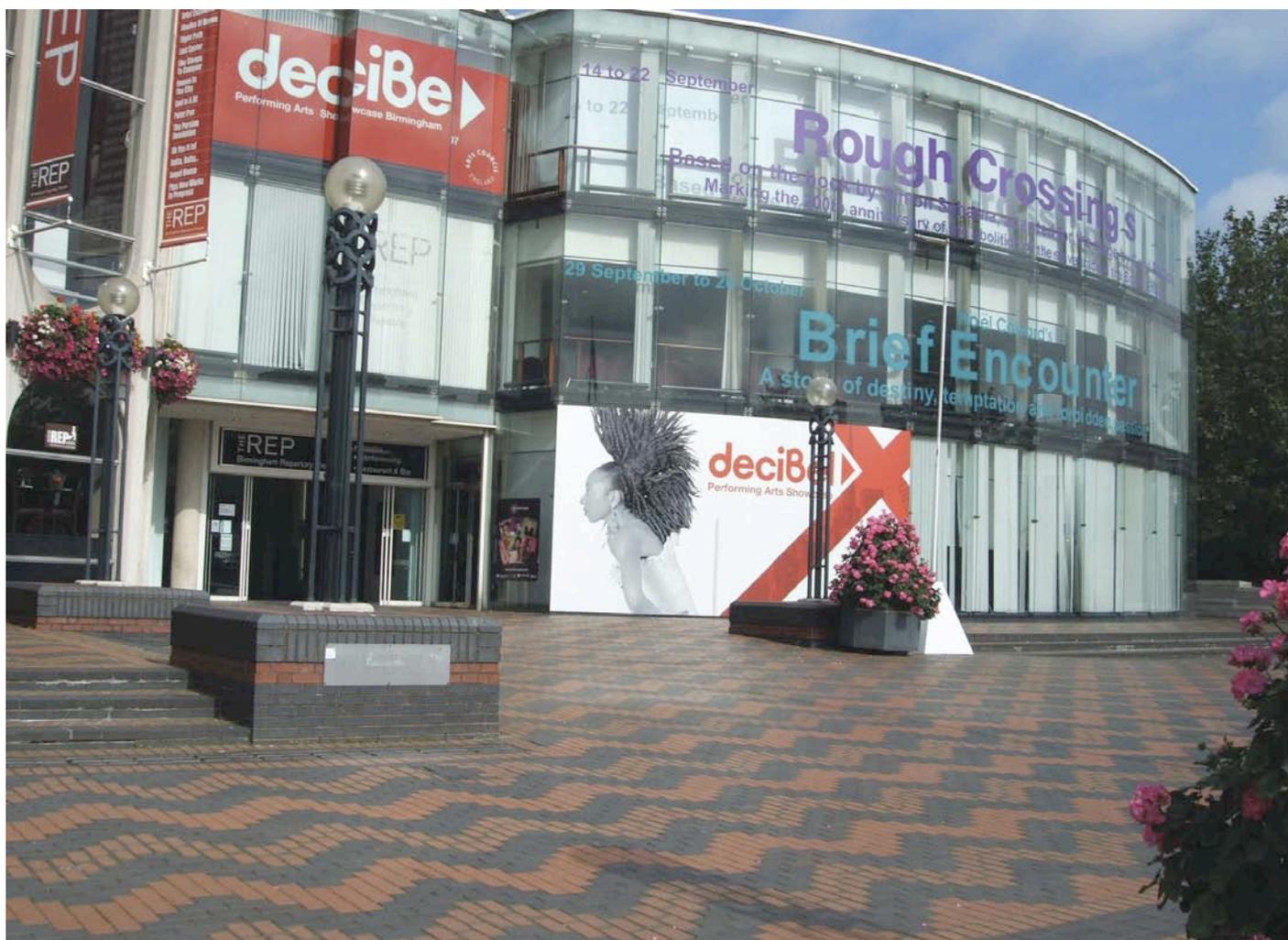
BIRMINGHAM *Signmakers*



Martin, who worked for British Telecom for 20 years, and Janie, whose career in the competitive sales environment of Yellow Pages helped to fine-tune her negotiating skills, decided to buy a FastSigns franchise because they recognised the huge potential of the market place and were impressed with the FastSigns expertise and support network.

"FastSigns struck us as being extremely well organised, and the vast amount of business knowledge, expertise and support that was available to us was very impressive, and not to mention reassuring when you are setting up on your own," said Janie.

Further information is available at www.fastsigns.co.uk; alternatively, email janie.drury@fastsigns.com or tel. 0121 236 2123.



Action Graphics – inspired by technology

Born and bred Brummie Dave Foxall formed Action Graphics in 1985, inspired by new technology.

At that time, he was installing glass sunroofs and hand cutting “go faster” stripes and graphics for customised cars, working out of the basement of his home.

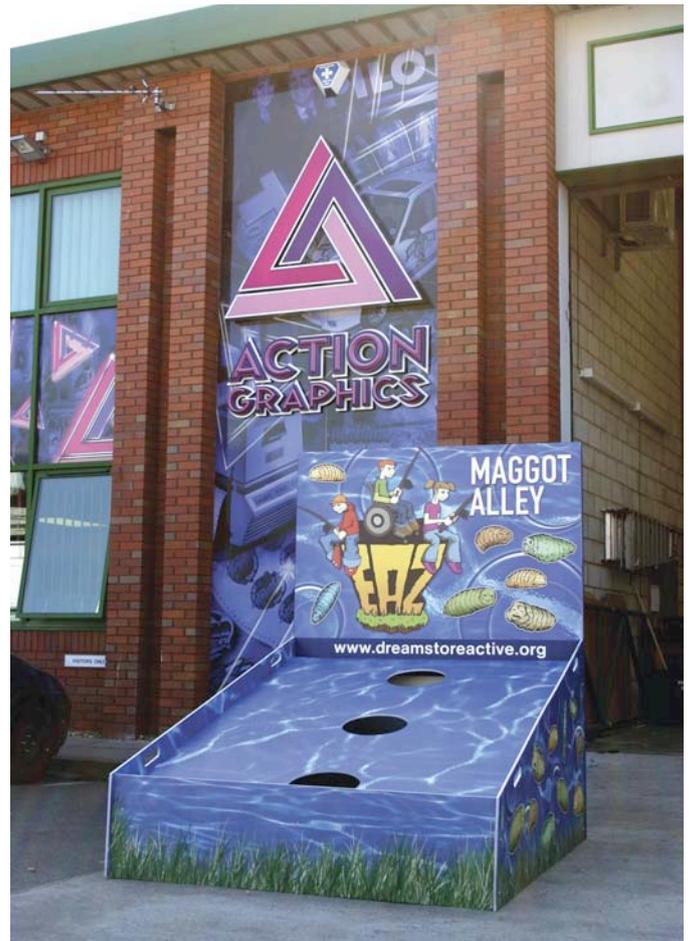
“Then I went to the sign show and saw a Graphix 4 machine, which had only just come out, on the Spandex stand. I was convinced it was the future, although not everyone thought so. I made what was a huge investment for me and signed a five-year lease on the very first Graphix 4,” says Dave.

Dave moved from his basement into a small industrial unit nearby and used the new Graphix 4 to concentrate on sign making.

“That investment in technology proved its worth and was the start of the business really taking off,” says Dave. “I’ve always been an early adopter of new technology. I purchased a digital printing capability in the early 1990s through an Encad NovaJet printer and was one of the first Gerber Edge users.”



These letters were sent to the Caribbean for a prestigious client.



Showing versatility, Action Graphics fabricated this fishing game, for an advertising agency.



Dave wrapped this car and travelled to Germany to support the England football team in the World Cup.

“But sometimes I’m a bit before time. When I first got a NovaJet, no one was interested, because there wasn’t enough technology in inks and substrates and customers didn’t really know what digital printing was. One of the best things that ever happened for us was when the well-known Fort Dunlop building, which had been closed, was decked out in scaffolding and huge digital images put up. We could say ‘have you seen Fort Dunlop’, they immediately knew what digital printing could offer and were impressed.”



Action Graphics made the Ozzy Osbourne plaque for the Walk of Fame on Broadstreet in Birmingham, which celebrates famous people from the area.

A steady addition of new services led to the business becoming a full service sign shop and another move to a larger site at Aston in Birmingham, bringing the entire operation under one roof.

Today, Action Graphics digitally prints, screen prints, router cuts, fabricates stainless and acrylic letters, wraps vehicles, and manufacture all types of signs and exhibition graphics from its 15,000 sq/ft factory.

The company has several long standing end-users as customers, and also completes a significant amount of digital printing and letter fabrication work for the trade, most of it from word of mouth.



Action Graphics produces all the vehicle livery for Team Eurotech in the British touring car championship. This trailer is 40ft long and holds three vehicles.



Action Graphics has completed several projects for the five star Villa Renaissance hotel group in the Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies.

Dave says: "I believe we are one of the most multi-skilled and flexible sign making companies in the Midlands. We employ more than 20 people with skills in all areas of signmaking and installation. We like a challenge and don't confine our skills just to one area of the trade. New technology alone doesn't lead to success; where others just print; we offer more and tend to do that bit extra."

Find out how Action Graphics could help your business by contacting Dave at dfoxall@action-graphics.co.uk, telephone 0121 242 4000, or go to the website www.action-graphics.co.uk

Infectious passion for signs at Accent Signs

Accent Signs Limited has been at the forefront of development for 26 years. In fact, says the company, many of the moulded products seen in the marketplace today originated through the innovation and expertise at Accent Signs Ltd, a compliment that others wish to emulate these great ideas. For instance, the Mirror finish letters in Accent Signs' Reflective range were developed to withstand all weather conditions. Originally in silver, and then extended to include colours, which now includes ruby, sapphire, and pewter, to name a few. Samples are available.

As a dedicated sign trade only supplier, Accent Signs' personnel are very aware of the requirements of their many prestigious clients, both large and small, and offer a highly confidential service, quality products and meet required delivery dates.

The business was started as a one-man band venture a few years ago by Nick Thomson, Managing Director, who has a passion for his trade, and is continually evolving and creating new products. This passion has been infectious and has since rubbed off on each and everyone of the team who have joined along the way to make the company a leading manufacturer of both moulded and flat cut products. Nick's son Matthew, Technical Director, joined the business on leaving school also "caught the bug" and shows the same creative flair for innovation as his dad. They don't see signage as a purely functional medium of communication but as an art form, they get truly excited when an idea transposes itself from inspiration to fruition.

With the arrival of LED illumination systems, the scope for lighting signage of all kinds has evolved at a fantastic rate. Being so durable, economical and having an excellent life, it fits perfectly with the range of an individual lettering specialist such as Accent Signs.





The company has also developed a system of illuminating both flat cut and moulded lettering, giving a similar effect as LEDs but using fluorescent tubes and at less cost. This system creates a single or multi-coloured halo effect, offering the end user more colour choice and it can be used in an existing light box or folded tray.

Accent Signs offers a huge range of colours both in acrylics and aluminium composites, keeping a daily check on stocks and new colours. The team of six are always available to offer advice on design and application whatever their clients' current project.

To request samples or for further information, tel. 0121 561 4600 or go to www.accent signs.ltd.co.uk



New name but same great products from KSUK

Based close to the motorway network around Birmingham, is **KSUK (formerly known as Kestrel Signs)**.

Since the 1980s Kestrel Signs has built up a reputation within the industry for a personal service, high quality sign fabrication, fast turnaround, dependable delivery and, most importantly, total confidentiality. In order to differentiate itself as a premier trade supplier of sign systems across the UK, Kestrel Signs embarked on a re-branding programme and is now known as KSUK.



Springflex's huge flexible faces signs are lighter yet stronger and require few fitters to install because the sign substrate takes up the precise torque instantly. Speed and efficiency go hand in hand with no maintenance in a Springflex system, there are no mechanics and the sign self adjusts to climatic changes.

New to the range and another first from Springflex, is Tetra PowerGrid, a LED large format lighting system for cabinet, box and monument signs.

This simple, pre-wired modular system installs incredibly fast and reduces installation labour and material costs. PowerGrid has a long life of up to 50,000 hours of consistent, controllable and brilliant light and it uses up to 75 per cent less power than traditional lightboxes.

Seemingly unstoppable in its growing popularity is Springflex 90, a bespoke non-illuminated slim tensioning frame that's a slim-line version of the springflex 190, which is used in all manner of corporate identity programmes and standard signage.

Designed for use with large and small digital printed media, Springflex 90's easy loading, quality finish ensures a smooth wrinkle free panel that enhances any imagery. Introduced as a result of customer requests, Springflex 90 is ideal for banner installations, such as around supermarkets, garage frontages and exhibition halls, or anywhere a banner needs to look smart and stay looking smart.

As KSUK partnerships grow, the company can also service contracts across Europe, Russia and the Middle East, with manufacturing to the same high quality but with dramatically reduced transport costs.

To discover the KSUK range, go to www.ksuk.co.uk or tel. 0121 783 0779.

As an independent trade sign supplier KSUK is able to offer stock components and ready assembled sign solutions at all price levels, providing sign makers and their clients with the widest possible choice from the best sign products on the market.

The company's expertise extends from illuminated sign-cases, architectural post/panel and flexible face signage to interior and exterior directory systems, and includes expert on-site support.

Springflex is KSUK's flagship product. It is a patented flex system, which requires no tensioning tools, and is designed to automatically provide the perfect tension every time. The company has made substantial investment into developing Springflex into a range of sign systems for all applications.

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Customer satisfaction top priority at Print Xpress

Print Xpress is a family run business, which has been established for over five years. The company started out in the print industry and then rapidly expanded into the signage industry.

Today Print Xpress has a strong foothold in their market share and have quickly become known as the natural market leaders in their area; this is due to the Quality of Service, Turnaround, Price and Products they offer. They are known to exceed the expectations of their customers by always under promising and over delivering.

They are constantly searching the market place for innovative signage and are always expanding the range they offer.



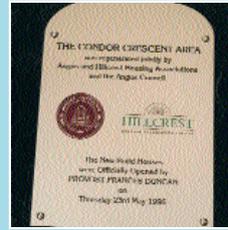
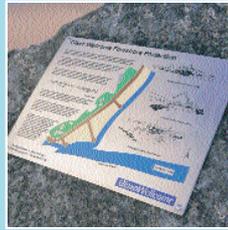
With the latest machinery, computer technology and infrastructure in place this allows Print Xpress to be very efficient and very competitive, with very short turnaround times. Customer satisfaction is the main priority at Print Xpress, you can rest assured you will receive total assurance that you are being well looked after.

Print Xpress offers a complete range of sign services and signage, from vinyl graphics to flat cut letters, and including built up lettering, led solutions, acrylic sheets mounted on standoffs, banners, printed wall paper, and wide format printing through to vehicle graphics.

The company has recently launched its new website, which gives further information on all the services and signage available.

Find out more by going to www.printxpress.net or emailing info@printxpress.net or telephone 0121 702 2225.





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- Sign Industries specialise in the production of fine engraved brass, bronze and stainless steel signs.
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Most metal is 3mm thick.

Surface areas range from matchbox sizes up to 2m diameters.

Comprehensive fitting packs, including masonry drills, are provided.

The company has full artwork facilities, and can easily work from a rough layout, incorporating logos and ornate work, as well as special shapes and fittings.

Any Pantone or BS colour can be matched.



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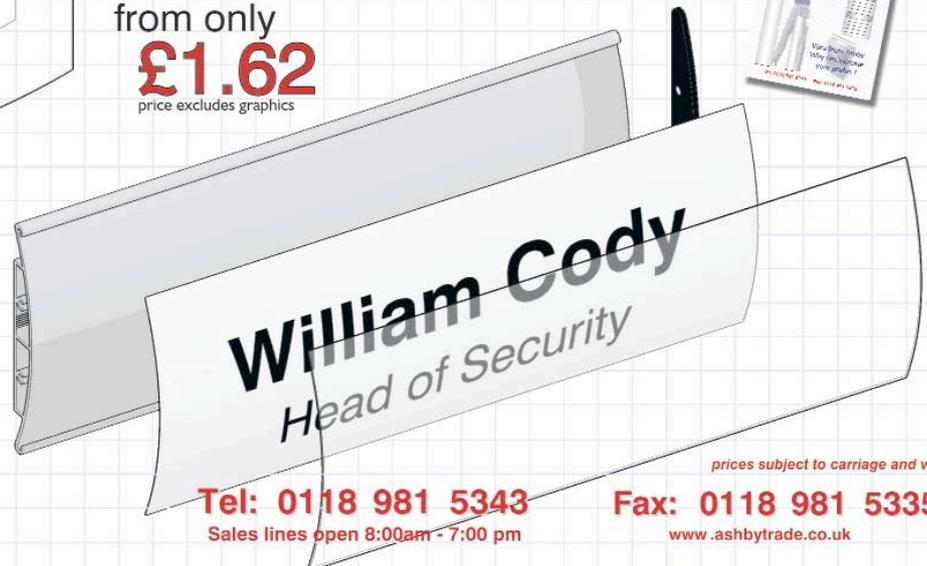
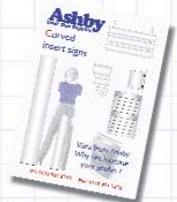


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APPOINTMENTS

Key appointments at Antalis Printall

Following the recent announcement of the merger of Antalis Visual Communications and McNaughton Printall; Antalis Printall are pleased to announce three key appointments to the team.

Tony Marshall, Divisional Director for Antalis Printall has a long history in the sign and display market, having worked in a variety of

sales and managerial roles at VT Graphics, Robert Horne Sign & Display and Paragon before joining McNaughton Printall in 2005.

Tony commented: "The merger will provide the customer with established brands from an enthusiastic team of people, a range and depth of stock to complement their everyday needs, with conversion facilities to rely on, a truly national business with local attitude."

Product Manager, Chris Green will be responsible for ensuring a range of leading brands are available to customers in the sign and display market. Chris also has a solid background in the industry over the last 16 years, having previously worked at Robert Horne and James McNaughton Paper before running the Printall Northern office and more recently being appointed Product Manager for large format digital, point of sale/screen products.

Colin Palazzo, Sales Director has worked with Antalis for over 14 years, the last three of which were spent as the National Sales Manager in the Visual Communications division. Colin commented: "We look forward to visiting our customers as one entity and selling our unique service and renewed product offer."

For further information call 01530 505153.



Left to right: Colin Palazzo, Chris Green, Tony Marshall.

Durst strengthens service team with appointment of senior technician

Durst is pleased to announce that Eddie Tucker has joined Durst in the UK as a senior service engineer.

Eddie, who will be based in the north of England, brings the total number of factory trained technicians covering all corners of the UK and Ireland, to eight.

Eddie joins Durst with a background of 18 years experience in a service role and is a very technical and highly qualified sales engineer. His experience includes working for some of the largest names in the industry as well as running a successful independent servicing organisation.

"I am very proud to have been able to join a company with such a strong reputation for excellent products and the highest levels of servicing expertise," said Tucker. "And now, having visited the factory for training purposes for a month, I can see why Durst UV printers have the reputation for build quality and reliability."



Eddie Tucker, Durst Senior Service Engineer UK.

Eddie has stated that, throughout his career, he has received training from manufacturers on new technologies and products which cover a whole host of disciplines including, wide format digital printers, electro mechanical equipment, UV and flatbed printers and computer software for large I.T. companies. For the last four years he has concentrated on wide and grand format printers specialising in colour consultation installations and account management.

For further information visit www.durst-online.co.uk

Luciana Velloso appointed Sales & Business Development Manager at Summa BVBA

Summa BVBA has announced the appointment of Luciana Velloso to the European Sales and Marketing Team. As Sales & Business Development Manager her responsibilities will include expanding Summa's business in Europe.

"Luciana has excellent knowledge and experience in the graphics & sign industry and Summa's wide product portfolio. She brings US-expertise in sales, marketing and logistics with her from our North America operations," said Geert Pierloot, European Sales & Marketing Manager.

Ms Velloso joined Summa in January 1998 as Latin America Sales Manager. She worked for Summa at different US locations and was responsible for the opening and general management of Summa's Eastern Division in Boston since January of 2000 to date. In January of 2008,

she was promoted to VP of International Business Development before moving to Europe. Ms Velloso has been working in the sign industry for over 15 years, and aside from Summa she has worked for major software companies and also an industry publication.

For further information on Summa products visit www.summa.eu



Luciana Velloso European Sales & Business Development Manager.



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Optima-1212 ARM Control System Sign making machine

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Puma-1212

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Saltwell Signs

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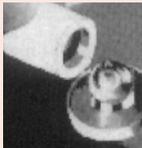
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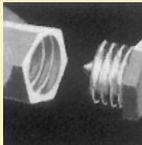
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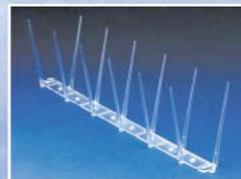
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Braintree Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0XX

Tel: 0208 841 4211

Ravensbridge Drive, Leicester, LE4 0BX

Tel: 0116 2624736

vulcascot.baz@btinternet.com

Vulcascot supplies a comprehensive range of plastic sheet materials including Quinn, Vulcacrly, Setacrlyl cast and extruded, Marlon, Foamalux foam PVC, PETG, Eurosign engraving, chalkboard compact laminates and a wide range of industrial laminates including phenolics, fire rated and high temperature. All available in full or cut to size. Full technical support.

ALKYD SCREEN PRINTING INKS

APOLLO COLOURS LIMITED

Unit E4, Kingfisher Business Park, Hawthorn Road, Bootle, Liverpool L20 6PF

Tel: 0151 922 5665

Fax: 0151 933 5667

sales@apollocolours.co.uk

www.apollocolours.co.uk

Our Gloss Enamel range is thinned with White Spirit and is suitable for Water-Slide Transfers, primed metals, wood and glass. Can be air dried or stoved. Gloss Enamel is available in 17 standard colours, plus matchings and varnishes.

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SIGN MAKERS PRODUCTS LTD

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Tel: 01508 531183

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Manufacturers of sign boxes, frames and display cases to the trade. Fast delivery.

ALUMINIUM SIGN BLANKS

ASHBY TRADE SIGN

SUPPLIES LIMITED

Unit 44, Youngs Industrial Estate, Aldermaston, Reading RG7 4PQ

Tel: 0118 981 5343

Fax: 0118 981 5335

Nationwide, trade only suppliers of aluminium sign blanks, aluminium and steel posts, caps, finials, clips and fixings, for delivery next day. Also sign trays, shaped tops, directory systems and finger posts. Call our experienced sales team for immediate quotations 8am - 7pm. full colour brochure available.

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61 Dykehead Street, Queenslie Industrial Estate, Glasgow G33 4AQ

Tel: 0141 774 5990

Fax: 0141 774 6653

sales@insightsignsystems.com

www.insightsignsystems.com

Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A variety of widths of signcase are available to accept stencil-cut aluminium panels (secured by bonding) for back-lighting.

APPLICATION TAPE

DORO TAPE (UK) LTD

1 Albany Court, Albany Road, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 7QP

Tel: 0845 165 1636/

01858 43164

Fax: 01858 466992

sales@dorotape.co.uk

www.dorotape.co.uk

Doro Tape offer a comprehensive range of application tapes that cater for almost all circumstances. With 3 different paper and 3 clear filmic application tapes, customers can choose from a variety of tack levels and qualities. Doro also supply the R Tape Conform application tape renowned for its superior adhesion to vinyl backing paper. A free roll slitting service and next day delivery is offered on all the application tapes plus a wide variety of application tools and accessories. Credit and debit cards accepted for non-account holders.

HEXIS UK LTD

70 Britannia Way, Britannia park, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9UY

Tel: 01543 411221

Fax: free 0800 0187 111

sales@hexis.co.uk

www.hexis.co.uk

Hexis can supply a comprehensive range of application tape from all leading manufacturers such as Hexis, Poli-Tape, R-Tape, Main Tape and American Blitrite. The Hexis range includes economy and premium paper and clear tapes. The PerfectTear range tears cleanly and the R-Tape conform series has a release liner adhesion system, so it lays flat and does not wrinkle or tunnel. A new digital application tape is available for solvent ink jet printed graphics. The complete tape range can be supplied slit to your requirements for same day despatch.

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Unit 11, Pipers Wood Industrial Park, Waterberry, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7XU

Tel: 0845 644 3129

Fax: 0845 644 3128

neil@hampshireflag.eu

www.hampshireflag.eu

Hampshire Flag's high quality and durable banner frames are easy to assemble and feature anodised aluminium finish and reinforced flush joints. Frames fit banners ranging from 5ft x 3ft to 30ft x 3ft.

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Unit 38, Hayhill Ind Estate, Barrow on Soar, Loughborough LE12 8LD

Tel: 01509 814380

Fax: 01509 814929

info@onestoppromotions.co.uk

www.onestoppromotions.co.uk

Huge stocks of steel banner frames, supplied with or without PVC or Mesh Banners. Easy to assemble, any size from 1.5m wide. Easy Pull banner systems. Heavy duty, hard wearing. TRADE PRICES - Call us for information. Also - Flags and Flagpoles, printed garments, pens, mugs, etc

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Fax: 0161 8 300 601

enquiries@midasignservices.co.uk

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Specialist's installers of Large format banners, Promotion, Pole and wall mounted, Multiple install, Rollout programmes. Nationwide Service. We can supply and install. Call for details.

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Fax: 01984 624515

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sales@boldscan.com

www.boldscan.com

Blank banners at trade prices. Heavy duty, matt lacquered, fire retardant PVC as standard. 27 colours now in stock. Up to 2920mm wide one piece in white only. Multi-coloured banners manufactured. Specialist banners - "Road Span Safety". Banner Frames - Freestanding and wall mounted. Banner Poles - Post & wall mounted. Main agents for Sign-A-Peel, the revolutionary new inkjet print medium. Quality with reliability in product and service

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www.dominionprint.com

JUMBO SCREEN - Banners, Oversize P-O-P, Hanging boards, Posters, Window Graphics, In-store Signage.

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DORO TAPE (UK) LTD

1 Albany Court, Albany Road, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 7QP

Tel: 0845 165 1646/
01858 43164

Fax: 01858 466992

sales@dorotape.co.uk

www.dorotape.co.uk

Doro Tape can provide quality blank banners on a 24/48-hour service at almost any size. The 650gsm heavy-duty banner fabric is an exterior grade PVC coated polyester. Its lacquered top face gives a glossier finish and stays cleaner for longer. The banners are all H/P welded, brass eyeleted, and flame retardant and are available in over 10 colours.

Doro Tape supplies the Ri-flex soft banner vinyl range from Ritrama in 20 colours, a must for all banner graphics. They also stock a budget banner on a roll at 610mm wide; plus a range of banner accessories such as banner frame kits, brass eyelets and rings, elasticised banner bungees and rope. Credit and debit cards accepted for non-account holders.

DRYTAC EUROPE LTD

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Tel: 0117 958 6500

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The Drytac banner stand range combines the best in design, functionality, quality and pricing. Contact Drytac to find out about the new eco-friendly bamboo Panda Stand™, an earth-friendly alternative to conventional display solution.

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www.contoursigns.co.uk

Held on the RNIB's list of manufacturers and suppliers we specialise in the design and in-house manufacture of Braille and tactile signage. A full range of standard and bespoke sign options are available to provide singular signs through to complete sign systems. All signs meet the requirements of the JMU/RNIB 'Sign Design Guide', the DDA (1995) 'reasonable adjustment' criteria and UK H & S guidelines. The extensive supply to many repeat trade customers, as well as end users, is testament to our excellent service.

MK DESIGN

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Tel: 01454 852802

Fax: 01454 852802

mark.rose@mkdesign.org.uk

www.mkdesign.org.uk

A superior quality service of consultancy, survey, design, manufacture and installation to a range of clients including RNIB, NHS, Local Authorities, universities and schools, charity organisations as well as the trade. The only sign company able to offer totally professional advice from a consultant who also works for the RNIB's JMU Access Partnership, ensuring that we are fully compliant to current RNIB, British Standard and DDA guidelines. A range of colours, styles, materials and frames and can be individual signs, whole sign systems or integrated into existing sign schemes.

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Tel: 0191 482 5555

Fax: 0191 491 0246

sales@saltwellsigns.co.uk

www.saltwellsigns.co.uk

Specialists in the manufacture of Photo-polymer Braille and Tactile signs. If required, these can be reverse decorated with full colour graphics and decorated in any colour. All custom made to fit your requirements. There is a 3 day service from placement of order to delivery. Contact us for your free brochure.

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TOUCHtype signs are the industry standard for Braille & Tactile Signs. Used by countless sign companies, local authorities, the Health sector and Blind associations throughout the UK, including the RNIB. Don't take chances in this specialist field of sign manufacture with inferior imitations. SmithBrewer offers you a highly competitive first class service from design, to manufacture, to delivery. A professional speedy reliable trade supply, with full technical backup and no quibble guarantee of satisfaction. Total product solution from one-off signs to complete sign programmes. Door signs, insert signs, interchangeable directories, tactile plans, and much more. Custom made to any specification.

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Fax: 01442 828922

sales@tradesignsuk.com

www.tradesignsuk.com

We offer a 24 hour service on flat laser cut lettering and logos in stainless steel 0.9mm - 3mm & Mild steel 0.9mm - 10mm, supplied with or without templates and locators/studs ready for you to install, quotations over the phone or by e-mail/fax. Call our Sales team today for that friendly prompt service you require.

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sales@fkmoore.co.uk

British manufacturers of Screw/Push-in type Brass Locator Nuts for the Sign and Shopfitting Industries. We also manufacture Coverhead Mirror Fasteners, either Disc, Dome, Conical or Mushroom shape in various finishes, in addition to the famous "Moore's Super Clips" mirror fixings.

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Fax: 01225 489710

mail@hphsigns.co.uk

www.hphsigns.co.uk

HPH Signs have patented the Armourbrite™ system which offers maintenance free signs indistinguishable from brass. There is no applied lacquer to break down and logos can be reproduced in fine detail.

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Fax: 01527 880 691

tis2000@netcomuk.co.uk

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Fax: 01274 774478

sales@applelecsign.co.uk

www.applelecsign.co.uk

Trade suppliers of quality 3D built up acrylic letters and logos, we offer colours and finishes from a variety of different sheet manufacturers. We also offer the built up letters with halo and / or face lit illumination from our award winning and cost effective LED range, please ask for an information pack or contact one of our friendly experienced sales staff for assistance. (flat cut lettering is also available).

AVENUE SIGNS LIMITED

216-222 Luton Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5BS

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Fax: 01634 841420

info@avenuesigns.co.uk

Specialists in Built up Perspex fabrication to your specification. Complete with neon / cold cathode and transformers. Supply or Installation service in the UK. CNC / Laser cut flat Perspex letters also supplied and / or fitted.

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graphics@centresigns.co.uk

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Built up Perspex and Acrylic Letters. Router work undertaken. Trade only service.

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Fax: 0117 925 1159

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TRADE SIGNS UK.COM

Unit D3, 78-80 Akeman Street, Tring, Herts HP23 6AF

Tel: 0870 240 2763

Fax: 01442 828922

sales@tradesignsuk.com

www.tradesignsuk.com

We offer a trade based service to sign companies all over the UK for there 3D built up acrylic lettering and logos, ranging from Neon illumination, LED illumination to No illumination. For quotes please contact our sales team by E-mail/Fax or Call our Sales team today for that friendly prompt service you require.

BUILT UP LETTERS METAL

AES (EST. 1972)

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Fax: 0117 952 0234

avon.engraving@btconnect.com

www.avonengraving.co.uk

Specialist manufacturers of built-up/flat cut letters, logos in stainless steel, brass, aluminium etc. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality, full design service. Prompt response to all enquiries.

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AVENUE SIGNS LTD

216-222 Luton Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5BS

Tel: 01634 841300

Fax: 01634 841420

info@avenuesigns.co.uk

Specialists in stainless steel letter fabrication sprayed to your specification. Neon and transformers, etc. also made to suit.

CENTRE SIGNS LIMITED

Alexander House, Iliffe Avenue, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5LH
Tel: 0116 271 4247

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Fax: 020 8760 0899

sales@hallmarksigns.co.uk

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For the very best quality built up letters and logos in brass, stainless steel and copper, finished to your specifications. Flat cut letters and logos profiled in all metals and plastics, complete with drawings and fittings. For a fast turnaround, competitive prices and a professional, reliable trade service - please give us a call.

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sales@icesigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of Built Up - Flat Cut - Rim and Return Letters and Logos in Stainless Steel, Aluminium, Copper and Brass. We also fit neon tube or LED modules within the Letters for face or halo illumination

KINGS PLASTICS LTD

The signbuild Centre, Kingsown House, Unity St, Bristol BS2 0HM
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Fax: 0117 925 1159

We supply Stainless Steel fabricated letters in polished, brushed or painted non illuminated or illuminated with leds for halo or rim and return face illumination.

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Fax: 0191 253 1118

sales@logotech-ltd.co.uk

www.logotech-ltd.co.uk

In our fully equipped metal department we produce high quality built up letters/logos in aluminium, stainless, brass and copper. Supplied to the trade nationwide, at a very competitive price. We also manufacture boxes, post signs, gantry signs, frames and panels, which can be finished to your specifications. We have our own in-house neon department and can supply you with the complete sign service, ready for you to install. Please see our advert in Neon Manufacturers (Trade).

SIGN MAKERS PRODUCTS LTD

Hawthorn House, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, Norfolk NR15 2XB
Tel: 01508 531183

Fax: 01508 531139

Manufacturers of sign boxes, frames and display cases to the trade. Fast delivery.

TRADE SIGNS UK.COM

Unit D3, 78-80 Akeman Street, Tring, Herts HP23 6AF
Tel: 0870 240 2763

Fax: 01442 828922

sales@tradesignsuk.com

www.tradesignsuk.com

We offer a trade based service to sign companies all over the UK for there 3D built up stainless steel lettering and logos, ranging from Neon illumination, LED illumination to No illumination. For quotes please contact our sales team by E-mail/Fax or Call our Sales team today for that friendly prompt service you require.

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FALON NAMEPLATES LIMITED

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Tel: 01670 530136

Fax: 01670 530102

enquiries@falon-nameplates.co.uk

www.falon-nameplates.co.uk

Manufacturers of plaques in bronze and aluminium, engraved signs/plates in various types of plastics and metals, together with chemically etched stainless steel and brass plates.

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Unit 18, Barton Hill Trading Estate, Bristol BS5 9TE
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Fax: 0117 955 7518

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www.metalline-signs.co.uk

Traditional manufacturers of cast bronze/cast aluminium lettering, commemorative plaques and street nameplates. Finished in either BMA or stove enamelled effect. Metalline also produce cast resin lettering and coats of arms.

CHEMICAL ETCHING

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Fax: 0117 952 0234

avon.engraving@btconnect.com

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The complete sign service. Engraved/etched screen printed, signs, nameplates, etc in all materials. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality. Full design service. Prompt response to all enquiries.

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Fine detail etching of brass and stainless steel. Engraving of all types of plaques, plates, labels and control panels in a wide range of materials. Acrylic fabrications and trophies. Full colour printing from labels to wide format.

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Chemical etching for the sign trade. We don't do anything else, just high quality etching. Because we are specialists we can offer design effects that nobody else can do. All our stainless steel is 316 marine grade, we don't use inferior grades, & our brass is Polished to the highest standards. We want your business so we will give you fast turnaround & excellent customer service to keep your business. Typical turnaround 3 - 5 days, quicker if required, just let us know.

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Fax: 0141 774 6653

sales@insightsignsystems.com

www.insightsignsystems.com

Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A range of external directional signs is available, ready to accept lettering. CAD drawings are provided with each quote, showing specifications.

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St Johns Works, Fern Street, Bury, Lancs BL9 5BP
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Fax: 0161 764 9600

info@signconex.com

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- Stax-i (interior) and Stax-x (exterior) reversible modular sign panel systems
- Scroll: Award winning display/menu case and notice board products
- Varitex: Traditionally styled exterior & interior display cases
- Signature: State-of-the-art showcase.

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Fax: 01934 852816

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.signscape.co.uk

Signscape are a trade only supplier of modular sign systems including Post & Panel, Infocurve, Papyrus, Infotex, Minislats and Timbertex. Other products include the coveted range of Lynester security notice boards as well as other display units which include Posterloc, Clipframes, the Helix slimline lightbox and Vision Box. To complete its extensive range of trade services, Signscape now have a special fabrication department capable of producing bespoke signage to your specification.

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mercphil@globalnet.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

Suppliers of moulded acrylic pans and logos up to 2800mm x 1500mm and other types of press and vacuum forming in PVC and HIPS. Specialists in fabricated plastics for POS displays with full screen print, graphics and CNC routing capabilities.

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project.plastics@btinternet.com

www.projectplastics.co.uk

Manufacturers of acrylic spheres, tubes, leaflet holders and window displays. CNC Routing

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- Varitex: Traditionally styled exterior & interior display cases
- Signature: State-of-the-art showcase. Non-standard sizes available
- Comprehensive range of insert and finish options for all products
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As well as being an official Perspex distributor, we stock a wide range of Display and Engineering Plastics, including: Perspex, Polycarbonate, Palight and SS50 Foam PVC's, Alu Panel and Hoarding Panel, EZ Frame Systems, Engraving Laminates, Polyethylene, Nylons, Acetal, Polypropylene, ABS and PVC.

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Easy change print frames and poster holders for all commercial and retail applications. Various styles including aluminium snap frames, low cost injection moulded frames, natural wood frames etc., all available in wall-mounted, suspended and free-standing versions. Call for our catalogue.

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Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A wide range of options is available for displaying posters and transparencies (panels not included), including back-lit or non-illuminated, wall mounted or free standing etc. Hinged opening front provides access for maintenance. Rubber gaskets and slam locks provide security. Suitable for outdoor use.

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- Signature: State-of-the-art showcase. Non-standard sizes available
- Comprehensive range of insert and finish options for all products
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Signscape are a trade only supplier of display units including the coveted range of Lynester security notice boards (internal and external), Posterloc, Clipframes, the Helix slimline lightbox and Vision Box. Other products include modular sign systems such as Post & Panel, Infocurve, Papyrus, Infotex, Minislats and Timberex. To complete its extensive range of services, Signscape now have a special fabrication department capable of producing bespoke signage to your specification.

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ACRYLIC (Perspex or Repsol - including gold and silver) (10mm: white black and clear)																NO MINIMUM ORDER	
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm	other sizes available on request
3mm	£0.61	£0.80	£0.93	£1.22	£1.46	£1.82	£2.42	£3.03	£3.28	£3.76	£4.61	£6.86	£8.37	£10.31	£12.49	£48.51	
5mm	£0.91	£1.15	£1.46	£1.82	£2.30	£2.79	£3.63	£4.48	£5.76	£6.31	£7.88	£9.70	£10.92	£13.94	£16.98	£66.71	
10mm	£1.83	£2.32	£2.91	£3.64	£4.61	£5.57	£7.28	£8.98	£11.53	£12.61	£15.77	£19.40	£21.83	£27.90	£33.96	£133.40	

FOAM PVC (all available sizes - 10mm & 19mm - available in white only)																NO MINIMUM ORDER	
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm	other sizes available on request
3mm	£0.42	£0.53	£0.85	£1.03	£1.14	£1.39	£1.57	£2.12	£2.42	£2.72	£3.03	£4.00	£4.85	£5.76	£7.88	£18.20	
5mm	£0.48	£0.72	£1.09	£1.46	£2.00	£2.30	£2.67	£3.15	£3.64	£4.37	£5.15	£6.07	£6.87	£8.00	£11.03	£30.32	
10mm	£0.85	£1.33	£1.70	£2.55	£3.52	£4.37	£4.98	£6.07	£7.28	£8.32	£9.34	£11.52	£13.34	£16.98	£21.59	£58.21	
19mm	£1.82	£2.55	£3.64	£4.24	£4.85	£6.67	£8.49	£9.41	£10.92	£12.42	£14.86	£16.98	£20.01	£23.05	£27.90	£78.83	

EXTERIOR MDF (MEDITE comes in its raw form for painting)																NO MINIMUM ORDER	
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm	other sizes available on request
6mm	£0.37	£0.85	£1.22	£1.63	£2.42	£2.60	£3.03	£3.81	£4.37	£5.22	£6.67	£9.46	£10.92	£12.37	£14.55	£43.66	
12mm	£0.91	£1.57	£1.94	£2.84	£3.88	£4.66	£5.46	£6.31	£7.52	£9.22	£10.31	£11.70	£13.94	£17.16	£19.40	£58.21	
18mm	£1.57	£2.42	£2.96	£4.06	£5.03	£6.18	£7.64	£8.61	£10.92	£12.42	£14.92	£17.10	£20.84	£21.83	£29.11	£87.32	

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE (Dibond, Alupanel)																NO MINIMUM ORDER	
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm	other sizes available on request
standard colours	£1.09	£1.52	£1.99	£2.55	£2.91	£3.39	£4.85	£5.70	£6.67	£7.28	£8.24	£9.70	£11.28	£15.77	£19.40	£60.71	
Chrome	£2.00	£2.55	£2.91	£4.28	£5.82	£7.01	£8.19	£9.46	£11.28	£13.79	£15.52	£17.56	£20.93	£25.76	£31.75	£98.25	
Brushed finish	£1.33	£1.70	£2.31	£2.86	£3.88	£4.67	£5.46	£6.31	£7.52	£9.22	£10.31	£11.70	£13.94	£17.17	£21.83	£65.49	

2mm 316 GRADE STAINLESS STEEL																MINIMUM ORDER £95	
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	other sizes available on request	
Satin Brush	£4.72	£5.09	£6.18	£7.10	£7.64	£10.74	£13.61	£16.01	£17.20	£19.01	£21.83	£31.11	£34.80	£43.65	£52.75		
Polished	£5.09	£5.49	£7.46	£8.00	£8.91	£12.19	£15.64	£17.10	£18.37	£21.83	£23.93	£33.59	£40.20	£47.48	£60.03		

PLEASE NOTE: All the above prices are subject to VAT at the prevailing rate. Prices are based on the capital letter height, even on lower case orders. All work carries a 2 YEAR WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE. All materials carry the manufacturers warranty.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- Add 10% to above prices if plastic locators and paper template are required
- Add 10% for VHB tape to rear
- Add 25% to price if soldered brass locators and paper template are required (Stainless steel only)
- Add 20% to price list if the typeface is extended
- Add 25% to price list if a template is required for cladding (*cladding gaps will be required*)
- Add 25% to price list for Flame Polished Edges (*clear acrylic only*)
- Add 25% to price list for Gloss Finish Foam PVC
- Add 25% to price list for a rounded or 45° edge to letter
- Additional locators** Bag of 250(M) 250(F) locators large: £51 small: £37 (100% uv stabilised)
- Additional Glue** 500ml of Adhesive £23

CARRIAGE

£11.50 on all orders up to £60
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DISCOUNTS ▶	3% DISCOUNT on all orders over £200	4% DISCOUNT on all orders over £300 plus FREE carriage	5% DISCOUNT on all orders over £500 plus FREE carriage
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