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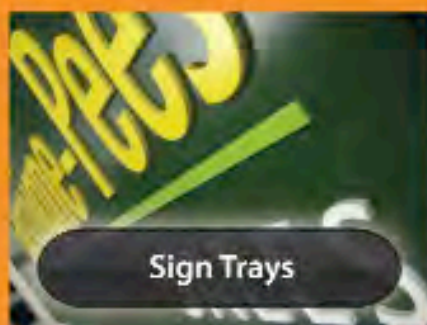
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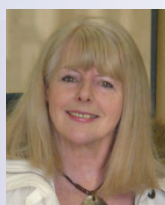
Published by **SignUpdate** Ltd

www.sign-update-magazine.co.uk

Allens Orchard, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 1LX.

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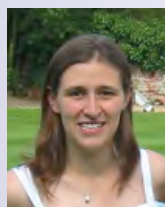
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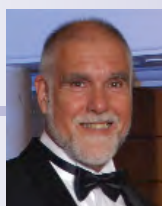
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Subscriptions - Annual subscriptions are £14.00 including postage and packing • Europe €28 • Rest of world £28

Send Cheques and postal orders made payable to Sign Update Ltd to:

Subscriptions Department, Sign Update Ltd., Allens Orchard, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxon OX17 1LX

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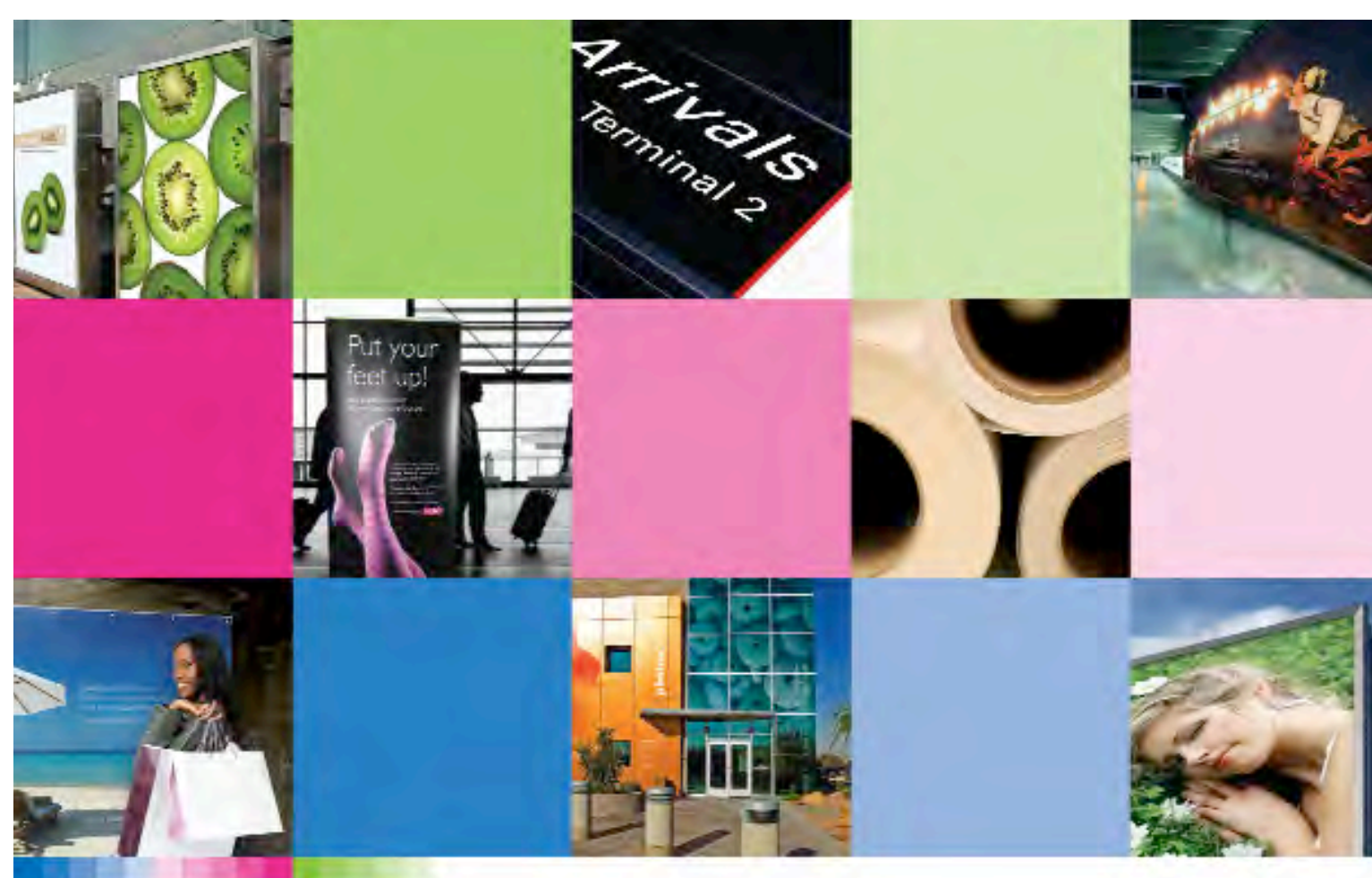
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WELCOME *Page*

Well done Val

This issue I have given up my Welcome Page to Beverly Riding who, by the time this magazine comes out, will be in her new retirement career. This leaves me very little room to have my say.

Firstly, may I congratulate Val Hurst on receiving an award at this year's annual Sign Awards Dinner, which was held in September.

In this issue we have a feature on the Devon Sign maker and in our January issue we are running a similar feature on the Middlesex signmaker. As I asked the Devon sign makers, I am now asking the sign makers of Middlesex to send in some of their work in order that we can share this with our readers.

I will now let Beverly finish of my page, and like all women you give them page four and they then take page six as well! Don't ask me who the picture is at the bottom of the page as I have no idea, it's one of Bev's.....

Roger Hinchliffe

Beverly Ridings new career

Beverly is taking early retirement from MACTac after 27 years! But is she going to sit in her two-up two-down, with a black cat, rocking in a chair, drinking cocoa, watching the tele whilst knitting? No! She is leaving MACTac to develop a photographic business with her partner Mark.

MARK IN TIME Photography is to specialise in Event photography (abseils, water sports, dog agility, corporate events...). He has kitted out a van so that images can be transmitted directly from the camera to the van for viewing and purchase on the day of the event. The other specialisation is in pet (dog) photography – with a difference! This is "Action Dog" photography where photos are taken in a natural environment - in water, over jumps, running through the grass, playing with toys or just posing!

Beverly commented, "I joined MACTac in 1981 first of all as a temp then I was taken on as PA to the Managing Director – some of you may remember Terry Hamilton. This was in the days of golf ball typewriters, stencils and retyping maybe a whole page every time there was a typographical error....nightmare! The most notorious error was a letter sent out inviting a customer to "joint" Terry Hamilton for lunch!!!! The customer politely declined! Telex was the innovative means of communicating with colleagues in Belgium and the U.S. and then the fax was introduced – so the duties and skills of a secretary were well in demand.

Then the age of the computer came marching in and men learned to type (albeit with 2 fingers) and gradually as IT became more and more advanced, there was less and less need for secretarial skills – even for filing!

....continued on page 6



WELCOME *Page*

Beverly Ridings new career?

....continued from page 5

So what was going to happen to Beverly? I was getting bored with being a secretary anyway. Well, Terry saw all of this at a time when the Marketing Department within MACtac U.K. needed to be developed. Terry thought marketing would be perfect for me and so I was recruited into the Marketing Department and ordered to go to college to get my marketing degree. Everyone has a mentor in their lives, someone who believes in you and sees potential in you and Terry Hamilton was just that for me. Anyway, I did get my marketing degree – often taking out my books after the children had gone to bed and working until 2.00 and sometimes 3.00 in the morning!

I worked as Marketing Co-ordinator until John Dewis left MACtac to get married and live in the West Country. I was then given the opportunity of taking over as Marketing Manager and have been in the fortunate position of seeing the visual communications market grow and develop. I am still amazed at the imaginative and innovative ways that self-adhesive material is used to convey promotional and advertising messages and for decorative purposes.

I have enjoyed my time at MACtac, meeting and dealing with all the characters within the Industry. It will seem strange to get up and not have to rush to go to work (my colleagues will tell you I am rather tardy when it comes to getting motivated first thing in the morning and regular contacts know not to ring me until I have had my first cup of coffee). However, my black lab Bunty (I did not give her that name) will be delighted! I usually get a reproachful look as I am rushing out the door!



So now it's time for me to say goodbye, it has been a pleasure! If you ever need the services of a photographer please think of me! Go and have a look round our website www.markintimephotography.com (recently launched) and you may even like to post a message on our guestbook.

Take care all of you and I wish you all every success in whatever you do.....now where did I put that lead, Bunty come on, "walkies"!

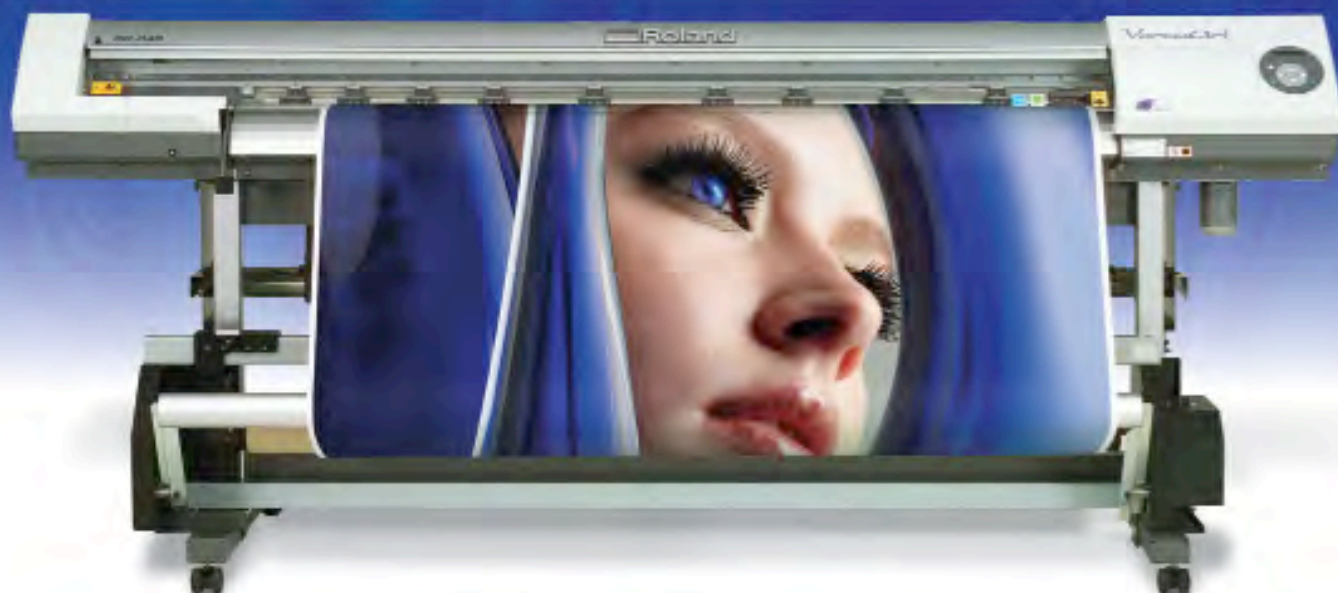
Beverley

The *new* Roland RS-640 - Changing the Rules

Once in a while a printer comes along and changes the rules.
The first wide format printers did it. The first solvent printers did it.

Roland does it more than most. Print & Cut. Durable eco-solvent ink.
Powerful RIP included free as standard. Rock solid Roland reliability.

With the launch of the new RS-640, Roland has just changed the rules once again. The RS is a fast, compact and durable 64" wide printer - at a price that leaves the competition in the dust.



NEW Roland RS-640

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Mimaki expands award winning 'sign & graphics' systems

Hybrid Services Limited is pleased to announce the launch of a new range of integrated Printer-Cutters from Mimaki Engineering Co Ltd, a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting machines for the sign/graphics, industrial and textile/apparel markets.

The line-up consists of four models at various widths starting with a 60cm wide unit, moving up to an impressive 1.6M. In full, the range comprises of 60cm (24") CJV30-60, 100cm (39") CJV30-100, 130cm (51") CJV30-130 and 160cm (63") CJV30-160. This CJV30 series is designed by uniting Mimaki's legendary and state-of-the-art inkjet and cutting technologies to deliver a range of products that they believe will outperform anything within its class.

Following the widespread adoption of the solvent inkjet printer, various solutions for contour cutting of printed materials have been proposed. Mimaki has an established solution for consecutive contour cutting using the JV33 series printers and the CG-FXII Series cutters with the continuous registration mark detection function. The system is widely used for decals, vehicles, stickers & labels, POP displays and T-shirt decoration.

The new Mimaki CJV30 series is an integrated print and cut device that will automatically contour cut without any steps in between. Furthermore, it delivers a seamless workflow based upon Mimaki's long experience and expertise in print and cut. The integrated device fits in small office spaces and comes at an affordable price. Customers who have limited room and budget can now use Mimaki's sophisticated print and cut technology for contour cutting. The 60cm (24") CJV30-60 has many applications but is especially suitable for retailers to make sales promotional displays.

"Hybrid don't underestimate the significance of this product launch. Based on already successful solutions, Mimaki offers greater choice ranging from small to large format solutions for it's customers in order to expand their business opportunities.

"The Mimaki CJV30 series is a powerful tool for them to express their creativity in a wide variety of print and cut applications," says John de la Roche, National Sales Manager at Hybrid.

The CJV30 series uses Mimaki's fast drying SS21 solvent ink, enabling it to execute contour cuts soon after printing without ink lifting. In addition to this, the newly developed Auto Change Clamp Pressure function sets clamp conditions for print and cut to fit a wide variety of media. It can be set from the RIP software and switched automatically. Printing requires several pinch rollers to securely hold the media in place while cutting needs two pinch rollers - although wider media typically requires the use of three. Clamp pressure from each pinch roller can be set in from the RIP in four stages (strong, medium, weak and off) according to the type of media type and switched automatically. This function eliminates user errors and allows for long and continuous operation without manual intervention.

The Continuous Registration Mark Detection function can deliver high productivity even when lamination is required. When substrates are re-set for lamination after printing, an optical sensor enables automatic consecutive detection of registration marks thereby enabling precise contour cutting by aligning each image automatically.

As described, in either case of cutting functionality soon after printing or by re-loading media after printing for lamination, long time consecutive contour cutting is made possible, shortening job turnaround times.

The Mimaki CJV30 series uses state-of-the-art technologies already employed in the JV33 series.

The White Ink Overlay Print function uses high density white ink and offers simultaneous white and full colour printing. It creates vivid full colour images on both opaque and transparent substrates. This expands Mimaki's range of applications for print & cut.

With Mimaki's UISS (Uninterrupted Ink Supply System), the machine can utilise two cartridges per colour in 4-colour mode for continuous printing. When one ink cartridge runs out, the second "stand-by" cartridge takes over and helps prevent running out of ink. Ink cartridges can also be changed "on the fly". These functions make the CJV30 series unsurpassed as a productive solution.

To achieve high quality print and cut using the above new technologies, Mimaki's original RIP software: Raster LinkPro4 SG and plug-in cutting software for CorelDraw and Illustrator Mimaki FineCut are packaged with the system. The other packaged application software Simple Studio can create print & cut data to generate stickers with ease.

The Mimaki CJV30 series will be available through Hybrid's specialist network of authorised resellers.

For further information contact Hybrid on Tel: 01270 501900 or visit www.hybridservices.co.uk



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Designed to cut with perfection – whatever the media

A new range of high performance plotters has just been released – Graphtec's FC8000 Series.

The FC8000s combine new features and enhanced software to provide both greater versatility and improved cutting performance on a wider than ever range of media.

One significant innovation is the ability to kiss cut and die cut in one action, ideal for producing perfect labels of almost any size or shape.

Another major benefit is the Dual Configuration Function, meaning two operators can save their customised settings on a single machine. Each user just logs in under their name and the individual's settings are available immediately.

Using these new plotting cutters has been made simpler and more intuitive in other ways too. Operators can now control functions direct from their computer, thanks to the enhanced Cutting Plotter Controller software, which also enables tool conditions and further information to be saved and shared with other users. If operators need to make adjustments at the machine itself, they now have the advantage of a clear and easy to use 3" control panel.

The FC8000s feature the next generation of Graphtec's proprietary ARMS (Auto Registration Mark Sensor) system, which automatically compensates for more distortions by utilising four point axis alignment rather than the usual two or three. The latest development included is an additional sensitivity adjustment for metallic and other highly reflective media to ensure all registration marks are recognised.

The suitability of the FC8000s for top end production on a diverse range of media is further strengthened by the inclusion of a wider range of pressure settings, standard on the larger machines. This extra feature also eliminates the problem of delicate media suffering slight indentations that can occur from the middle pinch roller on other cutters.

In addition to USB 2.0, RS-232 Serial ports, a new Ethernet option allows one computer to run multiple FC8000s.



The FC8000-60 high performance cutting plotter.

There's a choice of five cutting widths, from 24-64 inches (610mm-1625mm), and all are finished to a high standard in the company's smart new black colour.

"These FC8000s are high performance cutting plotters that really do cut it all," says Phil Kneale, Sales and Marketing Director for Graphtec (GB). "New media is being developed all the time and the FC8000s are designed and built to cut equally superbly with many different materials."

For further information or to arrange a demonstration, go to www.graphtecgb.com or telephone 01978 666700.



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19mm available in white only

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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
1200mm	£16.98	£28.09	£53.15	£72.12

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acrylic

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height	3mm	5mm	10mm
50mm	£0.56	£0.85	£1.71
75mm	£0.74	£1.08	£2.17
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

3mm Aluminium Composite

colours, brushed or mirror

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

no minimum order

exterior mdf

Mdfite 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	1.5mm not polished	1.5mm polished	3mm not polished	3mm polished
50mm	£3.21	£3.45	£4.28	£4.60
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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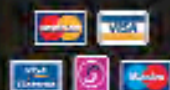
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flat cut letters



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SignTrade Letters launches 'Off-the-Peg' ChromaSign Letters

SignTrade Letters Ltd, the North London-based manufacturer, has announced the launch of two ranges of ready-made stock ChromaSign letters. Until now, ChromaSign lettering has been available only as a bespoke item, made to special order.

Cheaper and quicker delivery times are two of the benefits plus all the advantages that come from the appeal and durability of real chrome lettering. The letters come in upper and lower case Helvetica Bold and upper case Times New Roman in sizes from 6", 9", 12" and 15 inches. Fully warranted for outdoor use, these letters add a different look from standard stainless steel letters.

"We have already been selling the stock letters even prior to the launch, such is the interest in this product, which is now available within 7-10 days," said Richard Woolff, SignTrade's Managing Director.

SignTrade, a BSGA member, also produce LED

lighting for letters as well as brand-leading moulded and flat-cut letters. All products are manufactured at its London factory.

For further information about SignTrade Letters Ltd, call 0500 456700 or visit www.signtrade.co.uk



SignTrade Letters has launched off-the-peg real chrome letters in its Chromasign range.

New MACtac® StreetRap film for concrete and asphalt applications

MACtac® StreetRap is an 85µ white matt calendered PVC film coated with an aggressive clear acrylic adhesive. It is designed for outdoor sidewalk and parking lot floor graphics and sticks to flat or slightly rough pedestrian traffic surfaces like concrete and asphalt.

MACtac® StreetRap helps advertisers exploit new sites to display their messages such as trade shows, retail outlets, public buildings, schools, convention centres, sport and entertainment venues.

It also allows sign makers and event organisers to make safety and directional signs more visible at an acceptable price.

The outdoor durability of graphics printed on MACtac StreetRap is three months for pedestrian traffic on smooth surfaces, when protected with MACtac® Permaflex PF 6300 and StreetRap Protect textured overlaminating films that exceed ASTM D2047 norm for slip resistance.

MACtac® StreetRap is available from MACtac® authorised distributors.

More information is available from MACtac Subsidiaries or at www.mactacdigital.com



The MACtac StreetRap designed for floor graphics.

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Three in one aluminium composite processing solution from AXYZ Automation (UK)

Described as the leading fabrication system for aluminium composite and metal composite materials, PANELBuilder from AXYZ Automation (UK) has evolved from years of testing and field interaction with fabricators of ACM/MCM. The system provides an all-embracing three in one panel processing solution, comprising a specially configured large-format CNC routing machine and a dedicated software program to simultaneously groove, drill and profile-cut single or multiple sheets of material used, typically, in building cladding and large-format sign and display applications.

The dedicated AXYZ PANELBuilder system can be configured to handle all standard ACM/MCM sheet sizes involving processing areas of up to eight x two metres. Key design features include a triple Z tooling arrangement (complete with three five horsepower router spindles), an automatic tool mister/coolant facility for machining plate aluminium, pop-up location pins for material alignment and a powerful vacuum hold-down system to firmly secure sheets during the routing process. Waste generated during this process is safely removed through a chip-extraction system complete with an automatic vacuum extraction manifold.

The supporting PANELBuilder software includes both 2D and enhanced 3D design and layout capabilities for more complex panel processing requirements,

in addition to precise panel nesting to maximise sheet utilisation and automatic tool path creation. Once a panel cyanotype has been created, it can be saved with parametric values for recall at any time. Panels can be easily created by changing the dimensions of the design, adding these to the job schedule and finally nesting onto the materials to be processed using the software's powerful nesting solution. Significantly, PANELBuilder software is supplied loaded with many usable existing panel designs to help start-up and accelerate panel processing. It will also link with and enhance existing software programs to increase the ability to create panel blanks for ACM façade systems.

The system is supported with a comprehensive range of specially designed cutting tools and accessories to accommodate multiple panel processing requirements. These include tools to profile materials in a thickness of between three and six millimetres, those that will provide the required fold angle and bend radius and specially configured tool options for the processing of exotic materials.

The PANELBuilder system is backed by a comprehensive training programme to ensure the benefits are fully understood and maximised by operatives, together with ongoing technical support from the AXYZ team of dedicated engineers.

For further information, visit www.axyz.co.uk or by telephone on 01902 375 600.



The purpose-built AXYZ CNC triple-head 5018 PANELBuilder router.

SOLID MOULDED RESIN LETTERS

LARGE BEVEL



'V' SECTION



STEPPED



SMALL BEVEL



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Prices above are based on standard gloss white finish, unit length five foot or over, complete with electrics, fixing bracket etc (no hidden extras). See below for costs for other available finishes, and set prices for units up to 4' long. Please note that delivery is free on orders over £100. For orders under this amount, a delivery charge of £15 is applicable. Please enquire for other terms and conditions.

Highlight T5 Budget Pricing

	Fluorescent		L.E.D.	
	UP TO 4' LONG	5' LONG AND OVER	UP TO 4' LONG	5' LONG AND OVER
MATTE FINISH	£50.00	£9.50/foot	£60.00	£12.35/foot
GLOSS WHITE FINISH	£55.00	£10.00/foot	£65.00	£13.00/foot
SATIN BLACK FINISH	£58.00	£12.00/foot	£73.00	£15.60/foot

Did you know...?

Insight offers many different made to measure services to the sign trade, including:



TROUGH LIGHTING
LED'S
SIGN BOXES
POSTER CASES
FLEX CASES
POST AND PANELS
MONOLITHS
FINGER POSTS
FABRICATED LETTERS
FOLDED SIGN PANELS
...and much more

Please see our extensive web site for information on these and other products and services in our range.

HEXIS launches new matt cast laminate

Hexis, the French vinyl film manufacturer recently launched its new line of cast laminates at the autumn VISCOM shows in Paris and Frankfurt.

Vehicle wraps can now achieve a perfectly glare-free effect with a new matt laminate.

The PC30M2 is a 30µm matt cast laminate designed for use on cast vinyls, both printed and full colour, destined for applications on complex curved and corrugated surfaces. In response to the current demand on the vehicle wrap market for matt paint-like finishes, this new laminate is going to enable wide-format digital printers and installers to follow the trend for matt details and accents and thus differentiate and widen finishing techniques.

The new glare-free laminate offers a smooth, uniform surface and thus opens new creative options beyond conventional fleet markings with a true matt finish for eye-catching graphics. New finishing possibilities and easy viewing (and photographing) from any angle - outdoors and under artificial lighting conditions. Installers will benefit from its excellent performance, superior conformability, convenient application and improved productivity. The thin 30µm laminate will make installation of digital prints and full colour vinyl both on flat and curved substrates easier and more efficient.

For ease of use and durability the PC30M2 features a sturdy 145g/m2 release liner combined with the proven clear acrylic solvent based adhesive with UV-filter ensuring efficient protection against colour fade and environmental aggressions. The PC30M2 has an outdoor durability of three to five years depending on the substrate and is available in rolls 1370mm (54in) wide and 10m, 50m or 200m long.

The new laminate is an addition to Hexis' successful range of cast vinyl media and is the ideal complement to the Hex'Press series of digital printing media with structured adhesives.

Hexis manufactures a full line of graphic vinyl and digital printing media used for sign making and vehicle markings. The company owns two manufacturing sites and exports 40% of its turnover to over 40 countries, while enjoying sales of EUR 34 million in 2007.

The company is based in Frontignan, near Montpellier, France and has subsidiaries in Germany and in California, USA with affiliate Hexis companies in Italy, the Netherlands and the UK.

For further information visit www.hexisgroup.com



The glare free matt laminate produces eye-catching vehicle graphics.



Making the signs of today the signs of tomorrow

Ever mindful of their customer's needs and commitment to environmental best practice, Fitzpatrick Woolmer offer an alternative to timber and metal sign displays in the shape of 100% recycled plastic.

Manufactured from reclaimed materials, including parts from electrical goods, plastic cups and fast food containers, these signs are not only made from recycled plastic but can be fully recycled at the end of their life.

Recycled plastic is machined and assembled in exactly the same way as wood, requires no maintenance and is guaranteed rot free. Its versatility allows the recreation of their standard range of timber sign displays, including lecterns, entrance signs, waymarking and finger posts, without altering tried and tested production methods.

For further information contact Fitzpatrick Woolmer on 01634 711 771 or visit www.fwdp.co.uk

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OFF THE SHELF SOLUTIONS FOR TODAY'S FAST PACED SIGN MARKET

1. OPEN SIGN

Striking visual performance which would give any shop instant recognition in the high street. This piercing blue LED unit gives the choice of being permanently on or with the simple press of a button turns into a flashing/chasing sign which no one will miss. Supplied boxed, complete with 2 metres of chain, hooks, cable with plug and cable ties.

2. STEAMING COFFEE CUP

With the eye catching steam effect from this OPEN SIGN potential customers would be under no doubt that hot liquid refreshments await them within. Ideal for high street cafés and eateries and is supplied boxed with 2 hooks for window hanging, 2 metres of chain, cable with plug and cable ties.

3. BARBERS OPEN SIGN

Complete with rotating barbers pole this unique unit will prove to be a must for the Barbers shop who want to get noticed. A simple press of a button changes the unit from an illuminated window sign to a flashing open unit that will not fail to attract. This attractive sign is available boxed complete with hooks for hanging, 2 metres of chain, cable, plug and cable ties.

4. ILLUMINATED POSTER UNITS

Super slim single sided illuminated units for displaying transparencies and posters in all internal applications. These attractive units with a depth of only 25mm are ideal for use where an easy change advertising poster is required and comes boxed complete with protective clear acrylic front, all electrics and 2 metres of cable. Available to suit poster sizes 60" x 40" - 1524mm x 1016mm and 40" x 30" - 1016mm x 762mm.

5. CIRCULAR LIGHT BOX

At 450mm in diameter this exterior aluminium projecting box is complete with electrics, moulded pans, stand off bracket and 3 metres of flex. Powder coated to a silver finish the unit is perfect for that something "different" look. All the signmaker needs to do is apply graphics and fit! Box packed these units are a must for the shelf of all signmakers who are frequently asked for speedy turn-around on high street signage.

6. HEAVY DUTY SPRING UNIT

This double sided aluminium pavement sign incorporates a sturdy base which can be weighted for extra stability, the unit is fitted with wheels for ease of positioning and is complete with a rapid poster change facility. Posters are protected from the elements with a clear acrylic panel.

7. A-BOARD PAVEMENT SIGN

This ever popular free standing aluminium unit incorporates a snap frame for poster retention and folds away for easy storage. A clear acrylic panel ensures posters are protected from water making the unit a perfect way for shopkeepers to economically inform their potential customers of their wares!

Nova Aluminium are suppliers of NovaCase, NovaSlim, NovaFlex, NovaTrim, NovaBeam and Pole & Plank

NOVA
ALUMINIUM SYSTEMS

The proof is in the print - and the durability

The commercialisation of the flatbed digital printer has brought with it the opportunity to print on practically any substrate. However, this does not guarantee a long-term performance as the digital print inks will not key to every substrate the same. When printing on the principal sign substrates such as aluminium composite, digital printers require a material that will not simply print but will produce vibrant and long-lasting images with far less fading, especially when subject to the vagaries of the UK weather.

Alupanel® Digital is a new aluminum composite panel that delivers on both fronts according to manufacturer Multipanel and supplier, Perspex Distribution.

Alupanel® Digital is the product of 12 months development with a special coating for vastly improved ink adhesion. Developed in tandem with Alupanel® Digital Plus, which has the ability to be formed post-print, without detriment to the printed colour or image, the Alupanel® Digital range clearly demonstrates tremendous durability. With a majority of aluminum composite panels going to outdoor applications, "durability was the key driver in developing this product" according to Multipanel's UK Managing Director, Andrew Cock.

With a completely flat, white surface, the Alupanel® Digital sheet also provides the ideal base for direct digital printing. That said the print performance of any substrate can be further enhanced through the process of profiling. Recognising this, material supplier to the print sector, Perspex Distribution have decided to offer the Alupanel® sheet to their customers with a free of charge, bespoke ICC profile.

Gary Henton, Product Development Manager at Perspex Distribution explained that the company has always been about colour. "Colour and quality are synonymous with the Perspex® name and helping our customers to achieve high definition, high visibility print with accurate colour just seems like a natural extension to what we do."

Detailing the profiling process, Henton explained that "initially, we have our customer print a colour chart with known amounts of CMYK. The colour patches printed are then measured using a spectrophotometer, an instrument that measures colour in almost exactly the same way as the human eye interprets it. The results achieved from the printer-ink-Alupanel® combination are then recorded, including the density, colour and fluorescence of the ink. Working from these measurements and adjusting the settings towards a known reference or input profile, a CMYK reference library is established. This is the ICC output profile that we supply to the printer on a USB which can be easily uploaded to the printer's RIP."

The profiled Alupanel® sheet then has the added benefit of reducing or even eliminating the need for time consuming and expensive make-ready's with accurate and repeatable colour achieved from the first print to the last. This ensures that the Alupanel® Digital sheet not only works in helping to achieve vibrant, longer-lasting images but also works just as well to increase the efficiency of the printer.

For further information visit www.perspexdistribution.com or www.multipaneluk.com



The Alupanel® sheet special coating provides improved ink adhesion.

Simplex

LIMITED



built up lettering

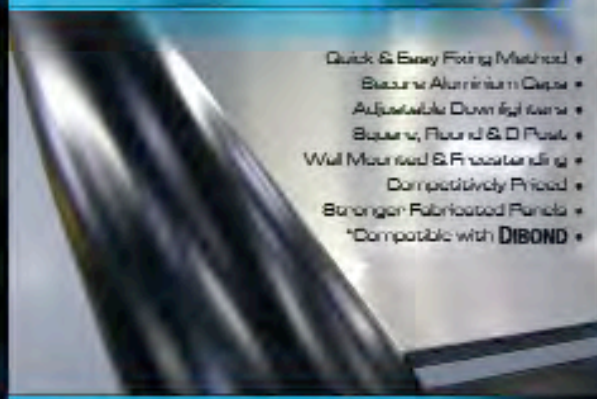
1



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*Agencies & Contractors can specify DIBOND as the preferred sign material.

2

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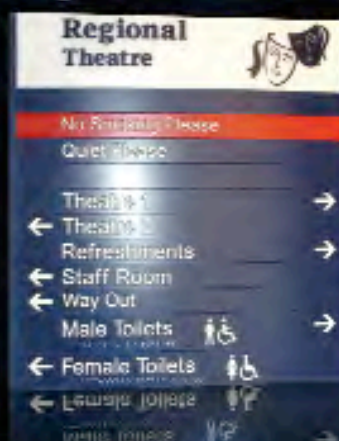
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"bespoke systems"



"your ideas into reality"

System 4



"range of interior systems compatible with braille & tactile"

4

4 great sign solutions from Simplex.

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www.simplexltd.com

Penloc Multi-Fix a new generation of adhesive technology

The demands put upon sign makers to produce ever more technically complicated signage to meet the demands and expectations of their clients can at times seem very frustrating and even daunting. The health and safety implications of components used in the making of the sign and the environmental impact they may have or cause are all considerations, especially for the larger corporate customers, councils and public sector organisations.

Eurobond Adhesives Ltd are one of the leading suppliers of adhesives to the signage industry and prides itself on providing high tech solutions to their customers ever changing needs. Penloc Multi-Fix is the latest addition to our range of structural adhesives available to the signmaker. It is a single component polymer hybrid adhesive that will bond most metals, plastics, wood, concrete, brick and glass in any combination.

Penloc Multi-Fix is non-hazardous and non-flammable. It has no odour and is environmentally friendly. It demonstrates very high strength characteristics but remains flexible enough to tolerate thermal extremes, vibration and shock. Penloc Multi-Fix is specified by many councils and local authorities throughout the UK in the manufacture and installation of signage and is widely used by thousands of metal fabricators throughout Europe. It is resistant to water, salt water, UV light and most common oils, solvents and chemicals.

Penloc Multi-Fix has been designed to hold unsupported components such as signage against a vertical plane, soffit or wall soon after application and will gain an initial grab in just 30 minutes allowing you plenty of time to ensure correct alignment etc.

Penloc Multi-Fix is available in 290ml mastic type cartridges and can be dispensed using a heavy duty mastic gun.

For more information on how Multi-Fix can help you please contact our sales team on 01795 427888.



Mutoh Europe releases two house rip solutions: “Grip” and “Grip+”



Belgium-based wide-format inkjet printer and cutting plotter manufacturer Mutoh Europe nv has announced the availability of two “House RIP” solutions, called Grip & Grip+, as an addition to its existing range of Mutoh Edition RIP software. The new Grip and Grip+ solutions for PC and MAC users have been developed by Mutoh Europe in cooperation with the France based RIP developer Caldera Graphics. The new RIP software has been specifically tuned to Mutoh’s entire wide format digital printer and sign cutting plotter portfolio.

Grip is an integrated desktop print solution that provides in an easy interface all that is needed to drive a Mutoh large format printer.

Grip has a fast preview to let the user check his file. Before printing, the user can swiftly crop, rotate, resize or enhance colours. Whether used for processing PostScript, PDF or raster files, Grip delivers high quality output with its powerful ICC compliant rip engine. To optimise production, Grip also includes a step and repeat function as well as automatic nesting to optimise media usage. Grip comes standard with a CostProof module that will allow the user to estimate printing costs.

Grip+ is a full featured production workflow solution for large format Print and Print-to-Cut, packed with intuitive and sophisticated features to get the best from a Mutoh printer.

Grip+ is entirely modular and scalable to meet future production needs. Next to the features of Grip, Grip+ also provides full drag & drop functionality, spot colour matching, real time output simulation, a layout tool, tiling and multi-printer spooling for time optimization.

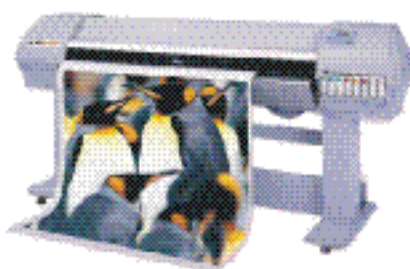
For print-to-cut applications, Grip+ can detect and extract contour data intended for contour cutting and can generate reference bar codes on the print data. To complete the print & cut workflow, after completing the printing process, Grip+ can drive Mutoh’s SC-PRO and Ultima cutting plotters to create full-colour stickers and signs.

For further information visit www.mutoh.eu

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PRODUCT *News*

Spandex extends popular ImagePerfect™ range of materials

Spandex, the pioneering one-stop supplier of complete and innovative solutions to the digital printing, sign-making and imaging industries worldwide, has extended its popular ImagePerfect™ range of signage materials by adding a selection of stunning new colours to its premium quality 5700P series. The enlarged portfolio meets the needs of customers who were looking for the ImagePerfect™ signage range to offer colours which were previously unavailable, but are now in demand.

The expansion of the 5700P series, a high quality, 70µ, flexible, self-adhesive polymeric gloss vinyl, comprises an additional 14 colours, all of which are available from stock. As a result, the increased ImagePerfect™ 5700P series dramatically enhances the level of choice and flexibility for sign-makers and means that Spandex now offers 80 of the top selling colours in the EU.

The new ImagePerfect™ 5700P colours complement a successful range that has been designed to produce captivating results in many outdoor sign and display applications, such as vehicle liveries and container identification. As with the 66 existing products in the 5700P range, the new films are particularly suited to computer-controlled cutting equipment where better cutting and both fast and very easy weeding is achieved, thanks to a high quality, specially-engineered release liner combined with 25 years of solid manufacturing experience in this market. Furthermore, use of this durable liner ensures that the ImagePerfect™ 5700P range also benefits from extended product lay-flat and optimum release properties.

As a result, users benefit from greatly improved time and cost efficiencies which contribute to enhanced workflow and delivery times, as well as to increased profit margins.



ImagePerfect Colour Swatch.

In addition, improved longevity is afforded in product applications at temperatures from -30°C up to + 90°C, thanks to premium-grade polymers, which provide up to seven years of surface-wear. A strong and long-lasting bond is assured by use of a repositionable, solvent-based adhesive, while a specially-selected plasticiser formula guarantees ease-of-handling without compromising durability or versatility.

The new ImagePerfect™ 5700P products, which are available in rolls and by the metre, are supplied in widths of 61cm and 122cm, or 38cm and 76cm perforated. The 80 colour options form part of Spandex's growing ImagePerfect™ portfolio of sign-making and digital materials and include black, white, transparent, and black and white matt. ImagePerfect™ comprises an extensive collection of high-performance, wide format banners, vinyl, mesh, backlit, window films, semi-rigid specialities, overlaminates and flex materials, as well as specialist canvas and textile materials.

For further information visit www.spandex.com



The new ImagePerfect colour range produces captivating results on vehicle livery.

GE
Lumination

MAX



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New Tetra[®] **MAX** LED Lighting System
makes channel letters easier to install.

Simplify your life and streamline your entire production process with new Tetra MAX—it's the simplest LED system you'll ever install. Patent-pending 12-volt design eliminates complex wiring for time savings and reduced labor costs. Now, you can cut between any LED module and run any color with a single power supply. New Tetra MAX is the LED system you can count on for hassle-free installations that are remarkably simple. For more information contact:

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imagination at work

Tetra[®] is a registered trademark in the
US and other countries. www.led.com

PRODUCT *News*

UV-LED and flexible UV ink technologies herald a new era in inkjet printing



The UJV-160 uses environmentally-friendly UV-LED technology.

Hybrid Services Limited is pleased to announce the launch of the new 60" UV-curable inkjet printer UJV-160 from Mimaki Engineering Co Ltd, a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting machines for the sign/graphics, industrial and textile/apparel markets.

The UJV-160 uses environmentally-friendly UV-LED technology which does not generate heat, and a flexible UV ink, which has been developed together with 3M.

The new hybrid UJV-160, is a 60" roll-to-roll and flat sheet large format UV-curable inkjet printer, utilising UV-LED (Light Emitting Diodes) curing technology, the curing temperature emitted by LED UV lamps is very low. Therefore the printer can accommodate heat sensitive media such as PVC, which could not previously be printed. In addition, new flexible UV ink developed in conjunction with 3M, can stretch by up to 200%, enabling printing on materials such as vehicle wrapping films and other curved surfaces such as 3D signage. Thus, the applications for UV printing are greatly increased.

Conventional UV lamps also emit infrared rays that create excessive heat and sometimes ozone. Both of these negative effects of conventional UV printing are eliminated with LED curing technology. The LED lamp emits only ultraviolet rays that do not create heat and consequently the power consumption is less than half of that needed by traditional UV lamps, thereby significantly saving energy costs. In this respect UV-LED technology is a breakthrough 'new technology' in step with the latest environmental demands. Since the ink is cured or fixed immediately after LED radiation, the job turnaround time from printing to further processing, such as lamination, is shortened greatly, so dramatically improving working efficiency and productivity.

The UJV will print onto a variety of uncoated substrates up to 10mm thick including rigid material such as 'Foamex' and 'Corex'. Front and rear tables facilitate the easy transportation of thick boards. The tables can be easily stored away when not in use.

The UJV utilises variable dot technology and prints at resolutions up to 1200dpi.

For further information contact Hybrid on Tel: 01270 501900 or visit www.hybridservices.co.uk

An advertisement for Gdi Signs. It features two large, stylized 'G' logos on the left and right, each with a rainbow gradient. In the center, the text reads: 'BUILT UP ACRYLIC & STAINLESS STEEL LETTERS TO THE TRADE'. Below this, the website 'www.gdisigns.net' and email 'email:sales@gdisigns.net' are listed. At the bottom, there are two smaller 'Gdi' logos with 'TRADE MARK' text. The background is black with a white dotted pattern.

**LOW LOW
PRICES**

BESPOKE
signage solutions

TRADE SUPPLY FLAT CUT LETTERING

ACRYLIC

height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.50	£0.65	£0.79	£0.98	£1.18	£1.50	£1.65	£2.25	£2.45	£3.30	£3.55	£6.40	£7.81	£7.90	£10.12	£39.28
5mm	£1.74	£0.94	£1.18	£1.47	£1.86	£2.50	£2.60	£4.10	£4.20	£5.30	£5.45	£8.70	£10.19	£10.25	£13.75	£54.00
10mm	£1.49	£1.88	£2.36	£2.95	£3.74	£5.20	£5.25	£8.38	£8.45	£11.00	£11.75	£17.00	£20.10	£20.37	£27.20	£107.95

FOAM PVC – MATT (ADD 30% FOR GLOSS FOAM PVC)

height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.34	£0.45	£0.70	£0.84	£0.93	£1.20	£1.28	£1.90	£1.97	£2.35	£2.45	£3.65	£4.53	£4.60	£6.50	£16.50
5mm	£0.40	£0.60	£0.85	£1.19	£1.63	£1.80	£1.91	£2.85	£2.95	£4.00	£4.16	£5.66	£6.41	£6.44	£8.97	£24.65
10mm	£0.68	£1.09	£1.38	£2.07	£2.85	£3.95	£4.02	£5.86	£5.90	£7.65	£7.57	£10.75	£12.46	£13.75	£17.48	£47.13
18mm	£1.47	£2.07	£2.95	£3.44	£3.93	£6.22	£6.80	£8.78	£8.84	£11.59	£12.03	£13.01	£18.66	£18.68	£22.58	£63.75

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE

height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
colour	£0.95	£1.30	£1.75	£2.15	£2.55	£3.10	£3.20	£5.20	£5.35	£6.70	£6.85	£8.00	£10.53	£10.70	£17.70	£47.50
chrome	£1.15	£1.50	£1.95	£2.52	£3.50	£4.20	£4.25	£5.89	£6.95	£8.85	£8.65	£10.50	£13.01	£13.25	£19.95	£55.75
brushed	£1.15	£1.50	£1.95	£2.52	£3.50	£4.20	£4.25	£5.89	£6.95	£8.65	£8.65	£10.50	£13.01	£13.25	£19.95	£55.75

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE LOCATORS AND TEMPLATE

COMPOSITE SIGN TRAYS

A typical price for non fret cut sign trays are as follows:

All Standard Colours

A tray from full sheet (3050 x 1500mm) = £90.00 + vat

A tray from half sheet (3050 x 750mm) = £45.00 + vat

A tray from half sheet (1500 x 1500mm) = £45.00 + vat

Non standard finish trays add 30% to the above prices.

Other sizes available on request

We accept eps or ai files. Please ensure all artwork is converted to curves/outlines before sending to ensure accuracy.

Standard Colours

Platinum White RAL 9016

Traffic Red RAL 3020

Traffic Yellow RAL 1023

Traffic Green RAL 6024

Jet Black RAL 9005

Ultra Marine Blue RAL 5002

Light Ivory RAL 1015

Silver RAL 9006

British Racing Green RAL 6005

Dark Blue RAL 5002

Non Standard Finishes

Stainless Steel

Brushed Copper

Brushed Gold

Mirror

T: 0161 681 3003 F: 0161 681 4155
E: info@bespokesignsolutions.co.uk



PRODUCT *News*

Roland VersaArt wide format printer sets standard for precision, productivity and performance

Roland DG Corporation, a leading worldwide provider of wide-format inkjet printers and integrated printer/cutters have introduced the new VersaArt RS-640 four-colour CMYK wide-format inkjet printer.

Featuring the latest in Roland eco-solvent inkjet technology, the RS-640 offers image quality, productivity and performance, which they believe is beyond that of any other printer in its class. The VersaArt RS-640 comes complete with VersaWorks professional RIP software for precision colour management and supports 64" media.

"Today, eco-solvent inkjet printers are widely used in a variety of graphics businesses," said Brett Newman, Head of Product Management, Roland DG (UK). "The VersaArt RS-640 offers these businesses advanced digital printing capabilities, allowing them to enjoy both a distinct competitive advantage and quick return on investment. The VersaArt delivers the exceptional

productivity and print quality required for successful in-house production, eliminating the need to outsource wide-format graphics. At under £11,000, including RIP, the RS-640 is peerless in terms of value for money and will be attractive for printers looking to develop additional revenue streams for minimal capital outlay."

VersaArt is a flexible production tool for a wide range of applications from precision composite designs and posters to large, durable outdoor signs and banners. VersaArt supports new environmentally friendly paper media and fabrics for profitable specialty applications as well. Featuring ECO-SOL MAX ink and Roland Intelligent Pass Control technology, VersaArt produces vivid colours and unmatched image quality at print speeds of up to 21.4m²/hr (230.3ft²/hr).

The Roland RS-640 has a list price of £10,999 + VAT, including VersaWorks RIP.

For more information and specifications visit www.rolanddg.co.uk



The Roland VersaArt RS-640 features the latest in Roland eco-solvent technology.

BLANK BANNERS
for you to vinyl letter
or screenprint
24HR SERVICE for Flags, Banners and Buntings

SEND US YOUR
**DIGITALLY PRINTED
BANNERS**
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New 3M printing films available

One of the latest additions to William Smith's materials supply portfolio makes wasted wall space a thing of the past!

3M™ Scotchcal™ IJ8624 & 8624ES Graphic Film for Textured Surfaces, a unique conformable cast film, is specifically designed to give clean photographic quality images on moderately textured flat or curved surfaces. Bricks, breeze - block, tiles and poured cement can now all have full-coloured graphics applied. The film offers excellent adhesion when applied using the appropriate 3M application tool.

IJ8624 is suitable for solvent inkjet and electrostatic printing only as the ink allows flexibility on textured surfaces, and its grey adhesive effectively hides the original wall colour, which enhances the photographic quality of the image. It comes with a 3-6 months outdoor durability and a two years indoor durability.

It offers a fast, clean and inexpensive alternative to painted graphics. There is no need to create expensive smooth surfaces and it is removable with heat, leaving walls undamaged.

With IJ8624 blank indoor or outdoor wall space becomes an opportunity for advertising and promoting products as well as other creative graphic applications.

3M™ Scotchcal™ Luster Overlaminate 8524 is designed for use with IJ8624, giving it protection and enhanced wear resistance, particularly when piezo inkjet printing has been applied to the base film.

Also new from William Smith is 3M™ Scotchcal™ IJ70 series, a high-performance cast film that is ideal for a variety of mid to long-term applications on flat and slightly curved surfaces (with and without rivets). It is designed for both interior and exterior applications and comes with up to an 8 year durability unprinted. It is ideally suited to use for interior and exterior signs and graphics, and fleet graphics.

For further information contact William Smith on Tel: 01833 694707 or visit www.williamsmith.co.uk



Diamond Tooling from ITC

For abrasive materials that are punishing on cutting tools, ITC has now extended its exceptional range of 190 Cyber Series to incorporate metric as well as imperial dimensions. Initially launched for the imperial dominated sign making industry, ITC has not only noted the industry gradually moving toward the metric system but the cutters compatibility with materials commonly used in the routing and sign making industries.

The multiple flute, solid carbide diamond cut 190 Cyber Series now has 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12mm diameter additions to the imperial range. The new diameters are all available with either no end cut for side feeding, an end mill and drill point for aggressive plunging or a burr end cut for delivering excellent surface finishes.

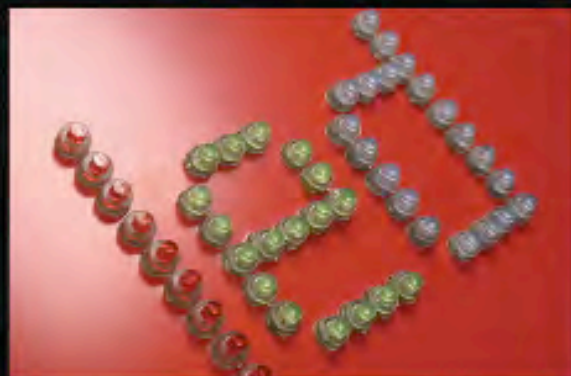
Primarily used to cut glass fibre and also suited to machining additional abrasive man made fibres and composites including carbon fibre; the 190 Series has a cutting geometry that provides an easy cutting action that generates remarkable surface finishes on a wide variety of materials when conducting hand or CNC machining.

The right hand cutting 190 Series has a flute length ranging from 12.5mm for the 3mm diameter cutter to 25mm length for the 10 and 12mm cutters. The straight shank series is also available with a diamond coating to deliver extremely long tool life on very abrasive applications.

For further details on ITC's 190 Cyber Series of cutters please contact your local ITC representative on Tel: 01827 304500.



The ITC 190 Cyber Series Cutter.



Chain-LED

Another innovative product from Abacus LED. The "CHAIN-LED" has been designed for sign makers to create LED characters or graphics with ease. Each "Chain-LED" consists of 15 LEDs each encased in clear rubber like PVC, enabling them to fit snugly into panels up to 6mm thick with 9mm holes. Suitable for internal and external use. Prices from £4.15 for a chain of 15 LEDs.

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New products and personnel at Signwaves

As Signwaves prepares to celebrate its twentieth year in trading, the Norfolk-based display solutions company has added new products to its extensive range as well as new staff at its Great Yarmouth office.

Signwaves launched three new products at the Sign Show in Coventry – the 'Sightmaster' forecourt sign pictured, new 'A-Master' and 'A-Master Plus' poster boards.

The Sightmaster 2 features enhanced rigidity, stability and safety courtesy of a strengthened back panel, large capacity base and rounder corners. It also carries the added bonus of a substantial cost saving over its popular predecessor, made possible through improvements in procurement without detriment to quality.

The A-Master and A-Master Plus poster boards continue the all important quality, safety and convenience benefits, featuring snap-frames, galvanised steel back panels and hinged locking arms on both models.

With other recent innovations such as 'Hi-Sight', the 'Noscrewz' flag system, 'Flying Banners' and 'Edgeliit' illuminated displays, Signwaves' product range and the opportunities it offers is constantly expanding.

Owing to the firm's continuing success, Signwaves has recently appointed a total of 15 staff into its customer service, trade sales, production and marketing teams, bringing the total number of staff on site to 88.

These announcements follow substantial investment to increase Signwaves' warehousing capacity to around 900 pallets, thus enhancing efficiency and reducing lead times. In addition to the five established screen printing lines, the purchase of advanced flat-bed digital printing technology has greatly improved manufacturing capabilities, enabling a more versatile, comprehensive service using a wider range of materials.

Bob Brown, Managing Director of Signwaves Ltd, commented: "Over the past two decades, our staff, product range and in-house design, print and manufacturing facilities have developed to form the dynamic company we are today. I am delighted to welcome our new staff to the team, who will all play an important role in fulfilling our future aspirations for continued success."

Bob continues: "Our total dedication to quality, innovation, customer service and competitiveness underpin all we do, and the latest additions to our product range enable us to provide even greater levels of choice and flexibility to our customers."

For further information on Signwaves, visit www.signwavesgroup.com



Signwaves' Trade Sales Team.



The New 'Sightmaster 2' Forecourt Sign.

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Acrylic Letters Standard colours (10mm: black-white & clear)													NO MINIMUM ORDER FEE		
HEIGHT	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	300	375	450	500	600	900	1200
3mm	0.84	0.80	0.92	1.38	1.40	1.80	2.30	4.15	4.30	6.40	8.25	9.50	11.50	25.50	44.50
5mm	0.85	0.96	1.21	1.45	1.91	2.29	2.98	4.75	6.08	8.81	11.18	13.88	16.04	34.73	61.37
10mm	1.67	1.90	2.42	3.05	4.09	4.97	6.57	9.60	13.61	16.37	18.59	26.26	33.24	63.76	120.30

Foam PVC (10mm & 16mm in white only)													NO MINIMUM ORDER FEE		
HEIGHT	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	300	375	450	500	600	900	1200
3mm	0.45	0.52	0.84	1.03	1.10	1.25	1.55	1.97	2.40	3.55	4.32	5.40	6.65	12.83	18.37
5mm	0.70	0.83	1.00	1.19	1.49	1.71	2.27	3.31	4.51	6.70	8.75	10.49	13.15	25.13	38.20
10mm	1.33	1.40	1.73	1.94	2.42	2.76	3.51	5.03	6.94	10.24	12.27	14.55	17.06	29.06	41.78
16mm	1.40	1.73	2.14	2.55	3.25	3.92	5.05	7.45	10.35	15.70	18.04	22.71	28.57	50.00	80.00

Aluminium Composite (bond/Alupanel)													NO MINIMUM ORDER FEE		
HEIGHT	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	300	375	450	500	600	900	1200
3mm	1.08	1.24	1.49	1.71	2.26	2.61	3.14	4.87	6.76	10.12	12.80	15.70	18.95	32.69	58.95
4mm	2.04	2.36	2.70	3.19	4.12	4.84	6.19	9.00	12.30	16.33	20.41	24.20	31.37	45.51	88.91
5mm	1.47	1.63	1.89	2.38	2.78	3.24	4.32	5.98	8.11	11.72	14.04	17.10	19.45	34.79	58.57

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New solar powered notice board brings substantial savings

Signscape has just launched a solar powered illuminated notice board called EcoVision. Unveiled at the opening of the company's new showroom, it has already received widespread interest.

Signscape's managing director Hamish Paterson said, "To be able to support our customers with the latest in sign innovation is extremely important to us. EcoVision is the first solar powered illuminated notice board to hit the market and we are excited about the substantial environmental and cost savings it will bring to end users."

EcoVision is an extension of Signscape's longstanding Lynester poster display unit range and is available with an integrated solar panel or with a separate solar panel unit, in wall or post mounted models. There are no associated running costs because it is powered by UK manufactured solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. These are tilted at an optimal angle to maximise power output and promote battery longevity and are designed to accommodate the UK climate, working in daylight not just sunlight, to provide attractive and effective LED illumination.

It is also quick and easy to install because no mains power supply is required, therefore trenching for cabling is not necessary. This means reduced environmental impact and disturbance as well as reduced labour and material costs. This also allows more flexibility over positioning on site which is particularly beneficial to signage projects where trenching would prove difficult or restrictive, such as in the grounds of a cemetery.

EcoVision is also extremely robust and vandal resistant with lockable doors with 5mm high-impact acrylic faces. It needs no maintenance and the solar panel area is even self-cleaning due to its angle.

There are health and safety benefits to EcoVision too because it has an independent power supply. If the national grid goes down it will still work providing illumination of signs that could be important to public or staff safety.

EcoVision is available in all standard Lynester sizes, coordinating with standard poster sizes to make specification simple. It has an internal pinboard or painted steel back for mounting with magnets and can be top or back illuminated. It can be finished in any standard BS or RAL colour or powder coated to a bespoke finish using Signscape's in-house facilities.

Further information on EcoVision is available from Signscape Systems on 01934-852888, sales@signscape.co.uk or by visiting the company's website at www.signscape.co.uk



Signscape's new solar powered illuminated notice board, EcoVision, brings substantial environmental and cost savings.

"Always Judge a book by its cover!"

TheMagicTouch together with Unibind introduce a new and exciting way to print binders and covers in full colour as never seen before.

For 18 years, TheMagicTouch have manufactured and distributed a range of coated transfer papers compatible with most toner based colour copiers and printers. Using the newly introduced CPM 6.4 transfer paper, full colour images/logos can be transferred onto the covers using a traditional heat press, currently used for most existing traditional transfer applications such as t-shirts, mousemats etc.

Printing binders is nothing new, but personalised in full colour, with a minimum order of one, printed in less than 30 seconds?

The binders are available in both Aluminium and White, with more colours to follow and are used for a multitude of commercial applications such as tenders, manuals, photo books, meeting books, diaries, and document presenters.



The Unibind hardback covers are compatible with most wire binders and finishing equipment.

The full colour printing of logos, images and photos adds a new dimension to the product range.

TheMagicTouch process also works with Unibind hardback covers, compatible with almost all wire binder and existing finishing equipment.

Using variable data and personalised software, folders and covers can be individually personalised, the process is quick, easy and very cost effective.

The "bottom line" is that you can print a full colour A4 image on a binder/folder/diary for less than £0.50, making this very attractive to anyone currently involved in producing binders either in-house or within the "print for pay" sector.

The product was UK launched at this year's Total Print show in London in association with Oki and Unibind.

For further information visit www.themagictouch.co.uk

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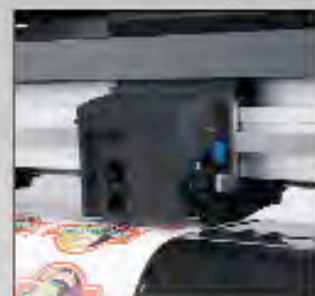
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Off the shelf solutions from Nova

Nova Aluminium Ltd the Bristol based suppliers of Aluminium light boxes, frames and Wayfinding systems to the trade, which include Novacase, Novaslim, Novatrim, Novaflex, Novabeam and Pole and Plank has added a number of "off the shelf" products to its ever increasing portfolio.

The company stocks a number of eye catching LED open signs which are supplied complete with chains for hanging. They have the option to be constantly on or by the push of a button can be switched to chasing mode for maximum effect.



Two variations of the ever popular pavement sign are available including a substantial A Board and a heavy duty spring board. Both are silver anodised aluminium with chrome radius corners and include clear acrylic for weather protection with a snap frame facility for easy poster change.

An extremely competitive priced 450mm diameter circular light box is also available complete with all electrics, moulded panels and stand off bracket.

Nova also stock 2 back illuminated poster units with a depth of just 25mm to suit poster sizes of 762mm x 1016mm and 1016mm x 1524mm which are ideal for the display of internal posters for cinemas – shop advertising – transparency displays and pricing information for fast food establishments.

Gary Austin of Nova explained that all the "off the shelf" units have generated great interest from their customers who see the units as an added value item when supplying the client with their main front signage.

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The Sign Industry's Best Kept Secret

New liquid coating systems – finishing for virtually any printing application

Drytac, manufacturer of products for graphics finishing and display have recently added to their already extensive product portfolio a line of aqueous and UV coating equipment, as part of a Strategic Plan to leverage the growing demand for liquid laminating among users of flatbed inkjet printers, digital print-on-demand presses and photo printers, as well as operators of gicleé and fine art studios.



The VERSA-Coater XL.

With formats ranging from 3.2 M (10.5 ft) down to models the size of a copy machine, Drytac's new line of advanced coating systems provides a finishing solution for virtually any printing application. The new liquid coating equipment now offered by Drytac include the VERSA-Coater PhotoMate, PressMate, DocuMate, and XL UV, as well as the AFC Liquid Coater and Photo Coater.

The PhotoMate and DocuMate have already created a huge amount of interest following the launch at Photokina in September of this year, in which Drytac had both machines on display available for demo. With its ultra compact footprint, ease of use and compatibility with photo, litho and digital press output, the DocuMate UV Liquid coater proved to be particularly popular with Copy Shops and Print Houses, whereas the PhotoMate UV, with its ability to produce textured or sheen finishes on rigid or flexible coated media, available in three different sizes seemed to be the choice machine for photo finishing professionals.

Heading up the new division as Liquid Coatings Divisional Manager is Nick Collins, whose role is to grow and develop sales across UK and Europe in this new area of Drytac's business.

Nick already has a wealth of experience in the adhesive laminating industry after working at Ademco for 13 years, alongside a number of Drytac team members. Since leaving Ademco he has undertaken a number of mounting and laminating projects, specifically aimed at the application of such technologies into new markets.

For further information about Drytac's range of liquid laminators, please visit our website on www.drytac.co.uk or contact Nick Collins on +44 (0)117 958 6500.

Roland introduces integrated UV inkjet

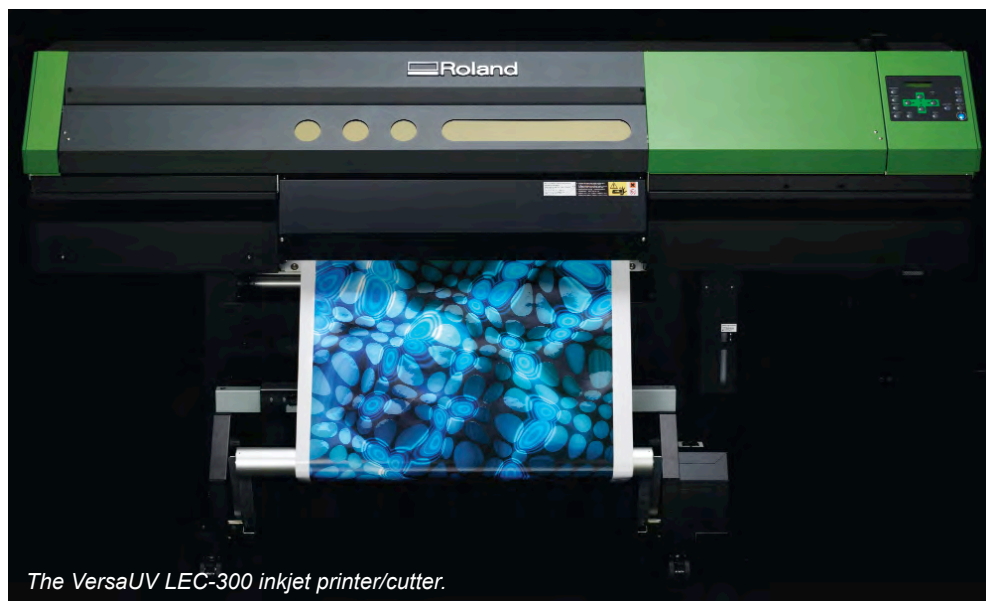
Roland DG Corporation, a pioneer of integrated Print&Cut technology, recently introduced the VersaUV LEC-300, a UV inkjet printer/cutter and a highly versatile production tool that brings form, texture and dimension to printed graphics. The 30" wide LEC-300 prints CMYK + white and clear coat all in one device, a combination which can be used to create special effects and finishes for luxurious, customised graphics. Long lasting LED lamps and Roland's newest generation of UV inks make production with the LEC easy, clean and efficient.

"With VersaUV, professionals can produce realistic textures and patterns such as faux leather and crocodile skin," said Brett Newman, Head of Product Management, Roland DG (UK). "The VersaUV can also layer clear coat for glossy area highlights, 3D doming and even Braille all in one seamless workflow.

VersaUV allows professionals to take advantage of profitable new business opportunities by offering their customers quick turn-around times and

on-demand printing for applications ranging from high-end small-lot production to packaging composites, press proofs and product prototypes."

For further information and a full specification of the VersaUV visit www.rolanddg.com



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PRODUCT *Choice*

Everything for Signs breaks new ground with Koolkut

Oldham-based signmakers' materials distributor Everything for Signs needed a vertical panel saw to enable them to break into a new market: Sagetech's Koolkut KK16 made it happen.

Established some seven years ago, the company began by specialising in the supply of sign vinyl, as the North West's distributor for Metamark Ltd. Everything for Signs has always traded on its rapid delivery and personal service. Perhaps not surprisingly, the company has many loyal customers.

In 2005, Managing Director Sandy Gray decided to pursue the sales opportunity afforded by aluminium composite sheet materials. He began to look for a tool suitable for cutting such materials.

"My first thought was a table saw," he remembered. "But cutting 10 x 5 or even 8 x 4 sheets on a table saw requires a very large area, and two or three operators. I had neither of those luxuries!"

He quickly realised that what he needed was a vertical panel saw, but had difficulty in finding a model suitable for his requirements: "Researching the market, it quickly became apparent that most vertical panel saws are extremely expensive – over £10,000 – and designed for much heavier use than we would ever require."

The 'eureka' moment came when Sandy spotted an advertisement in the Sign Industry press for Sagetech's space-saving, economically priced Koolkut vertical panel saw range.

"I called Sagetech immediately," Sandy recalled, "And was delighted to hear that the Koolkut Series '1' would cut both aluminium composite and foam, was compact enough for my workshop, and would run on a standard domestic 13 amp supply."

Sagetech supplied details of an experienced installer based in Bolton who set up Everything for Signs' Koolkut. "Having spoken to a number of signmakers with vertical panel saws, I knew that having the saw set up properly, to make sure it was absolutely square and level, was of paramount importance," said Sandy.

Over two years on, Sandy is delighted with the way the business has developed. "With the Koolkut we've been able to actively market aluminium composite sheet materials, and further expand our range to include foam and acrylic sheet materials. We've seen a significant increase in sales from our existing customer base," he noted. "Sagetech have proved themselves exceedingly helpful, and the saw itself represents excellent value for money. It's the ideal tool for the job: recommended!"



Sagetech's Koolkut KK16 vertical panel saw.

For further details on Sagetech's Koolkut range of economically-priced space-saving vertical panel saws, please visit www.sagetech.co.uk or call 0118 970 1950. For further information on Everything for Signs, please call 01457 829055.

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PRODUCT *Choice*

Double success for AXYZ at interior design specialist Stringer

Routing technology provided by AXYZ Automation has proved a decisive factor in the continuing success of retail and commercial interiors specialist Stringer. Based in Greenwich, Southeast London, the company was formed over 20 years ago by its founder and principal designer Dick Stringer and adopted limited status in 1991. Stringer designs and produces both standard and bespoke interior solutions (including point-of-sale displays, office workplace systems, shelving and tables) for multiple retail display and office and studio environments using a variety of wood substrates (predominantly medium-density fibreboard, plywood and birch) in combination with stainless steel and occasionally acrylic.

Central to the high quality of the work produced by the company's woodworking department has been the successive installation of routing machines supplied by AXYZ Automation. The first machine was an AXYZ 4008 router with a processing area of 2,440mm (length) x 1,466mm (width). It is part of the AXYZ 4000 series that is renowned for an ability to handle 8 x 4 sheets and to machine materials up to a thickness of 150mm. According to Dick Stringer, the decision to purchase the first AXYZ router was made on the basis of price, quality and service. And it was due to the high level of service and technical support provided by AXYZ Automation on the initial purchase that Stringer decided to subsequently install the larger AXYZ 4010 machine to meet increased production requirements. This router has a processing area of 3,048mm (length) x 1,524mm (width).

Both of the machines installed at Stringer feature AXYZ Automation's Automatic Tool Change (ATC) facility. Incorporating an eight-position carousel, the ATC facility provides a faster, easier and more convenient way of processing work requiring multiple tooling without operator intervention and by ensuring that the correct tools for a given task are always selected. Both routers are supported with the multi-featured ToolPath software from AXYZ that will connect with a choice of CAD, CAS and CAM systems that can export DXF, HPGL or NC file formats. At Stringer, designs are created in Vectorworks and exported as DXF files.

According to Dick Stringer, both routers have performed outstandingly since installation, with only minimal problems under continuous operation. He commented: 'The AXYZ routers have improved both the quality and productivity of the company's woodworking



department and we rate both machines highly. In combination with our excellent metalworking facilities, we can now offer a total production capability to our many blue chip clients. A typical example is the John Lewis Partnership for which Stringer has for a number of years provided a range of bespoke retail display solutions. Installation of the AXYZ routers has enabled us to provide an even better service, improved quality of end product, faster turnaround and, of special significance, added more creativity to our design and production capabilities.'

On the service and after-sales technical support provided by AXYZ Automation, Dick Stringer concluded: 'These have been first class and were a major factor influencing our decision to purchase the second machine.' This correlates to AXYZ Automation's policy of not only supplying robust and reliable routing solutions but also underpinning the consequent engineering excellence with comprehensive training packages and unrestricted after-sales technical support.

For further information on AXYZ routing solutions, visit www.axyz.co.uk or telephone 01902 375600. For more information on the services provided by Stringer, visit www.stringer.co.uk or telephone 0208 293 4242.

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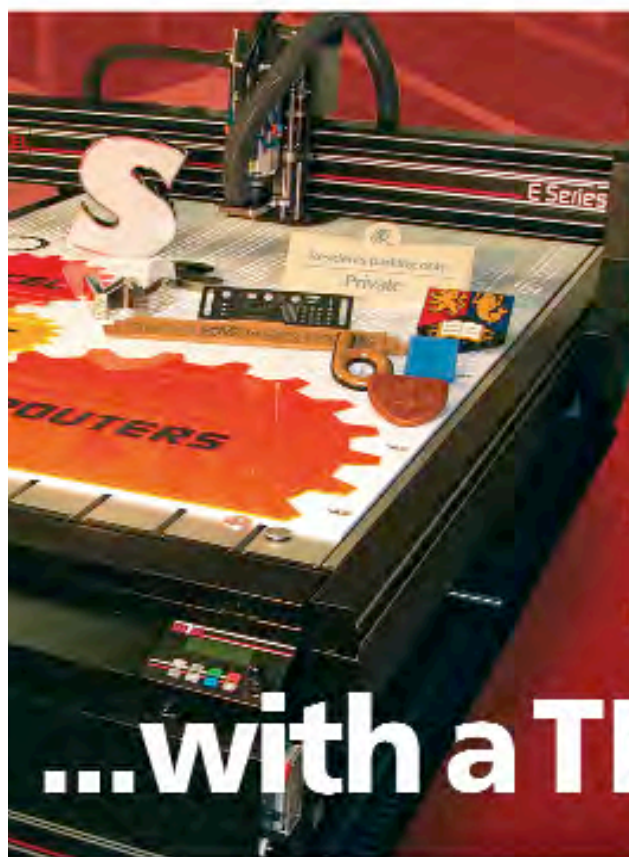
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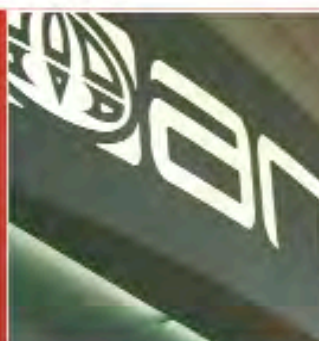
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PRODUCT *Choice*

Bright new livery for Northumbrian Water with 3M™ vehicle marking tape

3M™ High Visibility Vehicle Safety Marking Tape from William Smith is used by Gateshead based, Insignia to mark up new vehicles for Northumbrian Water as part of a livery package that includes their corporate logo.

"We regularly use 3M materials for graphics and high visibility marking on a vast range of vehicle types, from Transits, Connects and Land Rovers to JCBs and heavy plant, for water and other utility companies across the UK," explains Insignia's Bill Dobson.

"All of these customers specify the 3M Prismatic materials, which we purchase from William Smith because they are a local supplier, and we have used them for many years."

Richard Warneford, Northumbrian Water's Distribution Manager comments, "Health and Safety issues are very important to us and the safety of our employees is a priority. Using 3M tape on the back of our fleet of vans ensures high visibility at all times and protects our employees and customers."

3M™ High Visibility Vehicle Safety Marking Tape is a highly reflective material offering greater reflectivity than standard reflective film. It is visible up to 1000 metres and reflects to nearly 90 degrees. When placed in stripes on the rear, sides and front edges of vehicles, it provides enhanced visibility of vehicles at night and in poor driving conditions and increased safety for vehicle operators, other road users and pedestrians. Local Authorities and other users of this product have reported that the resulting reduction in accidents and downtime makes the application of vehicle safety marking tape a highly cost effective option.

"The quality of the materials is excellent, as is the service from William Smith. They are very responsive and lean over backwards to help," concludes Bill Dobson.

High Visibility Vehicle Safety Marking Tape is offered as full or part rolls and same day despatch is provided on orders received up to 5.30pm. In addition, William Smith can provide bespoke designs in kit form and assist in the implementation of vehicle marking programmes.

For further information contact William Smith on Tel: 01833 694707 or visit www.williamsmith.co.uk



Insignia use 3M's High Visibility Vehicle Safety Marking tape for Northumbrian Water vehicles.

SignTec expands its trade graphics capabilities with Zund printer

Leading trade-only supplier of sign and graphics solutions, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire-based SignTec has recently installed a Zund UVjet 215-C four-colour digital printer. It follows the earlier installation of Mimaki's JV3-160 SP inkjet printer and the Mimaki CG-160FX cutting plotter as a combined print-and-cut solution and more recently the RollsRoller Flatbed Applicator.

The Zund solution will enable SignTec to accommodate an even wider range of indoor and outdoor sign and display applications, including general signage, advertising hoardings, posters, banners, commercial decoration, exhibition and stage graphics and point-of-sale material. The machine is capable of four-colour printing onto a wide range of both rigid and flexible substrates, including those with uneven or perforated surfaces, in widths of up to 2,150mm with unlimited length and in a thickness of up to 40mm.

For further information, visit the website www.signtec.co.uk or telephone 01525 850 500.



The Zund UVjet 215-C four-colour digital printer

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PRODUCT *Choice*

Key2 Group bucks recession trend and invests in print technology

Bucking the potential recession trend, Portsmouth-based display, graphics, print and signage company, Key2 Group, has invested £90,000 in a revolutionary new printer. Key2 Group believes the outlay not only puts them at the forefront of the latest high-tech printing techniques but also makes Key2 Group the first company in the UK to offer this technology.

The 2.2 x 4 metre Asian-made Apollo 2216WW flatbed printer joins the group's large format and grand format digital printers. The investment means that Key2 Group can now offer printing directly onto a wealth of substrates, including wood, glass, metal, plastics, paper, composites, and corrugated materials – not only in colour but also in white. Something, says Key2 Group, which is virtually impossible without resorting to bought-in screen-printing.

"The machine is not only equipped with no less than 12 colour print heads for six-colour print technology but it also has four white print heads to print a far denser white than most systems could ever produce," explains Mike Keating, Managing Director of Key2 Group. "This is a very exciting development for us as it means that white and colour are printed in one step, which is unique to this type of printer. We can therefore now print white in-house; a very special advantage, as we are now totally self-sufficient with our capabilities."

Key2 Group has always had a policy of investing heavily in the latest equipment to ensure it maintains a cutting edge in a competitive industry. This is doubly important amid warnings of a possible recession:

"The majority of our clients work in the visual marketing side of their industries," adds Mike Keating. "So, despite the economy facing a downturn, the need to be innovative and visual, with the ability to attract their customers' attention, has never been more important. The many services we offer allow our customers to maintain a high point-of-sale and marketing impact at a very challenging time."

With the printer's new UV ink jet technology a special UV lamp cures the ink almost the instant it touches the material. The ink is specially formulated to be flexible, which makes it ideal for many exterior projects such as mesh, banners and signage that Key2 Group undertakes, as it will not crack or "craze" in the wind. It can adhere to almost any rough surface, including Velcro, ceiling tiles, fibreglass, painted metals, and is also ideal for the many pop-up banner stands and building hoardings that Key2 Group produces. Key2 Group says this incredible new printer could even print directly onto porous materials like bread.

The machine is made by Asia's largest Screenprint machinery manufacturer, Korean-based DYSS, and was distributed to Key2 Group via Planet Digital based in Dorset.

"By investing in this revolutionary new machine, we are proud to be able to offer something very special, even unique, to our blue-chip customer base, which includes Adidas, Christian Dior, Samsung, Portsmouth Football Club, Vivienne Westwood and Southern Co-Operatives," concludes Mike Keating.

Go to www.key2uk.com or telephone 02392 388600 for further information.



Mike Keating, Managing Director of Key2 Group shows off the Apollo 2216WW flatbed printer.

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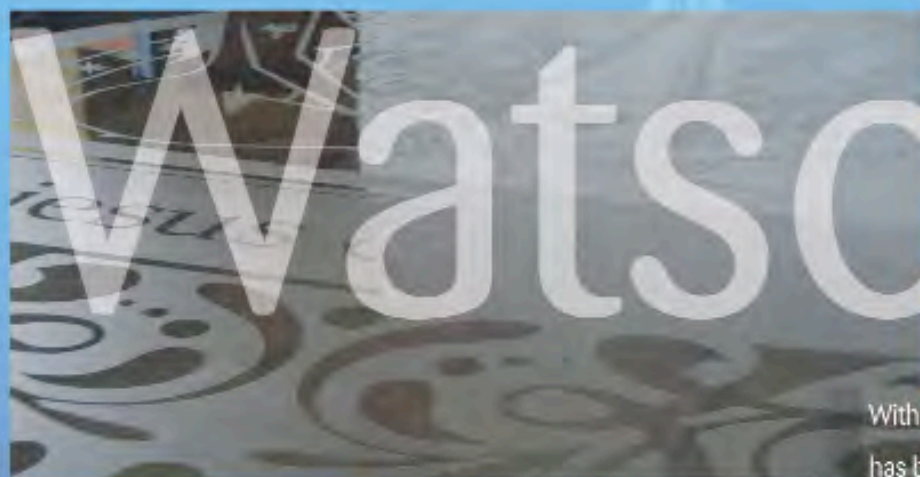
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Foamalux partners 'exploded globe of light' to mark launch of UK's first restaurant and bar design awards

A spectacular Globe of light suspended between the trees launched the UK's first Restaurant & Bar awards dedicated exclusively to design.

This suspended illuminated sign was designed by Cinimod Studio and was made entirely out of 5mm Foamalux 'Brighter White' panels fixed to a central light core. Various sizes of Foamalux panels, some with cut outs, were used to create the exploded visual effect.

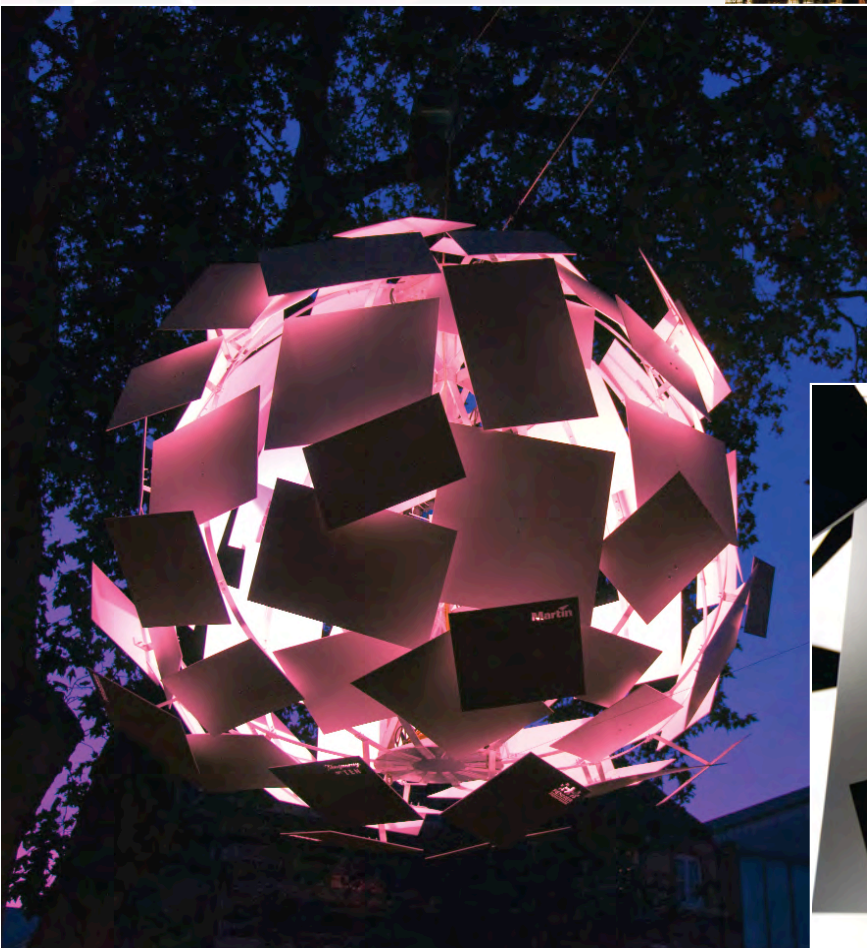
Foamalux, a premium sign and display substrate, was chosen purely because of its smooth, hard, bright white surface and capability to deflect light. Foamalux was also used for all the project's internal and external signage.

The launch event was attended by some of the world's top influential designers and industry press (including Wallpaper and Conran & Partners), as well as many curious members of the public. The installation was well received, and provided a delightful and engaging addition to the square. The artwork acted as a beacon of good design, key to the underlying message of the Restaurant and Bar Design Awards.

For further information contact Marie Quinn at Brett Martin on 028 9084 9999.



The amazing Globe of Light was constructed with Foamalux 'Brighter White' panels.



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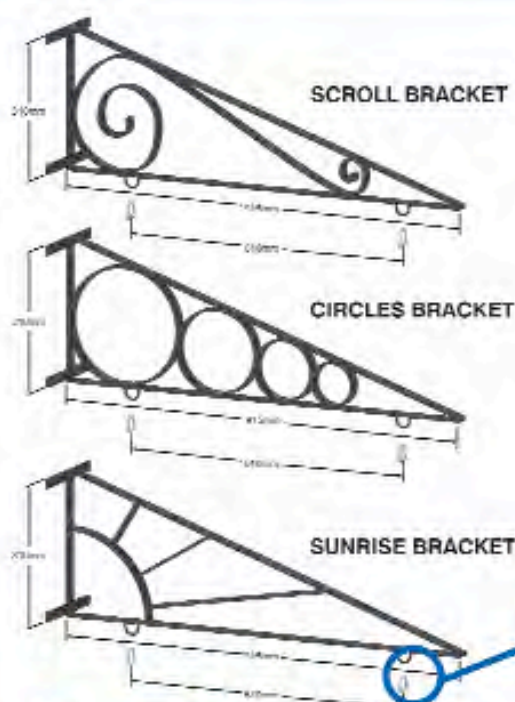
Jumbo	250	500	1,000
Complete Fixing	£33	£58	£98
Sockets only Black or white	£22	£35	£60
Studs only	£23	£38	£62
Measurements:	Socket depth: 20mm Stud height: 20mm Overall length: 40mm		



Screw	250	500	1,000
Complete Fixing	£33	£60	£115
Nuts only	£22	£38	£75
Measurements:	Socket depth: 10mm Stud height: 10mm Overall length: 20mm		

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Explorer plants Hampshire flags on Arctic ice during kayaking mission

Flags manufactured by a south coast firm have played an important part in a record-breaking expedition to the Arctic by environmentalist and explorer Lewis Gordon Pugh.

The mission to the North Pole saw Lewis kayak 135 kilometres through Arctic ice packs to 81 degrees north, where he planted 192 flags donated by the Hampshire Flag Company representing each of the countries in the United Nations. This is a historic event as it is the first time all the flags of the world have been planted near the North Pole.

Lewis is now the only person to have kayaked this far north in a daring journey during which he faced freezing conditions, horizontal snow showers, strong sea currents and an ongoing threat of polar bears and walrus.

Lewis said, "Last year at this latitude I stood on three-metre thick ice. This year the ice I was standing on was only one-metre thick. The disappearance of this sea ice is happening considerably faster than scientific models predicted a year ago.

"By planting flags the world's 192 nations on the Arctic, I hope I have conveyed that despite it being thousands of miles away from most people, the loss of its sea ice will have profound consequences for us all," added Lewis.

This is the largest ever order of individual national flags that Waterlooville-based Hampshire Flag has manufactured and the family-run firm provides ongoing support for Lewis' record-breaking swims and expeditions. In 2007, Lewis swam one kilometre across an open patch of sea at the North Pole to raise awareness of the Arctic's fragile state.

Graham Wilkinson, Managing Director of Hampshire Flag, said "We are delighted that Lewis has safely accomplished his mission and succeeded in raising international awareness of this critical problem.

"It is wonderful that our flags have travelled so far and through such adverse conditions, and seeing so many of them planted on the ice really highlights that this is a global issue" added Graham.

Hampshire Flag's team of 18 supplies flags, PVC banners, event display systems and flagpoles to individuals, charities, businesses and events locally, nationally and globally.

The award-winning company provides on-going backing for various charity challenges and expeditions including the Homeless World Cup, Portsmouth Festivities and Keith White's expedition to sail solo across the Atlantic with only one hand. Prestigious clients include Portsmouth Football Club, BBC, Channel 4, IBM and British Airways and it also has a sales office in Dundee, Scotland.

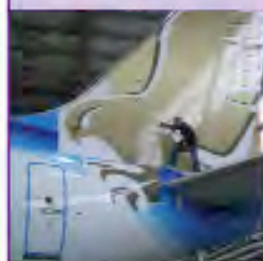
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Photograph courtesy of Kyrre Fledsberg.

Lewis Gorgon Pugh plants 192 flags near the North Pole representing each of the countries in the United Nations.

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Active raises its profile in Europe

Already firmly established as one of the UK's leading and most successful corporate signage manufacturers, award-winning Active Signs is fast achieving the same status in Continental Europe. Having previously carried out an extensive external signage programme on behalf of the U.S. conglomerate Value Retail at its La Vallee retail village outlet near Paris, Active was awarded a similar re-branding contract for the company's Ingolstadt Retail Park near Munich in Germany.

This was a complete design and build project, encompassing initial conceptualisation in association with Value Retail's American and German marketing teams, production of all of the signage elements at Active's facility in Ramsgate and transportation and on-site installation by the company's own team of engineers. The project was carried out in phases over a period of 18 months and was designed to fully complement the retail outlet's buildings as well as its architectural and environmental characteristics.

Like La Vallee, the Ingolstadt development comprised an eclectic mix of highly individualistic sign design concepts. These covered main identification and individual signs for all of the 150 retail units, directional and information and ancillary signs. Special decorative lamppost signs and architectural lighting features were also supplied. All ornate projecting sign brackets were constructed from extruded aluminium, profile-shaped, dressed and powder-coated to form attractive and eye-catching manifestations.



Due to the prestigious nature of this particular project, solid steel was used extensively for the various signage elements, while the distinctive fingerpost signs were rendered in hand-carved solid wood.

Once again, Active Signs has demonstrated British signage engineering skills at their best and transported these seamlessly to a major location in Europe. Few UK-based sign manufacturers can claim the same level of overseas recognition and the financial rewards that this brings in an increasingly more competitive marketplace.

For further information on the sign design and manufacturing facilities available at Active, visit www.activesigns.co.uk or telephone 01843 850 800.



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MACTAC Awards

Winners celebrate at MACTac Awards dinner

MACTac U.K. held its Awards dinner at Sedgebrook Hall, Northampton, in September in recognition of the UK winners of the 2008 competition (see July/August issue)

Beverly Ridings, Marketing Manager of Mactac UK warmly welcomed all the winners and guests on behalf of her colleagues. Beverly congratulated the winners and commented that again this year's competition in the UK had produced an overall European winner. This is the fourth time in a row that the UK has had a European Winner, which goes to show the high level of talent we have in the UK.

The guests included representatives from MACTac UK Distributors and representatives from the sign and digital trade press.

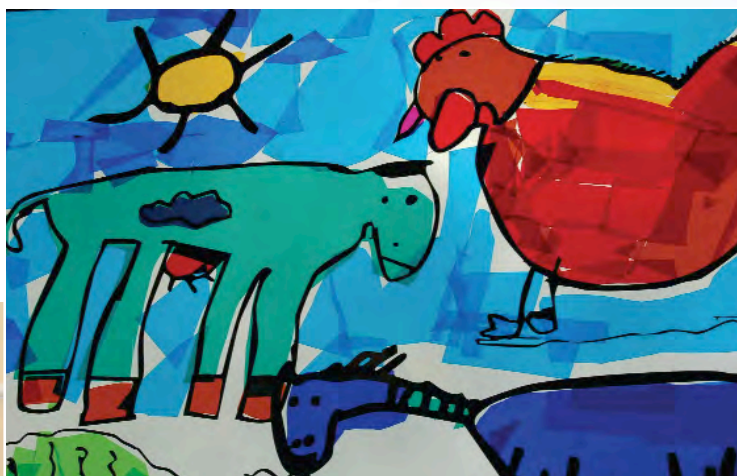
Max Linder, Marketing Director, MACTac Europe presented the UK winning applications – European Winner, National First, Second and Third winners, and those deemed by the jury as "highly commended" judged on the high quality of entry. Max also showed examples of other winning applications across Europe.

Chris Martin, Country Manager, MACTac UK, presented the European Winner with their stunning trophy, and the winners and highly commended entries with their framed certificates.

With the formal side of the evening over, everyone enjoyed a good meal and retired to the bar afterwards in the relaxed surroundings of Sedgebrook Hall.

National First Winner - Judy Foote

Artist Judy Foote designed unique decorations illustrating Roald Dahl books for a children's library in the Cardiff area. MACal 8400 transparent colours applied to windows with natural sunlight coming through make for a magical atmosphere. Products: MACal8400. Distributor: Andersons.



European Winner - Jupiter Display (UK)



European Winner – Exterior Category, Jupiter Display (UK), being presented with the trophy from Mactac UK.

National Second Winner - Kokoon Ltd

Kokoon internally decorated new studio offices with visuals appearing to be suspended in mid-air to give a feeling of space.

Products: MACal 8900, JT5828, LF3898. Distributor: Amari Digital Supplies.

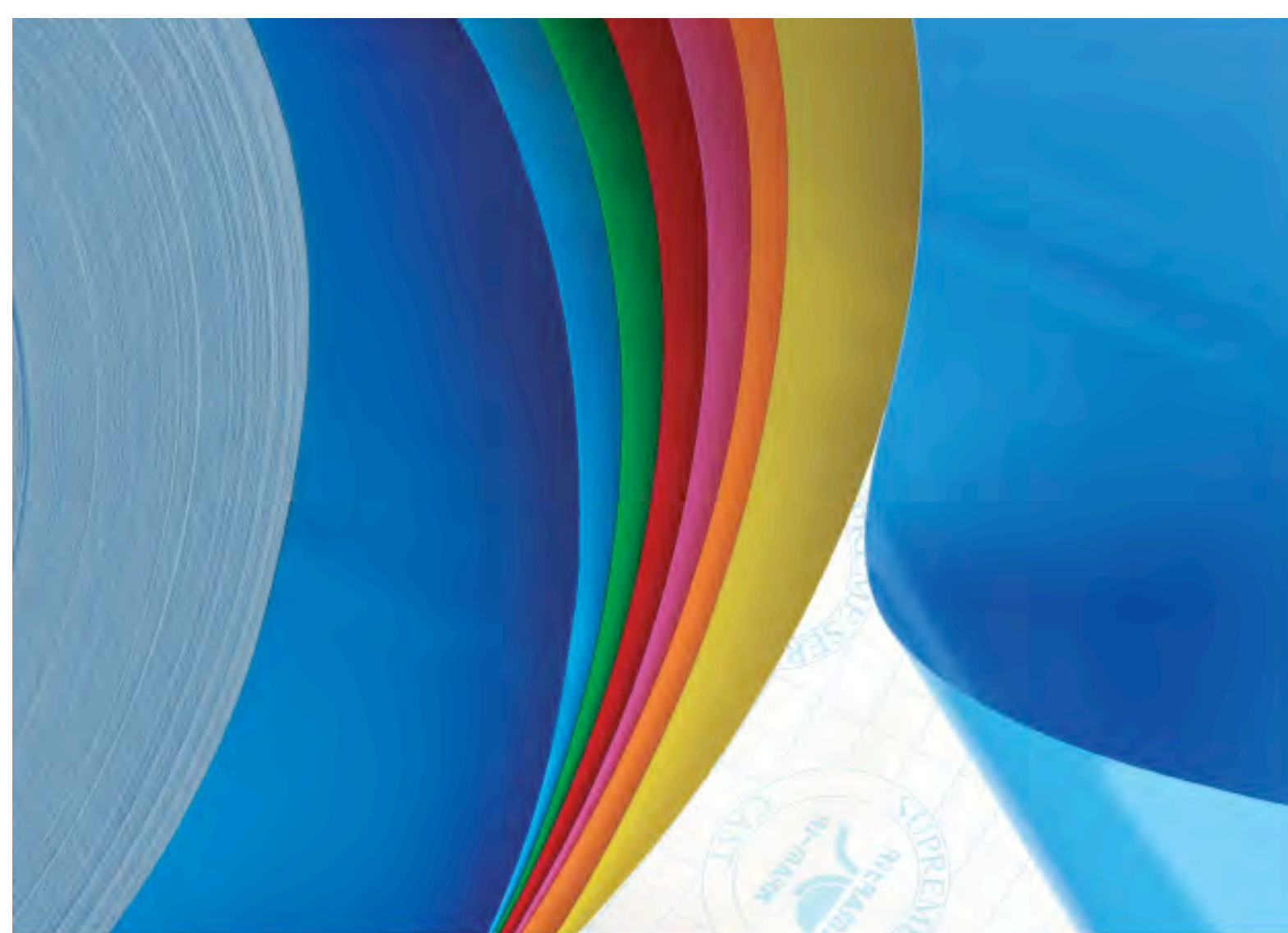
Continued on page 56.....



Jupiter Display produced a giant sculpture in the shape of an ampersand to enliven space between two roundabouts on the approach to Blue Water Shopping Centre. The jury commented particularly on the original execution and the contribution the sculpture made to the image of the area.

Products: JT59299, LF3999. Distributor: Amari Plastics plc.





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MACTAC Awards

Winners celebrate at MACTac Awards dinner

....Continued from page 54

National Third Winner - Raccoon Ltd



Raccoon Ltd decorated and wrapped some 25 of the world's most expensive cars for the Gumball 3000 rally, which runs from London to Asia and back to London.

Products: JT5929MBF, MACal 9800. Distributor: Andersons.

Highly Commended - Signs & Imaging Ltd

Signs & Imaging were awarded a Highly Commended for creating a stunning entrance for the Dickens World indoor visitor complex in Chatham where Charles Dickens lived most of his childhood.

Products: JT5929PM, LF3697. Distributor: Amari Plastics.

Highly Commended - AST Signs

AST Signs was recognised for its work applying graphics on the locomotive and 90 container carriages for Eddie Stobart's first full liveried dedicated freight train in the UK.

Products: JT5529MBF, LF3399.

Highly Commended - Insignia Signs



Insignia Signs decorated the garage that houses the land train on Boscombe seafront using designs produced by eight year olds. The resulting beach hut imagery is in keeping with the area and blends in well with the rest of the promenade.

Products: JT5829R, LF3898. Distributor: Andersons.

Highly Commended - Digital Deadline

Digital Deadline used a printed visual behind a set of semi-transparent stripes. At a distance, the stripes are most visible but as you get closer, the details of the image become clear.

Products: JT5529P, LF3399. Distributor: Amari Digital Supplies.

Highly Commended - Sign Language & Vehicle Wraps Ltd



Sign Language and Vehicle Wraps joined forces to totally wrap 57 vehicles with graphics to promote 40 regional radio stations of the G CAP Media Group.

Products: JT5529P, JT5915, LF3399. Distributor: Andersons.

Highly Commended - The Image Group



The Image Group installed a 3,500sq.m. graphic featuring an Alpine scene for the longest and widest, year-round, indoor snow and ski slope in Europe. The installation had to be made without drilling into the walls, special cherry pickers were used for the first six weeks but when the tin floor was laid these were too heavy and a crack abseiling team was used to complete the installation.

Products: JT5929, LF3998. Distributor: Pyramid Display Materials.

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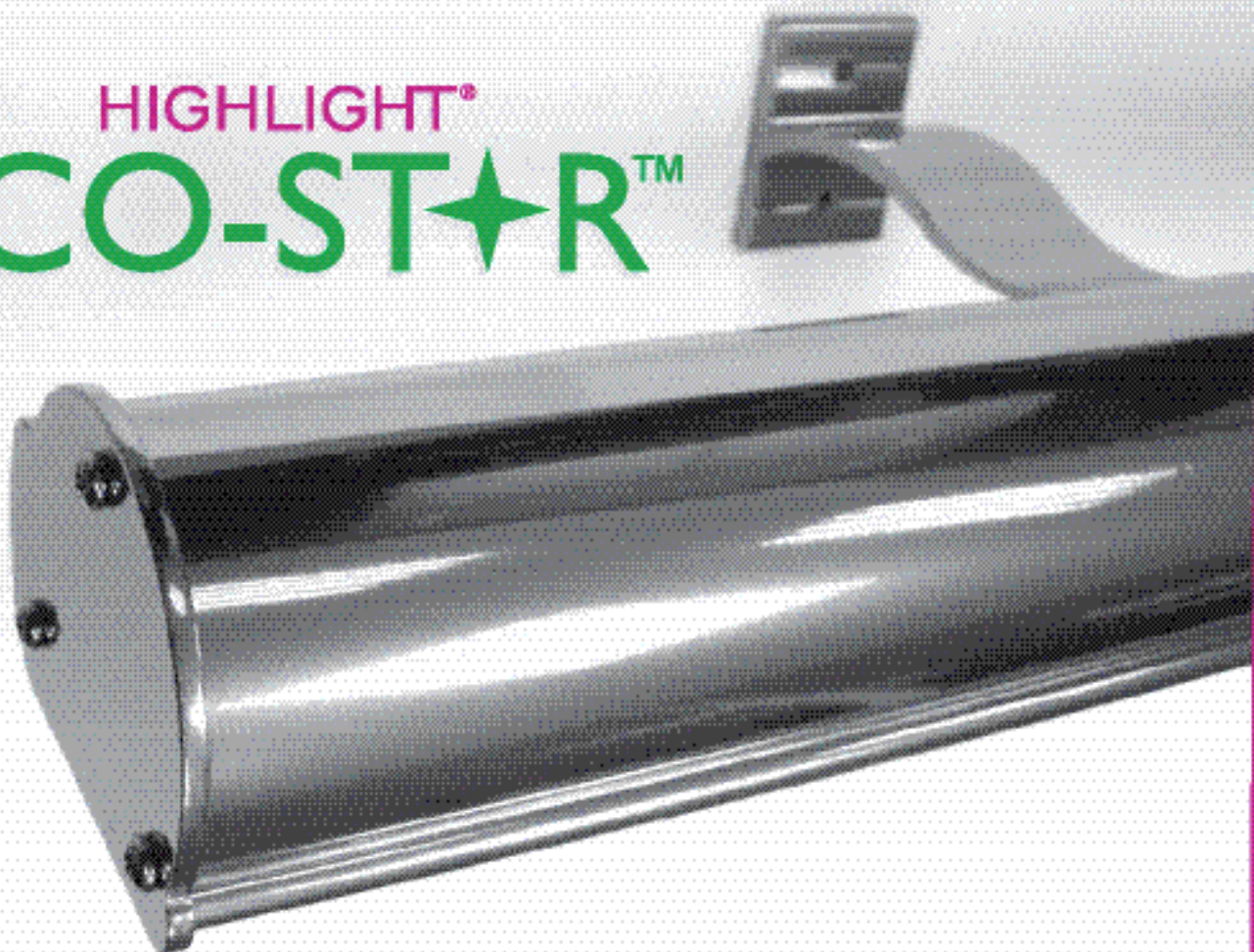
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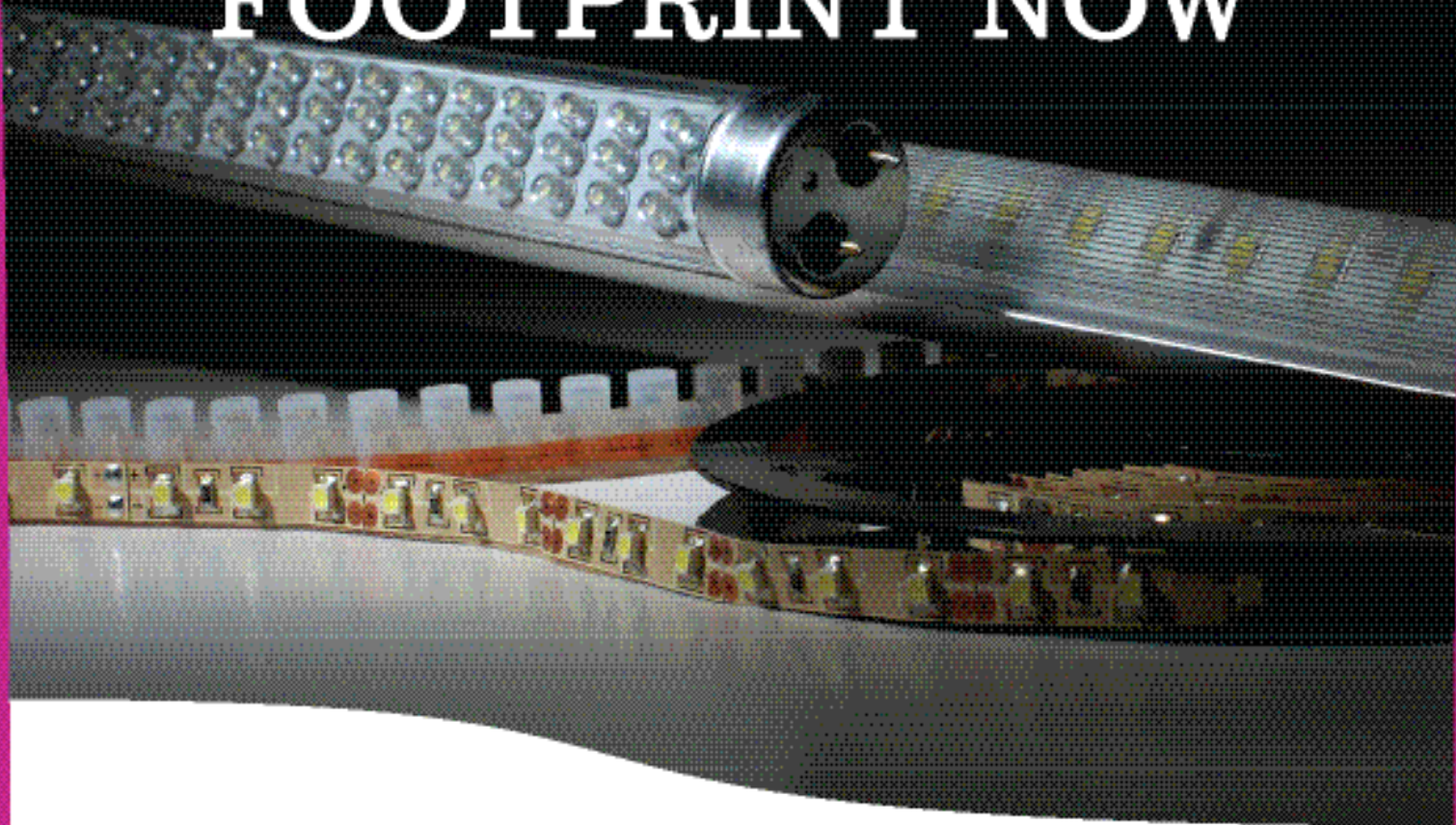
As with all of Insight's products, all things are properly researched to ensure clients have a very user-friendly product. For instance, no requirement to swivel the light due to the shape of the profile which diffuses the illumination (swivelling the profile in towards any sign face can result in glare, making lettering illegible). Our fixing plates are 60 mm top to bottom, which allows fixings to be one above the other. This is twice as secure as two fixings side by side, due to the fact that wind causes lighting to move up and down.

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- Lamp life up to 50,000 hours, based on continuous operation of no longer than 12 hours per day. Complete with 3 years warranty.
- Lamps work straight off the mains 220/240v so no control gear or starters to maintain, and also no harmful mercury, so no WEE charges.
- Available made to measure to any continuous length from 610 mm upwards. Due to carrier restrictions, 3,658 mm is the longest section size.
- We have three standard finishes: silver anodised, powder coated white or black. We can also match most standard powder coated RAL colours.
- Delivered in the UK mainland in 48 hours for standard finishes. Standard RAL colours available in around seven working days.

CUT YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT NOW



...without reducing the level of illumination
specify the all new **LUMIRESCENT™** brand

Lumirescent™ is a new brand of lighting products researched and developed by Insight Sign Systems, one of the UK's most respected and long established trade suppliers, who have worked closely with one of China's leading lighting companies.

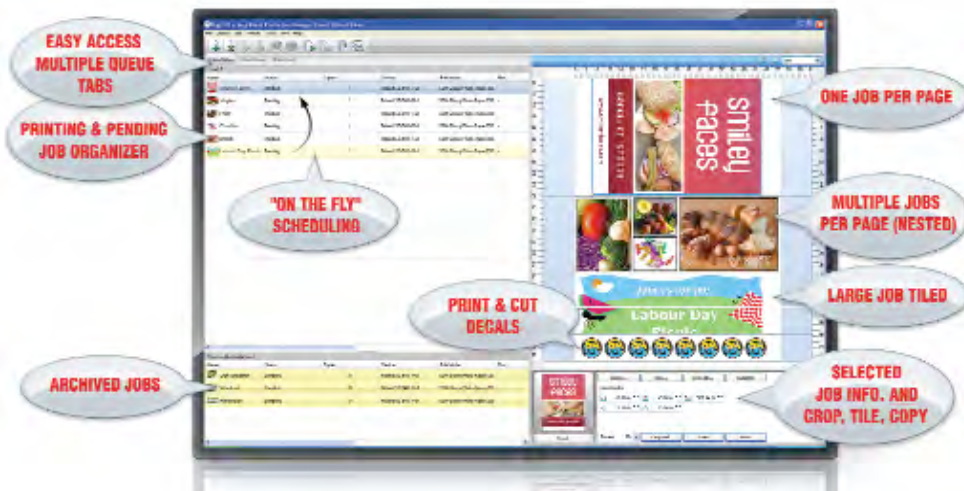
Available from October this year, the range of Lumirescent™ products will expand over the next 12 months, with all products designed first and foremost with signs in mind, covering all aspects such as edge lighting, letter illumination, back lighting, and building illumination. You are not purchasing from a LED supplier with limited experience of sign construction, you are purchasing from a company with 21 years experience in designing and fabricating signs.

KEY FACTS REGARDING LUMIRESCENT™ LAMPS

- They are a direct replacement for T8 fluorescent lamps, providing comparable levels of illumination.
- They require no control gear, working straight from the mains 220/240v.
- They can be retro-fitted to any existing T8 fitting—simply replace, and disconnect old control gear.
- They are solid state, with high shock/vibration resistance, operate with no RF interference and offer instant soft start.
- They do not flicker or buzz, they contain no harmful mercury so therefore do not incur any WEE charges.
- They consume just 3w per linear foot (305 mm) with a lifespan of up to 50,000 hours, complete with 3 years warranty.

SOFTWARE *Focus*

New SignLab Version 8 boasts extra features to boost production



Visual Production Manager is a brand new production-oriented back-end queue system in SignLab Version 8.



Next generation signmaking software is now available from CADlink.

CADlink Technology Corporation, a global leader in signmaking software for more than 18 years and specialising in wide-format printing, has announced the release of its next generation signmaking software, SignLab Version 8.

This new release centres around enhancing the design front-end and complementing it with a brand new production-oriented back-end queue system, Visual Production Manager (VPM). Bolstering an already impressive design engine, SignLab Version 8 now includes an additional 75 special effects plug-ins and comes bundled with a complete bitmap editing application. The SignLab Vinyl package also now includes the pro text composition and colour vectorising features, with a wizard to enable the poorest quality bitmaps to be vectorised quickly and easily. Newly added to the SignLab Vinyl Pro package are all of the design/drawing and special effects tools previously only found in the top-of-the-line print and cut package.

VPM is a multiple queue, multiple printer system designed for simultaneous printing, which is a "must have" for all signshops

digitally printing signs on a daily basis says CADlink. It includes fully automated job management settings for high-volume shops but can also be run completely manually for those shops specialising in lower volume custom sign printing. Recent enhancements to VPM include a PDF supporting RIP engine, template media for easy set up when importing jobs, job costing interface and support for sheet mode devices, both UV flatbeds and desktop style printers.

Additional features of SignLab Version 8 include HalfCut, an automated decal creator for print and cut devices, and the ability to publish to pdf with colour matching. This means customers can be sent pdf proofs that actually colour match when they review them on their screens.

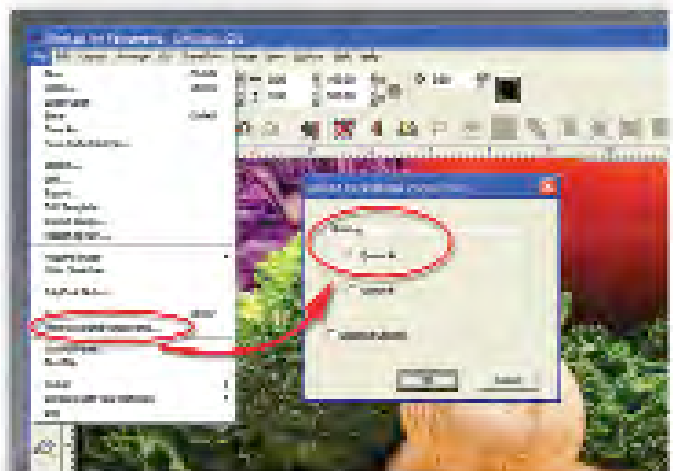
As an added bonus, all customers purchasing SignLab 8 Print and Cut will also receive a special CADlink version of Fluid Mask™ software (value £125), recognised worldwide as a leading image masking application.

SignLab Version 8 for Roland VersaWorks

SignLab Version 8 is now also available in a new configuration called SignLab for VersaWorks™ Edition. Specifically designed for signmakers using VersaWorks software to send print, print and cut jobs to their Roland printers and print and cut devices. Essentially, an unmatched design and production front-end that sends jobs seamlessly to the VersaWorks RIP.

Many VersaWorks users are using desktop publishing programs to output files to VersaWorks software. These software packages simply do not offer the wide format design and production tools or the seamless interface that SignLab for VersaWorks Edition provides.

Visit www.cadlink.com for additional information.



A screen shot from the new SignLab for VersaWorks.



Benefit with GraphCUT's creativity - now available at a special price

Graphtec is now offering buyers of both CE5000 and FC7000MK2 Series the opportunity to include GraphCUT software, usually retailing at £325, for just £80 with their purchase.

GraphCUT has been produced exclusively for these machines by CADlink Technology, the people behind the widely popular SignLab software. Based on SignLab, it includes all the features, design, text and cutting tools needed to quickly achieve professional results.

This new software is easy-to-use and enables even inexperienced operators to get creative and start designing immediately. Whether it's adding drop shadows, special effects to text, editing graphics, or fitting text around an arc, GraphCUT makes it simple.

Available in 600mm and 1200mm cutting widths, the CE5000s are favoured by start-up signmakers and retail outlets that produce their own signage, as well as larger sign businesses wanting extra production capacity. They have an enviable range of functions for cutters in their class, including SmartFeed auto material pre-feed, providing enhanced media tracking for consistent accuracy, and an exceptionally easy-to-use menu.

The FC7000MK2's range of sophisticated features and newly developed functions make them first choice for high production environments. A new all-in-one cutter head, Graphtec's Advanced Registration Mark Sensing System (ARMS), Auto Registration Mark Reading, and more, provide improved cutting accuracy along the entire length of even large and long format drawings plus increased production speeds and reliability.

Whichever machine customers choose, choosing a cutting plotter from Graphtec has just become an even better business investment.

"The CE5000s are designed to help a business grow without a big up-front investment and the FC7000MK2s to boost production. GraphCUT software is the perfect complement to both, enabling operators to quickly and easily produce a wider variety of signage



with extra design elements added," says Phil Kneale, Sales and Marketing Director for Graphtec (GB).

"CADlink has developed industry-leading design and production software for more than 18 years. Specialised tools it developed for particular markets such as signmaking have become industry standards; now that knowledge and expertise has been applied in developing GraphCUT."

"The software that comes with many entry-level and even higher-spec plotters is often very limited and doesn't cater for more than the very basics. But GraphCUT lets you can do much more, and because it's so user-friendly, you don't have to be a technical wizard to achieve excellent results."

"And, where most software that comes with a cutter can't be upgraded as your business grows, GraphCUT can be seamlessly upgraded to SignLab Vinyl, with more money saved in the process," adds Phil.

GraphCUT is fully compatible with Windows 2000, XP and Vista, and comes with full technical support.

To find out more or arrange a demonstration, go to www.graphtecgb.com or telephone 01978 666700.

New VersaWorks 2.7 features new single-pass mode for white ink applications

Roland DG Corporation has introduced version 2.7 of VersaWorks, the company's powerful RIP and colour management software.

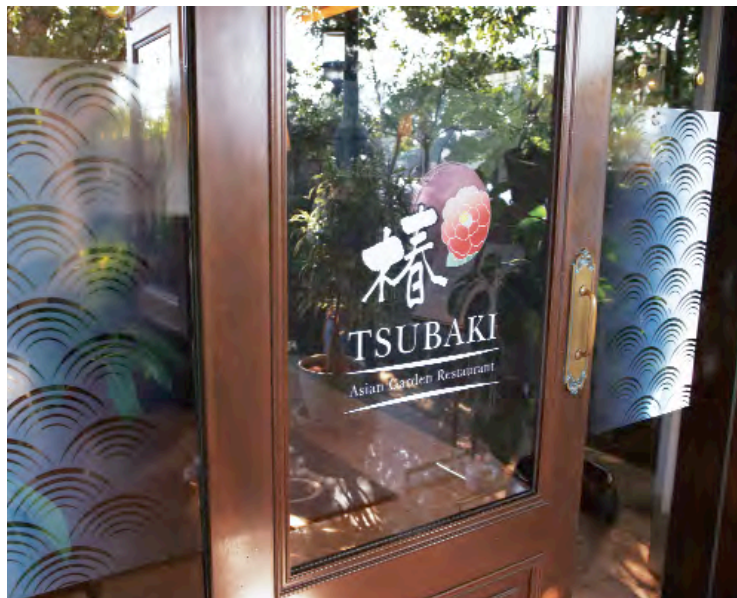
The latest version of VersaWorks features a new single-pass white ink print mode for the company's SolJet PRO III XC-540W 54" printer/cutter.

VersaWorks 2.7 is now available free for Roland users at www.rolanddg.com/download.html.

"We are pleased to offer our XC-540W customers the ability to select either conventional dual-pass print mode or new single-pass print mode for white ink applications," said Roland DG (UK), Head of Product Management, Brett Newman.

"This flexibility allows shops to customise their workflow for the job at hand. New single-pass white ink print mode allows users to take full advantage of the XC-540W's media take-up system for long unattended production runs and large prints such as decorative window graphics. Dual-pass print mode is recommended whenever overprinting is involved and when the media selected requires an extended dry time. Both print modes deliver exceptionally smooth gradations for outstanding overall print quality."

The new VersaWorks is designed for high density printing and jobs requiring more opacity and facilitates print and cut applications such as labels, decals and product design. It reduces ink consumption while delivering brighter colour output and better opacity; as a result, production and maintenance costs are lower and efficiency and productivity are increased.



White ink applications have just got easier with the latest version of VersaWorks.

Roland introduces R-Wear studio design software for apparel and gift shops

Roland DG Corporation has developed Roland R-Wear Studio, powerful new design software that supports Roland R-Wear Business Solutions.

Designed to meet the demands of custom apparel and gift shops, R-Wear Studio offers all the necessary design elements for a range of profitable applications, including heat-transfers for apparel, gift engraving, hot-fix rhinestones, vinyl lettering, labels and decals, and POS signage. With R-Wear Studio, users can even create multimedia apparel decorations featuring rhinestone embellishments and heat transfers together using vector-based designs, logos and lettering.

Roland R-Wear Studio comes complete with artwork, stylised typefaces and patterns for fast, easy production.

Users can also import their own graphics, rhinestone patterns, personalised lettering, unique backgrounds and more for the ultimate in customisation.

"With R-Wear Studio, you can create a wide variety of rhinestone templates quickly and inexpensively without relying on outsourcing," said Peter Kettle, Roland DG 3D Product and Sales Manager. "R-Wear Studio has a large library of 500 hot-fix rhinestones that match the different colours, sizes and types available on the market. The software can also automatically display a job's cost, allowing users to quickly calculate profits and manage rhinestone inventories. R-Wear Studio is a great addition to the R-Wear Business Solution suite."

Roland R-Wear Solutions are based on the company's output devices including EGX engravers, the GX-24 cutter and the VersaCAMM VP-300 inkjet printer/cutter. Each device delivers outstanding results across a variety of workflows for maximum creativity.

With R-Wear Business Solutions, users can generate simple vinyl lettering using the Roland GX-24 cutter, or print and cut more complex graphics by pairing a commercially available printer with the GX-24.

Shops can also print and cut colourful heat transfers, labels and decals with the Roland VersaCAMM VP-300, all in one seamless workflow.



Design elements for a range of applications are included in Roland's R-Wear Studio.

Castop Plus software supports award-winning friezes created for domes of mosques

Using his preferred Castop Plus sign design and production software supplied by Wissen, Muhammad Al-Amin Eatwell's acclaimed handcrafted friezes for the domes of mosques in Chesham and Acton won the coveted The Craftsman of the Year Award at the recent Sign Industry Awards 2008. A convert to Islam, Muhammad is a highly accomplished artist and calligrapher who discovered that the combination of acrylic and vinyl based on designs created exclusively with this particular software program provided the perfect solution to the production of highly individualistic decorative friezes.

Key features that relate directly to the way Muhammad works with Castop Plus include a freehand drawing tool and a powerful node editor that allows contours to be manipulated at will.

It is also easy to switch between drawing and node-editing modes, while the software's distortion tools allow the finished imagery to be transformed to give perspective and three-dimensional effects. Graphic interpretations such as gradient, texture and transparent fills are used to prepare the work for proof printing.

Using Castop Plus, Muhammad created a 30-metre circumference frieze, a two-metre centrepiece and 16 radial spokes for the interior of the dome at the new Chesham Mosque in Buckinghamshire. All of the work on the dome was original line vector graphics (no scanning or clip art was employed).

By continually upgrading the Castop family of software to meet changing market requirements, Wissen has achieved near benchmark status in the development of 'open' sign design and production software that gives small- to medium-size users the flexibility and the power to choose all of the elements of each system to suit individual requirements and available budgets. This is in stark contrast with the large number of computer-driven sign-making systems that are sold largely as 'closed' turnkey solutions that are less flexible and invariably more expensive.





A close-up of the award-winning interior dome manifestations at the Chesham Mosque, which won The Craftsman of the Year award at SIA 2008.

Worth noting is the fact that Muhammad created the award-winning friezes using Castop Plus software. Now Wissen has extended the upgrade path with the launch of Castop Plus 6. Apart from the tried and tested features of previous programs, this latest package has a new MDI (Multi Document Interface) that allows users to carry out multiple jobs simultaneously. Roll Ups also enable commonly used tools to be kept handy without taking up valuable workspace, while the simplicity of the RET (Recursive Editing Technology) feature belies a huge capacity for the program's speed of production. Using this tool, special effects (for example, shadows) are linked to the original to allow editing and the incorporation of customer's own design refinements infinitely and in a matter of seconds.

Speed is also the hallmark of the Galleries feature of Castop Plus 6 that allows objects and effects to be added with the same degree of acceleration. Using a simple drag and drop process,

customised libraries involving any kind of data can be created instantaneously to achieve fast and consistent results using, for example, drop fills, transparencies and transitions.

For enhanced colour fidelity, Castop Plus 6 now supports Windows ICM colour management protocols, while a new Postscript interpreter allows the import of Postscript, EPS and Adobe Illustrator files without loss of bitmap data. Other key elements include a corner-rounding facility for doming applications that automatically smoothens sharp corners to prevent doming resin flowing off the media and a powerful colour-trapping function to assist in the production of screens and more professional-looking vinyl colour overlays.

For further information, visit www.wissenuk.com or telephone Kevin Wallace at Wissen UK on 020 8894 3344.



Interior of the Chesham Mosque.

Solve your quoting and job number headaches with Clarity Professional Software



Since 2000 Touch Systems has developed Clarity Professional, a CRM / MIS system for small to medium sized organisations in the sign industry. With a record number of new companies implementing the software during the last quarter Clarity Professional is now being used by more than 2000 users in the UK and Ireland.

Clarity Professional is completely scaleable and can grow with a business. By the addition of extra modules such as Purchase Orders, Production and Goods Handling it gives the user a tailored solution suitable for their needs. Whether it's a one-man-band or an organisation with 50 employees, licences that can be networked easily with a company database can be added at any time.

Following the recent Sign Industry Award 2008, related Sign Business of the Year Winner Mark Aston of AST Signs exclaimed: "There is no way I could run my business without Clarity Professional."

The gala evening was hosted by ex-BBC war correspondent John Seargent; Touch Systems's Dhiren Varand presented the coveted Best Wayfinding Scheme award to Clarity user Neil Devery of Sign Box, who commented: "The software is fantastic and I would recommend it to anyone."

Rather than spending the day working out time consuming quotes, typing out invoices, delivery notes and chasing up orders, Clarity Professional does it all. Clarity generates quotations, confirmations, works orders, delivery notes, invoices and much more, automatically in PDF, word or Excel formats. By reducing administration, the easy to use software allows sign makers to focus on their customers and win more business.

For more information visit www.claritypro.com or telephone 0121 248 2448.

clarity
PROFESSIONAL™
Software to streamline your business

FUJIFILM Sericol launches Large Format Printing business

FUJIFILM Sericol recently announced the launch of its Large Format Printing business in the UK. This will bring together a complete range of hardware, ink, media, software and tools from a single-source supplier, with many of the products carrying the company's newly-acquired euromedia brand.

The roll-out of the euromedia solution in the UK follows its highly successful launch in mainland Europe, with around 10,000 customers such as sign makers, in-house print departments, exhibition contractors, advertising agencies, copy, print and photo shops now enjoying the benefits that the euromedia range brings.

Part of FUJIFILM's wider inkjet strategy, the introduction of the euromedia brand in the UK, follows FUJIFILM's acquisitions of Sericol in 2005 and Colormy in October 2007. The euromedia solution brings together FUJIFILM Sericol's screen and inkjet knowledge with Colormy's expertise in the large format print market, resulting in FUJIFILM now being able to offer a comprehensive choice of wide format inkjet solutions to the industry.

Designed specifically for large format print providers, the euromedia range includes hand-picked, best-in-class products, which are all evaluated and qualified by industry experts before being integrated into end-to-end print solutions. Field technical support, including engineering, application and colour management, will be provided by FUJIFILM and FUJIFILM Sericol technical staff based in the UK and in Europe.

SERICOL

More than ink...Solutions.

FUJIFILM

Over time, FUJIFILM Sericol intends to develop a programme of customer support that draws on the example of Colormy's backing for the euromedia brand in mainland Europe, which comprises both technical support and business advice. For example, when customers call to order, they are invited to explain the job they are planning so euromedia experts can advise solutions that will add value and improve results. In addition, business management, co-operative marketing and technical support training programmes will be available, along with external sales training to help customers win more business.

For more information, visit www.euromedia.eu.com or telephone 0845 0805544.



Laserite relocates to Basildon

As part of its ongoing rapid expansion Laserite, Essex based laser cutting and marking systems provider, has relocated the business from Brentwood to Basildon.

The new facility of 680 sq.m (7,300 sq.ft) hosts a very wide range of CO2 and YAG laser cutting, marking and engraving devices.



The new facility hosts over a dozen demonstration machines within two show-room areas amounting to 100 sq.m as well as significantly improved production, support, sales, warehouse and office spaces.



Dean Carpenter, Director, comments "The Brentwood facility served us well during the last eight years, however, with the phenomenal success of our Lotus product range we simply didn't have the space to cope with the upsurge in sales.

"At Basildon we had a 'blank canvas' to create a bespoke facility to provide us with sufficient space to store and service machines for current and foreseeable future demand.

"The Basildon property is of a prestigious quality and its acquisition shows further proof of our confidence and ongoing commitment to strengthening our business in both current and new market sectors."

As well as increased space Laserite has added more staff and other resources to support the systems it supplies. See www.laserite.com for further details.



Early Christmas Presents to

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*** 2 Year** Full Colour Digitally Printed Vinyl **£9.00/m²**


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 **Robert Horne Group**

Enhanced customer service by new automated aluminium extrusion handling facility at Universal

Sign manufacturers requiring a faster than normal turnaround on orders for aluminium extrusions for the on-site assembly of illuminated and non-illuminated sign solutions are now benefiting from a new automated materials handling facility installed at Bristol-based Universal Aluminium Systems. The company is one of the UK's leading suppliers of aluminium extrusions for the sign manufacturing and the architectural/building/glazing sectors.

At a cost of £1 million, Universal has installed a Unicomcompact computer-controlled automatic storage and retrieval system supplied by specialist production solutions provider KASTO and supported by new ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software. Key aspects of the system include the provision of a much greater and more varied stockholding capability and faster location, handling and delivery of materials to the ultimate benefit of all Universal customers.

Head of Production at the Bristol facility, Gary Darlington explained: 'Due to the honeycomb design of the Unicomcompact system, we can now save up to two thirds of the space previously taken up by conventional A-frame racks, whilst increasing our materials stockholding capacity from 300 to 800 tonnes. Since at any given time Universal holds between 600 and 700 tonnes of material, this leaves room for additional varieties of extrusion to be stocked. Furthermore, whereas previously it took a full eight-hour shift to unload, manhandle and stack the material vertically, it now takes only two hours to carry out the same procedure using the fully automated Unicomcompact system. There are also fewer health and safety issues to be addressed and a greatly reduced risk of materials being damaged during handling.'

Using the system's ERP software, locating and delivering the material is, according to Gary Darlington, at least twice as fast as the conventional and more labour-intensive A-frame retrieval method previously employed. Operators simply follow on-screen instructions to pick the required amount of material from each job processing cassette presented by the system's gantry-type crane. In a single operation and to save further time, this picks the next cassette whilst simultaneously dispensing with the previous one.

Technical Director at Universal, Carl Richards added: 'The Unicomcompact system stores hundreds of different types of extrusion in lengths ranging from three to 6.5 metres. The computer control knows the content of each cassette in which material is stored horizontally in bundles that are unpacked only when needed, thereby avoiding unnecessary handling. When material is removed, the computer automatically knows how many extrusions have been taken by the difference in the weight of the cassette.'

Commenting on the contribution that the Unicomcompact system is making to Universal's growth expectations, General Manager Jarl Severn concluded: 'Our £11 million-turnover stockholding and fabrication facility has, by virtue of this investment, positioned itself to increase the company's market share of what are continually developing sectors of industry. With its attendant merits of being a fully recyclable material and offering outstanding light weight-to-strength capabilities, aluminium will be adopted increasingly for a wide range of applications.'

For further information, visit www.universal-aluminium.co.uk or telephone 0117 955 9091.



The newly installed Unicomcompact storage system.

FLAT CUT LETTERS AND LOGO'S

signrite
Isle of Man Limited

STANDARD COLOURS IN CAST ACRYLIC (BLOCK FONTS)

Size mm	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	380	480	610	762	1200
3 mm	£0.80	£1.00	£1.10	£1.32	£1.45	£2.20	£2.75	£2.90	£3.30	£4.00	£5.90	£7.50	£10.80	£18.00	£40.00
6 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	480	610	762	1200
3 mm	£0.85	£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
6 mm	£1.22	£1.27	£1.27	£1.80	£2.02	£2.26	£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	£3.00	£4.00	£4.66	£5.47	£5.61	£7.60	£8.40	£10.80	£14.00	£18.00	£27.00	£46.00
18 mm	£3.00	£3.50	£4.00	£1.50	£5.80	£7.56	£8.21	£9.89	£11.81	£13.50	£15.00	£20.09	£26.00	£40.00	£80.00

Add 10% if Drawplan & Simplefix Locators are required

BRUSHED FINISHED DIBOND

Size mm	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	380	480	610	762	1200
3 mm	£1.97	£2.17	£2.17	£3.20	£4.00	£4.80	£5.80	£6.70	£7.80	£9.10	£9.70	£11.90	£18.50	£30.00	£85.00

Add 20% if Drawplan & Simplefix Locators are required

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Mutoh Europe expands

Mutoh Europe, a business unit of Mutoh Holdings Co. Ltd., recently announced that it has reached a final agreement to acquire the company SE Group S.A., the holding company of the Sesoma and Sericomex companies. The Sesoma – Sericomex group (SE Group) will continue its activities as a sub-concern of Mutoh Europe. This transaction is in line with the strategy of the Mutoh Group to accelerate its growth in Europe.

Headquartered in Luxembourg since 1995, the SE Group is a leading supplier of equipment and materials for the sign & display and industrial visual communication markets in Scandinavia and in the Baltic States.

“Consolidation of the SE group’s activities within Mutoh Europe represents significant growth opportunities for both Mutoh and Sesoma – Sericomex,” says Arthur Vanhoutte, President of Mutoh’s European operations.

“We have been working closely together with the Sesoma and Sericomex companies since 1992, when they became authorised distributor for Mutoh CAD/CAS equipment.”

“Our key goal in acquiring the SE Group is to accelerate Mutoh’s growth in Europe. Apart from a recognised brand name and market position in Scandinavia and the Baltic states, the SE Group has an experienced management, excellent logistics, highly skilled personnel and last but not least a wide customer base.

Their extensive field experience will also assist us further to develop future products meeting the needs of digital printer users.” Vanhoutte concludes.

For further information visit www.mutoh.be



From left to right: Mr. M. Takayama, Chairman Mutoh Holdings Co., Ltd. - Mr. Rauno Leijola, Chairman of the SE-Group - Mr. T. Sato, President of Mutoh Holdings Co., Ltd. - Mr. Arthur Vanhoutte, President of Mutoh’s European operations - Mr. Samuli Vuorenhela, CEO of the SEGroup.

PaperlinX moves to strengthen sign & display businesses

PaperlinX intends to leverage the strength of its Sign & Display business across the UK market to create a stronger, more flexible and customer focused organisation. Europoint and Robert Horne’s Sign and Display division will retain their individual market propositions whilst leveraging the scale of the PaperlinX UK business in terms of conversion, warehousing, finance, administration and e-commerce. Investment in product and service innovation will also be optimised to ensure greater value can be added to their customer’s business. These moves allow each business to continue to offer their customers market leading products while ensuring the support functions enable the highest level of customer service to be achieved.

Dave Allen, Regional President of UK, Ireland and South Africa of PaperlinX commented:

“This structure will allow PaperlinX to build market leading capabilities in areas such as Environmental products, Digital Solutions, Conversion and Industrial Plastics. For customers this means business as usual with the leading suppliers in the market – Robert Horne and Europoint, but with the added benefits this new organisation creates.”

For further information contact your local Europoint or Robert Horne branch.



Dave Allen, regional president of UK, Ireland and South Africa for PaperlinX.

28 - 30 April 2009, Halls 6-8, NEC Birmingham

sign&digital UK

>screenprint & digital signage

With preparations for next year's show well underway and the exhibitors below already signed up, Sign & Digital UK 2009 promises to be a big hit.

ABC audited total visitor attendance of 7,645 in 2008

"The best show yet! A remarkable number of visitors to our stand so much so that we have sent an urgent message to the office for extra product guides. I didn't hesitate when asked to sign up for Sign & Digital UK 2009."

John Clements, Sales and Marketing Director, Boldscan Banners



- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Abacus IFO ■ Allion Design ■ Alcan Composites ■ Andersons a subsidiary of Litho Supplies UK ■ Applelec Sign Components ■ Applied Image Technology ■ Arken ■ Atwell Eyelids & Pressings ■ AXYZ Automation ■ Boldscan Banners & Frames ■ BIC Activewear ■ CMI ■ Colourgen ■ Core Display ■ Crown Norge ■ Denis Hawkins ■ Die-making Machinery ■ Drylac ■ DIP Supplies ■ Daylight Developments ■ Emach ■ ESKO Artwork ■ Expand International ■ Fairfield Displays & Lighting ■ Jenn Tool ■ Flagpole Express ■ Fujifilm Suricol ■ Gigaprint ■ Global Recting Sign Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Granthams ■ Howlett Packard ■ Hextis ■ Hybrid Services ■ Identify Permanent Imaging Solutions ■ Impact Graphic Solutions ■ Innova Solutions ■ I-SPI Trade Supply ■ ITC ■ Jansen Display ■ JMS Info 100 Group ■ Keencut ■ Latitude ■ Lander/Print Technologies ■ Loupold Professional Services Ltd ■ LFP Products ■ Lion Picture Framing Supplies ■ Loxam Access ■ Luminous Media ■ Marabu ■ Mclink Media ■ Metroplan ■ Multipanelink ■ Naschen UK ■ Nova Chrome ■ Octanorm UK ■ Oyo Instruments ■ Photocast Products ■ Planet Digital ■ Plex Display ■ Print Finishing Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Printunax ■ printone uk ■ Reflectiv Window Films ■ Revolution Transfers ■ Robert Horne Group ■ Roland DG (UK) ■ Rose Plastics UK ■ Russell & Chapple ■ Sign Elite ■ Sign Gear Systems ■ Signbase UK ■ Signmaster Systems ■ signs.co.uk ■ Sign Ware GmbH ■ Signwaves Trade ■ Solent Sewing Machines ■ Spandex ■ Ta Ya Canvas (Shanghai) Company Limited ■ Target Digital ■ Tharstern ■ The Hen Warehouse ■ Touch Systems ■ Tradefocus ■ Ullima Displays ■ Vivid Laminating Technologies ■ Vizcomm (Europe) ■ VKF (Renzel) ■ William Smith ■ Xpress ■ Yuan Yuan Inkjet Media |
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With over 80% of stand space already taken....Book your stand now!
Call Alex Howard on 0208 651 7155 or Alex Dann on 0208 651 7091

For more information on **Sign & Digital Ireland and Print Ireland 2009** please visit www.signanddigitalireland.com

New company launch - Live Event Branding

The former production manager, general manager and business development manager of various high profile branding companies in the UK and the Middle East, has launched his own company.

Rory Blackwood, 34, has set up Live Event Branding, specialising in fabric branding for events and venues.

The company offers a range of products, including flags, banners, flagpoles, lamp post banners, pop up banners and tents, café barriers, crowd surf barriers, pitch banners and house builder/forecourt poles and signage from its base in Colchester, Essex, and via its website.

Rory Blackwood said: "We have more than 15 years experience in signs, digital print, flags, banners and event branding, as well as in design, production delivery and installations.

"We're confident that Live Event Branding can provide a first-class service to a wide range of customers. Our aim is to get our customers brands noticed and assist in making the event or venue an enjoyable and attractive place to be, whether it is one single product, a whole event, complete venue or branding consultancy service.

"We are able to source the best quality fabrics and textiles, all of which are environmentally friendly and of the highest quality. In the current economic climate it is crucial that clients are advised and helped in obtaining the best product at the most competitive price, delivered and installed on time. We have the experience and the resources to ensure that happens at all times."

Further details are available by visiting the website www.live-event-branding.co.uk or by telephone on 01206 274090.



Live Event Branding – aiming for success from supplying a single product to branding for entire events.



Rory Blackwood, founder of new company Live Event Branding.

New catalogue said to be the biggest and best yet

More products, more pages, more pictures... UK Point of Sale has launched Display Buyer's Guide – Edition 09 – and reckons this latest issue is its best ever catalogue

The Guide weighs in at an impressive 208 pages, more than twice the size of its predecessor. It lists over 3,000 innovative products, 500 of them brand new, arranged across 20 product categories for ease of use. UK Point of Sale can also boast a warehousing facility holding four million items and as a result offers quick delivery of stock items from receipt of order.

The new guide illustrates products actually being used and boasts the lowest price ever on a large number of key lines.

Debra Jamieson, Sales Director at UK Point of Sale,

is convinced that "this is just about the most comprehensive and complete collection of POS display ranges to be put together. Customers can save both time and cost by going direct to the UK manufacturer."

Regular trading customers can look forward to receiving their copy imminently.

The launch of Display Buyer's Guide – Edition 09 will be supported by a complete communications plan including advertising, web marketing, e-mail communications and a series of paper mailings to give anyone the opportunity to request their own free guide.

Potential customers are invited to request a copy of Display Buyer's Guide – Edition 08 via the UK Point of Sale web site, www.ukpos.com or by phoning 0161 443 4400.

FULL TRADE WORK MANUFACTURE & INSTALLATION

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FINISH	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	475mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
Standard Colours	£0.98	£1.37	£1.79	£2.30	£2.62	£3.05	£4.37	£5.13	£6.00	£6.55	£7.42	£8.73	£10.15	£14.19	£17.46	£54.64
Chrome	£1.80	£2.30	£2.62	£3.85	£5.24	£6.31	£7.38	£8.51	£10.15	£12.41	£13.97	£15.80	£18.84	£23.18	£28.58	£88.44
Brushed	£1.20	£1.50	£2.08	£2.57	£3.49	£4.20	£4.91	£5.68	£6.77	£8.30	£9.28	£10.53	£12.55	£15.45	£19.65	£58.91



ACRYLIC

exterior grade perspex or plexiglas gold & silver available

HEIGHT	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	475mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.55	£0.72	£0.84	£1.10	£1.31	£1.64	£2.18	£2.72	£2.95	£3.38	£4.15	£6.17	£7.53	£9.28	£11.21	£13.66
5mm	£0.82	£1.04	£1.31	£1.64	£2.07	£2.51	£3.27	£4.03	£5.18	£5.68	£7.09	£8.73	£9.83	£12.55	£15.28	£40.04
10mm	£1.65	£2.08	£2.62	£3.28	£4.15	£5.01	£6.55	£8.08	£10.38	£11.35	£14.19	£17.46	£19.65	£25.11	£30.56	£120.01



FOAM PVC

available in white only other sizes available on request class 1 fire retardant

HEIGHT	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	475mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.38	£0.48	£0.77	£0.93	£1.03	£1.25	£1.41	£1.91	£2.18	£2.45	£2.73	£3.60	£4.37	£5.18	£7.09	£16.38
5mm	£0.43	£0.65	£0.98	£1.31	£1.80	£2.07	£2.40	£2.84	£3.27	£3.93	£4.64	£5.46	£6.18	£7.20	£9.98	£27.28
10mm	£0.77	£1.20	£1.55	£2.50	£3.17	£3.95	£4.48	£5.46	£6.55	£7.49	£8.41	£10.36	£12.01	£15.78	£19.43	£59.39



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Add 10% to price if plastic locators and template are required

Add 10% to price for VHB tape to rear

Add 20% to price if typeface is extended

Add 25% to price if a template is required for cladding

Add 25% to price for Gloss Finish Foam PVC

Add 25% to price for a rounded or 45 edge to letter

Additional locators bag of 250(M) 250(F)

large £51 small £37

Additional Glue 500ml of Adhesive £23

£15 Delivery for standard items, larger items per quotation

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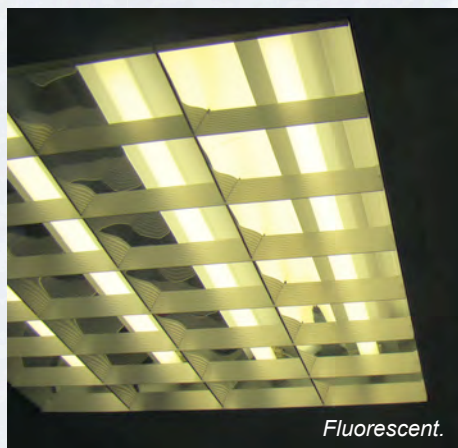
tel: **01273 413018** fax: **01273 412006**

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COMPANY *Update*

Could this spell the beginning of the end of the fluorescent lamp?

Richard Rinn from Insight Sign Systems, owner of the Lumirescent™ brand, gives his thoughts on how they compare with fluorescents.



Lumirescent lamps can match T8 lamps in every way except cost. However, if energy costs remain as high as at present, payback time can be as little as 18 months. From then on, Lumirescent users start to reap the benefit of the fact that they are 70 per cent more energy efficient than fluorescent lamps. Also, Lumirescent lamps do not flicker; they contain no harmful mercury so there is no WEEE charge, are solid state and having polycarbonate covers in place of glass, are more robust. Probably best of all, they require no additional control gear or starters, working straight off 220/240 volts mains, so no maintenance is required.

My only concern, explains Richard Rinn, is the definition of life. Most LEDs are sold stating a minimum life of 50,000 hours; but how many suppliers inform their clients that the performance (Lumens) output could be reduced to just 30 per cent of the original output by the time they reach 50,000 hours?

With so many factors such as continuous running time, heat, the quality of LEDs and drivers, location, and the way they are installed, it is hard to know how long any LED will maintain a useful life, which I am told should be not less than 70 per cent of its original lumens output. With life of 50,000 hours based on 12 hours a day running, this is around 10 years, but it has not been possible for any real history of how reliable they really are to have been gathered yet, so a lot of estimating is going on.

One other thing I have been advised of is that if you run LEDs continuously for longer than 12 hour cycles, Lumens output drops much more quickly.

We here at Insight are no different from other suppliers in that we do not know exactly how long our Lumirescent lamps will maintain their useful life, but we can state that we are using only high quality components, all backed by a three year warranty, and have conducted many months of tests. Final tests continue and the product launch is planned for January 2009.

We feel confident that our product offers the same quality as leading brands, and as a company we will be totally transparent in that we advise to the best of our ability what customers can expect from our products.

Therefore we have decided against saying a 50,000 hours life, which we know they will last, but how bright? So we are saying a life of six years, based on a maximum operation cycle of 12 hours a day, 365 days a year.

These photos show a direct comparison between Lumirescent (left and right) and fluorescent (centre) in the same standard suspended ceiling grid lighting systems. The right hand one has the original 4 x 610 mm Osram white 18 watt fluorescent lamps which consume approximately 24 watts each, operated through magnetic style control gear (total consumption 96 watts). The left hand grid has been retro-fitted with 4 x 610 mm 8 watt DIP style cool white Lumirescent lamps (other colours of white are available), total consumption 32 watts.



This photo shows a direct comparison, Lumirescent Lamp v Fluorescent Lamp, illuminating a backlit flexible face sign. "Illumination is very comparable brightness wise, but Lumirescent colours are more vibrant, all be it with a slight blue tinge while the fluorescent appears more yellow tinged. It may be personal taste but I believe the Lumirescent colour looks more modern and clean.

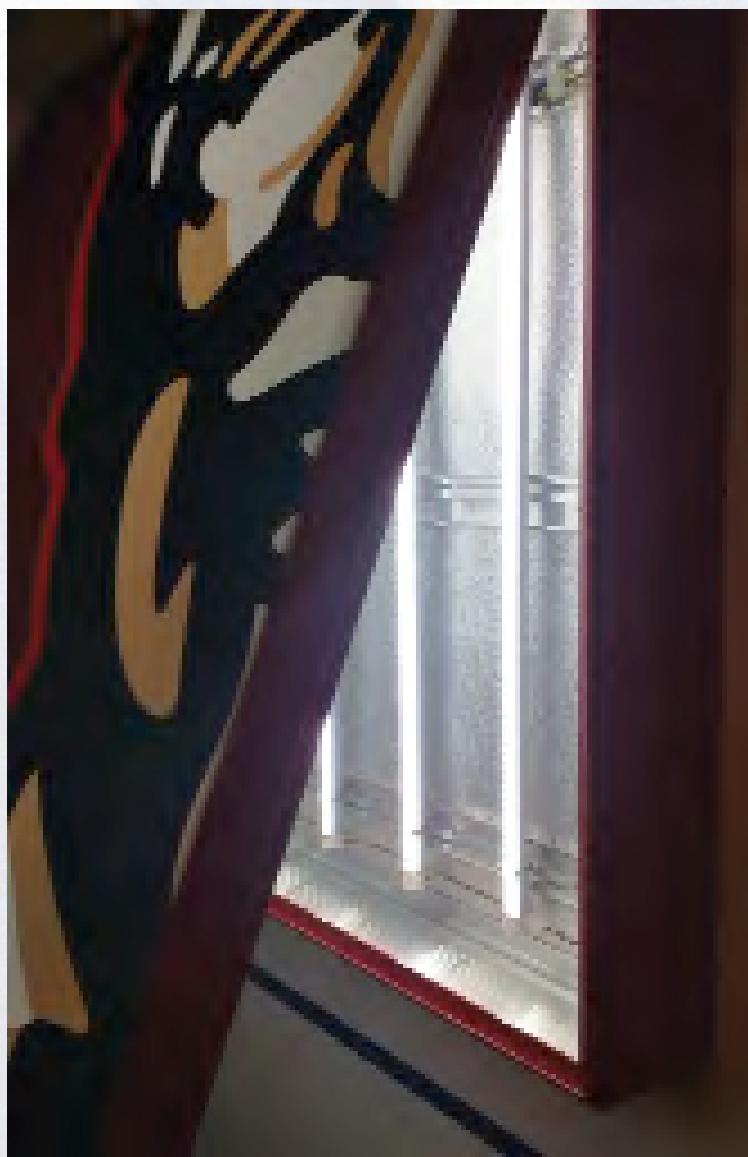
Currently, Insight offers five lengths that match standard T8 fluorescent lamps and very soon will be adding 750 and 1800. We did consider DIP along with SMD style but our findings are that SMD maintains Lumens much more efficiently, so only one style will be available despite the DIP being shown in our advert and in this photo.



The next photo shows a test taking place on a KFC backlit sign where the existing fluorescents were removed and Lumirescent lamps retro-fitted in their place. The results are very good in that the level of brightness was the same as the previous fluorescent lamps and the face illumination was vibrant, making the image appear sharper. The most obvious benefit is that the Lumirescent lamps consumed just 36W in total compared to the fluorescent lamps which consumed 172W in total, being operated through standard magnetic chokes.



The wiring layout for Lumirescent lamps (note: no control gear required).



Recent tests showed retro-fitting of Lumirescent lamps gave very good results.

Due to the cost of Luminescent ranging between £25 and £50, coupled with the warranty from our manufacture starting from delivery date to us, we aren't holding large stocks. Consequently, turn around for delivery of large quantities is two to three weeks.

At Insight we are confident that this type of product will become the replacement for fluorescent lamps. Consider the fact that the saving in electricity based on a current tariff of 12p per kWh, operating 8-12 hours a day, 365 days a year, payback of a standard fit Luminescent will be around 18-20 months. Thereafter the savings are based on comparing a standard five foot 58 w T8 fluorescent lamp consuming 72W operated through standard gear trays, compared to a five foot of Lumirescent lamps consuming just 18W. The savings are £27.08 per year per five foot lamp, based on 12 hours a day, 365 days a year at a tariff of 12p KWh

Add to this the saving in maintenance, parts, and CO₂ emissions, why would you not fit Luminescent lamps? Everyone is a winner, you save money while helping to save the planet.

Further information is available at insightsignsystems.com or by telephoning 0141 774 5990.

Long lasting impact from etchFAST

etchFAST is a new team of specialist chemical etchers and engravers. A recent merger means that the business is expanding to include extra products and services. etchFAST believes it can now etch larger panels than most of its competitors.

The company uses many materials, from stainless steel, glass, marble and stone to plastics and rigid laminates. As well as laser engraving and chemical etching, it supplies vinyl lettering; commemorative plaques, property signage, badges, labels and internal sign systems are just some of the goods available.

etchFAST says its trade prices are extremely competitive without scrimping on quality and great pride is taken to provide the best finish possible and a fast turnaround.



Signage is critical in promoting an image in the market. A tarnished name plate impacts negatively on both the sign maker and their client.

Where plaques and nameplates need to be durable enough to withstand extreme conditions and cope with sunlight and corrosive chemicals, chemical etching and engraving are good choices with long-lasting impact, even in extreme outdoor applications.

Both processes can be effectively carried out on a range of materials, stainless steel and brass being the most popular. For added protection panels can be baked with durable lacquer if requested.

etchFAST also manufactures plates for use in other areas of industry such as control panels, dials and badges, serial-numbered labels and more.

Visit www.etchfast.co.uk or telephone 0208 880 2070 for further information.



Jon met Crystal, and found perfect tensioning

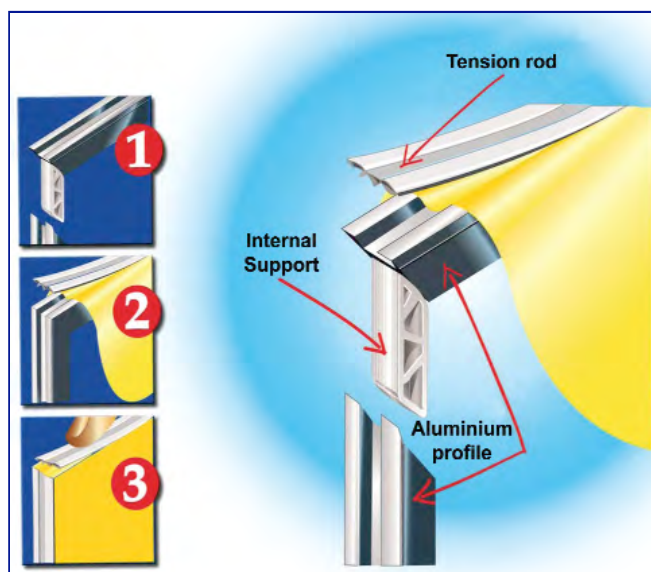
While struggling to find a suitable tensioning system to install an in-store graphic for Halfords a few years ago, Jon Bromhead, now of Sign up Systems Ltd (SUS), found a product that revolutionised the way he worked - and provided an opportunity to set up a new business venture.

"My challenge was how to find a means of fitting and stretching an 18m x 3.5m graphic in one piece over a frame whilst in store. I had gone through the obvious options, which involved either making a huge wooden frame that would have been impossible to transport to site in one piece, or more labour intensive systems that involved complicated fastenings and tools," said Jon.

A close colleague at T.A.D. introduced Jon to Crystaltm, a new patented fabric tensioning system supplied by the French-based company, Isermatic. The Crystal system, a simple and economical way to install fabrics, was being used widely in Europe by Isermatic, supplier of premier fabric tensioning systems.

So when Isermatic was looking to increase its network of European distributors, particularly in the UK, Jon stepped up to the challenge and has since grown Sign Up Systems into the UK specialist supplier and installer of Crystal products for use with wide format graphics.

Whether the graphic is to be fixed to the wall, proud of the wall, or onto scaffolding towers, to create a false façade, the Crystal system accommodates any flexface fabric up to 650gsm and up to any size.



Assembly of the Crystal System, which is available from Sign Up Systems.

To install a graphic, the aluminium (female) profile, supplied in 3.5m, 5m or 7m lengths, is cut to the required size or shape of the finished display and fixed in position using an appropriate method. The fabric is applied starting at the top and held in place with short off cuts of Jonc (male) - a PVC extrusion that holds and tensions the fabric in place. The perimeter of the fabric is then systematically installed by tapping the (male) Jonc into the (female) profile. The fabric is clamped between the two, which results in an evenly tensioned, wrinkle-free display.

The Crystal profiles have features in common yet fulfil different requirements, satisfying a plethora of signage and installation needs



Different profiles from the patented Crystal fabric tensioning system to meet a wide range of signage and installation needs.



This 11 x 33m display is a good demonstration of the Crystal fabric tensioning system.

and applications including: signage; wide format displays; light boxes; exhibition stands; building wraps; indoor promotions; retail displays; and large structural installations. The aluminium can be powder coated to any RAL colour required and the Jonc components come in a range of colours.

Sign makers choose Crystal because it is quick, simple to use, versatile and economic with eye-catching end results. There is no need to finish fabrics with eyelets, hems or pockets. The graphics can be printed oversize and, once fitted inside the profiles, the excess can be cut off. The system is suitable for use with a range of fabrics including PVC, mesh and textiles.

"Another advantage of the system is that the aluminium profiles are re-usable and can be cut on site if there has been a measuring error. Plus, being a 'green' product, you can use environment friendly PVC products with the Crystal system," says Jon.

Jon is now looking for like-minded partners to distribute the product and increase his team of installation specialists.

For more information about becoming a distributor or installer of the Crystal System or for a quotation, contact Jon Bromhead at Sign Up Systems, telephone 01773 768220 or go to website www.signupsystems.co.uk

Graphics supplied by Isermatic, for further information visit www.isermatic.co.uk

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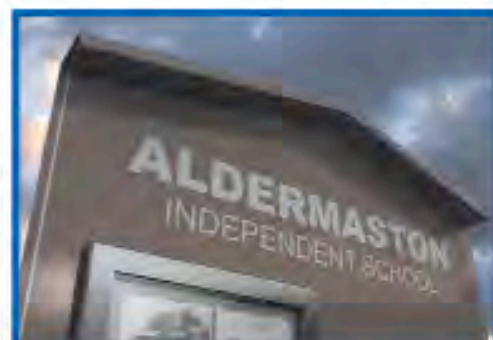
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Check out our new website

www.ashbytrade.net



At last! We've now updated our site to display all our products in detail for you. You'll also find technical information, manufacturing features, photographs and designs for you to download and use with your own designs.

Have a look now and watch out for further interactive developments to help you advance your business.

DEVON *Signmakers*

Strong local focus succeeds for Signs Express (Exeter)

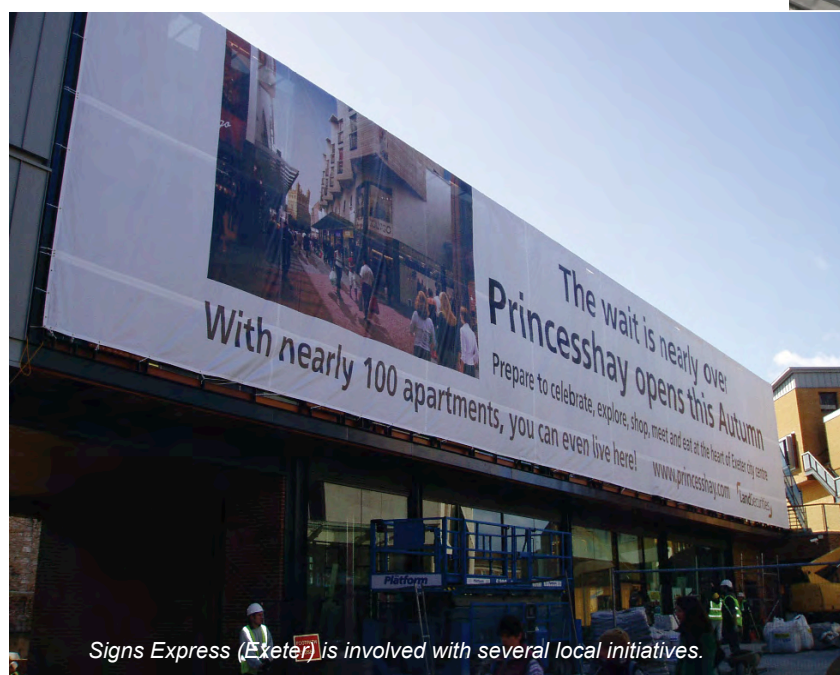
Signs Express (Exeter), part of the UK and Ireland's largest signage franchise, began trading in 1995 and has continued to develop into a strong local force supplying signage solutions to businesses in and around the area.

Owned by husband and wife team Nick and Marion Baxter-Sibley, the Exeter centre has seen substantial growth since its doors first opened. Staff numbers have increased to 11 and plans to recruit additional personnel in the near future are now in place. The company's success is also illustrated by its client list, with regular local customers including Exeter Airport, Flybe, South West Water, and Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

Although part of a national group, the local business community is key to the success and growth of Signs Express (Exeter). Recent projects undertaken include the re-branding of Exeter Airport and the supply and fit of branding to self-service check-in terminals for Flybe across the UK and Europe. The centre also supplies vehicle graphics and signs to surrounding car dealerships. Its location on the Marsh Barton trading estate means Signs Express (Exeter) is at the centre of what is reputed to be the largest concentration of motor dealers in Europe.



A happy Signs Express customer at Exeter Airport.



Signs Express (Exeter) is involved with several local initiatives.

The Exeter centre has also been involved in the redevelopment of the city centre, providing large format banners to the Princesshay Shopping Centre and hoardings for a community project called 'What Exeter Means to me' by the developer. Other local initiatives include sponsorship of Exeter City FC, which has recently returned to league football and the recently formed West Exeter Ladies Football club.

Go to www.signsexpress.co.uk or telephone 01603 625925 for further details.



Striking design fabricated by Signs Express (Exeter).

Family run business Ace Signs thrives on its reputation

Ace Signs is a family run business established in 1965 by Cyril and Allen Heavens. Originally traditional sign writers, it became obvious within their first 10 years that a trade which had hardly ever changed was now evolving rapidly.

They purchased their first two Pantograph engraving machines, enabling them to produce quality precision engraving and also to begin manufacturing cut Perspex letters.

Allen's son Ray joined the business in 1984, bringing his design and computer knowledge with him. Cyril, Allen and Ray's wives have all been involved in the company over the years and Matthew, the fourth generation of the Heavens family, is expected to join the business within the next few years.



Colaton Raleigh welcome sign by Ace Signs.

During the past 43 years, wooden signs have been replaced by Perspex and plastics, vinyl text has made sign writing obsolete, computers have revolutionised the workplace, and now digital printing has altered the trade once again.

Three engraving machines now produce precision mimic panels and switch plates for industrial and commercial premises, along with control panels for fire engines, yachts and aircraft. Memorial and commemorative plaques are manufactured in many materials, although brass and stainless steel still remain the favourites for prestigious occasions and official openings by royalty.



Signage for a Devon tourist attraction from Ace Signs.

The unique Opus Office Sign System has proved hugely popular over the years. The system enables a new member of staff to have their name on the door, or desk, usually within 48 hours.

The vinyl graphics department at Ace Signs is always busy, consisting of two Mutoh cutters and a new Uniform Cadet Plus 1300mm digital printer/cutter. The transition to full colour graphics has been easy, as Ace Signs has been involved in the use of colour graphics in the past, with screen printing and in the early Gerber Edge days.

Ace Signs' loyal customer base mainly comprises local health authorities, schools and universities, housing associations, service industries, fire brigades, local charities, theme parks and other members of the sign trade.

The company believes an excellent reputation, gained over the years, is its strongest advertising tool.

Allen and Ray, with more than 70 years of experience in the sign trade between them, believe that consistent product quality, competitive pricing and personal service are still the keys to a successful business.

Visit the web site at www.acesign.com for full details of the company's comprehensive range of signage and services.

Contemporary range from Signsystems wins customers

This year, 2008, marks Signsystems' 10th year in business. Founded by Jamie Wood, Signsystems, trading as Richard Sutton, is now recognised as one of the leading suppliers of contemporary sign products in the UK. The company operates from its head office and factory in Exeter, Devon, and a showroom in central London.

A remarkable combined figure of more than 100 years sign experience between the staff members illustrates the loyalty and knowledge within the team.

Signsystems holds great faith in working closely with local suppliers in Devon, notably Signs Express (Exeter), DMA Engineering, Brimar Engineering, Revills Finishers, Wilsign and Plastexe. This strategy ensures quick and efficient service at competitive prices whilst contributing to keeping the regional economy buoyant.



Signsystems wins significant work from its showroom in central London.

Continued on page 80.....

DEVON Signmakers

Contemporary range from Sign systems wins customers

.....Continued from page 79

The product range at Signsystems is extensive. There are a total of 15 sign systems - 10 of which are produced in Devon and the other five being imported under exclusive distribution agreements.

Signsystems' latest product, displayhub, was launched at the sign UK show earlier in the year. An electronic digital freestanding and wall mounted display system with powerful software and elegant looks; displayhub is leading the way forward in this rapidly developing market. An amazing new range of electronic door signs are currently in development to add to the range.

Recent clients of Signsystems include the University of Exeter, The Royal Parks, The Natural History Museum, Historic Palaces, Tate Modern, National Gallery and The London School of Economics.

To find out more, go to www.signsystems ltd.co.uk or telephone 01392 686216.



Signage at the University of Exeter by Signsystems.



Signsystems includes household names in its client list.

Picturesque Devon countryside is home for internet based company Sign-Maker.net

Sign-Maker.net is situated on a small Devon farm surrounded by magnificent views. Not a place you would expect to find a sign maker. However, this sign maker is totally internet based. Indeed, if you put Sign Maker into Google you will find it first in the list of sites.

The business started because Shaun Price's mother-in-law, also living on the farm, wanted a sign for her cottage. She suggested that as Shaun is good with his hands he could make it for her. He did, and that was the start of the sign business. Shaun, owner of the business, began with a variety of oak signs, which quickly increased to cedar, sapele, douglas fir and iroko. He then created a range of slate signs along with granites and marbles, these days a large number of large slate signs regular are shipped out from the workshops.

Next, an engraving workshop followed. This now deals with hundreds of memorial plaques and house nameplates every week. Again, these are all ordered over the internet and recently a shopping cart site www.sign-maker.co.uk has been added to run alongside the main site www.sign-maker.net. All mediums are engraved including, brass, aluminium, laminates, wood veneer laminate and corean.

Sign-Maker.net also produces a range of vinyl work on site. As the website has been so successful it was decided to include series of signs made by other companies, which could not be made in the workshops on the farm. These too have proved very popular and now account for 25 percent of turnover. The business continues to grow every year, helped by the fact that Shaun's wife Kate is a website designer.

Find out more at www.sign-maker.co.uk



The engraving workshop at Sign-Maker.net is kept busy with nameplates and more.



An engraved sign by Sign-Maker.net.



Sign-Maker.net produces a range of engraved signs.

Jag Sign Supplies - the right tools for the job

Jag Trade Supplies, a family-run business, emerged in 1996 through the frustrations of Managing Director John Gardener being unable to obtain the right products and tools for the job in his own small sign shop.

This led to the development of the company's first product, Stockframe, an adaptable PVC framing system that is still a best seller today.

Coming from an engineering background and moving into the sign industry 21 years ago John has found that by continuing to run the small sign shop of 10 staff (including his graphic designer son Zack) he gets valuable feedback, enabling him to continually develop new products to make the sign workshop more productive.

Appointed a distributor of Keencut - a world-leading range of sheet cutters, cutting bars and rotary cutters - Jag provides a first class next day service on nearly all products in the range. This includes the new SteelTrak, a highly accurate, dust free wall mounted cutter designed to cut a wide range of everyday signmaking materials, including Dibond, foam, MDF and point of sale materials.

Seeing a gap in the market for more heavy duty cutting Jag then went on to source the Mafell PSS3100SE fully automated rail guided saw. Portable and space saving this saw can cut a sheet size of 3100mm in one pass. It can effortlessly cut up to 3mm aluminium, 8mm acrylic and wood up to 45mm thick as well as most other types of signmaking material.

Being aware that many signmakers are at a premium for space and don't have a computerised router, Jag then worked with its suppliers to develop the folded box pan kit. This enables a Dibond panel to be folded into a 'shoe box lid' effect in a few simple steps using the kit and a handheld router.



This design was created using Aurora Graphics images. Photo courtesy of Barming Signs.

Concerned about cutting corners Jag has this year engineered the Corner Pro 4, a multi operational tool which can round, scallop and punch most materials, including 3mm aluminium. It can also provide the user with a cheaper option for notching 90 degree 'v' cuts for the popular perimeter trim edging.

John is always happy to chat to a signmaker about their tooling requirements. If Jag hasn't got it in stock they will endeavour to source it or can just give advice.

This year Jag has also been appointed the sole UK distributors for the Aurora Graphics product range. The Wraps Software section contains some of the largest images on the market, from seamlessly tile-able fills to single pieces of the biggest ultra hi-resolution images available.

Swann Morton scalpels and blades, Olfa products, straight edges and the largest cutting mats in the UK are all available via www.jagtradesupplies.co.uk or by telephoning 0885 999059. Alternatively, if you fancy a trip down to Devon pay a visit to Jag Sign Supplies.



Jag Sign Supplies is a distributor for Keencut, which includes the new SteelTrak pictured, a wall mounted cutter developed specifically for the signtrade.

TV studio designer chooses Multipanel material

Another tournament, another clever studio design; it goes to show just how versatile Alupanel is. The manufacturer, Multipanel, states "Aluminium Composite Panel has 1001 uses", and this one is certainly pretty impressive.

Studio Designer, Techniscene, chose Alupanel 3mm Silver RAL 9016 to create the set as it was easy to mould and form for the bold structures, whilst the silver finish gave all the glitz and glam needed for broadcasting to Austria's 14 million viewers.

But TV studios are just one of Alupanel's 1001 uses, and with a large range of standard finishes and thicknesses the panels appeal to a number of different end users, from sign makers to shop fitters to trade stand designers ... the list is seemingly endless. Whether it's to establish corporate identity, get a message across, be different, or simply make a statement, Alupanel can be the key to success.

To get in touch with the manufacturer, Multipanel, and find your nearest stockist, telephone 01392 823015.



Alupanel from Multipanel was used to create this stunning studio set for Euro 2008.

Sign & Digital UK 2009 already nearing sell-out – over 80% of stand space already taken

With just over six months to go until the exhibition, Sign & Digital UK 2009 is filling up fast with over 80 per cent of the floor space already taken up. Demand for space has beaten all previous records and exhibitors already signed up for the show include Hewlett-Packard, Roland DG, Robert Horne Group, Hybrid Services, Hexis, Spandex, William Smith, XYZ, Fujifilm Sericol, and many more ...

"Sign & Digital UK is the only UK trade show within the industry that has ABC independently audited attendance figures. Official ABC visitor figures for the 2008 show was at 7,645 visitors, with an overall attendance figure of 9,048 including exhibitors and press. Demand for space for the 2009 show has been fantastic and we recommend securing one of the remaining stands as soon as possible if you don't want to miss out" comments marketing manager Alan Caddick.

Brett Newman of Roland DG concurs "Each year the show continues to be a success, attracting exactly the type of audience we need to be speaking with. Within the first twenty minutes of the first day of the 2008 show we had made a significant sale. This clearly demonstrates why the show is such an important event and is the reason that we come back year on year."

Planning for the 2009 show is well underway and the Sign & Digital UK team are keen to hear your ideas for the 2009 show. Whether it is a topic or issue that you really want to see covered on the seminar programme, or an idea you have for a show feature, then the Sign & Digital UK team can be contacted via e-mail at signanddigitaluk@fav-house.com

Sign & Digital UK works with you all year round to make the most of your investment, and deliver the best show possible. Exhibitors can take advantage of a huge number of perks such as a free direct mail service, use of the show's PR agency to promote activity, free entry into the exhibition guide, post-show visitor data selection, free email shots and much more. Visitors to the show meanwhile will benefit from being able to see the largest, most diverse collection of suppliers unrivalled anywhere in the UK.

So make sure that you get in touch, make suggestions and play an active role in making Sign & Digital UK 2009 the best one yet! We look forward to hearing from you.

For further information on exhibiting visit www.signanddigitaluk.com



The Sign & Digital UK Team.

Diversify your business at Trophex 2009

11th to 12th January 2009 at the NEC Pavilion in Birmingham, UK

Attending the Trophex exhibition is always an important way to start the year if you are in the trophy, awards and engraving industry.

Trophex doesn't just represent the trophy sector alone, all aspects of the industry are represented including engraving - machines and materials, glass and crystal, sublimation, photo imaging, badges, pins, giftware, signage, lasers, decals, embroidery, gifts, promotional merchandise and many more profit making lines.

Visitors to Trophex 2008 really enjoyed the show, many returning year after year as it's a great opportunity to see what's new in the industry, as in this fast moving environment, technology changes quite considerably every year. It's also the perfect show to meet people face-to-face and pick up new ideas and obtain new contacts.

For further information on exhibiting or attending as a visitor visit www.trophex.com



Visitors at Trophex 2008.



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Providing a service for 30 years

Milterbest are Specialist Trade Screen Printers to the sign industry nationwide and with a customer base that spans the whole UK, they are able to offer an ever-growing range of services including many aspects of screen-printing, digital printing, self-adhesive and window stickers.

The largest element is screen-printing signage offering the ability to provide customised designs including large formats, from one offs to high volumes runs, which meet all clients needs.

Developed centuries ago in China, screen printing is a way of supporting a complex stencil by attaching it to a mesh. The very first techniques used a web of human hair, followed by loose woven silk stretched on a frame. Now nylon fabric or metal meshes are used, but the basic principle is the same. The ink is pushed through the mesh using a rubber blade or 'squeegee' and prints onto the paper or fabric where it is not blocked by the stencil. Still a major form of commercial printmaking, it was much used by the pop artists in the 1960s, especially Andy Warhol, who was also commenting on the predominance of printed images and their iconic power.

The 3,000 sq ft facility is located in Hove on the edge of the busy port of Shoreham. The company has been providing signage and a range of other services for the last 30 years and still retains many of its original clients and an ever growing client base. Much new trade business comes from word of mouth and Milterbest is a "Buy With Confidence Approved Supplier" with Brighton & Hove Trading Standards.

A key area is estate agent boards, which has seen a significant change in the recent credit crunch, with much more emphasis on letting as opposed to sales. Contrary to press speculation, Milterbest is providing signage to many new letting companies.

Estate Agent boards include For Sale/To Let boards, T Boards, V Boards, Flag boards and Slips to promote when Sold or Let.



Estate Agent boards are a key area of Milterbest's operation.



Milterbest located in Hove.

What makes Milterbest different is its flexibility to meet varying customers needs; creativity when laying down designs, speed and great service with the human touch. Milterbest will produce the initial designs, prepare the origination, or work from your designs and artwork.

Milterbest pride themselves on the quality of its work, customer service and understand the requirement for short lead times in what is a very competitive market place.

The team at Milterbest are very keen to develop the trade business so if you have a requirement please feel free to call 01273 417009 to discuss special trade deals or email alan@milterbest.co.uk





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)

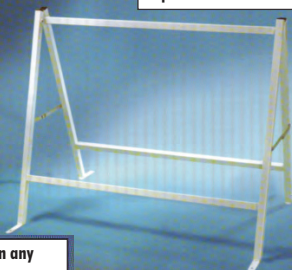


Handysign

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

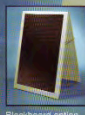
The easy way to display your banners. Fabricated from 25mm square section steel tubing, this double or single sided frame comes in a modular easy to assemble system.



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

Pavement Sign

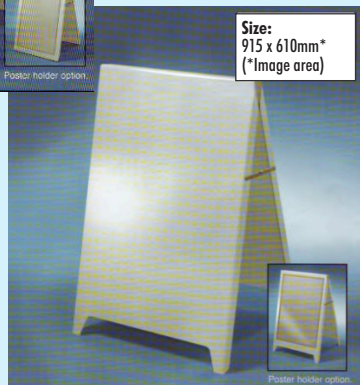
1.2mm zinc coated steel. White powder coated. Available in 3 sizes and 4 styles. i.e. Standard, poster, blackboard and poster blackboard.



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



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

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Brighton Trade Signs - Suppliers of lettering to the sign trade

Brighton Trade Signs specialise in the manufacture and supply of lettering specifically for the sign trade. They can offer a wide range of materials including acrylic, composite, foam and metal in either flat cut or built up styles. Illumination can be added by using either modern LED technology or traditional neon. The easy to follow price list will become invaluable to the sign maker as this allows them to construct their price in minutes as opposed to having to wait hours or in some cases days for a quotation.

Sales manager Dave Rossetter who has worked in the trade supply industry for many years says: "My experience with servicing the sign trade has shown me that responding quickly to an enquiry is the most important factor in being a trade supplier. By giving our clients a comprehensive price list they can formulate an accurate cost without the need to go through the rigmarole of raising an enquiry and waiting for a price." Should you require any further information then please do not hesitate to call and our sales staff will be more than happy to help.

As important as a high level of service is, then so is the quality of the products, highly motivated and skilled staff produce all aspects of lettering to a very high standard with no shortcuts taken. There is no compromise on the quality of materials used and with new materials and effects becoming available all the time there are no limits to what can be achieved.

The service does not stop at lettering, should you require your lettering to be mounted to a sign tray these can also be supplied in aluminium, stainless steel or composite materials. Installation can also be arranged at competitive rates and with complete discretion, if you take up all the services we offer then all that is left for you to do is write up your customers invoice, the most satisfying part of any job.

For further information call Tel: 01273 413018 or visit www.brightontradesigns.co.uk



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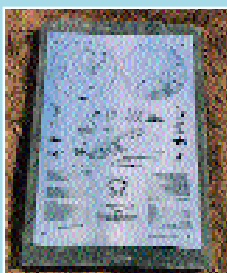
Most metal is 3mm thick.

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

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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.

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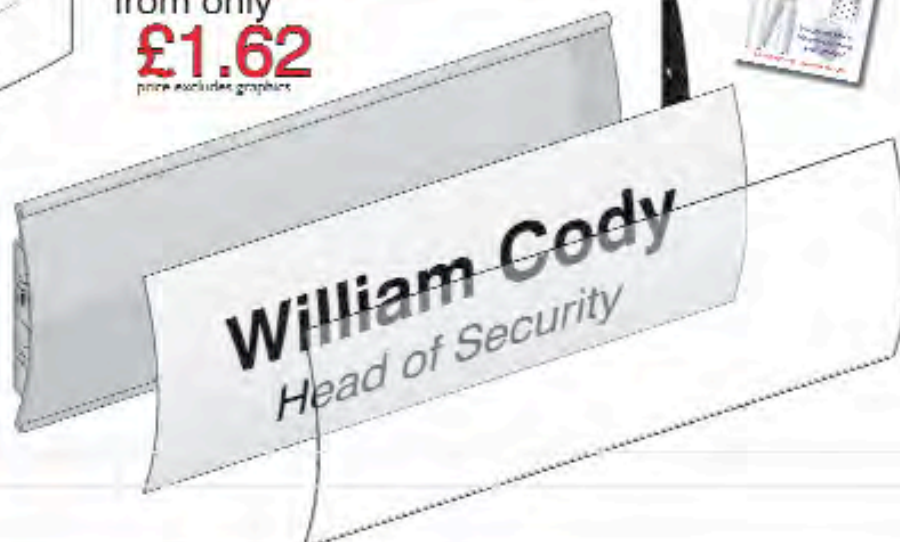


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APPOINTMENTS

Roland DG (UK) appoints new director of sales



Martin Phillips, Director of Sales Roland DG (UK) will focus on developing Roland DG's reseller partnerships.

Roland DG (UK) has appointed senior sales executive, Martin Phillips, to the newly created position of Director of Sales. Phillips, who has in excess of 20 years' channel experience in the technology sector, will focus on developing Roland DG's reseller partnerships.

Roland DG (UK) Managing Director, Jerry Davies, says: "We're delighted to welcome Martin to Roland DG (UK). He has a wealth of experience working for some of the largest technology brands and takes control of a very talented sales team. From a strategic perspective, these are exciting times for Roland DG, with the recent launch of the world's first UV print & cut machine, the VersaUV LEC-300, which is aimed at both core and new, adjacent markets. Our principal route to market is via our network of authorised dealers, which means that much of Martin's role will be spent developing and adding value to existing channel partnerships, as well as identifying and converting new market opportunities."

Roland DG (UK), Director of Sales, Martin Phillips, says: "Roland DG (UK) has some truly innovative technologies, is a recognised leader in its field and has a gifted management team, which is why I wanted to join the company. I believe in developing mutually beneficial, long-term channel partnerships with companies who understand the importance that end user satisfaction has on Roland DG maintaining its position. I will also work to target and grow new niche markets and help our partners exploit these opportunities."

For further information visit www.rolanddg.com

Colortrac appoint Matthew Harris as director of operations

Colortrac Limited, the fast growing large format scanner manufacturer, has announced the appointment of Matthew Harris as Director of Operations.

Matthew brings to Colortrac more than 30 years experience gained in senior appointments within the British electronics, telecommunications, safety and quality certification industries.

"The appointment of Matthew as Colortrac's first Director of Operations is a significant milestone in the history of our company," says Graham Tinn, Colortrac's Managing Director. "Matthew will fulfill a vital strategic executive role as Colortrac continues to grow rapidly and expand its product ranges by bringing exciting new and innovative wide format scanners to AEC, CAD, GIS and graphics markets worldwide.

"Matthew's primary role is to direct and lead our production, quality assurance and technical support staff as we increase our production capacity, implement ISO quality processes and improve our product support activities for the expanding end user base world-wide. Matthew will be based at our UK HQ and split his time between our UK and Suzhou PRC operations centers. I am looking forward to working closely with him."

For full information on Colortrac and the SmartLF range of large format scanning solutions, see: www.colortrac.com



Matthew Harris, Colortrac's new Director of Operations.

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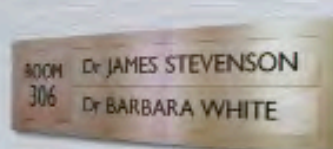
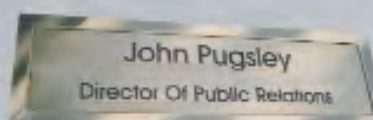


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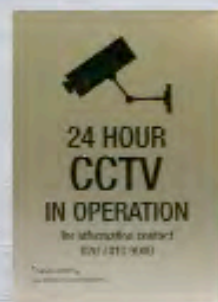
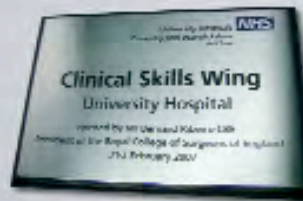
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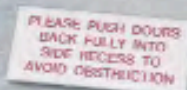
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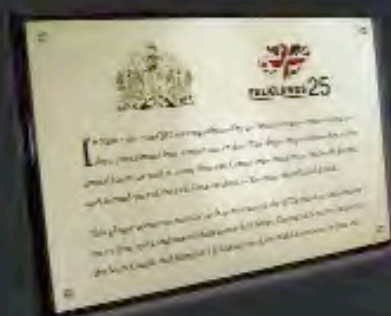


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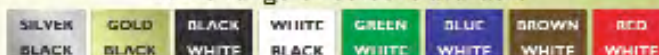
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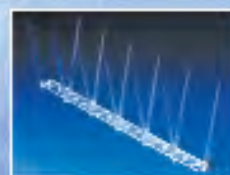
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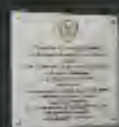


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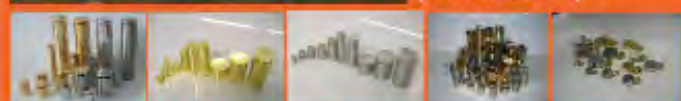
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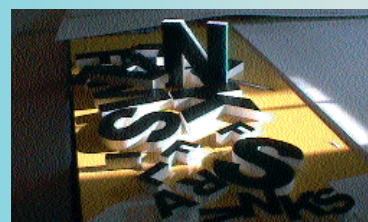
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Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A range of boxes is available to cover applications including back-lit acrylic, aluminium, flex, posters and transparencies.

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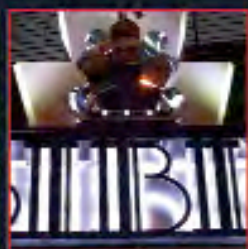
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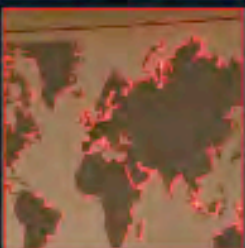


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3mm	£0.61	£0.81	£0.94	£1.22	£1.46	£1.82	£2.42	£3.04	£3.28	£3.76	£4.61	£6.86	£8.37	£10.31	£12.49	£48.51	
5mm	£0.91	£1.15	£1.46	£1.82	£2.30	£2.79	£3.63	£4.48	£5.26	£6.31	£7.88	£9.20	£10.92	£13.94	£16.98	£66.21	
10mm	£1.83	£2.32	£2.91	£3.64	£4.61	£5.57	£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				other sizes available on request
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm	
3mm	£0.42	£0.54	£0.81	£1.01	£1.34	£1.39	£1.52	£2.12	£2.42	£2.72	£3.03	£4.01	£4.85	£5.76	£7.88	£18.70	
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	£3.61	£4.24	£4.85	£6.67	£8.19	£9.11	£10.92	£12.42	£14.86	£16.98	£20.01	£23.05	£27.90	£78.83	

EXTERIOR MDF (MDFIT comes in its raw form for painting)													NO MINIMUM ORDER				other sizes available on request
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm	
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	£12.17	£14.55	£43.66	
12mm	£0.91	£1.57	£1.94	£2.81	£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				other sizes available on request
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standard colours	£1.09	£1.52	£1.99	£2.55	£2.91	£3.39	£4.85	£5.20	£6.67	£7.28	£8.24	£9.70	£11.28	£15.77	£19.40	£60.21	
Chrome	£2.00	£2.55	£2.91	£4.28	£5.82	£7.01	£8.19	£9.46	£11.78	£13.29	£15.52	£17.56	£20.93	£25.76	£31.25	£98.25	
Brushed finish	£1.15	£1.70	£2.33	£2.96	£3.88	£4.67	£5.46	£6.31	£7.52	£9.22	£10.31	£11.70	£13.94	£17.17	£19.40	£65.49	

2mm 316 GRADE STAINLESS STEEL													MINIMUM ORDER £95			other sizes available on request
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	
Satin Brush	£4.72	£5.09	£6.18	£7.10	£7.64	£10.74	£13.61	£16.01	£17.20	£19.01	£21.81	£31.11	£34.80	£41.65	£52.75	
Polished	£5.09	£5.49	£7.46	£8.00	£8.91	£12.19	£15.64	£17.10	£18.37	£21.81	£23.91	£33.59	£40.20	£47.48	£60.03	

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