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www.signupdate.co.uk

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

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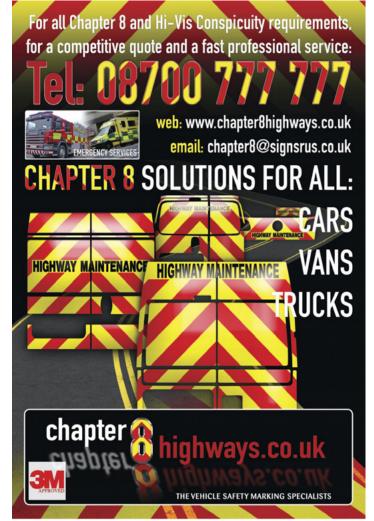
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WELCOME Page

An EEF report published toward the end of September revealed that 30% of businesses are finding it more difficult to recruit workers with the necessary skills or expect this to be the case in the near future. The sign and display industry is not immune to this situation but trying to tackle it through apprenticeships so that traditional skills are not lost but young people entering the industry learn the benefits of combining the old with the new.

This month's issue brings new features that we hope you will find useful and practical for your business. Toolbox gives hints and tips for sign makers looking to enter a market that is new to them or seeing an increase in demand for a particular service or product industry experts share their knowledge and experience in different fields. This issue discusses how to tap into the opportunities presented by having the capability to produce window graphics. In the next issue Toolbox looks at optimising digital signage to

In the Q&A feature industry suppliers highlight questions commonly posed by customers on a particular issue and provide practical suggestions on how to deal with them. This month tackles the problem of static - one that can potentially cause difficulties but can be resolved through quite straightforward measures.

Our focus features on Built-up Lettering and Plotter Vinyl turn the spotlight on these key aspects of sign making, where 'traditional' methods meet state of the art technologies to produce a great variety of innovative signage and display items.

In addition, we have the latest product and sign industry news along with projects and applications. In the next issue our special feature looks at developments in Software solutions and how they can help you optimise your business.

Sue Deane Editor













PRODUCT News

Wrap film gives customers 3D-conformable options

3M has confirmed that its comprehensive range of IJ180mC films are now available in 3D. In addition, the company's IJ180mC-10, IJ180mC-114 and IJ180mC-120 print wrap films all have 130% film stretch, allowing them to conform to recesses, curved surfaces, corrugations and rivets without snapping back.

Each of the cast vinyl films has unique properties, giving customers 3D-conformable options for every preference, style and application.

For example, the IJ180mC-114 print wrap film is transparent, allowing users to create subtle designs that let the vehicle colour shine through, while the IJ180mC-120 is a printable metallic, offering a shiny effect for an 'edgier' look.3M's 3D-functional products include the SV and LX480mC print wrap films from the company's non-PVC Envision range.

Pen Webley, marketing manager for 3M's Commercial Solutions division says: "At 3M we value greatly what our customers tell us about their wants and needs. The demand for vehicle wrap films



3M's print wrap films are able to conform to recesses, curved surfaces, corrugations and rivets without snapping back.

with 3D functionality has led to testing of our flagship range of printable products, resulting in this new classification."

www.3M.co.uk/graphics

Large format metallic films for luxury detailing



Available in gold, silver and rose gold finishes, the films provide an extremely smooth finish, giving any application a near mirror effect.

Antalis has introduced large format inkjet metallic films to its portfolio to enable customers to combine print and cut applications for creative display.

The KernowJet MetaliK range delivers high quality metallic films for use within luxury retail settings, window displays and point of sale (POS), seasonal campaigns and further applications.

Available in gold, silver and rose gold finishes, the films provide an extremely smooth finish, giving any application a near mirror effect.

KernowJet MetaliK Cut&Print is a removable metallic film suitable for doublesided displays. It is particularly suited for bright reflective lettering, logos and designs for shop windows and glass, as well as general retail settings, perfumeries, luxury boutiques and campaigns. In addition, the removable adhesive

makes it specifically useful for evolving POS promotions.

Along with being inkjet printable with solvent, latex and UV, the film can be easily plotted out for eye-catching lettering and decals. Kernow MetaliK Cut&Print is suitable for wet application allowing easy application and is the same colour on both sides making it ideal for double-sided window display.

Product manager Mike Collins comments: "We are delighted to offer an extension of the brilliant KernowJet MetaliK portfolio at Antalis. MetaliK is truly eye-catching and the Cut&Print films in particular provide great options for many retailers and consumer-oriented companies who are looking for a smooth finish to their displays, with the luxury metallic effect providing stand-out visual aesthetics."

www.antalis.co.uk

RIP software offers enhanced efficiency and performance

Roland DG Corporation has released Roland VersaWorks 6 RIP and print management software for inkjet printers and printer/cutters, offering print service providers productivity, quality output and ease of use to drive any print business.

VersaWorks 6 includes enhanced functions to streamline the entire printing process by generating high quality print data that optimises the features of the printer, ink and media being used.

"Our new VersaWorks 6 comes with an extensive range of features that makes the printing process more accurate and reliable for users while building upon the superb core functionality and ease of use of the previous popular VersaWorks software," explains Yohei Shinomura, manager of digital printing product management.

To optimise productivity, VersaWorks 6 provides 64-bit native support to maximise performance from the latest 64-bit operating systems, for improved processing of complicated data, including complex vectors and multiple layers, with ease and precision. To further streamline workflows, five print queues each offer unlimited saved settings for recurring jobs, clients and media so users can save settings for specific client requirements and immediately reload past settings for recurring jobs.



To optimise productivity, VersaWorks 6 provides 64-bit native support to maximise performance from the latest 64-bit operating systems

For simple, efficient reworking of data and super-accurate image reproduction. PDF files can be processed natively to render transparencies, drop shadows and other special effects the way they are intended to look in the design. An easy-to-use colour matching function in VersaWorks 6 ensures consistent colour when using multiple printers of the same model and ink configuration, to provide accurate colour control when using more than one printer for volume production for the same client or jobs involving large, combined graphics.

Inheriting the established user-friendliness of VersaWorks Dual, the intuitive VersaWorks 6 user interface has been redesigned to reflect the latest design trends and features more intuitive visual icons to enhance usability even further.

VersaWorks 6 RIP software will be bundled with some Roland DG inkjet printers and printer/cutter models from November 2018 and is now available for download as a free upgrade for users in the EMEA region.

www.rolanddg.co.uk

Vehicle wrap colour portfolio extended

Spandex has introduced four new colours and effects from the 3M 1080 Wrap Film Series of colour change wrapping vinyls including satin flip psychedelic, gloss flip ghost pearl and matt shadow military green and a mirror chrome effect. All films are available at a 152.4cm width.

The new additions come with 3M's microComply and Controltac adhesive technology for easier and time saving applications, repositionability and slideability of the film.

General manager Leon Watson comments: "Wrap installers are always looking for new ways to make their vehicles stand out and these new films from 3M show that they understand the industry's requirements for new finishes and colours. The latest additions to the 1080 series increase the range to over 100 different finishes, meaning there is an excellent choice for our customers who are looking for an innovative solution."

www.spandex.com



Latest wrap vinyls from 3M include matt shadow military green, incresing the range to over 100 different finishes



PRODUCT News

Media support portfolio for floor graphics includes samples and fact sheets

Guandong has introduced a range of media supports for pavements in a special folder containing samples and technical fact sheets.

Among the proposals for floor graphics are special materials that will fully satisfy the needs of even the most creative communicators: from media supports for carpeted floors, which can be applied to rugs and carpets, to print&walk materials for short life communications for events and promotions, right through to Mak Flooring, a non-slip surface (R13) suitable for stairs, wet pavements and damp surfaces. All materials offer guaranteed performance. For applications intended to last a long period of time, the special antislip layer (R10) should be used to protect prints on regular self-adhesive vinyl.

"The new folder dedicated to floor graphics is fruit of many months of hard work and

commitment to perfecting extremely innovative media supports, which offer new levels of performance to printers and communicators who are continuously searching for technically evolved solutions for high impact messages", explains marketing director Fabio Elmi.

The new media supports for floor graphics enrich the Guandong range, which includes bestsellers for Spot Déco, like Dotty film designed to facilitate the application of window stickers and graphics on smooth surfaces, thereby avoiding unsightly air bubbles and creases; Wally, a glue-free adhesive with silicone dots that have small suction cups which attach to any surface, making it selfgripping. Recently introduced solutions include Mr Magnus, a range of thermoplastic materials in A3 Plus format that includes adhesive and non-adhesive fabric, magnetic and ferrous, media



Mak Flooring is a non-slip surface suitable for stairs and wet pavemenmts

supports. These materials stand out for their thermal resistance to temperatures over 160°, making them suitable for laser printing and UV desktop systems.

www.guandong.eu

All-in-one compact DTG printer saves space

The Magic Touch has introduced the "ultimate entry-level direct to garment (DTG) printer for anyone, anytime, anywhere" to meet the growing demand for personalisation.

The Ricoh Ri 100 DTG printer offers full colour garment personalisation and textile decoration. The all-in-one compact printer with its space-saving design and integrated curing/heat press system is "quick, clean and easy to use".

The garment tray loading system and enclosed curing/heat press system removes any possible operator health and safety issues. Due to the size (400 x 520mm) and weight (less than 25kg) it can be easily moved and repositioned for external events and promotions.

Incorporating the latest Ricoh textile ink technology the printer delivers full colour designs and photographic quality Incorporating the latest Ricoh textile ink technology the printer delivers full colour designs and photographic quality images directly onto garments and textile based products and applications quickly and easily. These include cotton and poly/cotton blends and jute sacks.

Full colour designs take on average less than 90 seconds to print with no pre-treatment required. For those considering the addition of personalisation to their product portfolio or increasing existing production capabilities, the optional additional trays and curing units make production capabilities in excess of 40 printed items per hour possible.

Customers can experience their personalised item being produced within minutes and ready for immediate use.

The printer comes with easy to operate design software enabling editing with no specialised skills or graphic software knowledge required; even smart phone images can be printed with ease.

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PRODUCT News

Digital textile printer reaches much broader market

Hybrid Services has announced the launch of the Mimaki TS55-1800 digital heat transfer sublimation printer said to bring high-end features to entry and midlevel markets. These include high-speed, one-pass printing at a high-resolution and ink density, unattended printing with the Mini Jumbo Roll and Mimaki's Nozzle Check and Recovery System for continuous operation.

With the release of the TS55-1800, textile professionals can effortlessly scale their operation with an affordable sublimation printer that meets the high quality and fast turnaround times demanded in the dynamic textile and apparel industry, says Mimaki. The new model prints at a resolution of 480 x 600dpi with a high ink density using one-pass printing at 140 m2/h. In addition, the Mimaki Advanced Pass System (MAPS4) improves the quality of two-pass printing by eliminating banding. The TS55-1800 achieves all this with low running costs and high productivity and reliability.

"The TS55-1800 is a breakthrough digital textile printer that will surely cause a stir in the market," says Bert Benckhuysen, senior product manager at Mimaki Europe. "It has been designed from the ground up to deliver high quality, industry leading productivity and an operational cost that will be hard to beat."

One key feature is the optional use of a Mini Jumbo Roll unit that can continuously



With the release of the TS55-1800 Mimaki delivers on making high end digital textile printing features available to a much broader market

feed 2,500 linear meters of heat transfer paper to the printer.

This enables customers to substitute the use of Small Plotter Rolls with Mini Jumbo Rolls, which can save them over 20% in print media cost.

Furthermore, Mini Jumbo Rolls of Mimaki Vision Jet-X transfer paper, supplied by Neenah Coldenhove, will be offered as a package deal with the TS55-1800.

The 2,500 m1 Mini Jumbo Rolls enable upgrading to high volume unattended textile printing. In addition, Mimaki's

Nozzle Check and Recovery System and 10 litre ink tanks ensure failsafe continuous operation for extended periods such as unattended overnight printing.

"The new TS55-1800 is another outstanding textile printer from Mimaki," comments Hybrid's chief operations manager Brett Newman.

"It presents substantial opportunities to UK and Irish textile companies for increasing productivity while reducing unit costs."

www.hybridservices.co.uk

PVC-free film covers extensive applications



This PVC-free film can be printed on latex, UV and solvent/eco-solvent.

Among the latest materials science innovations from Avery Dennison Graphics Solutions is a PVC-free wrapping film designed to cover an extensive range of applications.

Engineered for vibrant colour 'pop' and great conformability, the MPI 1405 Easy Apply RS film accommodates applications ranging from vehicle wraps to challenging textured building surfaces including brick and concrete blocks.

"The print performance and stretchability of this PVC-free material makes it a straightforward choice for applications

where looks really matter and where there are challenges arising from irregular curves," says senior director marketing and channel strategy Oliver Guenther.

"Durability and dimensional stability are outstanding and it can be printed on latex, UV and solvent/eco-solvent; we recommend a clear PVC-free overlaminate such as DOL 6460."

Easy Apply RS adhesive technology ensures simple air-egress, repositionability and slideability for faster installation.

www.averydennison.com

Software powers sign file design with print and cut capabilities

SA International (SAi) has partnered with Avery Dennison to develop specialised software for the company's TrafficJet Print System. The FlexiSIGN & PRINT Avery Dennison TrafficJet and FlexiPRINT Avery Dennison TrafficJet software will feature on the new system, which is designed to allow the production of certified output for the highly regulated traffic signage market.

As well as incorporating the TrafficJet large format digital printer, the bundle includes the specially designed versions of SAi's software, which is optimised for traffic sign production.

The Avery Dennison TrafficJet Print System's CMSpot6 ink setup uses six

dedicated spot colours that match the regulated traffic signage. Utilising FlexiSIGN & PRINT Avery Dennison TrafficJet edition, users can extend this color gamut to create custom blends from those spot colours, enabling the production of additional regulated colours including purple, orange and gray or produce process colours on reflective or commercial graphics. This offers the opportunity to efficiently produce a wider range of traffic signage that adheres to required specifications.

An ink estimation tool allows users to set ink limits independently and provides accurate estimation of ink usage for each print job, thereby delivering greater control and further flexibility. The TrafficJet Print System incorporates a Spot Color Mapping tool which offers easier mapping between current or international sign databases by automatically mapping to the CMSpot6 Ink Setup.

This improves production workflow efficiencies by eliminating the time needed to reassign spot colours or use expensive third-party colour mapping software. This feature maps a user's existing art library to Traffic Spot Colors or if colours are moved from one spot location to another.

In addition, the user-friendly FlexiSIGN & PRINT and FlexiPRINT Avery Dennison TrafficJet software features SAi's contour cut True Shape Nesting feature, which enables up to 30% savings on print and cut jobs by optimising media usage. Aaron Means, global product manager, digital printing solutions, Avery Dennison, says: "SAi's ability to provide a full design suite as well as RIP capabilities, together with the fact that Flexi is the most popular wide-format printer RIP and signmaking software worldwide, made for a great fit for the TrafficJet Print System."

In addition to an error-proof interface to help ensure the production of compliant signs, the software helps speed up media selection thanks to a dedicated cloud page that takes users directly to the Avery Dennison Reflective Solutions website.

www.ThinkSAi.com



The bundle includes the specially designed versions of SAi's software, which is optimised for traffic sign production.

Printable wrap takes performance to new levels



New Mactac printable wrap takes performance and durability to new levels.

One of the latest digital print wrapping film series from Mactac Europe has been designed to cope with the most demanding surfaces and offers up to seven years' durability.

Oliver Guenther, senior director marketing and channel strategy for Mactac Europe brand, says that the JT 10700 series is an excellent option for designers and installers who want to get the most from promotions on challenging 3D surfaces.

"These films deliver extreme conformability, making installation on vehicles and corrugated surfaces much easier and faster," says Oliver.

"Our focus has been on creating a product that not only looks great when printed but which raises productivity for installers. Soft initial tack and bubble-free adhesive make these films easy to handle and use."

The high opacity films can be combined with Mactac LF 10700 overlaminates for ultimate looks and performance.

www.mactacgraphics.eu

PRODUCT News

Entry level laser cutter for large format materials

Trotec Laser has unveiled the R500 laser cutter which joins the Rayjet desktop laser engraver as part of the entry level range from Trotec. Featuring a DC CO2 laser source and a 1300 x 900mm working area, the machine is designed for processing large format materials in small to medium production quantities or simple laser cutting applications.

As an entry level solution with a glass DC laser source, the R500 is capable of processing acrylics and woods up to

15mm, as well as other common materials including paper and textiles.

The ergonomic design makes loading and unloading easy, while the large viewing pane allows for effortless viewing of the job in progress.

The machine is the first of Trotec's lasers to feature both a glass DC tube and a stepper motor, providing an affordable solution for basic laser cutting applications. As with all Trotec laser machines, the R500 meets stringent safety standards, while the high quality components mirror the robust design of the flagship Speedy series.

As standard, the R500 comes with a high powered 100W DC CO2 laser source for laser cutting jobs where speed is important. An alternative laser source, a 60W Ceramicore source model, offers improved engraving results during processing. A first for large format Trotec laser machines, a dual source model is available, offering the benefits of both the DC and Ceramicore sources.

National sales manager Bryan Jater says: "We are delighted to be able to offer an entry level large format laser cutter to our UK customers. The R500 breaks many of the entry barriers to large format laser cutting and offers excellent results for basic cutting and engraving applications."

The R500 is available for demonstration at Trotec's laser showroom at its headquarters in Tyne & Wear as well as Dublin and Yate showrooms.

www.rayjetlaser.co.uk



As an entry level solution with a glass DC laser source, the R500 is capable of processing acrylics and woods up to 15mm

High performance solvent ink and primers

Nazdar Ink Technologies has announced the 184 Series, a digital imaging ink formulated specifically as a high performance alternative for Mimaki JV150/300 and CJV150/300 digital printers using Mimaki BS4 ink. Nazdar 184 Series users will benefit from low odour and the convenience of a range of packaging options including 600 ml bags and 2000 ml bags compatible with MBIS.

"The new Nazdar 184 Series exhibits outstanding performance with excellent outdoor resistance to colour fade and chemical attack caused by UV degradation or environmental pollution," says Stephen Woodall, technologies' global segment manager aqueous & solvent digital.

"We've developed an ink with excellent performance and adhesion on flexible and pressure sensitive vinyl, banner material, blue back paper and backed mesh."

In addition, the company has announced new primers for Indigo printing. Nazdar NSC91 and NSC92 are designed to be

applied to uncoated plastic films to give them a receptive surface for Indigo offset printing inks.

NSC91 Solvent-based Roller Coat Clear features 12.5% solids and NSC92 SolventBased Screen Printable Clear features 17% solids. Both products are press ready and available through Nazdar's worldwide distribution network.

www.nazdar.com



The 184 series offers excellent performance and adhesion on flexible and pressure sensitive vinyl, banner material, blue back paper and backed mesh



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PRODUCT News

Clear ink improves versatility for UCJV300 printers

Mimaki has announced availability of LUS-170 Clear Ink to be used on the UCJV300 Series, offering many design possibilities and expanding business opportunities by creating compelling displays using gloss, matte or textured finish.

"With the availability of this clear ink for the UCJV300 series we have employed our proprietary Mimaki Clear Control (MCC) technology for the first time in a roll-to-roll printer," comments Ronald van den Broek, general manager sales EMEA of Mimaki Europe. "This feature shortens the time needed for ink curing to prevent dust from sticking, ensuring smoother, cleaner clear effects such as matte or glossy finish."

To simplify the process of creating clear effects, Mimaki offers the ARTISTA UV Texture Library, which users can access when they install Mimaki's RasterLink6Plus RIP software on a UCJV300 printer. This library features 129 texture swatches for use in Adobe Illustrator to add even more visual effects.

Available in four print widths ranging from 80cm to 1.6m, the Mimaki UCJV300 series delivers a range of applications and versatility with layered print technology. Integrated cut functionality enables volume production of labels, decals, window clings, vehicle graphics and more.



Matte finish on transparent film gives the appearance of frosted glass.

Brett Newman, chief operations manager at Mimaki's UK and Ireland distributor Hybrid Services says; "Utilising flexible UV inks that cure instantly allows customers to quickly print and immediately laminate or deliver the finished product without waiting for drying. The UCJV printers feature white ink, enabling users to produce brilliant colours on transparent, coloured or metallic substrates."

With its layered printing capability, the UCJV300 series can deliver dynamic

backlit graphics or graphics that are transformed with different light sources.

"UV-curable inks offer greater opacity with less consumption than other formulations," says Brett. "Mimaki's LUS-170 ink is GREENGUARD Gold certified: it meets the rigorous standards for low emission of VOCs and is acceptable for use in environments such as schools and healthcare facilities."

www.hybridservices.co.uk

Boxing clever with plastics finishing solution

AWLTECH has expanded its range of machines to include a smaller and more compact diamond edge-polishing system.

Developed by fabrication specialist BEMAQ and available at less than 5K, the

BOX is said to be the cheapest machine of its kind currently available, providing a level of performance comparable with more expensive high end systems and requiring only the smallest of workplace areas in which to operate. The portable



table-top machine is suitablel for the edgepolishing of a wide range of acrylic and PMMA substrates, enabling a superior quality high gloss or matt finish using either a synthetic or natural diamond polishing tool. Weighing 15kg and with outer machine dimensions of 420 x 360 x 390mm, the BOX will handle materials up to 20mm thick at a feed rate of up to 1.5 metres/minute and at variable milling motor speeds from 7,000 up to 12,000rpm to accommodate different materials.

Key design features of the BOX include automatic material feed and chipsextraction units and a robust workpiece clamping system. The machine meets all relevant EC Safety Regulations.

www.awltech.co.uk

The BOX will handle materials up to 20mm thick.

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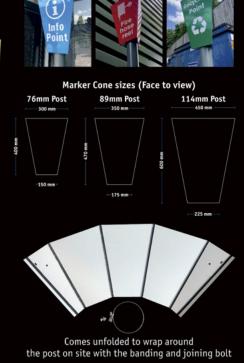
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PRODUCT News

Multi-purpose display case makes for easy transportation



The optional wooden top transforms the case into a solid counter

Ultima Displays has launched the Zenith multi-purpose, storage case that accommodates popups or stealth tension banner systems.

The lockable, heavy-duty wheeled case can house multiple products in one case, making transport to events easier. Additional flexibility is provided with an optional wooden top that can be added and with a graphic wrap.

"At Ultima Displays, versatility is key", says managing director Mark McCleery.

"We are continually developing our product collections to enable us to offer the most cost-effective, innovative and multifunctional products to our trade partners. Zenith is more than just a case; the optional wooden top transforms it into a solid counter to welcome guests to any booth or stand.

"In addition, iPads can be secured to the counter top to promote a more interactive and engaging experience."

Made from durable polyethylene, Zenith cases have side handles for easy lifting and a removable divider that separates the graphics and the hardware.

In addition, the separate padded compartment ensures that up to two LED lights and cables can be safely stored and protected from damage.

"Zenith is the perfect addition to our product range; the internal capacity of the case can be increased simply by purchasing a 100mm extension feature," continues McCleery.

"The extension enables the case to fit roller banners up to 850mm so regardless of the product, the customer can be assured that their equipment can ship safely in one case."

www.ultimadisplays.co.uk

Architectural finishes refresh flat or curved surfaces

One-stop supplier of solutions to the sign, graphics and display industries, Spandex has introduced 225 new patterns from 3M's DI-NOC range, designed to refurbish, refresh or renovate flat or curved surfaces for applications including walls, ceilings, doors, counters and furniture.

This takes the number of designs in the DI-NOC range to more than 1,000 available by the metre from Spandex; 85 matte series, 94 basic series and 46 AR series with improved texture by matte technology. An advanced and patented ultra-matte top coating designed and produced by 3M brings exciting new effects to the designer's palette.

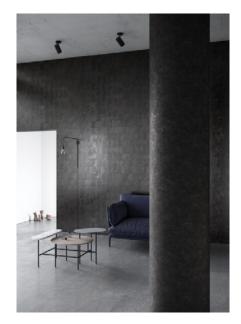
Inspired by nature, the patterns in the range have been designed to replicate lifelike situations with a view to produce realistic architectural applications including matte effects on a number of patterns

including wood and stone, in addition to more natural appearances.

The collection was created following extensive research involving architects and designers into contemporary and future trends to offer customers an innovative and fresh look.

General manager Leon Watson says: "The DI-NOC range opens up a huge number of application possibilities for graphic producers. 3M has further increased the aesthetic options with the new patterns by providing a much more natural appearance, making the finishes even more authentic. The new patterns are the perfect solution for customers looking at producing architectural applications, offering their clients the closest look and feel of real materials."

www.spandex.com



Realistic architectural applications include matte effects on a number of patterns such as wood and stone.





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TRAINING Feature

An education in innovation: the art of colour management

The concept of colour management has been around since the inception of print; however, techniques and technology have evolved rapidly in recent years, alongside increasing demand from brands for consistent and traceable results. Antalis Academy manager Rick Lee explains the benefits of keeping up with developments.

While some traditionalists still rely on their personal visual interpretation of colour or the applicability of standard CMYK values, there are many variables that can skew this approach and mean the finished product may not stand up to scrutiny. In addition, not having a robust approach to colour management often leads to increased wastage with the need for reprints and time spent trying to achieve the desired result.

The benefit of adopting modern colour management techniques is that they are quantifiable and everything can be checked and validated. This is invaluable for print service providers (PSPs) working with brands that have a clear visual identity demanding exacting results and repeatability. In this case, an interpretation of colour will not suffice; it needs to be the precise required colour, whatever ink, substrate or hardware is used.

At first glance, colour management is a complex subject that may appear overwhelming but once a best practice approach has been established and a checklist of simple steps, systems and potential variables put in place, it becomes



part of the print process. If customers want to check in on colour management, the data will be there in black and white and it should lead to efficiency savings, both in terms of time and wastage.

The Antalis Academy Colour Management workshop is a dedicated one-day training programme aimed at companies that have one or more types of digital printer and want to achieve consistent and repeatable colour across different devices. Led by industry expert Jan Edgecombe, this workshop provides a comprehensive look at the theory of colour management, partnered with dedicated practical advice and demonstrations.

It starts with a discussion of learning objectives in order to understand participants' particular areas of focus, ensuring they can be covered as much as possible during the day. The objective is for all attendees to understand setting up a colour workflow; achieving accurate colour from all of their devices; understanding what's involved in profiling their own printer; controlling the repeatability and quality of prints; and how to save money on inks and unnecessary reprints.

An overview will be provided on proofing (including different types) and press standards, as well as setting up Adobe applications for print and prepress standards. There will be a focus on calibrating monitors with X-rite Pantone software and using the system to check your printer's output and maintain its colour stability. Setting up monitors for different lighting and print requirements will be covered, with light being a particularly important variable when it comes to colour management. Further factors to consider will include how to adjust your approach according to what inks, substrates and hardware are being used..

Colours need to be defined using Pantone or LAB values. Troubleshooting, anticipating problems and preparing solutions will in fact be high on the agenda overall, including advice on creating media profiles for both RGB and CMYK printers and how to convert from RGB to CMYK.

www.antalis.co.uk

Jan's top tips for colour management

- Consistency is key: colour management is about achieving results that are repeatable, time after time.
- Colour management is quantifiable: the days of purely judging colour on sight are long gone and PSPs can be made accountable by brands that can track accurate colour management using sophisticated technology.
- CMYK values are a mix of inks, not a colour: don't rely on them at face value and account for other variables involved.
- Getting the light right is crucial: investing in a verified lighting viewing box will ensure optimum and consistent light levels for viewing printed materials.
- It's important to approach colour management the right way: at the beginning of the process and not retrospectively. It needs to be the first thing that's done and once your processes and systems are in place, the results will follow.



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How can I resolve static issues when handling foam PVC?

How can sign makers deal effectively with static and the problems it causes? Nick Hughes, national sales manager at Brett Martin answers some of the questions often asked by customers.

What impact can static have on digital print applications?

A natural, environmental phenomenon. static electricity can negatively affect the quality of print work for signage. The ultrafine inkjet nozzles present in modern print equipment fire miniscule droplets of ink onto the surface of print media and the presence of static electricity can cause these droplets to deflect from their intended path, creating variable ink coverage across the substrate.

Static attracts dust prior to or during the printing process, causing poor quality prints and white-spotting, increasing the chance of rejections, wastage and downtime. A variety of substrates used within the digital print industry including foam PVC sheets can be especially sensitive to the effects of static and it is vital that precautions are taken to fight it.

What can help prevent static generation?

Eliminating static from printing machines and rigid digital media begins with looking after the substrate; for example, using lint-free gloves and ensuring sheets aren't dragged across one another.

Allowing newly delivered sheets to 'settle' before they are used for print work is a further preventive method; friction can be generated between the sheets during transportation and a resting period allows for the static charges to dwindle and eventually disappear. It is important to follow strict methodology when preparing the surface of any media for printing, such as wiping the surface down in one direction only as a circular motion can create additional static charges.

Print machinery itself can be vulnerable to static which impacts directly on print performance. This usually occurs in the form of uncontrolled humidity and variations in temperatures in the print environment. Keeping relative humidity at 50% or greater within the area of any print machinery and keeping doors and windows closed can prevent temperature and air fluctuations that lead to static



A variety of substrates used within the digital print industry including foam PVC sheets can be especially sensitive to the effects of static

generation. Doing a test print run can be a good way to identify any potential problems; large blocks of singular colours are more likely to show static-related printing anomalies in comparison to other images.

"It is in the interest of all PSPs in the signage sector to continue to enhance and adapt procedures and experiments with static control equipment to ensure that the optimum print results are being obtained"

What kinds of equipment can help with static removal?

While consistent procedural processes when handling or storing print media can help reduce the chance of static being attracted to the media surface, static can be removed altogether with ionising equipment. Ionising bars, for example, can discharge static electricity immediately prior to printing; this equipment is standard on many machines and can be retrofitted.

Additional solutions including ionising air pistols are highly effective at removing static; they replace the need to wipe the sheet with an anti-static brush or cloth which, while effective to a degree, is not a method capable of removing static as efficiently or as comprehensively.

Taking every necessary precaution to reduce or remove the effects of static leads to reduced waste, smooths production and lowers costs.

It's in the interest of all PSPs in the signage sector to continue to enhance and adapt procedures and experiment with static control equipment to ensure that the optimum print results are being obtained.

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HARDWARE



TRAINING



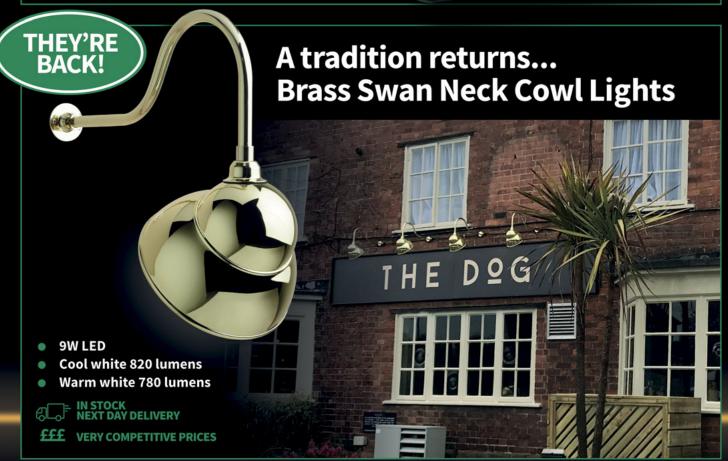
INNOVATION



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Smart new cast end caps with rear entry cable glands, tidy and conceal unsightly cables from view.



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PLOTTER VINYL Feature

Quick and easy to apply cast and calendered media

APA offers a wide range of both cast and calendered products for plottercutting designed for multiple applications with different lifespans, depending on the specific technical characteristics of each film.

All of these films are "extremely easy and quick to apply, thanks to the 'air free system: adhesive with micro-channels which favours air ejection". The series includes ExtremeFast (long-lasting cast film); SuperFast (long-lasting calendered film); and Elitefast (medium-lifespan calendered film).

The two printing Truck films AP/280 (matt white) and AP/290 (gloss white) are designed for the decoration of PVC truck curtains and tarpaulins. Thanks to the exclusive APA-ColTruck/Ultra-P Plus adhesive, AP/280 and 290 stick perfectly to PVC curtains and stand the stresses to which they are constantly subjected.

Due to their high conformability and elasticity, once applied, the films "perfectly adapt to the curtain's weave and offer excellent covering power, outstanding printability and fast ink drying".

For first-rate decorations on vehicles and flat, curved, slatted and riveted surfaces AP/990FX is a cast film with superior quality and conformability. The innovative repositionable adhesive Repo Tack-Air



For decorations on vehicles and flat, curved, slatted and riveted surfaces AP/990FX is a cast film offering superior quality and conformability.

Free FTX System with micro-channels means the films can be repositioned easily and printed perfectly with bright and defined colours. This film is certified for reaction to fire (B-S2-D0).

A calendered film ensuring high conformability, superior stability and excellent covering power, AP/610FC is an 'all-in-one' product suitable for the total or

partial decoration of several types of surfaces. It features the adhesive Air Free FTX System which favours air ejection upon application through micro-channels. It can be printed easily and ensures vivid colours even on dark backgrounds. A further benefit is that this film is certified for reaction to fire (B-S2-D0).

www.apaspa.com

Plotter vinyl

This material has a vinyl facing and adhesive backing attached to a paper lining. Specific kinds are more durable to resist outdoor use. A vinyl cutter plotter cuts out sign lettering and other images more accurately and affordably than stencilling or hand cutting. Cast and calendered film offer particular advantages:

Cast film

Low shrinkage is low.

Durability generally higher.

Can be made very thin: it conforms over substrates with rivets, corrugations and complex curves.

Once applied, this low calliper makes graphic less vulnerable to abrasive forces.

Maintains colour and other properties better: better performance of pigments and UV absorbers. Easy to run small batches of special colours.

Calendered film

Thinner, glossier, with better conformability and less shrinkage than previously.

Greater production yields less cost.

Stiffer/thicker film easier to handle.

Performs well on flat, simple and moderate curves.

Greater variety of colours and gloss levels.

Shrinkage of polymeric or high grade calendered films can be as low as 2-3%.

Increased resistance to abrasion.

Vinyl solutions for multiple applications

With marketeers putting increasing pressure on printers to 'brand up' using new and ever more challenging applications, vinyl manufacturers and distributors are being called on to introduce options that will suit multiple applications Innotech Digital marketing manager Kieran Dallow explains.

It's an area that, as wide format specialists we are particularly excited about at the moment. We are seeing a real drive for innovative applications for vinyls; traditionally, most of the demand stemmed from the vehicle and sticker market. however there are now growing trends within the interior design industry for example, to use vinyls for walls, carpets, windows and ceilings.

The WidthWise report for 2018 showed that around 33% of respondents are involved in the production of floor graphics, making this a real growth area.

We've been putting in a lot of work this year into expanding our vinyl offering into the widest range of options possible for printers to choose from, based on the needs of the end customer.

In August we announced our appointment as a distributor for the General Formulations range of specialist vinyls in the UK and this month we're launching the VistaMAX range of vinyls to cater for short term, economy applications. Technological advances are spurring the development of



AutoMark is catching on in the UK as a reliable alternative vehicle wrapping vinyl.

better vinyl solutions for a growing range of applications.

Water-based glues

Until now, the majority opinion has been that solvent glues on adhesive vinyls always perform better. However, with the improvements in glue and vinyl manufacturing, water-based glues now perform equally well and General Formulations vinyls are leading the way in this regard.

The shift to water-based glues is not only a step forward in the technology of vinyl

application, it's also a great boost for the environmentally conscious.

An additional focus from manufacturers is the ease of application, which is ever more important as the uses for vinyl and therefore the surfaces they are applied to are expanding beyond all recognition.

For example, thanks to research and development we can now supply vinyls with new air release liners or bubble-free applications that allow non-professionals to install a vinyl with ease including a semi-rigid 150mic vinyl (223 Series) from General Formulations.

"The shift to waterbased glues is not only a step forward in the technology of vinyl application, it is a great boost for the environmentally conscious"

In a world often dominated by digital media, by reinventing itself and widening its horizons, vinyl is going from strength to strength and we're delighted to be on the crest of that wave.

World Famous

WallMark Canvas is an embossed PVC vinyl for feature walls.

www.lnnotechdigital.com

PLOTTER VINYL Feature

No short cuts to a high quality finish

Vinyl is arguably the most widely used material in the sign manufacturer's armoury, enabling a vast range of sign and display applications to be undertaken. Phil Kneale, director at **Graphtec GB discusses options** available for plotting and cutting.

Vinyl allows sign manufacturers to transcend traditional core activities by allowing access to new and highly profitable markets. These include the burgeoning vehicle wrapping and marking, print wear and promotional products, soft signage, digital/screen printing, labelling and packaging sectors, all of which help introduce vital new revenue streams.

A key factor to successfully tapping into these markets, however, is the need for technically advanced production machinery to process the vinyl prior to its application. Since 1961 Graphtec has been one of the world's major suppliers of vinyl cutting solutions to these industries with a wide range of machines and dedicated software that will accommodate virtually every conceivable application.

Furthermore, by working hand in hand with the world's leading manufacturers of digital printers, Graphtec provides one of the most cost-effective print and cut solutions currently available.

Cutting solutions

Among the significant contributions made by Graphtec to vinyl technology and its implementation have been the introduction of the latest FCX4000 and more recently the FCX2000 series of flatbed vinyl plotter/cutters.

Both of these machines are supplied with Graphtec's own brand dedicated Pro Studio and the optional Cutting Master 4 design and production software program with the latter providing compatibility with popular software solutions including CorelDRAW and Adobe Illustrator.

The FCX2000 incorporates a specially configured cutting head that provides a dual cutting and creasing function. It is available in three sizes (920 x 610, 920 x 1,200 and 920 x 1,800mm) to



accommodate different applications and with a choice of either a vacuum-suction or electrostatic material hold-down facility contingent upon the nature of the material to be processed.

Both the FCX2000 and the FCX4000 have a maximum cutting speed of 750mm/sec and a maximum cutting force of 600gf.

Apart from the dual-purpose cutting/ creasing head, key features of the FCX2000 include a USB port to allow offline operation and the storage of files that can be retrieved remotely. A barcode function enables relevant cutting data to be recalled from memory and cut.

Replacing the previous FC4500 cutter, the FCX4000 incorporates many of the advanced features of the FCX2000

"A key factor is the need for technically advanced production machinery to process the vinyl prior to its application"

machine but in a smaller and lighter version. Available in two sizes (the FCX4000-50ES and FCX4000-60ES), these have respective processing areas of 660 x 488 and 976 x 660mm) and provide the same dual cutting/creasing function to that of the FCX2000 option.

Fibre-tipped plotting pen

Key design features of the FCX4000 include a high quality steel cutting blade, water-based fibre-tipped plotting pen and a creasing/scoring tool that enables jobs to be cut and creased from the reverse of the sheet of material being processed to avoid damage to the printed surface.

There is also a facility to monitor cutting blade wear and a sensor that scans for and manages cut data by use of a barcode function.

Both the FCX2000 and FCX4000 vinyl cutters incorporate Graphtec's latest Version 6 of the proprietary ARMS (Advanced Registration Mark Sensing) system that ensures optimum material alignment and cutting accuracy.

The machines are also supplied with a range of special purpose cutting tools and meet all relevant CE safety and performance standards.

www.graphtecgb.co.uk



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PLOTTER VINYL Feature

Which works best: a combined machine or separate units?

Granthams are often asked whether a combined print and cut machine or separate units is the best way forward and recently had a discussion to come up with the reasons that might sway a decision one way or the other. As we found out it's not all plain sailing when you're looking for the right options in print and cut technology, says Jamie Reader who highlights some of the key aspects to consider.

Space

No, I don't mean the final frontier. Most buying decisions come down to practicality and if you haven't got the space for two machines, then your decision could be pretty much made. For example, Mimaki print and cut machines are exactly the same size as their print only cousins so if space saving is paramount you can have both occupying the same footprint.

However, if space is not an issue does that mean it must be a no brainer to get two machines? Not necessarily.

Workload

Ask yourself: do I print a large number of stickers or is there plenty of plotter vinyl going through your print schedule? If the answer is 'no' then perhaps a single machine will easily cope with the rare times when the cutter is needed.

Look at the possible bottlenecks within your print throughput. Is it potentially the printing that could hold you back or maybe the cutting? What about the finishing? Go through each stage of production and evaluate what could be the weak link. Consider, if the printer is always running, do you want to stop and cut on the same machine or unload print media to pop in a roll of CAD vinyl to finish off that vehicle graphic? When one machine is busy, two can always share the workload.

Ease of use

We think a combined machine wins on this aspect, although many experienced printers will say if the software is intuitive, many machines on the market are simple to operate. The benefit of a combined print and cut machine over two separate units however, is that you can load it up, set it to print and cut all those stickers overnight and the job is done.

Flexibility

If it's flexibility you are you looking for then two machines are clearly the most resourceful. If you are producing small volumes of stickers, the print run can be completed, taken off the printer and popped on the cutter for trimming out. The printer is now freed up to get on with the next job.

"Go through each stage of production and evaluate what could be the weak link"

Cost of ownership

When you have two machines you have double the potential issues although, if the cutter throws a wobbly you can still print and vice versa. You'll still get your work out while waiting for one of the pair to be fixed. On the other hand, if it's combined you have only one purchase, one installation and one machine to maintain and operate and one workflow to set up and keep an eye on.

Two machines will be more expensive initially but when most cutting machines can trundle on for years, the standalone device could be by your side through a change of printer. When combined, it's not quite as easy to upgrade only the cutting or print unit.

Decisions, decisions

We couldn't come up with reasons as to why someone would definitely go for print and cut combined over separate machines. If you haven't the space or throughput then a single machine has to be the better option.

If you have the volume then two machines could well fit the bill. It is important to check out all your options alongside the above considerations before making the final decision.

At Granthams we weigh up how these decisions can affect your workflow and what we can do to make your production simpler and hopefully, a lot more efficient.

www.granthams.co.uk



Successfully managing vinyl with the right tools and technology

Cutting and applying plotter vinyl can present all sorts of challenges. Michael Ingram, sales director at Doro Tape provides hints and tips for avoiding and solving problems.

Air bubbles is a common problem so to avoid causing them, you need to remove trapped air beneath the surface of the vinyl. Whether applied using a dry or a wet method, this is best done by meticulously squeegeeing outwards from the centre of the graphic. It is important not to remove the application tape too soon after the graphic has been applied.

For best results work at a slow, steady pace and make sure that the application tape is pulled back at 180 degrees instead of pulled up at 90 degrees. If applying to rougher surfaces, be sure to use a soft squeegee or roller.

Newly painted vehicles require at least 5-10 days after painting before graphics are applied as the paint continues to release solvents while hardening. If graphics are applied too quickly, these solvents can become trapped under the vinvl causing bubbles to appear and the performance of the adhesive can be adversely affected.

Some plastics such as polycarbonates and acrylics are prone to outgassing, which becomes trapped under the face of the vinyl and causes bubbles to appear. To reduce the chance of this happening remove protective film early in the signmaking process and avoid high temperature exposure after application.

If banner material doesn't feed properly this could be due to the weight of the material roll causing too much resistance against the friction feed of the printer. To overcome this issue you can manually unwind the required amount so that it feeds into the printer without resistance.

Colours can appear washed out when printing onto transparent or translucent media for window graphics and backlit signs. The best way to overcome this is to overprint the graphics again so doubling up on the amount of ink and colour depth.

Edge curl can be a problem on selfadhesive materials if it is contour cut or die cut straight after printing, especially in

darker coloured areas where there is the most ink output. Freshly printed graphics should be left to dry before any cutting or laminating so that the residual solvents from the ink can evaporate.

We recommend you allow 24 hours for this 'gassing off' if possible. The printed media should be hung vertically in a dust-free area with ventilation. If the media needs to be cut before this time then allow a minimum of 6mm border around the image and always conduct a suitability test.

Contour cutting

If the contour cutting crosses into the printed area this can contribute to excessive shrinkage of the vinyl face film when applied. If freshly printed vinyl is cut in the printed area too soon, the vinyl might shrink. Laminating too early might, depending on the amount of ink used, affect the functionality of the film (adhesive power/service life) by preventing the residual solvents from evaporating.

If the drying process of the vinyl takes place after application to the substrate the vinyl will probably shrink and come away at the edges. Blade angle and offset value have a big impact on how well your blade is cutting. The offset value is the distance from the centre of the blade to the edge of the blade (specified by the manufacturer). The offset determines the blade's turning

radius and how it compensates for distance while turning corners. The standard angle blade for cutting regular sign making vinyl and heat press flex films is 45 degrees. if you are cutting a large quantity of sandblast stencil films, reflective vinyl, floor graphics media or thicker films, then it would be a better option to choose a 60 degree blade.

Regardless of the angle of blade it is important to make sure that the blade is set up correctly. You should always use

.....Continued on page 30

"Although cast vinyl can be worked into channels and recesses as well as around compound curves using heat, calendered vinyl should be applied without putting the film under stress"



Thicker materials such as fluorescents and reflectives generally require greater pressure than standard vinyls while thinner materials such as cast vinyls will require less

PLOTTER VINYL Feature

.....Continued from page 29

the minimum amount of extension that will still cut the material. One of the issues with poor cutting performance is that the blade is extended too far. A good way of checking is to start with the blade extended to half the thickness of a credit card and then perform a test cut to determine if more force is needed or if more blade extension is required.

Vinyl not releasing

When you have difficulty releasing vinyl from liner you might assume that the application tape is too low tack to remove the cut and weeded text/graphics. More often than not the reason for this problem comes down to excessive cutting blade pressure (see vinyl not cutting properly above) which scores into the backing liner.

The best way to check is by peeling back some cut graphics and make sure that the blade has only just marked the backing liner and that there is no scoring into the liner. Now check the reverse of the backing liner to see there are no visible impressions of the cut path coming through. If this is visible you need to reduce the cutting pressure incrementally and produce a number of test cuts to achieve the optimum pressure. Once this has been done the graphics should lift away easily. The best method of removal instead of pulling the application tape away from the surface of the graphics is to turn the graphics over and remove the backing liner away from the adhesive side.

Each type of material will require you to perform this test cut routine to ensure optimum cutting pressure. Thicker materials such as fluorescents and reflectives as well as some polyester films generally require greater pressure than standard vinyls while thinner materials such as cast vinyls will require less pressure. It may be necessary to change the cutting blade for one with a greater angle for sandblast vinyls, reflectives and fluorescents as well as flock materials.

Peeling, cracking, lifting

The most important factor here is selecting the most suitable film for the job and remembering that although cast vinyl can be worked into channels and recesses as well as around compound curves using heat, calendared vinyl should be applied onto these areas without putting the film under any stress. It is important to check that the substrate is compatible with the media being used.

Promote the initial adhesive contact to ensure that graphics do not lift or peel. Surfaces should be cleaned, dried and wiped with Isopropyl alcohol before any



Colours can appear washed out when printing onto transparent or translucent media for window graphics.

graphics are applied. In cold conditions it is best to apply heat after application to further enhance the bond.

Flexible PVC such as the type used to make banners contain higher levels of plasticiser which migrate through the PVC over time and can cause any applied graphics to distort. When applying lettering to the sides of vehicles transporting aggressive liquids such as fuel or solvents we advise that the edges should be sealed with a protective varnish.

To prevent digitally printed vinyl from peeling from a substrate after application it is essential to allow a 72-hour 'gassing off' period prior to any lamination because the trapped solvents in the ink penetrate into

the adhesive layer thus weakening the bond to the substrate.

Vinyl removal

A heatgun can be used to create temperatures of at least 200 degrees but care must be taken not to actually melt the vinyl - just enough so that once softened the corner can be lifted to start gently peeling back at 180 degrees and slowly removed. Never pull the film toward yourself at 90 degrees, always peel flat along the substrate at 180 degrees to prevent damage to the surface underneath. It will probably be necessary to remove some residual adhesive.

www.dorotape.co.uk

Problem solving

Problem: Vinyl not cutting all the way through: the blade is dull or chipped; improper blade extension; cutting pressure is not high enough.

Problem: Cut lines are incomplete: the cutting strip is damaged and needs replacing; blade is dull or chipped; cutting speed is set too slow; blade holder needs to be replaced.

Problem: Not cutting circles correctly: incorrect blade offset; change to a Sans Serif font as Serif fonts have sharp angled corners.

Problem: Vinyl lifting while cutting: increase blade extension as it may be dragging through the adhesive; replace blade with a new sharp one to ensure that it can cut through cleanly; use blade with higher angle as low angle blades may not cut the adhesive effectively.

Problem: Corners are not cutting square: the offset setting has not been adjusted to match the blade.

Getting the set up right for a top performance

Choosing your plotter vinyl is only half of the challenge; ensuring you use the correct settings to get the best performance out of the vinyl is the other. Andy Pirie of Spandex provides a few top tips to make sure this happens.

Once you have chosen the vinyl, you need to think about adjusting the depth of cut on your plotter for the type of vinyl being used. Getting the optimum depth/weight settings help produce a clean cut that is easy to weed.

Once you have chosen the vinyl, you need to think about adjusting the depth of cut on your plotter for the type of vinyl being used



Ensuring you use the correct settings to get the best performance out of the vinyl

Generally, cast films require less pressure and depth than calendered films. If vinyl looks as though it has been cut but proves difficult to weed there is a high probability that the cutting depth was insufficient or the blade was blunt. On the other hand, vinyl that appears to weed well, but has backing paper adhering to some part of the weeded material has almost certainly been cut too deeply.

Spandex recommends using a test cut to verify the plotter settings every time the vinyl roll is changed.

www.spandex.com



With FlexCut, a feature included in all Summa Vinyl plotters, you can create small media 'bridges' which allow the media to stay together and create the possibility to transport your cut material easily or even on the roll

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PRODUCT choice

Spectrum backs a winner at the Grand National

Spectrum Sign and Display has long experience in the design, manufacture and installation of signage, large format digital print and wall coverings. With their premises now exceeding 28,000 ft2, along with investment in staff and print technology, their capabilities as a company have greatly expanded.

For the past 20 years Spectrum has produced and installed signage and graphics for the Aintree Grand National. With speed and quality being a necessity, the company decided to purchase a Mimaki UCJ150-160 from CMYUK.



The Mimaki UCJ150-160 gave Spectrum Sign and Display the high performance, creativity and versatility they needed, with a strikingly vibrant finish

"Some signage could only be accurately measured once installed so we needed the capacity to print quickly and without having to wait for the vinyl to dry"

Director Julian Robinson says: "This is always a big event for us and this year we were asked to provide signage and graphics for 220m of temporary bars across the course. Some could only be accurately measured once installed so we needed the capacity to print quickly and without having to wait for the vinyl to dry.

"The Mimaki gave us the ability to print and install on the same day as well as being a superior quality to our existing machines."

www.cmyuk.com www.spectrumsigns.net

Printer/cutter investment brings production in-house

Since Neill Boatman of ImageON and Dan Smith of Bright Chameleon joined forces last year to form Image On, the company has seen steady growth including a move to new premises and investment in equipment including a Mimaki CJV150-130 purchased from CMYUK.

Partner Neill Boatman says: "The Mimaki CJV150-130 has enabled us to bring production in-house. It has made what we do easier, more cost effectively and we can now offer new products and target new markets."

The CJV150 Series of integrated printer/cutters provide high performance, creativity and versatility with vibrant ink types including new silver, orange and light black and are the "ultimate tool for signmakers, display graphics professionals and print shops".

"We're excited to see where the future leads now we have the means to expand into new markets"

"CMYUK's installation engineer was great and we have maintained a good relationship, allowing us to call on him for advice and guidance as we learn all about the new equipment," explains Neill. "We're excited to see where the future leads now we have the means to expand into new markets."

www.cmyuk.com www.image-on.co.uk



A recent job for designer Elly Prizeman would not have been possible without the CJV150

Investment doubles print capacity

Project management specialist in graphic displays and display structures, Leach has invested in a Durst Rhotex 325 printer that has doubled the capacity of its UK factory to a 500m² per hour print rate.

At 6.5m wide x 4.5m deep, this dve sublimation printer produces large format graphics up to 3m wide and of any roll length. Capable of printing onto different materials using water-based ink, it will widen the project briefs that Leach is able to satisfy and is particularly important for frontlit work.

With a suite of printers within the 30,000m2 factory, Leach can now manufacture both indoor and outdoor graphics, solutions ideal for both warmer and colder climates, reusable products, as well as graphics for technologically challenging shapes, structures and specifications.

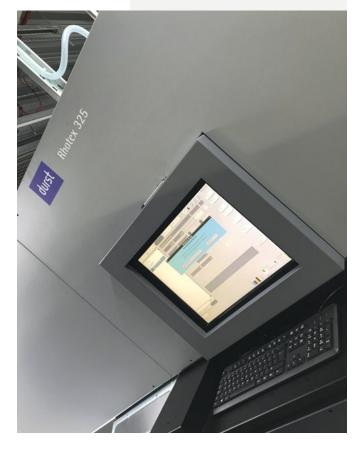
Managing director James Lavin says: "As demand from the retail, exhibition and heritage sectors continues to rise, we are passionate about being able to help more clients as quickly as we can without any detriment to quality. The addition of this cutting-edge equipment means that we

now have technology capable of satisfying virtually any print brief, regardless of budget, environmental agendas, lighting specification and material preferences."

With other Durst machines already in situ, the brand was perhaps an obvious choice but rigorous due diligence included a site visit to the company's headquarters and production facility.

"Durst is a great partner and served us well," says James. "It has a great reputation in the market for high end, high value products. It's a company we align to

"The addition of this cutting-edge equipment means that we now have technology capable of satisfying virtually any print brief"



With a suite of printers within the factory, James Lavin and his team can now manufacture both indoor and outdoor graphics

and very much complements what we do. It was never realistically going to be anybody else. However, to be certain of the run rate and quality the only way to truly verify this was to see the Durst Rhotex 325 and its rivals in action. Now installed, the feedback from our customers is also that the print quality is fabulous."

The dual-purpose system can alternate between direct-to-textile and transfer printing, meaning maximum flexibility for Leach's busy team moving forward.

Two years ago, Leach invested in the UK's first Durst Rhotex 512R for UV ink printing on superwide graphics up to 5m. Last April the business was acquired by Frenchowned global manufacturing and services group Chargeurs. The plan is to double turnover to £20million within five years.

"Being part of Chargeurs brings a lot of interesting contacts to us in many different countries so we are extremely optimistic about the potential for international growth going forward," says James.

Managing director of Durst UK and Ireland Peter Bray says: "Our long-standing relationship with Leach goes back well over 20 years. This latest investment is another prime example of the trust and confidence put in Durst, a global company that continues to go from strength to strength."

www.durst-group.com

Capable of printing onto different materials using water-based ink, it will widen the project briefs that Leach is able to satisfy

PRODUCT choice

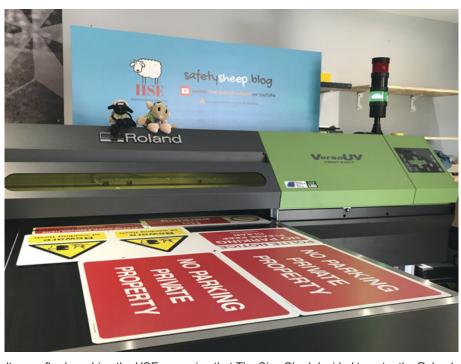
Versatile UV printer reduces manufacturing time

The Sign Shed has installed a Roland DG VersaUV S-Series flatbed printer from supplier printMAX, helping this signage specialist combine the highest quality with a personal touch.

Founded around four years ago, The Sign Shed is establishing itself as one of the UK's leading online suppliers of health and safety signage. It has gradually evolved, doubling its turnover every year and taking on new staff with expansion into new purpose-built premises this summer. At the heart of the new space will be a Roland VersaUV S-Series LEC-330S-F200, a versatile UV printer able to print onto virtually any flexible or rigid substrate or object up to 200mm in height and 100kg/m2 in weight.

The Sign Shed was previously printing graphics and letters onto vinyl for application onto signage materials. Now, it

"Our customers want a fast turnaround and our new machine has reduced manufacturing times by three-quarters"



It was after launching the HSE campaign that The Sign Shed decided to enter the Roland Hero Awards

can print accurate CMYK, white and gloss directly onto substrates including composite aluminum, rigid plastics, Foamex and Corex. Removing the vinyl application step makes the sign-making process faster while freeing up their

Roland TrueVIS VG-540 for work such as sticker production.

"We've used Roland printers from the start, beginning with a BN-20," comments director Rob Haywood. "Roland is a brand we can trust to deliver top quality. Our customers expect the best and we want them to be proud of their signage. They want a fast turnaround and our new machine has reduced manufacturing times by three-quarters.

"It's important for The Sign Shed to have the most up-to-date technology possible and the new Roland printer has the latest UV inks and fits neatly into our new premises."

The Sign Shed strives to deliver a good, honest, down-to-earth customer service to all its customers, wherever they are. This sensibility is reflected in its latest Hazards Sheep Eliminate (HSE) marketing campaign.

"PrintMAX has always offered great levels of service and aftercare," says Rob. "Like us, they're down to earth and friendly. I'd recommend both printMAX and Roland."

Roland **eniserado**

The Sign Shed is establishing itself as one of the UK's leading online suppliers of health and safety signage

www.printmax.co.uk www.rolanddg.co.uk



small and very powerful. Respectively, the units output 3600 and 6000 Lumens. Both are available in Pure White (6000K) and Warm White (3000K).

All of our products are very competitively priced.

CIGNTRIM

SIGNTRIM is a contemporary aluminium extrusion designed for fabricating sign frames; it provides a finish that is completely unblemished by screws or fixings. SIGNTRIM is quick and easy to install and is suitable for non-illuminated sign panels 5-6mm in thickness.



PRODUCT choice

Vehicle wrap and signage business diversifies with inkjet printer/cutter

Micheal Hawes spent 18 years in the education sector but this summer turned the tables to receive training himself in digital printing and vehicle wrapping. The result is Devil is in the Detail, a vehicle wrap and signage business running a Roland DG TrueVIS VG-640 printer/cutter.

"I have friends in the car industry and was looking for a career change," explains Micheal. "Around 18 months ago I started researching offering dent repairs and cosmetic vehicle work and this developed into a vehicle graphics business."

Micheal spent time studying the market and the right technology for this kind of work before launching his business in Selby, Yorkshire. Online research, trade

"Initially my use for the machine was going to be vehicle graphics and digital wraps but I am already getting requests for banners and signage"



Undertaking training to maximise his investment in the TrueVIS despite its integral ease of use was essential to Micheal

shows and suppliers' open days led him to Roland distributor Your Print Specialists (YPS) and the TrueVIS which offers a wide colour gamut, fast printing and drying, accurate cutting and remote operation.

Devil is in the Detail is now running the TrueVIS full-time on an unexpected range of applications.

"Initially my use for the machine was going to be vehicle graphics and digital wraps but I am already getting requests for banners and signage," says Micheal. "I thought I might as well make the most of the machine."

The TrueVIS can handle these applications along with die-cut labels and decals, posters and backlit displays, wall graphics and murals; fine art and photography and heat transfers for apparel are all easy to achieve.

"I don't come from a print background and I find the TrueVIS straightforward to use," explains Micheal. "I like the integrated print and cut, the take-up unit is brilliant and it really is a multi-purpose machine."

Undertaking training to maximise his investment in the TrueVIS despite its integral ease of use was essential to Micheal.

"I attended Roland's intermediate print course at Coventry University, which filled gaps in my knowledge such as colour management and went on the Introduction to Digital Print course at the Roland Creative Centre in Clevedon; the space really opens your eyes as to the endless opportunities offered by Roland digital print," concludes Micheal.

www.devilisinthedetail.co.uk www.rolanddg.co.uk



Devil is in the Detail is now running the TrueVIS full-time on an unexpected range of applications

Roll to roll printer helps increase capacity

With clients including Toyota, the NHS, Thomas Cook and Peterborough FC, Borney produces high quality signs, flags and banners and recently purchased a Mimaki UJV55-320 from CMYUK, enabling them to increase capacity by 62%.

General manager Donna Geranio says: "The speed and quality of print from this machine is second to none. It has allowed us to be much more competitive on turnaround times and given us full control when doing big tenders. I'd give it a perfect 10 out of 10."

The Mimaki UJV55-320 UV roll to roll printer is a useful addition to the fleet of printers already utilised by Borney and

The Mimaki UJV55-320 UV roll to roll printer and offers them an increased printing width of up to 3.2 metres on a wider range of substrates

"This machine has allowed us to be much more competitive on turnaround times and given us full control when doing big tenders"

offers them an increased printing width of up to 3.2 metres on a wider range of substrates including vinyls, banners and textiles.

The dual roll feature (a standard accessory) allows Borney to take advantage of printing multiple smaller rolls simultaneously. Prints come off the UJV55-320 instantly dry and ready for use. As the printer uses LED technology it allows the use of heat sensitive medias.

"The service we have received from CMYUK, in particular from Sue Hayward and Aaron Clarke, has been fantastic and made the purchase and installation process seamless," concludes Donna.

www.cmyuk.com

Printer investment provides platform for growth

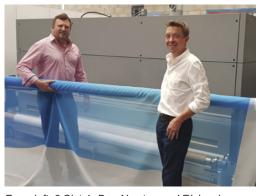
The Durst Rhotex 325 which combines direct-to-textile printing and transfer paper with dye sublimation transfer printing technology and a Durst P10 250 HS Plus hybrid system are providing the platform for further growth opportunities for 3 Sixty which is is firmly establishing itself in the home interiors, exhibitions and events sectors.

Managing director Richard Inkin says: "We spent a huge amount of time and effort understanding all technologies available but after visiting the Durst factories we began to understand that the machines are precision engineered. Quality and flexibility are paramount, speed provides a huge bonus. Durst has been an extremely supportive company, delivering on time and helping us through the transition.

"This current investment in both superwide UV and dye sublimation machines completes our three-year purchase strategy. We now have the fire power and diversity of machinery to grow both our client base and the numerous sectors we work in. The increased capacity will also add value to our national installation

"We work closely with clients to deliver high quality graphic projects on time and in budget, printing on a vast array of materials across every conceivable marketplace.'

www.durst-group.com



From left: 3 Sixty's Ben Newton and Richard Inkin at the Cardiff headquarters



BUILT UP LETTERING Feature

Stand out signage

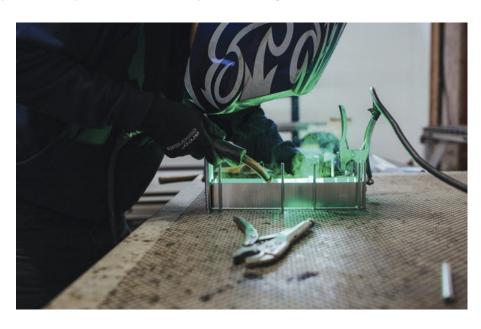
Built up letters are made to be noticed and make an impact. Kathryn Johnson talks to the experts who produce these impressive signs to find out more.

Bold and beautiful

Bold. brash and distinctive, the increasing popularity of built-up letters means this type of signage is becoming a common sight on commercial properties throughout all industry sectors, according to the William Smith Group 1832.

Trade Supplier to the industry they classify themselves as an outsource partner for those who don't have the capacity to fabricate built up letters in-house.

Fabricated out of aluminium, a lightweight, durable and versatile material, these can be supplied with a variety of finishes and lighting options. Other materials which form part of the fabrication process, include acrylics, LEDs, vinyls, architectural films and dry powder. The last three form the aesthetics, which add to the finish of





Above and right: Fabricators create built up letters for their many trade only clients



the sign. Standard requests tend to be the classic 3D, rim and return, halo illuminated and face illuminated. But you always have to appreciate every sign is individual and we do offer a bespoke sign service, says Kyle Giles from the company.

Utilising the wider services of William Smith Group 1832, signs can also be finished with colour change/digital print vinyl and architectural films as an alternative to powder coating.

Technical considerations

Creating built up letters is a craft that takes years to perfect. But a top tip from the William Smith Group 1832 is always ensure you marry up the returns and letter face accurately. It sounds like a given but it will help provide an exceptional, neat finish. Get that right and you'll be on your way, says Kyle.

Challenges of producing built up letters

Kyle said: "Size can become an issue at times because there are limitations with stroke width and depth of the letters. We'll always do our best to overcome the obstacle and thankfully it isn't something which crops up that often.

"Small signage is always hard to fabricate. Built up letters are designed to be big and bold."

The specialist

Centre Signs (UK) Ltd has become one of the leading trade manufacturers of builtup and flat cut metal letters by focusing exclusively on that craft. The business was started over 25 years ago and has exclusively serviced the sign trade from its premises in Oadby, near Leicester. Here Trevor Cockbill tells Sign Update a bit more about built up letters and how they produce them:

"We are proud of our reputation as a trade only supplier of built up stainless steel and aluminium letters to the sign trade. Letters can be manufactured as a 3D letter with solid or open faces, as well as being flat cut from 1mm thick to 6mm thick. All of our built up letters are hand made from the best sheet material, using the tried and tested methods favoured by craftsmen.

The main types of stainless steel used are polished, brushed (satin), gold titanium as well as the base metals with a stove enamelled paint finish. Aluminium letters can be stove enamelled to match pantone colours or powder coated to standard RAL colours. Traditional yellow metals, brass and copper are also available. All the main styles are manufactured; solid faces for non-illuminated or halo illumination. Rim and return for face illumination as well as rimless letters with Perspex faces, with a stainless or aluminium return for full face illumination.



Centre Signs have specialised in making built up letters for over 25 years

The traditional manufacturing techniques are used: from hand forming the returns to whatever depth required; soldering the returns to the letter faces; and sweating the rear straps with the relevant fixings to the letter returns. The process continues with the manual inspection of every letter and polishing the faces and returns to our exacting satisfaction. Letters will not have scratches or blemishes, and that all the back trays and Perspex faces will have been fitted and for our quality control.

Investment is a key part of manufacturing, so we recently bought an Automatic Letter Bender from Poland.

This enables us to manufacture returns for multiple sets with greater accuracy and much faster than before. In the past larger rollouts of built up letters could tie up the factory both in labour and space. Now we can tackle new programs of work with exacting accuracy and confidence in meeting deadlines that larger programs and clients demand. Smaller letters on the Automatic Letter Bender are also now well within our scope than previously. Letters with a Perspex face and stainless steel returns can now be manufactured with greater accuracy than before.

As with everything else in the sign industry there are trade-offs to be made. There is an optimum size of letter when the Automatic Letter Bender is not feasible within the constraints of time and labour; where this occurs we still revert back to the time tested methods of which we know so well. In most cases you cannot tell the difference from the "automated" return as against the traditionally formed returns from Centre Signs.

You can trust Centre Signs with all your letter requirements and rest assured that your letters will be of the highest quality materials as the quotation will state; and will not be substituted for a lower grade material. Letters will be of the highest quality and be delivered on time as agreed. And that the LEDs are from a reputable supplier and will be dry run tested and photographed as part of our quality control.

We attribute the company's success to the decision to specialise and being flexible to our customers' needs enables us to produce top quality goods every time."

www.centresigns.co.uk





BUILT UP LETTERING Feature

Making signs come to 'life'

Fabricut was formed as a sister company to About Signs Group, who have been trading since 1989. After producing their own signs in-house for so many years, they realised they could offer a competitive service to others in the trade. Having a wealth of experience makes us a wise choice when sourcing your sign components, says John Newman from Fabricut.

Built up letters make those flat signs come to life, says John, and are mostly manufactured by an automated process, for increased accuracy and precision. They start by cutting the face and sides; the sides are then eased into the correct shape, to make sure they are formed to follow the perimeter of the face. Everything is then bonded together for a letter that is strong, but also lightweight.

There are many different types of built up letters such as; Perspex, aluminium, stainless steel, face lit Perspex, halo lit Perspex and metal halo lit. Both metal and aluminium systems are perfect for larger letters, where that extra strength is important.

John tells us a bit more about why they invested in an automated letter bender.



Above and below left: The Automatic Letter Bender in action at Fabricut



Sign Update: What made you decide to get the automatic letter bender?

John Newman: We've been producing built up letters at Fabricut for many years, using traditional hand fabricated methods which can mean a long manufacturing process. Because our letters are finished to high standards, they've become popular amongst our trade customers when compared to cheaper alternatives. The increase in demand was subsequently affecting lead times, so we needed to find a way to speed up productivity without compromising on quality.

SU: How has it impacted productivity?

JN: Not only does the letter bender produce returns in a fraction of the time it would take one of our fabricators; it has also enabled us to spread the workload across our production team. After three days tuition we had three people trained in its operation, freeing up the fabricators to concentrate on finishing the letters to their usual high standard.

SU: What did you consider when choosing the machine?

JN: There are a range of options available when purchasing a letter bender, but as with most things, you tend to get what you pay for. Ours was a considered purchase in the sense that we needed a reliable and versatile machine that could serve us for many years together with a solid back up/support package from the suppliers.

SU: What have you used the machine for so far?

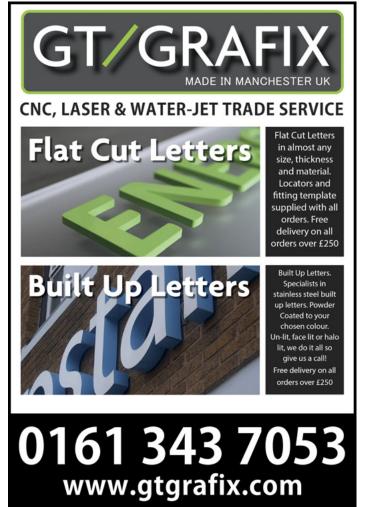
JN: We've been able to expand our range since buying the letter bender. Intricate work is no longer a painstaking process and letters as small as 100mm are now possible (depending on typeface). The letter bender can also fold returns of up to 180mm, such as those used on the aluminium letters made for The Queens Theatre recently.

SU: What's your advice to businesses thinking of getting one?

JN: Don't be duped into thinking that you can just buy a letter bender, press a button and start churning out finished letters as this couldn't be further from the truth. Built up letter fabrication is an age-old craft and the skills needed to create a quality product are still essential.









BUILT UP LETTERING Feature

A project that is 'out of this world'!

Sign Here (Leicester) have been working with the Leicester National Space Centre over the past few years, and recently completed phase three of the project: to manufacture a large built up metal illuminated logo for the building's new exterior entrance.

Using double layered print gave them the strength of colour when illuminated, and the use of crystal white LEDs ensured maximum impact in a dark atmospheric area



Phase 1: Signage in the entry lobby and cafe of the Leicester National Space Centre

Increase in popularity made it clear the venue needed to expand to accommodate the large number of visitors it attracts. Following the internal entrance lobby and café refurbishment last year, the development continued to the phase three entrance extension.

Sign Here have manufactured and installed the signage above the new entrance canopy extension. Constructed as a painted metal rim and return built up with digitally printed graphic on opal acrylic, extra 10mm opal acrylic letters on top, and internally LED illuminated to give maximum impact day and night.

"We rarely get to blow our own trumpet with regards to the type of signage we produce, mainly due to the fact we work closely with a very large trade client base and confidentiality is a key factor in these relationships", says Managing Director Paul Bisiker.

"I think most people would be surprised to see the amount of work we have produced over the years through the trade, especially the retail shop signage side.

"Helping local businesses is our chance to showcase a little of what we do, although the trade supply of the business is key, we also deal with counter customers, which has been key to our continued growth over 27 years in business."

Having previously completed the signage for the foyer/café and planetarium they knew what was expected with reference to print vibrancy and strength of LED illumination. Using double layered print gave them the strength of colour when illuminated, and the use of crystal white LEDs ensured maximum impact in a dark atmospheric area.

www.sign-here.co.uk



The latest signage created by Sign Here (Leicester) outside the extended entrance of the Space Centre

'Revolutionary' adhesive for built up letters

Adhesive experts Innova Solutions have launched a revolutionary new, clear two-part adhesive that combines flexibility with 'unrivalled bond performance and clarity'. Developed in conjunction with Signfab, the largest letter manufacturing operation in the UK signage industry, the product has delivered benefits in terms of increased production times and final product performance and aesthetics, according to Innova.

Designed primarily for the manufacture of acrylic faced rimless and rim and groove letters, NovaWeld Signfix 5 bonds securely to both the stainless or aluminium return and acrylic face. After the four to five minutes fixture time, the letter is securely bonded with the flexibility required to allow for the differential expansion that occurs between the acrylic and metal return when the letter is installed.

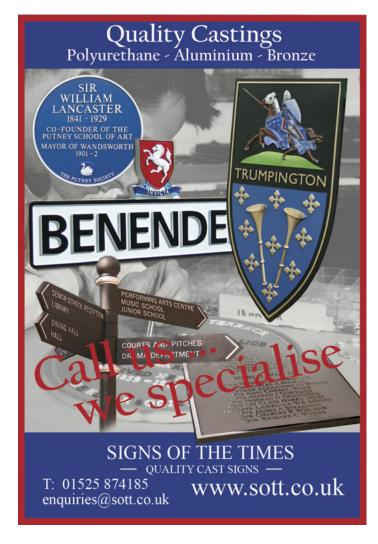
Historically adhesives have not been able

to combine flexibility with both clarity and speed of cure. This has led to various methods and products being used for this application, which has resulted in costly failures when letters have been subjected to external conditions. Whilst not the most effective of joint designs, NovaWeld SignFix 5 compensates for this by exhibiting 'tremendous' bond strength to both substrates, coupled with flexibility to bond dissimilar materials. Whilst aesthetically the clear cured product gives no shadow line when the letter is illuminated.

The product has gone through a rigorous testing procedure both in lab conditions and external weather cycles for a period of 12 months, where it was subjected to extremes of temperature, humidity and moisture. NovaWeld SignFix 5 is currently being used by the industry's leading letter manufacturers and is available in both 50ml and 400ml cartridge sizes, says Innova Solutions.



Innova Solutions new, clear two-part adhesive is designed primarily for acrylic faced rimless, and rim and groove letters







Spectron have been selling LED module since its inception, all our modules is tried and tested to suite various applications and come with 5 year warranty.

Picture shown is a 35mm return letter illuminated using Spectra-ONE module.



Edges on our stainless steel letters are polished as standard with no additional costs.

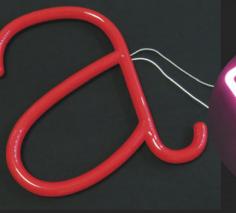


Our Spactra range of LED modules.

We have two production units producing top quality stainless steel, solid acrylic letters and Faux neon letters with most competitive prices and fast turn around and all our prices are based on height of the letters regardless of font style* and our solid acrylic letters are available with or without serviceable back for internal or external use with no additional costs.



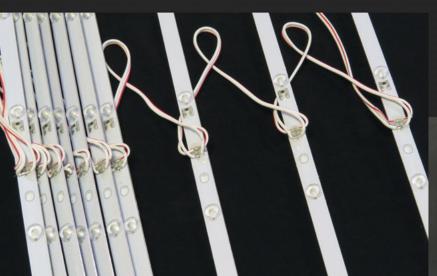
The UK only 360 degree Faux neon letter, it look and feels like real glass neon whether it is switched on or off.



The UK brightest, best Faux neon letters delivered within 2 weeks.

Spectron"CURTAIN" manufactured to our specification with power and wide angle lens to eliminates hot spots. These waterproof aluminum PCB light bar are available in 1.2m length and can be cut to various sizes. Suitable for sign cases from 50mm return. Each length is 6.0w in 24v and it only require 3 lengths on a 1.0m wide sign case with 150mm deep return. A speedy installation product with unbelievable prices. Call us on 0161 236 8828.

Spectron's Flexneon gives you endless possibilities and increase your profitability. Neon effect that you can now produce IN-HOUSE with ease, available in red, orange, yellow, blue, green, pink, white with matching end caps in solder and no solder version for next day delivery.











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LED light pocket by Spectron with reduced power and improved lumen output, we relocated all the fixings to the rear of the panel so that it is hidden from view; providing you with a floating-like display that highlights only the display messages, there are 4 magnets on the back of the panel, two of each which act as positive and negative conductors, this is discreetly fixed to our specially designed cable connectors and the strong magnet will prevent the panel coming off the cable yet it allows you to remove it if required. We use lighting tracks so that positioning and installation is much easier.



Magnetic fixing.

available.

The only LED trough light on the market designed and produced by LED specialist use serviceable modules that eliminates the problem of water ingress and mould. Technologically advanced and aesthetically designed with simplicity. "One for All" multi position fixing bracket allows wall fixing, ledge or top fixing, with its rotating fixing plate it is an ideal fixing solution for cladding, pillars fixing or even using it upside down, same bracket can also be used as pictorial set. Smallest trough light available with integral driver and up to 6.0m in a single length. two versions

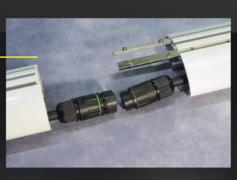
35mm casing with integral drivers makes them the slimmest available on the market.





Pictorial set using our "One for All" fixing bracket.

IP68 connector concealed within the casing and seamlessly jointed for longer



lumenlinear-500 LED Trough Light with Integral Driver

TOOLBOX Feature

Open a window of opportunity with high impact graphics

Window graphics can make a big impact for many organisations. The right design, installed correctly using specialised materials, can make a bold and vibrant statement on both external windows and inside a building. Window graphics can be used to provide privacy or to change the light within a space. Steve Yarbrough, product support specialist at Drytac shares some hints and tips.

It is essential to use the right media for each project. We have developed an extensive range of window graphics materials to help you to choose the best product for the job but there are a few things you need to consider first.

It is crucial to check with the client exactly what they want from their window graphic. Do they need it to be only visible from the outside or inside the building as well? This will dictate both which material and type of printer to use. Has the customer requested an optically clear finish? If so, you don't want to use a contact clear material. Do the colours need to be totally accurate?

Check colour profiling and matching, asking the client to approve any colours before installation, perhaps printing a few colour swatches on the material to examine on site.

"Check colour profiling and matching, ask the client to approve colours before any installation, perhaps printing a few swatches on the material to examine on site"

Compatible printer

Drytac window graphic materials are rated for either indoor or outdoor use to help you choose the right media; it's important to ensure a good finish and the required lifespan. Similarly, the printer must be compatible with your chosen materials as certain ink sets may require top coats or laminates to ensure longevity.

Never use a permanent adhesive for a temporary graphic: this will cost you both in time and money.

We advise against using a material that will trap heat in a window as this can cause expansion and shatter the glass.

These include multi-layered block-out materials but make sure do your research and ask the manufacturer if you have any questions. They may even have the perfect product for your project that you don't even know about.

Finally, don't choose sub-par materials and expect top quality results. The difference will show in clarity, adhesion and overall performance. Drytac has developed a range of materials specifically for different window graphics applications to help you achieve an excellent finish.

Short-term graphics

For an easy installation of short-term graphics, for example, SpotOn is a 4 mil-thick vinyl with a 'dot pattern' adhesive, which makes it simple to fit, reposition, remove and even reuse.

Available in clear matte, white matte and white gloss, and compatible with solvent, eco-solvent, latex and UV inkjet printers, SpotOn is a versatile media. WindowTac is great for temporary graphics on glass, acrylic and other non-porous surfaces, especially for backlit displays. This 0.9 mil, visually clear PET film can be installed with minimal effort.

For longer term window graphics, take a look at ViziPrint Impress Clear, a 5 mil optically clear PET film with proprietary adhesion technology that can withstand both high and low temperatures and moisture. Available for UV, solvent, eco-solvent and latex inks, you can expect great graphics for years and clean removal up to three years after installation.

From the same range is ViziPrint Illuminate, a 4 mil high quality, translucent matte PET film that uses a mechanical bond to adhere to smooth, flat surfaces including glass. Reverse printable and durable even without over-lamination, its bright white base colour creates brighter, more vivid window images.

www.drytac.com



For an easy installation of short-term graphics, a 4 ml-thick vinyl with a 'dot pattern' adhesive makes it simple to fit, reposition, remove and reuse.





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in and



PROJECT News

Pop art image makes high impact wall graphic

Large-format print specialist N3 Display Graphics has produced a high impact wall graphic using ReTac Textures Linen media from Drytac.

The company produced a super-sized version of Roy Lichtenstein's iconic pop art painting Whaam! for its building in Bristol. These purpose-built premises accommodate around 20 employees including on-site fittings teams.

"In one case a wall graphic peeled off as soon as the air conditioning was switched on, while another product described as 'repositionable' couldn't be removed from the wall at all"



N3 Display Graphics printed the wall graphics onto Drytac ReTac Textures Linen

"ReTac Textures Linen is simply what we call 'wallpaper' at N3," says projects manager Robin Campbell. "We use it for the majority of our wall graphics. It has a slight texture which provides a realistic feel of the wall underneath and holds colour well, producing really vibrant graphics.

"We have tried other brands but have always had problems with adhesion. In one case a wall graphic peeled off as soon as the air conditioning was switched on, while another product described as 'repositionable' couldn't be removed from the wall at all. Drytac's ReTac fits the bill."

ReTac Textures Linen is a 150µ (6 mil) printable, matte white phthalate-free polymeric PVC film with an embossed linen-like finish to add depth to flat graphics. Its ReTac ultra-removable adhesive makes it easy to apply and reposition without loss of adhesion and removal without surface damage. The media is compatible with solvent, ecosolvent, UV and latex printing technologies.

This version of Whaam! is around 15m long by 4m tall at its highest point. Using its Océ Arizona 460 XT UV flatbed printer, N3 Display Graphics added its own stamp to the image with fresh colours and extra movement in the background. As it is copyright protected, the company can only print Whaam! for its own use.

www.n3display.co.uk www.drytac.com





Partnership shares signage expertise with UK auto brands

FASTSIGNS Manchester has teamed up with Micheldever Tyres to share its visual communication expertise with the automotive sector.

Micheldever Tyres initially approached FASTSIGNS Manchester on behalf of its client specialist M.O.T service and repair centre AA Silencers. Tasked with the implementing a marketing strategy that would successfully take AA Silencers' communications to the next level by attracting the attention of passing footfall, **FASTSIGNS** Manchester installed three remotely operated 49-inch LCD screens at the facility in Cheadle.

"The LCD screens look incredible and can easily be spotted from the road, helping attract even more customers and steer the business to further success"

Created and consistently updated by FASTSIGNS Manchester, the screens display multiple advertising messages, ensuring the content displayed remains fresh and engaging.

The project's success resulted in Micheldever Tyres calling on FASTSIGNS Manchester to develop its digital signage offering in 30 of its facilities and for its help in pioneering industry road shows, which offer product training and marketing advice to tyre dealerships across the UK.

Managing director Richard Wedgwood says: "It was a pleasure to work with AA Silencers on its digital signage project, providing the business with the visual tools it needed to stand out to customers. The resulting LCD screens look incredible and can easily be spotted from the nearby road, helping attract even more customers and steer the business to further success.



The screens display multiple advertising messages, ensuring the content displayed remains fresh and engaging

"As a by-product of this project, it's been a privilege to establish a partnership with Micheldever Tyres, creating a platform via the roadshows to share our expertise with other businesses in the motor sector. With the developments in digital signage technologies, we believe it's important to share our knowledge with other businesses and showcase the capabilities of digital signage in context, helping potential customers in the automotive trade make well informed decisions about the best signage solutions."

Jason Burgess, general manager wholesale at Micheldever Tyres adds: "From initial consultation to final installation, the FASTSIGNS team were great communicators who ensured the project went smoothly from brief through to final delivery. It's their impressive ability to go above and beyond that made them the perfect addition to our team as we tour the UK with our branding workshops."

www.fastsigns.co.uk/887-manchester

Height

Colours*

152mm

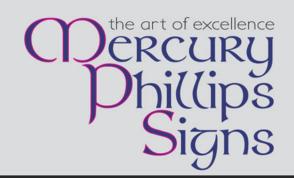
6.14

203mm 254mm 305mm

380mm

21.50





(Including locators and paper template) *ADD 10% FOR SILVER & GOLD

Stock Styles: HELVETICA BOLD, TIMES BOLD

& CLARENDON MEDIUM

Quotes for logos & non-standard typestyles

ACRYLI	PERSPEX® Colours Gold & Silver add 10% for Gold & Silver £18 + VAT minimum charge + carriag														+ carriage					
Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mn	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800m	m 900mr	n 1200mm
3mm	0.90	1.18	1.28	1.50	1.87	2.41	2.94	3.32	4.01	4.65	5.89	7.49	8.56	9.63	11.77	14.45	18.19	32.10	39.49	48.00
5mm	1.30	1.77	1.93	2.46	3.10	3.75	4.23	5.78	6.90	8.03	9.36	10.70	12.84	15.52	17.91	19.26	25.15	32.10	48.15	62.00
10mm	2.50	3.00	3.96	4.92	6.15	7.86	9.15	12.84	13.91	16.85	19.30	23.01	26.22	30.50	34.24	38.52	53.50	78.11	100.58	130.00
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3mm	0.75	1.10	1.16	1.25	1.35	1.57	1.98	2.39	2.70	3.02	3.88	4.78	5.41	5.82	6.97	8.22	10.92	17.16	19.76	22.50
5mm	0.95	1.30	1.61	1.98	2.39	2.81	3.22	3.54	4.11	4.68	5.84	6.86	7.80	8.32	9.67	11.02	17.16	23.40	26.00	28.50
10mm	1.70	1.98	2.70	3.74	4.37	5.04	6.19	7.20	8.22	9.15	11.02	13.10	15.60	17.16	19.24	22.36	27.04	31.20	47.32	56.00
19mm	2.80	3.95	4.58	4.99	6.66	7.80	9.36	10.92	13.21	15.50	16.64	19.44	22.36	24.75	26.83	30.16	38.48	41.60	55.64	84.50
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Colours	1.65	2.12	2.65	3.13	3.71	4.77	5.83	6.99	8.06	8.94	10.88	12.19	14.84	16.96	18.02	21.73	25.97	37.10	48.76	66.78
Mirror	2.50	3.06	4.24	5.30	6.89	8.48	9.54	11.66	14.31	16.96	18.55	21.20	24.91	28.09	29.68	34.45	40.28	50.35	54.06	102.29
Brushed	1.85	2.33	2.97	3.71	4.24	5.19	6.25	7.42	9.01	10.60	12.19	13.78	16.96	18.55	20.67	23.32	30.74	41.34	51.94	71.55
MILL FI	NIS	Н	AL	UI	AIN	IIU	M	(Com	es in i	ts raw	form i	eady	for co	ating)	£18	+ VAT	minin	num c	harge -	+ carriage
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3mm	3.20	4.45	5.0	9 (5.25	7.21	8.06	9.0	01	10.28	11.50	13.	.25	14.79	18.97	22.6	8 31	.69	44.52	66.00
5mm	3.50	4.88	5.8	3 7	7.00	7.84	9.01	10).18	11.87	13.67	7 15	.74	17.76	22.95	26.5	0 36	i.84	51.94	71.60
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6mm	0.58	1.10	1.7	2 1	1.92	2.84	2.99	3.4	47	4.15	4.78	5.67	7	.25	10.24	11.8	1 13	.39	15.70	47.78
12mm		1.90	2.2	3 3	3.11	4.46	5.15	5.9	99	6.74	8.03	10.0	18	11.03	12.81	15.2	3 18	3.48	20.74	62.95
18mm		2.70	3.4	2 4	1.46	5.57	6.77	8.	35	9.35	11.60	13.3	9 1	5.96	18.27	22.31	24.0	05	31.45	94.11
Add 20% for locators and layout Add 30% for 3mm letters Add 30% for Cladded fascia drawing																				
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Righton and Blackburns Metals forge new business

Righton Limited and Blackburns Metals Limited merged in November, with logistical consolidation expected to be completed by January 2019. They will operate as one company under the name Righton Blackburns Limited.

Blackburns is one of the country's leading nationwide stockholders of aluminium, stainless steel and other semi-finished, non-ferrous products. Righton has been a stockholder and distributor for over 100 years, establishing itself as a leading supplier of metals and plastics.

By forging the two businesses, customers will benefit from enhanced experience and expertise; a more comprehensive logistical infrastructure with faster response times and therefore an improved service offering throughout the UK.

Central operations will be consolidated and service centres that are in the same geographical area will be merged.

"We look forward to continuing to work with our customers as we unite two highly compatible businesses and strive to be the most respected and reliable national distributor of metals and sign and display materials"

The nationwide service centres will offer the combined range of each business's products and services, meaning that customers will still benefit from the high quality products they know and trust.

Dennis Parker, managing director of Blackburns Metals comments: "We very much look forward to continuing to work with our customers as we unite two highly compatible businesses and strive to be the most respected and reliable national distributor of metals and sign and display

Managing director of Righton David Wycherley says: "We're delighted to announce the news of this merger. We believe it's a very exciting development for both businesses, our employees and ultimately, our customers."

www.righton.co.uk www.blackburnsmetals.com





Antalis facility in Bristol fully stocked and operational

Antalis' new Bristol-based facility which opened in April is now fully stocked and operational, increasing the firm's footprint to 70,000 ft2 of capacity across its Bristol, Basingstoke and Newton Abbot locations.

Simon Fisher, regional business director south west comments: "The new capacity in the region is vital to us achieving our growth aspirations. In Bristol alone we are more than tripling the stock we can hold at any given time, a sign of our commitment to the south west and the strategic importance of the region to us.

"It's not only our capacity that we're growing; our team is expanding in the region across all of our business areas, bringing more of the great service and expertise that our customers trust us for, to more of them than ever before.

"One of the challenges for Antalis is that we are seeing a huge demand for larger format visual communication and packaging products. Our new site

facilitates all of this and is in a great location to provide service all over the South West of England and South Wales."

www.antalis.co.uk

"We are seeing a huge demand for larger format visual communication and our new site facilitates this"



Large format printer certified for energy efficiency

The Research Institute for Media Technologies (Fogra) has tested the highest-performing swissQprint large format printer according to ISO Standard 20690. The company says the results are proof of the Swiss UV inkjet system's outstanding energy efficiency.



Fogra experts acting on behalf of the Swiss manufacturer tested a Nyala series LED UV printer according to ISO 20690:2018 which specifies methods for determining the energy consumption of digital printers and thus allows comparison of the operating costs and ecological footprints of such machines.

After evaluating the tests at swissQprint, Fogra experts gave a rating of "excellent" to the energy efficiency of the Nyala large format printer. For example, Nyala produces 65 m² per kWh in speed printing mode. This obviously has nothing to do with productivity: a Nyala is capable of turning out a maximum of 206 m² per hour.

In order to model realistic system usage, the standardised measurement includes four different printer statuses. To ensure that results are consistent the experts used these several times with a standardised print file.

"The outstanding energy efficiency certificate for Nyala implicitly applies to all other swissQprint machines that use LED curing due their similar construction"

The "outstanding energy efficiency" certificate for Nyala implicitly applies to all other swissQprint machines that use LED curing due their similar construction and especially since Nyala is the highest performing model in the range.

www.swissqprint.com



** SIGN News

Ten-year warranty on **LED** modules and systems

SloanLED is providing a 10-year warranty on Applelec's LED modules and systems for the UK signage industry. In addition, Applelec now has full exclusivity as a supplier of SloanLED, which brings the supplier to full and sole UK distributor status for SloanLED's LED systems.



SloanLED is providing a 10-year warranty on Applelec's LED modules and systems for the UK signage industry

Managing director Ian Drinkwater says: "As a verified and approved distributor of SloanLED, Applelec is now the only supplier in the UK that is able to provide this impressive 10-year warranty on SloanLED LED modules. Applelec has been using these LED systems within the fabricated signage and lettering we manufacture for a number of years, which means we have a solid understanding of the products and how to get the best from them."

Supplying to trade only, Applelec continues its promise of offering one-toone support for customers working with the SloanLED range, with dedicated field sales staff located around the country. Providing additional support, Applelec will be offering training activities for customers looking to understand the SloanLED range, particularly modules designed for the illumination of built-up metal letters.

"Applelec has been using these LED systems within the fabricated signage and lettering we manufacture for a number of years"

Applelec stocks all SloanLED products including the best selling Prism LED modules and PosterBOX 3 modules, as well as appropriate power supplies for signage. The range can be purchased in kit form with modules available individually or by the carton, along with integration within fabricated signage manufactured by Applelec, all with SloanLED's 10-year warranty.

www.applelec.co.uk

Perspex Distribution to distribute BaltLED products in UK

Perspex Distribution Limited (PDL) has announced a partnership with Europeanbased LED manufacturers BaltLED to distribute its LED systems in the UK.

Stocking the full BaltLED range via its five UK branches, PDL has access to the company's rapid bespoke manufacturing capability from the nearby BaltLED factory.

BaltLED's comprehensive ranges for channel letters and lightboxes include the Crown OPTO S range with a five-year warranty and Crown OPTO X range with a seven-year warranty, offering solutions for illuminating depths from 30mm up to 350mm. The package includes solutions for double-sided illumination and an accompanying range of power supplies.

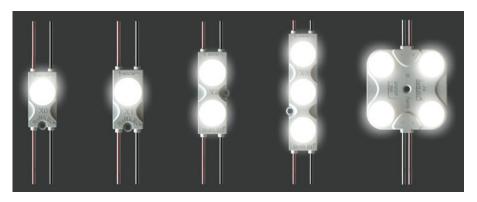
A fast and easy LED estimating and layout service is available from PDL to optimise illumination projects and with a team of LED product specialists at all five PDL branches, support and advice for customers is readily available.

"We continue to listen to the changing requirements within the sign industry and by teaming up with BaltLED our customers will now benefit from easy access to quality LED modules along with what we believe to be the most cost effective solution in the market delivering value to our customers," explains Ryan Mann, LED sales manager at Perspex Distribution.

"It is exciting to be part of BaltLED's continued global growth and to benefit from their substantial technical expertise gained over the past 13 years of LED experience. We look forward to growing our businesses jointly in the coming years."

Vilius Raulusevicius, UK sales director at BaltLED comments: "We are delighted to be working alongside Perspex Distribution and believe that our products offer the best range of solutions to complement their specialist LED substrates. Perspex Distribution has been the first choice substrate supplier for signage in the UK for many years and we are excited to bring further new LED technology to the UK market with PDL soon".

www.perspex.co.uk



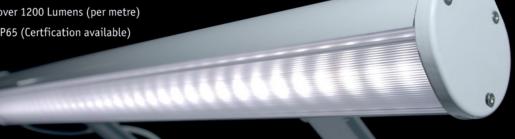
BaltLED's comprehensive ranges for channel letters and lightboxes include the Crown OPTO S range with a five-year warranty





Key Facts

- Available from stock in either; White, Black or Silver Anodised
- Outputting over 1200 Lumens (per metre)
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SIGN News

Drytac wins two SGIA Product of the Year awards

Drytac has won two awards in the SGIA Product of the Year competition for its innovative products. Ahead of the SGIA Expo 2018 held in October, industry professionals evaluated the most exciting products to be showcased at the event.

Drytac topped the Laminates, Adhesives, Films, Coatings category with ReTac WipeErase, a product that turns standard surfaces into whiteboards. The 6 ml (150 micron) white dry erase film features a chemical- and scratch-resistant UV hard coat and clear gloss surface that allows the film to be written on and wiped off easily. Unlike a whiteboard, it won't suffer from ink staining or ghosting and can be removed and repositioned easily for convenience.

In addition, Drytac won the Media - Adhesive Back Vinyl category for its SpotOn Floor 200. This monomeric PVC film is designed for short-term indoor floor graphics, offering a non-slip surface and a Class B1 Fire Rating without lamination. The product is easy to install and remove within six months of its application thanks to Drytac's smart dot-pattern adhesive, making it perfect for public areas such as retail, education and healthcare environments.

"The winners are decided by key members of the printing and imaging technology industry who are ideally positioned to understand the needs of the market and what makes an innovative product"

Both award-winning products were demonstrated at Drytac's show space at SGIA Expo 2018, alongside products including AmourPrint Emerytex and ArmourGrab.

"Drytac is delighted to have won not one but two awards," says global product manager Shaun Holdom. "The winners are decided by key members of the printing and imaging technology industry who are



Drytac topped the laminates, adhesives, films, coatings category with ReTac WipeErase, a product that turns standard surfaces into whiteboards

ideally positioned to understand the needs of the market and what makes an innovative product.

"ReTac WipeErase is a dry erase board in a roll, perfect for a variety of customers and applications, while SpotOn Floor 200 is used for safe and stunning floor graphics in a wide range of different environments."

www.drytac.com

ISA announces partnership with BSGA

The International Sign Association (ISA) has announced its newest partnership. Powered by the British Sign & Graphics Association (BSGA), ISA-UK will allow ISA and BSGA to work together on issues common across the sign, graphics and visual communications industry including codes and regulations, research, workforce education and events.

"The new relationship provides a common voice for the sign industry on both sides of the Atlantic and will maximise instead of duplicating our efforts," said ISA's chief operating officer Brandon Hensley. "When the global sign, graphics and visual communication industry comes together it allows us to provide stronger programs to our members and to stay ahead of trends that are happening worldwide."

ISA will immediately support BSGA's annual British Sign Awards, which takes place on 8 November in Leicester, UK.

The awards honor everything from traditional crafts skills to the production of giant signs that combine creative design with heavy engineering and construction skills.

"While some of the nuances of the UK and US may be different, as we have held conversations, we realise just how many of the same issues we face," says BSGA director David Catanach. "By sharing resources we can maximise our strengths and increase the success and growth of our member companies. This alliance will deliver many positive results for the UK sign industry."

Over the coming months ISA and BSGA will work together to maximise the value proposition to both associations' members. For example, ISA's education platform will be enhanced to meet the needs of BSGA members. The new joint venture will focus on increasing education to the planner



community and leveraging existing research, as well as exploring other needs of the global sign industry.

"This is an exciting move for ISA and for BSGA," says ISA president and CEO Lori Anderson. "The business world is no longer contained by borders and this partnership offers tremendous opportunities for the growth of our industry. Together, we are stronger."

www.bsga.co.uk



FASTSIGNS opens two new centres

FASTSIGNS welcomes two new centres to its UK franchise network this autumn. These additions will extend the brand's geographical footprint by top and tailing its current locational spread, with one located in Hull to push the network farther into the north east and another on the south coast in Southampton.

Hull was the first to open in September. Franchisee Andrew Dearman also owns Displaypak, a creative promotional display business. Andrew, has chosen to co-brand his existing business with a FASTSIGNS franchise in order to expand and diversify its current product offering while retaining its original brand and identity.

Choosing the more traditional route of opening a franchise, husband and wife team Oladapo and Moronke Osula launched FASTSIGNS Southampton in October. Having previously run a promotional product business servicing some major blue-chip clients, the couple are enthusiastic about their new venture with the support of globally recognised franchisor FASTSIGNS.

With the addition of the new centres, the total number of FASTSIGNS centres operating in the UK reaches 21 with plans to welcome more to the network over the coming year.

John Davies, managing director of FASTSIGNS UK says: "Hull and Southampton are two fantastic cities with thriving business communities, making them the perfect locations for our newest centres.

"Andrew, Oladapo and Moronke all share in the FASTSIGNS vision for ensuring quality solutions and exceptional customer service are at the forefront of everything we do; I have no doubt that they will flourish in their new ventures.

"Over the coming months we look forward to welcoming even more centres to the team and steering the business to further success."

www.fastsigns.co.uk



FASTSIGNS welcomes two new centres to its UK franchise network this autumn

Art exhibition showcases best of British vehicle wrapping

Vehicle wrapping was celebrated as a modern art form in October in a public exhibition believed to be the first of its kind.

Six cars and vans wrapped by leading experts from across the UK were on show at Baltic Square, outside the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

They ranged from a Ferrari 458 Italia wrapped in a mix of gloss, matte and metallic films to a 1968 MG Roadster Speckled Hen kitted out with a modern twist.

The outdoor exhibit forms part of the 3M Wrap Tour, a five-day, 665-mile UK road trip to celebrate the talents of its Authorised Vehicle Wrappers (AVWs).

Pen Webley, marketing manager for 3M's Commercial Solutions division says: "Vehicle wrapping is truly an art form so it's great to see it recognised at such a wonderful venue.

"Visitors who come for the fabulous paintings and sculptures at the adjacent BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art can enjoy something less conventional at the exhibit put on outside by our AVWs who are among the best in their profession."

In recent years vehicle wrapping has becoming an increasingly popular alternative to spray-painting, in part because innovative new wrap films can achieve various effects that paint cannot. For example, recent additions to the Wrap Film Series 1080 range by 3M include innovative colour flip shades. Each one exhibits lively polychromatic effects that shift and vary under different viewing angles and lighting.

The 3M Wrap Tour stopped next at the Santa Pod Raceway in Wellingborough, Northampton where the AVW fleet went on display during the National Drag Racing Championship Finals and ended the following day at TRAX Silverstone, the UK's biggest performance car show, where the vehicles joined Fast Car magazine's stand.

Six cars and vans wrapped by leading experts from across the UK were on show at Baltic Square

www.3m.co.uk



Fabric tension system judged SGIA Product of the Year

Spirit Displays' Spirit-TEX Fabric Tension System has received the Specialty Graphic Imaging Association's (SGIA) Product of the Year Award in the Finishing - Display/Exhibit Hardware category.

More than 100 companies competed in the competition, submitting 255 entries in the various specialist categories — the largest field of competitors in the awards program's history.

"This was a banner year for entries," says SGIA director of digital print programs Ray Weiss. "Product quality was outstanding and the competition was fierce. Spirit Display's award was well-earned." The Spirit-TEX Fabric Tension System is a patented display product which uses a gripper strip to hold fabrics into the aluminium frame. Used in conjunction with a silicone bead on one or more edges, it allows quick and flexible installation of all types of soft signage fabrics.

The combination of these fixing elements means that fabrics of unlimited shapes and sizes can be installed without having to accurately stitch on the silicone edge. The system can be used to create complex shaped frames and structures.

"Some examples include polygonal frames, round or oval lightboxes, hanging lighting structures and architectural acoustic elements," comments Alistair Weight, commercial director at Spirit Displays.

Spirit Displays has a design department and a range of CNC machines in-house to fabricate their wide range of aluminium profiles into displays.

"Investment continues in this area of our business as we try to expand the creative possibilities of tensioned fabric displays and soft signage," says Hadley

"Investment continues in this area of our business as we try to expand the creative possibilities of tensioned fabric displays and soft signage"

Weight, technical director at Spirit Displays.

www.spirit-displays.com



Used in conjunction with a silicone bead on one or more edges, the Spirit-TEX system allows quick and flexible installation of all types of soft signage fabrics



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SIGN News

Graffiti and permanent marker resistant signage

The Stocksigns Group is trying to reduce the inconvenience and cost associated with graffiti by offering signage that is graffiti and permanent marker resistant.

Although no sign can claim to be completely damage-proof, Stocksigns offers a wide range of graffiti-resistant products. Vitreous enamel, for example, is recognised as one of the most hardwearing, vandal-resistant signage options.

sign involves the fusion of an image onto glass-coated steel in a furnace at with a lifespan of over 40 years. The finished sign has a high quality, vibrant, lustrous finish with fire retardant and fade choice for the railway and underground where signs need to be long lasting in harsh environments.

The process of creating a vitreous enamel temperatures up to 800°C, creating a sign resistant qualities, making them a popular

Stocksigns can apply a protective overlay film (POF) on the majority of standard signs to extend the lifespan by up to three years

"We aim to maintain and discourage damage to signage with our vandal resistant solutions, suitable for all requirements"

Stocksigns can supply a range of durable signs, which provide many of the benefits of vitreous enamel. With vibrant colours, hardwearing coatings and various metal options, they are robust vandal resistant signage that will last for over 10 years.

Keen to offer products that are suitable for all applications, Stocksigns can apply a protective overlay film (POF) on the majority of standard signs to extend the lifespan by up to three years. These are commonly used on construction sites and around local communities as the POF creates a surface which can be easily cleaned to rid graffiti with the use of specialist remover or just a simple microfiber cloth and water or acetone.

Managing director Danny Adamson says: "Vandalism always poses problems in society so we aim to maintain and discourage damage to signage with our range of vandal resistant solutions, suitable for all levels of requirements. Recovering signs from incidences of graffiti creates a much longer lifespan making them more cost efficient. Speed of removal decreases time spent cleaning and restoring signage, diverting staff resources and money back to areas that require them."

www.stocksigns.co.uk



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Identikits of the 'perfect' print now online

Ritrama is setting up a new section of its website dedicated to colour profiles designed for its products for large format digital printing.

The complex and lengthy profiling work has involved a huge number of specific products suitable for the most varied applications including monomeric, polymeric and CAST, to meet all printing needs from the simplest and most economical to the most complex and expensive.

An ICC profile is a set of data that describe, according to rules and standards promulgated by the International Color Consortium (ICC), how colours are numerically represented in digital input/output devices. Therefore, installing appropriate colour print profiles is essential to achieve the best possible colour match during printing, compared to the original file.

However, under the RESOURCES menu on Ritrama website, it is possible to find a section, which includes a rich list of certifications divided according to the major manufacturers of peripherals for digital printing. On this occasion, Ritrama has created a long and advantageous

"It's an ongoing process where we are constantly engaged in providing new materials to keep up with the new technologies proposed by Mimaki"



Installing appropriate colour print profiles is essential to achieve the best possible colour match during printing, compared to the original file

partnership with Mimaki of the implementation of this dedicated area, to outline an increasing number of products on a wide range of peripherals.

"It's an ongoing process where we are constantly engaged in providing new materials to keep up with the new technologies proposed by Mimaki,' explains Mirko Aguanno, sales and product manager of the Graphics Division. "The collaboration, which began in 2017, is further proof of the high quality standard of Ritrama products".

The profiling of most of these products represents a further step in redefining Ritrama's presence in the graphics sector, which is more and more a partner company of its own customers.

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Hybrid supports textile companies with Mimaki price reduction

Mimaki's exclusive UK and Irish distributor Hybrid Services has announced a special promotion. Developed specifically for the textile print industry, the TS300P-1800 is said to deliver cost-effective dye sublimation printing without compromising quality and productivity. The campaign features a significant price reduction on the machine and runs until 31 December 2018.

"The Mimaki TS300P-1800 will benefit from a highly attractive new price point for the remainder of the year," says textile products manager Brett Platt. "As more and more textile printing companies adapt to a digital-focused production process, industry leading products like the TS300P play an important role in facilitating this evolution."

"It's now easier than ever before to enjoy a prompt return on investment thanks to the reduced capital outlay"

The Mimaki TS300P-1800 is a 1.8m wide roll-to-roll dedicated transfer paper printer, delivering cost effective dye sublimation printing while offering new levels of quality and productivity in digital textile printing. Suitable for the creation of fashion, apparel, sportswear, furnishings and point-of-sale materials, the TS300P-1800

uses state-of-the-art technology to set new performance benchmarks for the

"A conventional-to-digital transformation is currently taking place in the textile and apparel industry," says Ronald van den Broek, general manager sales EMEA at Mimaki Europe. "As an early mover in this space, Mimaki has always been dedicated to bringing affordable, industry-leading solutions to the segment. By introducing a lower price on the TS300P-1800 we hope to accelerate the trend and spread this conventional-to-digital revolution even

"It's now easier than ever before to enjoy a prompt return on investment thanks to the reduced capital outlay," confirms Brett. "We look forward to assisting new customers as they make their next step into digital printing."

www.hybridservices.co.uk



The Mimaki TS300P-1800 will benefit from a highly attractive price point for the remainder of the year

Software certification helps streamline workflow

SAi's Flexi software solution is now certified for use with both the HP DesignJet Z6610 and DesignJet Z6810 printers. The helps print providers and sign and display companies to streamline their workflow, increase throughput and quarantee premium quality output for their customers.

Applicable to FlexiPRINT, FlexiSIGN & PRINT, FlexiPRINT SE and HP FlexiPRINT edition v12, the certification officialises the

software with HP's stamp of approval and confirms that these Flexi solutions fully comply with its rigorous performance requirements for both DesignJet printers

For users, this provides the assurance that the software will seamlessly integrate with their HP DesignJet printer without disruption to their print line. It offers users who require advanced production tools such as nesting, tiling and colour management options

access to a catalogue of efficiencyenhancing tools. These include the ability to minimise material waste and maximise profit margins using Flexi's contour cut true shaping nesting tool. Users can precisely match the job spot colours using Flexi's spot colour swatch tools.

Vice president technical services Eyal Friedman says: "As this certification demonstrates, our software solutions continue to perform at the highest level to equip print providers and sign and display companies with a multitude of business enhancing tools."

Designed as the world's first and only all-in-one design, print and cut software solution, Flexi provides users with a comprehensive design-to-output workflow under one roof. Users have the choice to either purchase the software outright or via SAi's subscription model. Subscribers have the financial flexibility to add extra licenses during peak periods and enjoy instant access to the latest upgrades.

www.ThinkSAi.com



For sign and display companies, the certification can streamline their workflow, increase throughput and guarantee premium quality output for customers

HP Latex R-Series showroom opens to customers

ADAPT has unveiled its new showroom dedicated to the HP Latex R-Series. Situated in the heart of Manchester and currently housing the R2000, this facility allows visitors to test ADAPT's wide range of products on this innovative technology and explore all the possibilities available.

In addition to exclusive R2000 demonstrations, the centre houses an application area. With an expansive range of materials in stock at ADAPT from boards and vinyls to roll media and inks, customers can take a tour around the warehouse and explore the products that complement the hardware.

ADAPT has significant expertise in providing customers with everything connected with printing. With a long history of implementing and supporting HP Latex printing solutions, this experience has been instrumental in their selection as the exclusive UK partner for the new HP Latex R2000 and as host for the HP Latex R-Series showroom.



ADAPT's new facility allows customers to experience all the possibilities offered by its latex technology

General manager Richard Barham says: "The opening of our dedicated HP Latex R-Series showroom is a revolutionary opportunity for the UK sign, graphics and display industry. This printing demonstration centre is the only location in the country where customers can

experience the technology first hand. We look forward to welcoming many new and existing customers to the showroom and to give them the opportunity to lead their market."

www.amaridigital.com



INDUSTRY comment

Looking beyond the RIP: sourcing the right provider

As the saying goes: 'the difference between something good and something great is the attention to detail'. I think this is true of many aspects of life, particularly when it comes to business, writes Marc Hermans, SAi director of sales EMEA.

In addition to selecting the best hardware to meet requirements, large format print providers and sign and display companies should give careful consideration to choosing the most suitable RIP software.

A number of large format printer manufacturers pair their own software with their hardware. Before committing, it is important to consider whether this solution has the capabilities to evolve as your business requirements develop.

Indeed, this is a business decision as well as a technical one and it's worth looking at how extensive the all-round value offering is. Outside of functionality, a crucial factor is the level of back-up offered by the provider. Ask yourself how extensive your provider's support service is. If there is a support team, where is it based? Will you be able to contact it regardless of the time and your location? How fast and well you receive the support is extremely important.

A good RIP software provider will want to build a relationship with you to help you unlock greater workflow efficiencies. It will provide you with expert knowledge in configuration, insightful guidance on industry trends, comprehensive application and product advice as well as business development consultancy.

Value-added solutions

A worthy provider will go above and beyond to ensure it equips you with a full-service solution with all the 'bells and whistles'. We offer a range of extra value-added solutions that provide our customers with the tools to meet their diverse needs and priorities.

Take for example, companion mobile apps. With more and more business done on the road, it's important for print shop owners and employees to be able to manage and monitor the progress of jobs while away from the shop.

"Sign and display companies should give careful consideration to choosing the most suitable RIP software"



A more flexible payment model such as a monthly subscription might be better for your business.



We were the first RIP software provider to create a companion mobile app and now offer two: one designed to support business owners, the other to provide print shop employees with efficiency-enhancing tools to streamline production and enable remote quoting.

Flexible payment options

Buying an RIP can be a major investment, which is why it's important to review the payment options available. Perhaps a more flexible payment model such as a monthly subscription is better for your business. Accessing software via monthly subscription can provide you with a costeffective alternative to enjoy the same features as well as the flexibility to perhaps add extra licences to meet increased demand.

So next time you're due an upgrade or ready to invest in a hardware solution. remember to thoroughly explore your RIP software options. After all, 'the difference between something good and something great, is the attention to detail'.

www.ThinkSAi.com

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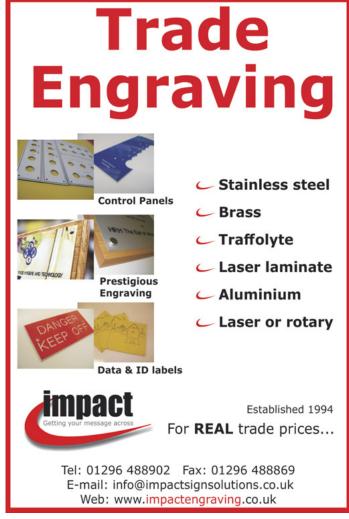






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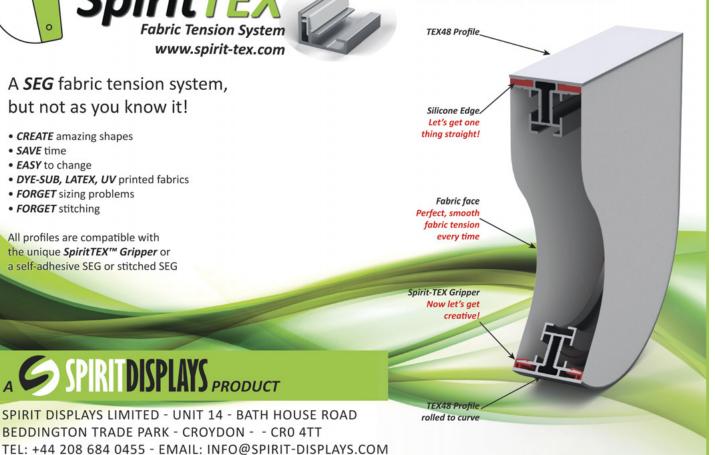
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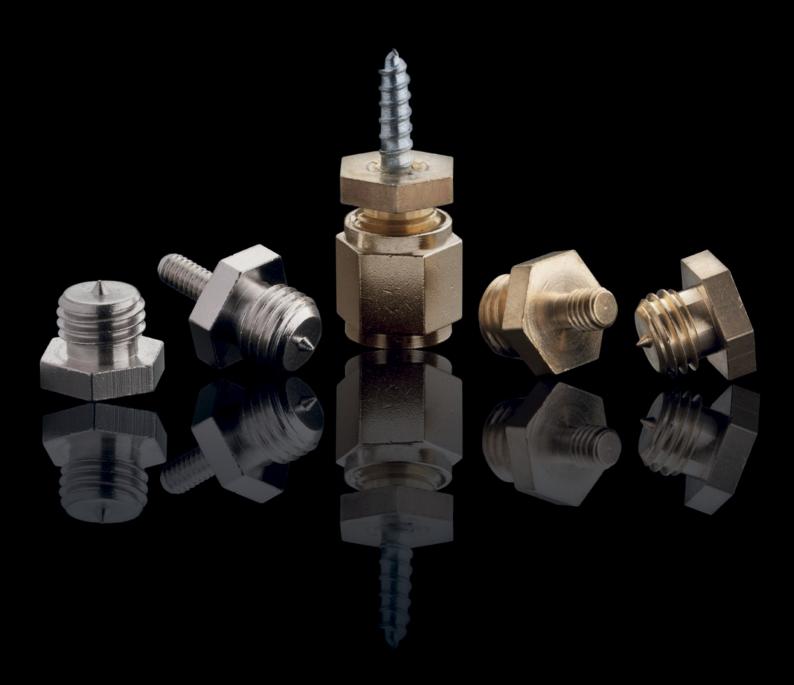
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SIGN TRADE SUPPLIERS

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SIGNWAVES

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Tel: 01493 419300

enquiries@signwaves.co.uk www.signwaves.co.uk

Signwaves is a UK manufacturer of sign and display products for internal and external use. The range includes pavement signs and aboards (including Swinger and Ecoflex signage), snapframes, poster mounting and exhibition displays. Signwaves also offer trade exclusive Stand-Off Sign Fixings and Premier A-Board Frames with low prices guaranteed.

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