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See page 13

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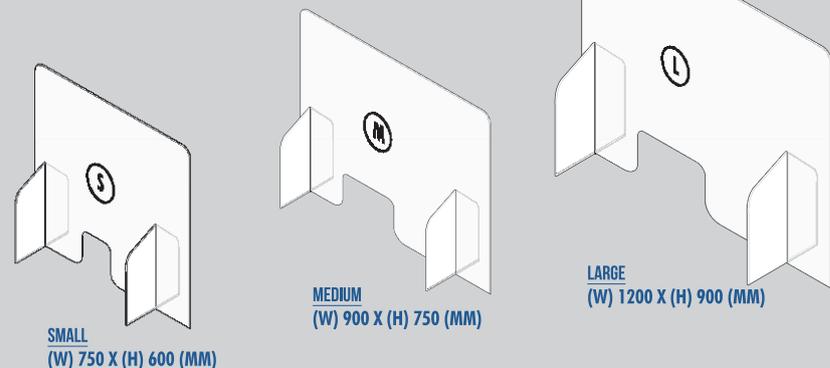
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The GR8000-180 with a maximum mountable media width of 1780mm



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The GR8000-80 with a maximum mountable media width of 840mm

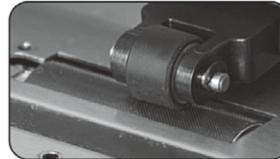


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Positive signs

Our last issue came out as COVID-19 tightened its grip and the UK was in the throes of lockdown. Many people wonder if life will ever be the same again and as we are now officially in a recession the economy is struggling to recover but nonetheless, starting to bounce back gradually.

Ever resourceful, it comes as no surprise to those working in the sign and display industry that this sector has been able to manage an extremely challenging situation by looking for new opportunities. As many of the news items in this issue highlight, many sign makers have been busy manufacturing sneeze screens and face visors, using the materials they already stock to make their signs and displays.

As schools, hotels and other public spaces including museums and gyms gradually re-open, demand for these products will continue going forward until who knows when. Some sign and display companies have told me that they have carried on working to keep up with customer orders while new businesses have been set up during the past few months including Neon Works in Mirfield, Yorkshire.

Mark Ashcroft from Trade-letters.com reports that business has been "surprisingly positive with record sales across all companies. We never actually closed. I finally saw the advantage of being highly automated; we run a small staff anyway so there was no need to reduce further. Let's hope it continues."

LKH Tools has been very busy for the past six months. Liam Hodson says: "We have seen a dramatic increase in sales of up to 30% compared to last year's corresponding months. July this year broke our record for a single sales month and August is already pushing to replace it. We have seen each of the industries we sell into return to production and increase their demand for our high quality tooling and generating excellent work which helps keep the wheels of the economy turning."

Undoubtedly, there will job losses and businesses closing permanently but all the indications for our industry are positive as suppliers continue to innovate with different types of media for the sign and display makers to design and craft all manner of visual products.

This month we turn the spotlight on three key specialities: lighting, routing & engraving and printing & cutting; and bring you all the latest project and industry news.

Sue Deane
Editor



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Gunner digital vinyl cutters and plotters now available in the UK

David Coleman & Associates has been appointed sole distribution agent for the entire range of Gunner digital vinyl cutting and plotting machines in the UK.

Two high performance machines have arrived in the UK; a roll feed GR8000-180 has been installed at Dennison Group, Dewsbury for demonstration purposes, while a GR1325F flatbed vinyl cutter has been purchased by Digi Revolution and installed at the vehicle signage company's Sale, Cheshire premises.

"We are delighted to supply Gunner machines to UK/EU businesses," says David Coleman. "These highly automated vinyl cutters will greatly reduce operating and labour costs for sign makers and printers, allowing them to increase market share and remain competitive."

Compared with similar competitor products, Gunner machines are "reasonably priced, offering enhanced features including a user-friendly menu which enables operators to learn the controls within one hour". Gunner was a frontrunner in the development of technology which allows cutting jobs to be sent to a machine by scanning barcodes offline using a USB stick, saving time and greatly reducing processing errors. A further important feature is the anti-static capability that protects all electric parts including the main board and control system, necessary when cutting media such as PPF and window tinting film.

"David Coleman is a well experienced professional in the sign and printing industries, ready to respond and help,



The GR1325F is said to facilitate faster, precise cutting, providing increased stability and minimising human error.

which is very important to our clients," says Daniel Shang, oversales sales manager at Gunner. "We believe he and his team are well qualified to represent us in Europe going forward."

Designed specifically for automotive aftermarket sector products, the GR 8000-180 is capable of processing a wide range of film including PPF, window tinting, reflective sheeting, interior protection, vehicle wrap, self-adhesive vinyl and sandblast-resistant rubber, in addition to Amberlith and Rubylith two-layer acetate.

This advanced roll feed vinyl cutter offers a maximum cutting width of 1630mm (non-contour) and 1520mm (contour) and a

mountable media width of 70mm-1780mm. In addition to reliable long-length tracking for 7000mm, it is capable of cutting small text strings accurately and is compatible with Adobe Illustrator, CorelDRAW, AutoCAD, Flexisign, LLUMAR Pattern Software-PCS, 3M Pattern Software and DAP.

A CNC flatbed cutter dedicated to cut various reflective sheeting and contour cutting of graphics without a cutting die, the GR1325F is said to facilitate faster, precise cutting, providing increased stability and minimising human error. Intended for cutting vinyl for traffic signs, fleet and safety signs, PPF, window tinting and vehicle wrapping, this versatile machine is able to "cut and plot any patterns designed with CAD/CAM software including reflective vinyl for chevron kits used for vehicle applications".

Installation and servicing of the Gunner machines is being managed by Dennison Group, a leading technical support provider to the printing industry with a network of specialist engineers and manufacturer trained field-based technicians.

"Our engineers will be installing the Gunner vinyl cutters and managing customers' future service requirements," comments managing director Roy Milner.

www.gunnervinylcutter.co.uk



Designed specifically for automotive aftermarket sector products, the GR 8000-180 is capable of processing a wide range of film

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Dye sublimation printer offers repeatable quality

Epson has announced its first 76-inch large format printer. The SureColor SC-F10000 dye-sublimation printer has been developed for the textile production market where high productivity, speed and reliability are central to the success of the

business including promotional goods and soft signage.

Pro graphics product manager Tom Owers says: "In the dye-sublimation sector customers demand fast turnaround times,

consistent performance, high quality output and reliability. With these requirements in mind, we've developed an industrial level dye-sublimation printer that we believe sets new standards. The SC-F10000 offers the highest throughput of all Epson LFPs and is equipped with four new PrecisionCore Micro TFP printheads and a 'hot-swap' bulk ink solution that's designed to keep businesses running."

To further improve consistency and reliability, Epson manufactures all the components for the SC-F10000, including printheads, ink, firmware and software.

Features of the SC-F10000 include up to 255m²/hr high-speed printing; Epson Precision Dot Technology (blending three dedicated technologies for dye-sub: and easy media setting (media loading lever front and back).

www.eco.epson.com



The SC-F10000 offers the highest throughput of all Epson LFPs and is equipped with four new PrecisionCore Micro TFP printheads.

How signs and graphics can be used safely for social distancing

Drytac has compiled a free guide on how signs and graphics can be used effectively and safely to inform and provide guidance to people in accordance with government guidelines.

As lockdown restrictions are eased, businesses are finding that floor graphics, wall displays and window signs are essential for non-verbal communication. Graphics can convey safety information including social distancing, hand washing guidance and queuing systems and to alert customers about updated services or opening hours.

Open, innovating, moving forward is intended to help retailers and installers to choose the correct graphics solutions that meet these requirements. It outlines what to look for from fire ratings to slip ratings to FDA approvals and lists Drytac's products that may be suitable for relevant applications. These are categorised into window graphic solutions, one- and two-part floor graphic solutions, writable media, wall graphic products and antimicrobial films.

The free-to-download guide is "easy to use and interactive": clicking on a product



This free to use online guide is intended to help retailers and installers to choose the correct graphics solutions that meet government requirements.

listed in the guide will open the associated Drytac webpage, providing more details, datasheets and application videos.

"We're seeing more short-term graphics than ever before and it's absolutely essential that they are safe and legal for

their specific environments," says global product manager Shaun Holdom. "Our new guide will help businesses make the right decision when choosing and installing informative graphics."

www.drytac.com/socialdistancingsolutions

Lamination film with anti-bacterial properties

Ritrama has introduced a self-adhesive lamination film with antibacterial properties, intended for the antimicrobial protection of any type of graphics and for the coating of all surfaces subject to high use by the public, for both indoor and outdoor medium-long lasting applications.

The company says that the combination of a permanent acrylic adhesive and high quality polymeric vinyl film make RI-DEFEND the best choice for creating an invisible barrier against germs and bacteria on graphics, windows displays, touch screens - all areas that require a high level of hygiene.

RI-DEFEND contains an internal antibacterial active substance said to guarantee protection to surfaces for long periods, eliminating up to 99.9% of the bacteria present on the film's surface and preventing their proliferation. Its effectiveness has been verified and tested



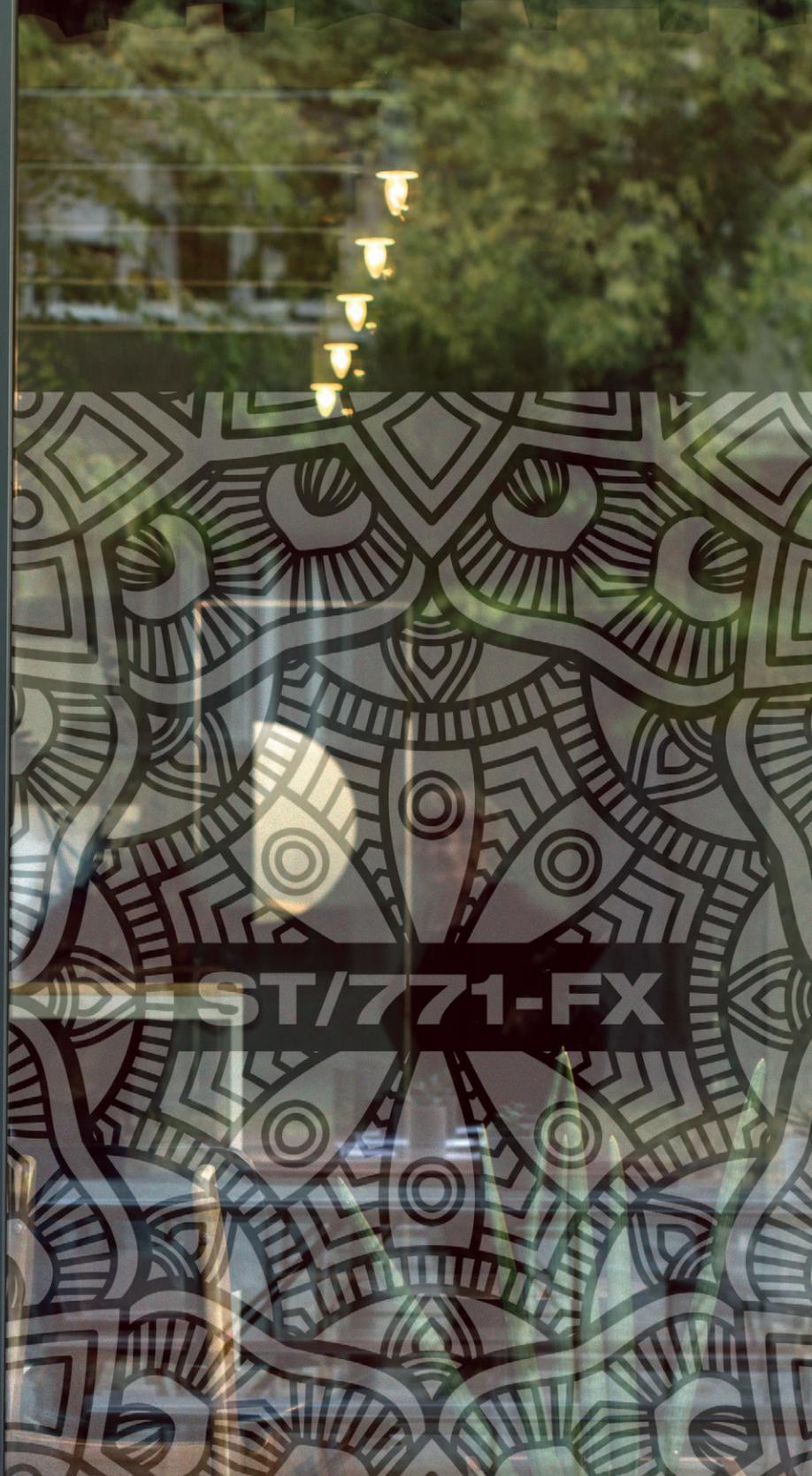
A self-adhesive lamination film with antibacterial properties, RI-DEFEND is intended for the antimicrobial protection of any type of graphics

according to ISO 22196: 2011, allowing to establish that RI-DEFEND is effective on a large number of bacteria including *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Salmonella enterica*.

To guarantee the highest safety standards over time, RI-DEFEND has been designed and tested to ensure antibacterial activity

for 5 years, proving to be able to resist unaltered to the intensive simulated washing procedures as recommended by WHO. These provide surface treatment with specific disinfectants including benzalconium chloride or sodium hypochlorite solutions, commonly used to prevent the spread of SARS coronavirus.

www.ritrama.com



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Compact solution allows running textile business from home

Your Print Specialists (YPS) has launched Business in a Box to help people set up a complete business that can operate from home. It consists of an Epson SureColour SC-F500 digital inkjet printer, PixMax heatpress, Singer heavy duty sewing machine and a starter kit of thread, transfer paper and inks.

Sales director Georgia Brown explains: "For creatives and entrepreneurs, getting products and ideas to market can be restricted by costs, space, skills and sometimes, financial barriers. This is before you even think about getting your dream of working for yourself off the ground. Business in a Box provides the opportunity to bring your ideas to life affordably, with a small footprint and with no specialised skill requirements.

"The concept of a cost-effective complete solution for a home printing business is potentially a source of hope for people looking to develop a new source of income. This is a complete solution that allows people to run a business at home with no added overheads or unnecessary outsourcing. The textile market is in fast growth, especially for personalised



Business in a box: an Epson SureColour SC-F500 digital inkjet printer, PixMax heatpress, Singer heavy duty sewing machine and a starter kit of thread, transfer paper and inks.

products including home décor, clothing, promotional goods, crafting and giftware. We encourage people to join a range of training courses and receive industry-standard business advice from experience professionals. Although our Print Institute

Hubs are not available to visit, our ambassadors and other experts are available to help with all aspects of setting up and running your new print business."

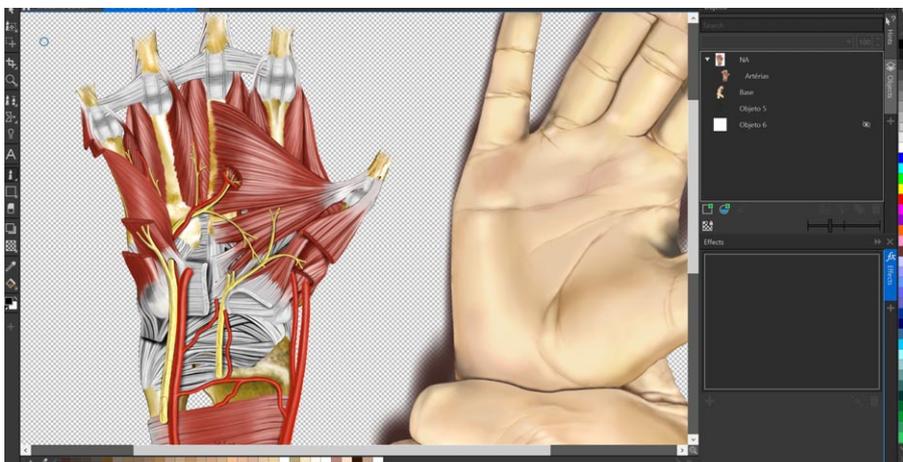
www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk

CorelDRAW Technical Suite 2020 with new tools

CorelDRAW Technical Suite 2020 is the latest edition of Corel's comprehensive suite for specialised technical illustration

and visual documentation. Featuring access to new collaboration capabilities, enhanced isometric drawing tools and

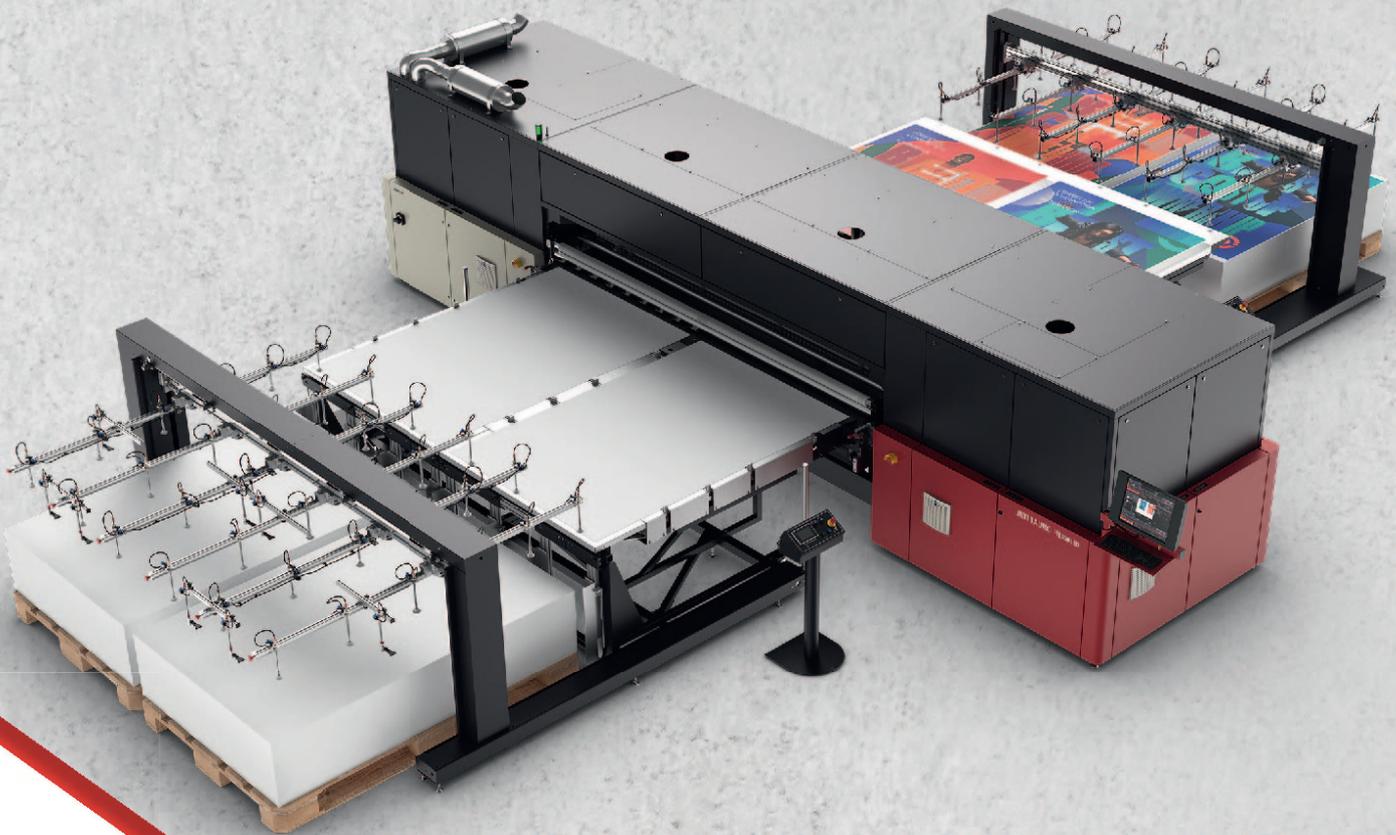
callout handling, as well as significant performance gains, CorelDRAW Technical Suite 2020 enables technical illustrators to accelerate their workflow with precision and control. Customers in technical industries can depend on CorelDRAW Technical Suite to design specialised illustrations, says the company.



CorelDRAW Technical Suite 2020 is said to offer exceptional control and precision for flawless technical documentation and design.

"2020 is a landmark year for CorelDRAW as we expand our product line to meet a broad spectrum of design needs from casual users to professional graphics creators," says senior product manager Klaus Vossen. "By extending the power of CorelDRAW 2020 to the technical documentation workflow we're giving illustrators access to new tools and collaboration to produce intricate graphics and virtually any kind of visual communication in record time."

www.coreldraw.com/business



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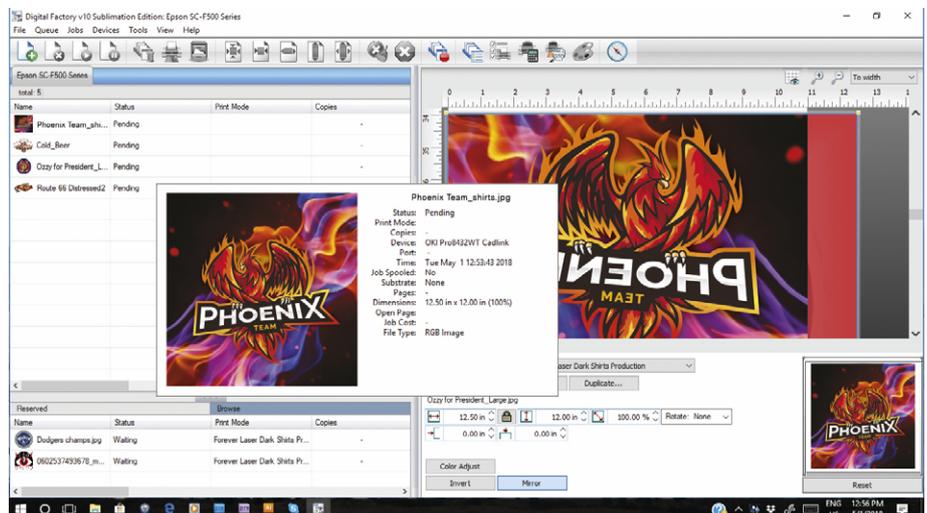
All inclusive dye sublimation software solution

CADlink Technology Corporation's latest release into the digital printing segment of the personalisation/customisation market features an all inclusive, professional software solution for dye sublimation producers.

Digital Factory v10 Sublimation Edition is said to provide exceptional colour accuracy and vibrancy across a variety of sublimation ink sets, transfer papers and widely used printers. Using a high fidelity colour management engine, the software includes colour profiles that "enable the highest quality print production right out of the box". A series of simple colour adjustment tools enable operators to fine tune "quickly and easily" as required.

"Unlike Windows based printer drivers included with many sublimation printers, not only does Digital Factory Sublimation Edition provide an enhanced level of colour management options but also includes a complete set of pre-production, print production workflow management tools," says CADlink.

"Sublimation printers will discover that the software eliminates the need for using other design applications to prepare print



A series of simple colour adjustment tools enable operators to fine tune "quickly and easily" as required.

jobs by including all commonly used tools such as; step and repeat, custom print template creation, image editing tools, colour 'knock out' tools that enhance print quality while saving ink costs."

Support for most sublimation printers is possible either by using the included

customised direct printer drivers or by leveraging the workflow advantages within the software and printing via the Windows driver (GDI approach) included with most printers. A free, fully functional trial version is available on the CADlink website

www.cadlink.com

Slip-resistant R12-rated exterior floor graphics

Lintec Europe has launched a slip-resistant floor graphic with a hard-wearing grit coating. PrintGrip PE-5000ZW was manufactured to meet the growing demand for social distancing floor graphics which are being increasingly used across retail outlets, council-owned premises and transport hubs. This solution does not require lamination, says Lintec.

Films used to produce floor graphics are assigned a 'slip rating' between R9 (lowest) and R13 (highest). The majority available today for both outdoor and indoor settings have a R9 or R10 rating, meaning they possess 'poor' or 'very poor' slip-resistance and are very likely to cause injuries, especially in wet conditions.

Lintec says PrintGrip provides exceptional levels of grip in dry and wet conditions, with independent testing indicating a Pendulum Test Value (PTV) for of 75 (dry) and 68 (wet). This equates to a R12 rating,



A hard-wearing grit coating, PrintGrip PE-5000ZW is designed to meet the growing demand for social distancing floor graphics.

(the minimum recommended for floor surfaces likely to get wet i.e. public entranceways to shops, railway stations or workplaces. PrintGrip is constructed from a UV-stabilised PE-based film coated with grit. The printable top coating provides "superior adhesion qualities" for eco-

solvent, UV and latex based inkjet inks and is suitable for printing with solvent and UV screen printing inks. Featuring an 'aggressive' 50-micron adhesive, the product offers "high adhesion to most exterior paved surfaces including concrete, natural stone and tarmac.

Managing director Andy Voss says: "With regulations around social distancing constantly being reviewed and businesses keen to return as quickly as possible to normal operations, the demand for floor graphics is higher than ever. It is essential that organisations do not overlook the potential slip hazards surrounding floor graphics when carrying out risk assessments. We are pleased to offer a cost-effective solution to assure compliance with social distancing regulations, while minimising the risk of injury."

www.lintec-europe.com

Recyclable composite aluminium and polymer sheets

Righton Blackburns is offering its ACM composite panel consisting of two aluminium cover sheets and a polymer core. The surfaces are coated using a high quality polyester paint, making the sheet weather resistant. ACM can be recycled at the end of its service life.

ACM panels are "suited for a wide range of decorative indoor or outdoor applications" that require good dimensional stability, low weight and a sleek, brilliant look including signage, point of sale, exhibition stand panels, interior cladding, portable buildings, kiosks and boat interiors.

A lightweight, flat, rigid and dimensionally stable material, ACM is said to be durable, versatile and easy to fabricate using conventional tools. The high-quality, polyester paint makes an ideal substrate for digital printing, screen printing and as a carrier of acrylic or vinyl lettering.

A comprehensive range of sheet sizes and thicknesses is available and the company

has a dedicated fabrication facility that enables the business to supply bespoke, semi-finished and cut-to-size panels. In addition to an extensive range of white and standard RAL colours, the company stocks a brilliant white digital print grade for the very best, vibrant, colour reproduction. To complement this, a range of vivid colours is stocked, making the colour range "the widest in the UK". With close manufacturer support, a rapid colour matching service based on RAL colours is quickly available.

In addition to a smooth, flat surface, Righton Blackburns can supply ACM panels with decorative surface finishes that include galvanised steel, dual metallic and brushed metallic silver. Internal and weatherproof external mirror finishes complete the range. The company offers a 5-12 year manufacturer's warranty depending on grade of ACM sheet supplied and confirms that the material is RoHS compliant.

www.rightonblackburns.co.uk



ACM panels are suited for a wide range of decorative indoor or outdoor applications.

Inks for printing on banners, vinyls and mesh

Quality Print Services (QPS) is offering the Nazdar 565 Series inkjet inks to its UK customers. This series has been designed specifically for use in Oki Colorpainter M-64s inkjet printers using Oki SX IP6 inks.

Nazdar 565 Series' Plug-n-Play capabilities allow users of Oki M-64s printers running SX IP6 inks to change to Nazdar 565 Series ink without the need to flush. Due to the complete chemical and

colour compatibility of the two ink sets, original pouches can be replaced with Nazdar 565 Series pouches as they run out, rather than all colours at the initial install. This saves both time and money as there is no need to perform wasteful ink fill procedures or dispose of unused ink.

Available in CMYK plus Light Cyan, Light Magenta and Grey, Nazdar 565 ink is "ideal for commonly used graphics substrates

including banner material, flexible and pressure-sensitive vinyl, blue back paper and backed mesh and delivers consistent and reliable print performance even at high speed print modes".

Stephen Woodall, global market segment manager for aqueous & solvent digital at Nazdar comments: "The new 565 Series inks allow end users to reduce their ink costs without compromising on quality. With exceptional colour and chemistry compatibility, combined with a seamless conversion process, the 565 Series inks enable users to switch one colour at a time without the need for flushing or custom profiles in most situations."

In addition to the colour vibrancy provided as standard with Nazdar inks the 565 Series inks offer "excellent performance on outdoor graphics and are resistant to UV degradation and colour fade. Nazdar inkjet inks are backed by the best warranty in the business, covering the entire ink train."

www.qualityprintservices.com



Users of Oki M-64s printers running SX IP6 inks can change to Nazdar 565 Series ink without the need to flush.

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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

FOAM PVC (all available colours - 10mm & 19mm available in white only)

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
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

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE (Dibond, Alupanel)

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
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 FINISH ALUMINIUM (Comes in its raw form ready for coating)

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
2mm	2.88	4.03	4.56	6.10	6.89	7.69	8.69	10.02	11.13	12.24	13.52	16.80	19.93	28.51	38.16	49.50
3mm	3.20	4.45	5.09	6.25	7.21	8.06	9.01	10.28	11.50	13.25	14.79	18.97	22.68	31.69	44.52	66.00
5mm	3.50	4.88	5.83	7.00	7.84	9.01	10.18	11.87	13.67	15.74	17.76	22.95	26.50	36.84	51.94	71.60

EXTERIOR MDF

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
6mm	0.58	1.10	1.72	1.92	2.84	2.99	3.47	4.15	4.78	5.67	7.25	10.24	11.81	13.39	15.70	47.78
12mm		1.90	2.23	3.11	4.46	5.15	5.99	6.74	8.03	10.08	11.03	12.81	15.23	18.48	20.74	62.95
18mm		2.70	3.42	4.46	5.57	6.77	8.35	9.35	11.60	13.39	15.96	18.27	22.31	24.05	31.45	94.11

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Fourth generation LED troughs

Portland Lighting opened its doors in January 1994 in Witton, Birmingham. Starting with just two traditional lanterns as a product range, the company's fortunes took off with the addition of our Signlux fluorescent trough light later that year, explains managing director David Harrison.

Leap forward 25 years and our LED trough sign lighting is now in its fourth generation, developed from years of experience and by listening to our clients' wants and needs. In December 2017 we introduced our Ecolux Mini which is jammed packed with new features and improvements and is the UK's No.1 selling sign lighting system. Its sleek 45mm casing is the smallest in the UK with integral drivers and the five-way adjustable Multi bracket with spring clip fixing is a delight for sign fitters offering rapid installation times. Behind the 90° magnifying lens the superb 1650 lumen 14.4W per meter LEDs deliver a punch to the sign facias and an unrivalled performance of even illumination.

For optimum lighting performance full photometry compatible with RELUX and DIALUX lighting design programmes is available to download. Smart new cast end caps with rear entry cable glands tidy and conceal unsightly cables from view.

Longer runs of Ecolux Mini are quickly formed with the IP68 connector. This is concealed within a new cast aluminium chamber and sits comfortably in step grommet allowing cables to easily and freely pass through.

As always with Portland Lighting products Ecolux MINI has been independently tested and certified by the Lighting Industry Association with all certificates available on request.

Portland Lighting offer an extensive range of exterior LED contract lighting ideal for both retailers and brewery trades. LED lanterns, globe lighting and lamp posts help enhance entrances and garden areas. We offer LED flood lights, Swan neck cowl lights and our bullet range for traditional signage lighting.

The LED sign lighting includes the Ecolux Super Lens an LED trough lighting system for illuminating bigger signage and larger format signs up to 5 meters deep. To achieve this, a revolutionary new lens has been designed utilising state of the art ray-trace simulation software and the optic can be rotated in conjunction with a new calculated bracket system.

Offering three different pre-set positions and bracket projections, the fitter can



Portland Faux Neon sympathetically reflects the golden age of neon signage

install the light confidently knowing that the optimum beam angle is achieved for varying sign depths without having to wait for darkness to make any adjustment.

Utilising the efficient Ecolux Super Lens technology, the Ecolux Solar is the first UK LED trough light with the capability to constantly illuminate signs from dusk to dawn all year round.

Ecolux Solar, in conjunction with our solar trading partners Zeta Specialist Lighting, is the option of the environmentally friendly illumination of retail and billboard signage. Where no power is present this eliminates

the expense required for running cable and significantly reduces installation time and other associated costs.

This year has been a busy year for Portland Lighting thus far. At the beginning of the year we launched a new ecommerce user friendly website with the ability to go from quote to order to payment within a few clicks. This coincided with the release of the Portland Faux Neon; a new venture for us, it was developed as an alternative to neon signs.

Using super bright 12V LEDs, Portland Faux Neon can be manufactured in individual or joined up letter sizes up to 1400mm x 1000mm in any type face to your bespoke design. The acrylic molded letter faces have a half round profile to mimic neon glass. Portland Faux Neon is available in 17 colours and sympathetically reflects the golden age of neon signage.

Now in the second half of the year Portland Lighting is looking hopeful toward the future and riding out the storm that 2020 has presented to the industry. Portland Lighting prides itself on innovation and productive adaptability. We are excited to be introducing new products this Autumn and widening our offering to a variety of markets. We look forward to displaying these products to clients old and new later on in 2020.

www.portlandlighting.co.uk

“We are excited to be introducing new products this Autumn and widening our offering to a variety of markets”

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Lighting up the high street

Over the years, iSpi Trade has seen a significant increase in the innovative ways LED has been used to enhance and illuminate signage throughout the UK. Director Stephen Ferrie explains.

iSpi Trade has supplied the UK and Ireland with signage lighting and we continue to see a growth in enquiries around our product range and an increase in sales.

One of our most popular products is Soft Strip RGB lighting which offers a vast array of potential uses both indoors and outdoors. From adding accented lighting under bars or on building facades to illuminating hallways and stairs and with the bonus of colour change options, they are one of the most adaptable LED lighting solutions. Due to their flexible design LED lighting strips can be shaped around built-up or 3D lettering on signage or used around window frames; we have even seen them used for interiors of cars - the possibilities are endless.

One of the newest and most innovative products we have added to our range are Signalite RGB colour changing sign fixings. These offer a wide range of uses and are perfect for use with acrylic or glass signage. Although LED sign fixings have been around for several years, the addition of RGB modules allows for more versatility because the ability to change colour will enable them to adapt to changes in decor or new fit-outs.

Signalite RGB sign fixings are particularly popular for use in hotels and are used 24/7 throughout the building from room hallways, bars and restaurants and are utilised as wayfinding signage to signpost guests to different areas of the hotel. Fully remote controlled this allows for flexibility of colour, mood and brightness.



Due to their flexible design LED lighting strips can be shaped around built-up or 3D lettering on signage or used around window frames.

Our most popular products in the LED range are illuminated window displays. They are available in sizes from A4 to A1 and offer exceptional promotional opportunities for high street shops and office spaces.

As we head toward winter and darker nights, having the ability to capture passing trade can be vital to any business, especially in the high street. We used to think of LED window displays only with regard to estate and letting agents. While they still make up the bulk of LED window sales, they are now increasing in

popularity with travel agents, hairdressers, restaurants and tattoo parlours. It is fair to say the whole high street is now embracing LED window displays which offer sign companies lots of opportunities for supplying and fitting these easy to install kits.

We recently introduced A1 size LED window display kits which are proving a popular option for featuring prime properties, inspirational holidays and the latest hairstyles. When complemented with a selection of smaller LED displays, they create a window showcase for businesses.

www.ispitrade.com



The whole high street is now embracing LED window displays which offer sign companies lots of opportunities for supplying and fitting these easy to install kits.



iSignalite RGB sign fixings are particularly popular for use in hotels and used 24/7 throughout.



Super-charged faux neon designs

Behind the launch of products featuring advanced technologies is time, expertise, finance, testing and proving until the desired result is reached, says Lydia Wrightson, production & marketing at The Sign Group.

Since first launching NeonPlus over five years ago, development has never halted; we're always tinkering and testing. Being at the forefront of the faux neon market comes with great responsibility to keep our foot on the pedal and ensure we don't miss out on any new techniques or software. Having a low turnaround of staff has been a blessing for us as it has allowed us to nurture our employees and grow the business alongside them. We're in a position now where we can draw ideas and creativity from all of our staff which results in great innovation.

We feel so lucky to be in the position we are, the founders of UK made faux neon signage but it wasn't luck that got us here. Spending thousands of pounds and hours on testing and trialling different materials and techniques with our end goal being developing a new and desirable product to resolve many of the stresses and torment of the sign game.

There's lots of comparisons online between traditional glass neon and faux neon, mainly because so many people want to know what the difference is but there needn't be comparisons. They are completely different products. Regardless of any restrictions that may or may not be implemented in the production of traditional neon, it will always exist and always be an iconic product. There's no doubt that faux neon or fake neon as some people call it, is on its way to becoming an iconic sign product and sure, it's a big advantage that it takes away some of the stresses associated with dealing with glass neon.

The main advantages of faux neon are its robustness and versatility. Being carved out of 30mm solid acrylic sheeting makes it strong and able to withstand a lot of rough and tumble. Illuminated with LED technology, you can achieve almost any colour way and even programme it to follow complex patterns, like in our NP Digital option.

In the relatively short time we have been producing LED neon, we have seen a shift in the desirability of the product. These products are sought after, trendy products; used as art installations and lighting as well as standard signage. Nearly every retail and hospitality outlet in the UK has



Made up of individual LED screens in multiple shapes and sizes, Alphas bring everything to life, allowing you to 'supercharge' the whole design

some form of acrylic LED lighting or signage installed.

Brand accuracy is a huge selling point of our faux neon product. We have a solution



NP Tube is available in static colours or digitally programmable to your individual specifications.

for all needs, having eight standard NeonPlus options and a further three specialities: NP Digital allows you to fully customise the colour and animation of the signage; NP Taper for an illuminated face stroke width as tiny as 3mm and letters as small as just 30mm high; and NP Tube is 'perfect' for window or promotional display settings, available in static colours or digitally programmable to your individual specifications.

All NeonPlus products are designed and manufactured in our Leeds workshop. This allows us to offer excellent response and turnaround times. Our products have always been made with care and developed with the end user in mind. The quality, versatility and service we offer is second to none.

Our 'baby' is Alphascreens, ready to take the display industry by storm. Made up of individual LED screens in multiple shapes and sizes, Alphas bring everything to life. Where there was once only the usual options available in built up letters, with Alphas you can supercharge the whole design and give your clients something completely unique.

www.thesigngroup.co.uk

LED captures the limelight

Lighting in signage has changed dramatically over the past 15 years or so. In the early days, every lightbox supplied by Nova Aluminium was fitted with fluorescent tubes and HPF gear trays. Technology has evolved quite significantly with LED currently in the limelight, as sales manager Lisa Sperring explains.

Now in 2020 fluorescent tubes are gathering dust at the back of the cupboard and LEDs are continuing to take the signage industry by storm.

At Nova we have an LED solution for most applications from 18mm deep frames to 175mm double-sided. Every project we are tasked with has a different requirement for the LEDs. From colour temperature to IP rating to warranty and beam angle, the list of demands can be endless.

Every LED module that we use has a minimum warranty of 5 years and each has been extensively tested in its relevant system. All of our single-sided systems use a backlit LED module including the 40mm deep NovaTex frame, perfect for internal soft signage. We offer a pencil driver with this system so that it can be housed within the frame. Backlit LEDs offer a perfectly even light for both acrylic and flex face signage every time.

Our double-sided extrusions utilise an edge lit module that is fitted on the long side of the box to evenly distribute the light. The standard colour temperature for LED lighting in signage is between 6000-6500K; with the increase in sales of internal signage, we are noticing an increase in the popularity of a warmer colour temperature 4500K. We are well placed to offer a variety of colour



All of our single-sided systems use a backlit LED module including the 40mm deep NovaTex frame, perfect for internal soft signage, says Nova.

temperatures to suit each project. In 2005 we launched the NovaBeam overhead lighting system fitted with T8 fluorescent tubes and bespoke fabricated gear trays. Still in use, it has been outdone by NovaTube; its 80mm diameter is not only easier on the eye but designed with a specific tape LED in mind.

Mounted just 15mm from the diffuser, the tape is perfectly positioned to maximise the wash of light. At an unrivalled 19.2

watts per metre, the LEDs in NovaTube will comfortably provide a wash of light in excess of 2500mm.

Overhead lighting is becoming increasingly popular, not only because it helps to keep costs down when compared to backlit boxes but because of constraints with local planners.

With this in mind, NovaTube is available with two options on fixing arms. The most popular is the telescopic fixing bracket, supplied as standard. The wall-fixing bracket is supplied vertical to the main body section but can be rotated by 90° to the horizontal position if space is an issue or to overcome obstacles. The body of the bracket is telescopic up to a projection of 320mm, allowing the wash of light to be directly above the graphics. In addition, the bracket itself has five definite tilt positions which makes installation simple by locating the desired cog in the main body section. The direction of light is especially important in areas where planning is not easily achieved; using NovaTube allows the light to be directed at the sign below, all the way down to the ground and anywhere in between.

When a more discrete option is required for overhead lighting, pairing NovaTube with the adjustable hood bracket allows for the unit to be fitted directly to the top of a frame or sign tray; the bracket has the same adjustment facility as the telescopic option. Unlike LED modules our LED tape does not have a built-in diffuser. With a beam angle of 120°, the 3mm prismatic diffuser we fit in NovaTube works perfectly; our fixed overhead light NovaHood uses a clear diffuser as the light needs to be in a more concentrated area; this is a fast fit overhead lighting system incorporating the same LEDs as NovaTube and will easily illuminate signs up to 650mm in depth.

Nova strives to keep up with the ever-changing LED lighting market and constantly researching new innovative and more cost-effective methods of illuminating signage of all shapes and sizes. We hope we can help you with your next LED illuminated project.



Faceted Novaflex with LEDs.

www.nova-aluminium.com



Energy efficient solutions

Since 1999 Chiplite has developed a wide range of market-leading products and been a pioneering force in the advancement of LED lighting technology. Marco Klan explains the benefits of the latest improvements.

Two of the most important recent developments have been the addition of the 24V XOL modules and Neon Flex Easy to the continually expanding Chiplite family, with the former setting new standards for the signage industry in terms of increased lighting efficiency, reduced power consumption and greater return on investment. Further expanding the Chiplite X-Series of LED modules, the new 24V XOL module measures 57mm x 17mm, has a power consumption of only 0.36W and delivers a lighting efficiency of 165 lumens per watt. In comparison with standard Chiplite 12V modules, this represents a 25% increase in lighting efficiency, a commensurate reduction in power consumption and subsequent increased ROI.

As a result of the 50% lower current flow, it is possible to halve the LED cable cross section to achieve longer cable distances. New lenses enable a reduction in the number of modules required for a given application. Boxes as shallow as 50mm can be illuminated but at 100mm deep maximum efficiency is achieved and a grid of 160 x 160mm is now possible.

The 24V XOL module is ideal for multiple illuminated signage applications including backlit lettering and lightboxes from 50mm in depth. All modules in the X series come with a five-year warranty.

Chiplite Neon Flex Easy is ideal for interior lettering to replicate the look and feel of neon. Letter heights from 80mm in many styles are possible. It simulates the power



Signs are delivered fully assembled and wired on either a solid or contour-cut clear acrylic carrier sheet.

and impact of neon at a fraction of the cost, is available in 12 colours in a thickness of either six or eight millimetres.

The operating voltage is 12V and the power consumption nine watts per metre of LED cable. The sign is delivered fully assembled and wired on either a solid or contour-cut clear acrylic carrier sheet. All you need to do is hang it and connect it to a power supply. Chiplite Neon Flex Easy is supplied with a two-year performance warranty.

Every Chiplite product is CE marked and meets all relevant BS/EN safety and performance standards including RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) certification and a CE rating in accordance with the lighting devices standard BS/EN 55015. They have an IP65 rating to BS/EN

60529 relating to the sealing efficiency of electrical enclosures against the ingress of water, salt, dirt and other pollutants.

Typically, LED solutions in signage applications reduce power consumption costs by as much as 70%. LED systems are much easier to install and maintain and because they are low voltage, safe and environmentally friendly.

www.chiplite.de



Every Chiplite product is CE marked and meets all relevant BS/EN safety and performance standards including RoHS certification.

Winning formula for repeats

Perspex Distribution Limited (PDL) has spent the past eight years building a comprehensive range of LED lighting products that meet the needs of the UK signage market. Luke Martyn discusses how they can be used for different types of illuminated signage.

Key partnerships with manufacturers such as BaltLED have allowed us to provide solutions that keep our customers competitive without sacrificing quality and reliability. Today our range boasts LED modules, strip, light sheet panels, neon and a full range of accessories including power supplies and control equipment.

For lightboxes and channel letters, the newly developed S+ range of LED modules from BaltLED offer increased brightness per module while requiring fewer units per sign. This results in reduced costs and reduced labour time without sacrificing the end result of the sign. The S+ LED modules have already proven their worth in many high profile applications and multiple site roll outs but are competitive enough to be used in smaller, local projects.

The S+ Series particularly comes into its own for single sided lightboxes and large channel letters with depths from 40-140mm. Applications of the modules work on a simple principle for users as the centre of each can be equal to double the depth of the signage application.

Feedback from signmakers has been listened to and each module comes with a quick application 'finger lift' backing, saving valuable time applying the modules' adhesive tape.

In addition, the support and advice from our LED team provide our customers with



BaltLED Modules are used to create dramatic signage and displays.

a winning formula for being awarded more projects and repeat business opportunities.

Our newest LED addition is the Neon10 range which is available in various sizes and allows you to produce stunning neon-effect signage with ease.

LED Neon10 comes in a 4mm, 8mm and 12mm wide flexible profile and can be used to create everything from flowing neon-style scripted letters to accent lighting at the top of a hotel. The silicone housing can easily be manipulated to form

shapes and follow lines and offers full protection for both internal and external applications. This product can be simply cut with a sharp blade at regular intervals and resealed with the end caps supplied and the correct adhesive.

Signmakers and display specialists have increasingly turned to Perspex Distribution to support LED expertise within large project roll outs where bespoke flexible strip LEDs are required.

Complete technical support is available to choose the required LED specification, power supply and controllers - all produced in bulk to the exact size requirements and ready to plug in and play. A full range of flexible strip LEDs now include side firing 3014 strips and RGBIC programmable colours for dynamic displays.

Flexible strip LEDs are widely used in applications ranging from short term promotional displays and exhibitions to external accent lighting and signage.

We pride ourselves on offering you advice every step of the way, from product selection right through to installation, to ensure that what you purchase matches your needs.



BaltLED Modules for large channel letters and lightboxes.

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Printer/cutter speeds up turnaround

Glasgow's Source Signs says replacing its second-hand Roland VersaCAMM with a new Roland TrueVIS VG2-640 supplied by Quality Print Services (QPS), has made "a massive difference" to its turnaround speeds.

As an authorised Roland supplier, QPS was able to offer Source Signs a great deal on the new TrueVIS under the VersaCAMM scrappage scheme. The TrueVIS VG2 has been designed off the back of Roland's four decades' experience in market-leading integrated printer/cutter technology, taking older ranges like the VersaCAMM and making numerous improvements.

Source Signs had been using its Roland VersaCAMM for around five years, a production machine that took over from a wide format printer from another brand. The family-run business specialises in health and safety signage, construction management signs, vehicle graphics and banners, while catering for retail and other markets.

Following its installation at the beginning of June 2020, managing director Charles O'Brien says the new machine has made a significant impact, for example the possibility to finish prints in just six hours.

"The TrueVIS VG2 is a similar platform to the VersaCAMM so it was easy to learn but has much quicker drying ink," he says. "This faster turnaround has made a massive difference. We can provide a next day service if the client needs it and urgent work is very common in the construction industry."

"The roll-up feature means it takes up less space in the print room and keeps the graphics off the floor. However, my favourite thing is the LED light; it's a little design feature but it makes it much easier to see colour differences."

Users can choose from several ink sets including Green and Orange options but Source Signs says the quality of the four-colour configuration is high enough to meet its needs.

Chris Bailey, managing director of QPS, comments: "The TrueVIS VG2 from Roland is a fantastic machine for print businesses who need to turn colour-accurate work around quickly so it's the perfect fit for Source Signs. They have been a service customer of ours for several years so we didn't hesitate in recommending the VG2. The TrueVIS was installed by the same QPS engineer who regularly serviced

"This faster turnaround has made a massive difference; we can provide a next day service if the client needs it and urgent work is very common in the construction industry"

our old machine so we knew him and he knew our needs. The whole service was great."

www.sourcesigns.co.uk
www.qualityprintservices.com



Source Signs' Ryan Tardiff alongside the new Roland TrueVIS VG2-640 printer.



LED wide format machines deliver significant ink savings

Twelve months on from the installation of two Agfa Anapura H2500i LED wide format machines, Jack Clifford, head of operations at Solopress confirms they have delivered improved quality, reliability and great ink savings for the business.

Solopress moved into wide format production 10 years ago but have seen an increase in volume within that department of 30% in the past 12 months while enjoying a 45% reduction in ink usage equating to thousands of pounds for the year.

“Buying the two Agfa Anapura engines has definitely been one of our best investment decisions,” says Jack. “We run the machines 24/6 under normal circumstances and they have produced great quality print with only three, quickly resolved service interventions in the past year. Agfa was a new supplier to Solopress and we diligently tested the machines before we bought but they have delivered more than we expected in terms of reliability, quality and ink usage. Crucially, with the onset of Covid-19 they have also enabled us to make products

that have delivered around 40% of our revenue during the past few months.”

Solopress invested in these new hybrid engines moving from dedication roll to roll machines in summer 2019 and following training, started to explore new products and markets. Since the pandemic hit the UK new product development has involved manufacturing wall mounts for hand sanitiser units, wall stickers and floor vinyls in huge volumes on the machines. The department, which usually employs 10 staff is currently running at 15. The wide format division now delivers around 20% of the overall business and with the recent product growth has come an increased confidence in their wide format capability.

Jack concludes: “ink and paper are the biggest cost to any printer and the new Agfa machines have saved us an enviable amount on ink in the past 12 months. I genuinely think the Anapurans are a great wide format engine and I would recommend these machines to anyone.”

www.agfa.com

“Ink and paper are the biggest cost to any printer and the new Agfa machines have saved us an enviable amount in the past 12 months”



From left: Paul Fitch, Agfa and Jack Clifford with the Agfa Anapura wide format machines

Get into the groove *By Jack Gocher*

Cutting costs and maintaining quality when purchasing a CNC machine

Given the somewhat volatile business climate prevailing at present, there will be an understandable temptation on the part of companies to opt for off-the-shelf and cheaper routing/engraving systems rather than investing in more expensive fully customised machines with a known and proven pedigree. With these machines, a higher performance capability, long-term reliability and a commensurately faster ROI are guaranteed.

Furthermore, these machines invariably come with full product training, ongoing technical support and 24-hour delivery of essential spare parts, accessories and consumables, all of which would not be possible with off-the-shelf machines purchased from an unreliable source.

Customised CNC routing, cutting and engraving machines are now available (invariably through cost-saving trade-in deals) in a wide range of sizes, with literally thousands of different machine configurations that will accommodate virtually every conceivable production requirement.

Theresa Scarth, UK General Manager, AAG (XYZ Automation Group), a leading supplier of high-performance CNC routing, cutting and engraving systems, provides some useful guidelines for potential new owners, "The following considerations will



Always use a supplier that appreciates the need for quality product training

help ensure that the chosen CNC machine will always perform to the required standard. Firstly, make the best possible machine tool selection. Choosing the wrong machine tools with subsequent and inevitable tool failure could prove costly. Common causes include using a tool unsuited to the materials to be processed, using one that is well past its predicted

lifespan resulting in a sub-standard finished product, failure to use recommended coolants and lubricants and not changing tool-holding devices such as collets and cones within their designated timeframe."

She continues, "Think about the availability of and access to spare parts and accessories. Always check a machine supplier's support network and verify its fast response capability. Of equal importance, choose a supplier with specially trained application engineers who are available for reliable on-site and/or online support to ensure that only the correct spare parts and accessories are being used for a given application. You should always use a supplier that can provide same-day or, at worst, next-day delivery."

The upgrading capability of the machine is also vital says Scarth, "Always choose a CNC machine that is fully upgradeable. Here, again, off-the-shelf machines will have their limitations exposed. To maximise its potential, a CNC machine should be capable of seamless integration with evolving new technologies. It is therefore important to deal with a supplier who can retrofit and upgrade a machine without third-party involvement in order to avoid all of the variables that this can create.



A great example of what can be achieved with a quality router. This was produced on an XYZ machine



“Purchasing a CNC machine with more capacity than is necessary to meet existing and future anticipated production requirements is not cost-effective. Equally, selecting a machine that turns out to have a less than required capacity could prove even more so. It is always important for potential machine owners to seek expert advice on what the correct processing area of the machine should be, contingent upon its predicted use,” she adds.

It is important to always use a supplier that appreciates the need for quality product training and can offer bespoke training courses. These can be conducted at either

To maximise its potential, a CNC machine should be capable of seamless integration with evolving new technologies

the supplier’s fully equipped facility or, if geographically more convenient, at a customer’s own premises. Either option should involve highly skilled and technically proficient application engineers.

In conclusion, Theresa Scarth says, “By following these simple guidelines, CNC machine owners will be able to ensure that the chosen solution will always perform to the required standard whilst avoiding the potentially damaging cost of ignoring these.”

www.axyz.co.uk

AXYZ Infinite sets a new benchmark for CNC routing

Building on the legacy of earlier AXYZ machines in terms of outstanding build quality, reliability and increased productivity, the latest multi-purpose AXYZ Infinite combined routing and knife-cutting system supplied by AAG (AXYZ Automation Group) is said to have set a new benchmark for CNC machining performance. The Infinite reflects the 30 years of experience in routing and cutting technology and the contribution this has made to the wider use of CNC routing/engraving and cutting systems on a global scale.

Key design features of the AXYZ Infinite include the now familiar heavy-duty solid steel frame construction to accommodate the most vigorous machine operation likely to be required and a new carriage design that provides much easier access for servicing and machine tool upgrades. The compact footprint of the machine also allows installation in work places where space is at a premium.

Infinite can be configured with a choice of single, dual or triple routing/cutting heads to enable multiple tasking. It incorporates an expandable processing bed size of up to 3251mm (width) by an impressive 15.24m (length) to accommodate the largest sheets of material. An important new design feature is a redesigned and more efficient dust extraction system to eliminate problems associated with clogging of the machine, thereby minimising expensive machine downtime and increasing productivity levels. This is supplemented with a new misting system to enable more efficient cooling and lubrication of the router.

If required, the Infinite can be supplied with a host of optional machining enhancements. These include an expanded (up to 21 stations) ATC (Automatic Tool Change) system for work requiring multiple tools, the AXYZ Zone Management facility to ensure optimum material hold-down efficiency, the latest AXYZ A2MC machine controller and AVS (AXYZ Vision System) to enable optimum routing/cutting accuracy.

There is also the latest AXYZ helical rack and pinion drive system incorporating a

multiple gear teeth configuration to spread the machine workload more evenly. This enables much faster throughput speeds, reduced machine wear and material wastage and ultimately a longer than normal machine life.

As part of the purchasing package, owners of Infinite have the option of the latest VCarve Pro and Aspire design and production software programs, with the latter enabling complex and finely detailed 3D work to be undertaken.



The AXYZ Infinite router has a heavy-duty solid steel frame construction to accommodate the most vigorous machine operation

ROUTING AND ENGRAVING Feature

Latest waterjet routing/cutting systems from AAG

AAG (XYZ Automation Group) has added WARDJet waterjet cutting machines to its product portfolio. These enable the processing of materials that traditional CNC routing and cutting systems cannot effectively handle. Typically, these include stainless steel and other non-ferrous metals, cast and wrought iron, various alloys such as brass and bronze, solid rubber and rubber composites, glass, fibreglass and high-density plastics.

The range of machines includes the large-format X-Series and the more compact and recently introduced A-Series of machines. They have individual as well as common design and performance characteristics and incorporate the familiar lightweight and rigidly constructed modular steel frame gantry for robust and reliable operation, as with all XYZ machines.

The waterjets incorporate multiple cutting heads and an industrial-grade rack and pinion drive system for more precise routing/cutting accuracy and the avoidance of problems frequently experienced with low-cost alternative belt-driven systems. There is also an optional water level control system and cutting table enclosure that reduces splashback and consequent loss of water and noise generated by the cutting process, thereby enhancing the environmental credentials of both machines. The proprietary dedicated Move motion control software is also provided as standard on both the X-Series and A-Series machines.



The new A-Series routers are an ideal solution for situations where available space is at a premium

The latest A-0612 model in the A-Series has been developed to accommodate a market sector with hitherto limited options. With a relatively small 213 x 124cm footprint, it will fit perfectly into the workflow of any small sign shop or machining centre and is an ideal solution for situations where available space is at a premium but for which the cutting power of larger waterjet machines is required without any compromise on functionality and quality of output.

The compact size of the A-0612 also makes for easier transportation, installation and portability



Waterjet cutting machines are designed to work with a range of substrates traditional routers can't handle, including stainless steel and other non-ferrous metals

A key benefit of the A-0612 machine is that whilst similarly positioned waterjet systems operate at pressures ranging from 30,000 to 45,000psi, the A-0612 will operate at 60,000psi. This enables the processing of any material within the same time frame as that taken by a full-size waterjet machine. Operating at this higher pressure also reduces the amount of abrasive needed for the cutting process, thereby further reducing production costs. The compact size of the A-0612 also makes for easier transportation, installation and portability.



Waterjet cutting efficiency greatly enhanced with new 5-axis head

A new and exclusive 5-axis cutting head has now been added to selective models in the WARDJet range of waterjet cutting machines supplied by the recently rebranded AAG (XYZ Automation Group). Called the Apex 60, this compact and fully integrated machine enhancement is said to be the most affordable and versatile of its kind currently available that will greatly increase the efficiency of three-dimensional routing/cutting processes.

Key attributes of the Apex 60 include the ability to cut materials at an angle of up to 60 degrees with a cutting force of 4000 bar and at a maximum speed of 19 metres/minute. According to AAG, this sets the Apex 60 apart from any comparable cutting head. It also helps accelerate the speed and efficiency at which secondary materials finishing can be carried out

which hitherto would have required additional specialist staff and thus increase production costs.

Significantly, the Apex 60 will enable waterjet cutting machines to more effectively handle a wider range of more complex materials for which traditional CNC machining solutions are less suitable. Typically, these include certain specialist woods, various alloys such as brass and bronze, aluminium sheet and aluminium composites (ACM), glass and high-density plastics and laminates.

Examples of the X-Series and A-Series of waterjet cutting machines can be viewed at XYZ Automation Group's main showroom and demonstration facility in Telford.

www.axyz.co.uk/infinite



The new Apex 60 head enables waterjet cutting machines to more effectively handle a wider range of more complex materials



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Routing and engraving services from AWLTECH

Known for its high-quality fabrication and finishing systems used primarily for the processing of acrylic and plastic materials that are widely used in the signage industry, AWLTECH also provides a cost-effective laser engraving/cutting service at its Alton, Hampshire facility. The service was set up to enable companies that do not have or necessarily need an in-house engraving/cutting facility but do require an external one on which they can rely in terms of quality and fast turnaround in the interests of customers for whom they undertake work that requires routing, engraving and/or cutting input.

The service is based on the installation of three powerful laser routing and engraving machines at AWLTECH's facility. These can effortlessly process medium to large volumes of output involving materials in a size of up to 900mm in width by virtually any length and in a thickness of up to 10mm. The fully equipped machines incorporate performance enhancing design features such as chiller and fume/dust extraction units and are typical 'plug and play' production workhorses capable of fast throughput speeds with no compromise on the high quality of finished products.

www.awltech.co.uk



A 500mm diameter reverse-engraved decorative graphic using 10mm-thick plastic sheet created by AWLTECH.

Graphtec GB delivers software for a cutting edge

As a preferred business partner of and exclusive UK distributor for global software developer SA International, Graphtec GB supplies the latest EnRoute Version 6 software program to the sign manufacturing and associated industries. Incorporating a raft of new design and production tools, the software provides the most

comprehensive and cost-effective solution to the routing, engraving, milling and cutting of a wide range of disparate materials.

According to SAI, this is the most advanced software of its kind to be developed so far for use on traditional CNC routers/engravers and laser, plasma and waterjet cutting machines. It comprises a suite of 40 new design and production tools and is available in a choice of four different models (Basic, Complete, Design and Fabrication) to

accommodate every conceivable 2D and 3D routed and/or engraved output requirement, including special parametric shapes and graphics effects, surface textures, components and model stacking.

Phil Kneale, Director, Graphtec GB says, "An easy-to-use graphics interface and automatic toolpath creation and nesting are common to all of the models, with the Fabrication option being ideal for plasma and waterjet machines used to process materials that are not suitable for traditional CNC routing/engraving systems.



These are used to process materials that are not suitable for traditional CNC routing/engraving systems. Integrated online movies enable rapid access to informative on-demand explanations of the more advanced design and production capabilities now available with the software.”



The new WID C-Series demonstrating its accurate laser engraving capabilities



EnRoute Version 6 software has a raft of new design and production tools

He concludes, “These will be of benefit not only to entry-level users but also to those with higher skill levels in order to maximise the software’s full potential. Significantly, EnRoute is available on a monthly subscription, thereby avoiding a hefty up-front payment. This includes free access to all future software upgrades and ongoing technical support.”

As announced in this magazine, Graphtec GB has also recently added the latest WID C Series of dual laser engraving/cutting systems to its increasingly diverse range of finishing solutions.

www.graphtecgb.co.uk



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Why the right router bit is as important as the right CNC machine

When looking at purchasing a CNC machine, most of the focus is on choosing the best machine, matched to the budget in mind. Spindle choice, vacuum hold down, extraction system, ease of use and the company supplying the equipment, all play a part in the final decision. Carrying out due diligence on the purchase of a large investment should be done with care and consideration.

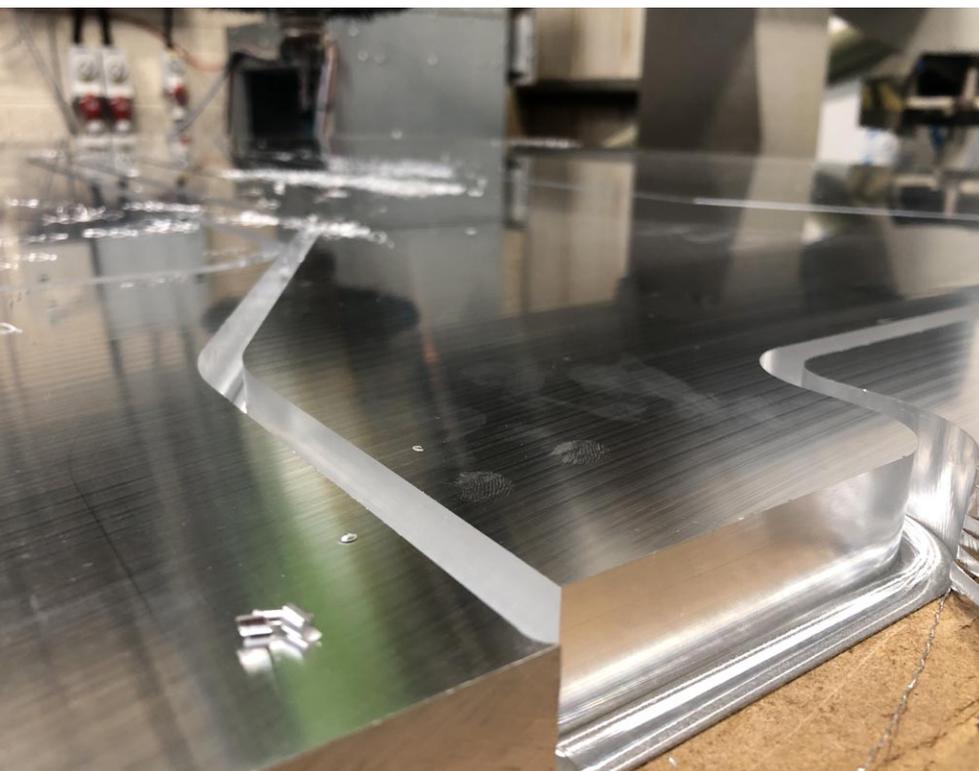
However, what is often overlooked, is the correct choice of tooling to put into the machine. This should be considered in the same way as the machine purchase itself. After all, it's the routing tool which is cutting the material, with the machine just doing the driving.

How do you measure good value?

Everyone wants to get the best possible deal on anything they purchase, however, the price on the invoice is not always the way to measure the total economy. A routing tool which costs under £10 seems like a good deal on a website, so you may buy ten of them. They look the same so



The geometries of the tools have been developed over many years of market research



A routing tool needs to be extremely sharp to cut properly and cleanly

why pay any extra?. Too good to be true? Well in most cases it is. The lower end tools are often made from low grade tungsten carbide and manufactured in such high volumes that allow for very little or no quality control measures. Tolerances are often very vague, leading to the operator having to measure or test the diameter before committing to any actual cutting.

How long do they last?

Using lower grade materials and such wide tolerances means longevity can be a real problem. A routing tool needs to be extremely sharp to cut properly and cleanly. A blunt tool will give poor results and how long a tool lasts is measured in how long it can stay sharp. Compare a pack of razors and you will often find the bulk pack of low cost razors being single use only. The same applies to lower cost routing tools. The edge quality soon drops off and the operator must then change the router bit more frequently or ignore it and pass the work on to someone else for hand finishing. This adds a huge amount of additional unseen cost in labour and hand finishing time. Consistency of the work produced also suffers as sizes and edge quality vary dramatically from cut to cut.



“It’s a brand new routing tool, why isn’t the edge finish very good?”

In most cases the same tool design will be employed across multiple materials with the lower cost tooling. The strategy of “pile ‘em high and sell them cheap” doesn’t lend itself to optimisation and variance to each material type. Slight changes in angles and geometries to improve the edge quality are not taken into consideration. In addition, the lower cost tools have often been manufactured to replicate established tooling without fully understanding the tool they are replicating. The constancy issues also make it very difficult to get the same geometries time and time again. Furthermore, in most cases, the manufacturer of the lower cost tools won’t have a development program in place to improve and test their tools to optimise this.

“In contrast, the Crown Norge range of tools available from LKH Tools in the UK, are manufactured in Switzerland from the highest grade of European tungsten carbide on the market. Made using the latest state of the art Swiss machinery and overseen by skilled, experienced operators under strict quality and tolerance control measures. This ensures consistency throughout the range, i.e. knowing that the next tool is the same as the last,” says Liam Hodson, Tooling & machine consultant at LKH Tools.

He continues, “The geometries of the tools have been developed over many years of market research and simply listening to

machine operators. The tools in each range have been developed to match to each of the common material types and thicknesses. The angle, length of cut, shank length and diameters have been developed in laboratory conditions and then rigorously tested at live manufacturing sites over many years to find the optimum balance of strength, longevity, speed and quality of cut. Coatings have been developed to improve the tools performance in many materials. This reduces heat and friction when cutting aluminium dry for example.”

“What does all this mean in real terms?”

The edge of cut will require no additional hand finishing or labour prior to assembly or shipment. Acrylics and plastics are cut with an exceptional edge finish and can be polished further by using the available polishing tools. Aluminium can be cut dry at high speed without the need for coolant. ACM can be cut and folded at high speed using the ACM range of tools. Polycarbonates, PVC and foams can be machined at higher speed, giving both a superior edge finish and tool life. In one extreme case, a company using lower quality tools was able to save up to 6 hours of machining time a day by switching to the new coated MP (Multi-Purpose) Superior tools.

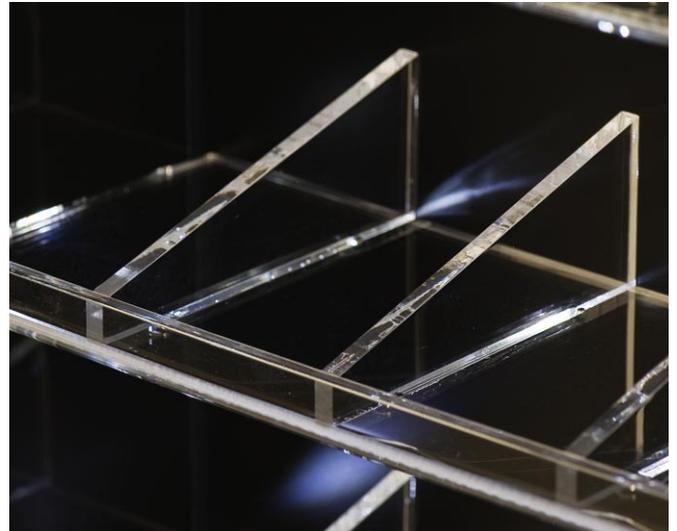
Hodson adds, “The correct settings for each of the Crown Norge tools are provided with the tooling distributed from

The geometries of the tools have been developed over many years of market research and simply listening to machine operators

LKH Tools in the UK. This stops the trial and error process which many companies have had to endure before finally establishing a result which is acceptable. Guidance on the correct setting up of the tools are offered to each customer to provide the optimum setting for their machine type and material choice.”

He concludes, “Eliminating the hidden labour and time cost alone makes the Crown Norge tools a more cost effective choice but, in most cases, one of the Crown Norge tools can last up to ten times longer than other tools on the market. However, they are not ten times the price. This combined with the guidance and support offered by LKH Tools, truly makes them the best overall economy and choice when considering purchasing tools for your machine.”

www.lkhtools.co.uk



Consistent cutting of various substrates, like plexiglass and acrylic

Roland's routing and engraving credentials

The personalisation market continues to thrive, with customers demanding ever more unusual products and unique designs. There's a new air of creativity around decor and branding, with businesses trying harder to stand out from the crowd. Sign-makers have an opportunity to tailor eye-catching signage and display work to all manner of environments – from restaurants to offices, from salons to shops, and even individual consumers. Customised gifts could be a valuable vertical market for sign companies to explore, thanks to versatile and efficient technology.

To meet these modern requirements, Roland DG has developed a variety of devices for engraving and routing applications. Rob Goleniowski, Head of Sales – UK & Ireland – Roland DG (UK) Ltd, explains, "They are all designed to be safe, clean, compact and easy to use, for simple integration into an existing sign business or as a foundation for brand new service. Each solution arrives bundled with software to make production fast, efficient and creative."

The Roland DE-3 desktop engraver has a small footprint yet a generously sized work area (305mm x 230mm x 40mm) and offers the performance levels of a production class engraver. Its laser-pointing technology, automatic depth regulation and other features achieve precise results on industrial and precious metals, plastics, acrylics, composites and other materials, without the surface burning produced by laser engravers. As well as engraving text and graphics, the DE-3 can also be used to produce durable tactile and Braille signage.

For accurately engraving metals – including brass, aluminium, gold, steel, silver and titanium – the Roland METAZA MPX-95 metal engraving machine has been designed to achieve high-quality results without debris, noise or odour. Businesses can use this compact and fully enclosed system to produce luxury signs while diversifying into trophy plates and gifts. The METAZA MPX-95 is compatible with cotodesign, Roland's design and print management software package that helps retailers develop an on-site personalisation experience. Shoppers can connect to the software and upload their own photos or designs to be engraved onto their chosen product in-store, giving the consumer more control and driving footfall for the business.

Goleniowski adds, "The Roland EGX-30A engraver has been a reliable workhorse for sign businesses for many years while offering the ability to expand into 2D giftware and awards. A truly desktop machine, the EGX-30A fits neatly into any office or workshop for the on-demand production of small items such as health and safety signage, name tags and office door signs."

He continues, "A major development in this area recently has been laser engraving. Roland LV series laser engravers are fully enclosed systems that use non-contact CO2 lasers to mark or engrave materials including coated metal, wood, card, leather and acrylic – ideal for the unconventional products the market demands. In addition to its potential as a standalone device, the LV series can be particularly effective when used in tandem



Roland METAZA MPX-95 metal engraving machine has been designed to achieve high-quality results

with Roland VersaUV LEF UV-LED printers. In fact, the larger of the two LV solutions, the Roland LV-290, is equipped with a CCD camera that helps to accurately contour-cut UV-printed graphics."

Rob Goleniowski concludes, "For creative entrepreneurs and established sign business alike, exploring the latest advancements in engraving technology could lead to creative new opportunities."

www.rolanddg.co.uk



The Roland EGX-30A fits neatly into any office or workshop



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Smart car wrapped for milk charity

Epson UK has recently completed a project for Longdean School based in Hemel Hempstead, to design and wrap the Human Milk Foundation's new Mobile Milk urgent delivery vehicle. Epson's official charity partner in the UK helps families feed their babies with human milk by providing screened donor milk to sick, premature babies in NICUs and mothers with cancer and other illnesses.

The charity wanted to wrap its 'Smart' car in a creative, vibrant and stand out design to help raise general awareness of the charity and its services while the vehicle was delivering milk to families and hospitals across Hertfordshire and East Anglia. Epson responded to this challenge by teaming up with Longdean School and launched a competition among its students to come up with the best design for the delivery vehicle. When the final design was agreed on, Epson then used one of its SureColor SC-S80600 wide format printers to print the designs, with local car wrapping specialist Max Media Prints using their expertise to wrap the vehicle.

"The application of our product solutions to support the HMF has been a key component in our partnership and we're glad to see this exciting project come to life with the help of our large format signage printers"



Natalie Shenker and Flic Webster from HMF looking at designs submitted for the wrap.



The charity wanted to wrap its 'Smart' car in a creative, vibrant and stand out design to help raise general awareness of the charity and its services.

Says Daniel Quelch, sustainability manager at Epson UK: "The application of our product solutions to support the Human Milk Foundation has been a key component in our partnership and we're glad to see this exciting project come to life with the help of Epson's large format signage printers. Working with Longdean School to engage its students with raising awareness for our charity partner has been tremendous fun and we hope that through activities such as this, we become one step closer to getting the Human Milk Foundation the support they need to meet the increased demand from families across the country."

You can watch a video of the design competition and wrapping of the Human Milk Foundation's 'Smart' car here: <https://youtu.be/7WYmZzI99bc>

www.eco.epson.com/

Flower markers help school with social distancing

Hillstone Primary School in Birmingham approached HNS Signs for innovative and friendly signage solutions to help their pupils adhere to social distancing best practices. With their re-opening for selected years in June they needed the scheme to be designed, manufactured and commissioned within a week without compromising on the brief's quality or effectiveness.

"We wanted to create a friendly positive environment for pupils while reassuring staff and parents that we were conforming to government guidance and that the safety of everyone was our top priority," explains Kerry Cartwright, Hillstone's strategic business manager.

The challenge was to help the 100 children to make their way safely into the building while maintaining their 'bubbles'. The school decided to do this by telling different classes to go to dedicated gates at staggered times but still needed to work out how to direct them to their new classrooms.

HNS managing director Michelle Henry comments: "There's been a lot of concern about school's reopening and we wanted to help prove that it really doesn't have to be such a daunting prospect."



Both posters and signs were printed onto vinyl via a Roland XR640 and laminated onto various materials using an Easy Mount hot and cold laminator.

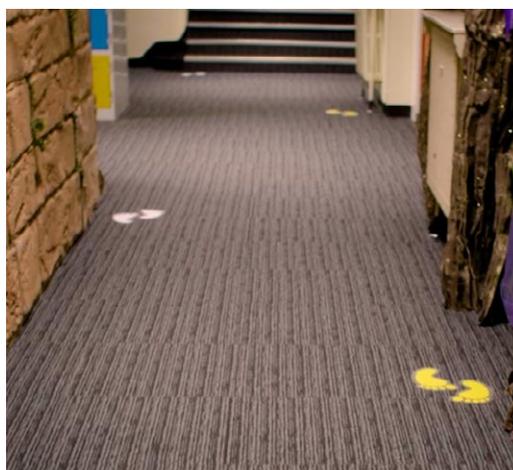
HNS suggested that the class names were placed onto the signs so that parents wouldn't need to go to reception to ask.

"We had already discussed markers for the children to follow but wanted them to be cheery. We suggested having different coloured flowers; this was then incorporated into the design. We wanted to make it exciting to be back at school and by being told to follow your coloured flower certainly help."

The flower markers were laser cut from acrylic on their Mercury 3 Laser Pro. HNS then designed a poster to fit into A-boards to let children know that they had reached their destination. Both posters and signs were printed onto vinyl via their Roland XR640 and laminated onto various materials using their Easy Mount hot and cold laminator.

This had to incorporate the social distancing guidelines in a way that the children (some of whom cannot read) could understand. For this, the HNS team reached out via social media to see what parents (and their children) thought would work. Through this consensus and by adopting an inclusive design process, it not only helped to finalise the design but helped both children and parents understand the scheme long before returning to school.

Once the pupils were inside, yellow and white coloured footprint signage ensured



Flower markers were cut from acrylic on a Mercury 3 Laser pro.

children stayed apart in the corridors. HNS used Hexis floor vinyl laminate to ensure floor graphics were anti-slip and long-lasting.

"Michelle at HNS was amazing to work with," says Kerry. "She clearly understood our requirements and made positive recommendations about our COVID-19 signage and we've received numerous positive comments from the parents about how friendly and inviting the school looked".

www.hnssigns.co.uk



Racing car wrap celebrates female racing drivers

VR Motorsport has unveiled a vibrant new racing car design to inspire and celebrate female drivers, printed by MediaCo using flexible HP Latex technology.

Vincent Randall, a former sidecar racer and founder/director of MediaCo, launched VR Motorsport around 10 years ago as an amateur organisation which quickly attained professional status, finding success in the UK and around the world.

VR Motorsport kicked off the season at the Croft Circuit in July with a freshly wrapped Praga R1 racing car, featuring a design commissioned by Motorsport Woman to call attention to female drivers.

Dubbed the 'art car', the wrap is based on a 2D piece by artist Cain Caser that was transformed into a 3D wrap by MediaCo. Its 36,000sq ft facility is packed with equipment used to produce everything from exhibition graphics to retail signage to wallpaper but its HP Latex 3600, installed this year, was selected to produce the full-colour vehicle wrap.

"HP Latex inks don't affect the surface of the material you're printing on so if you're using glossy film for a vehicle wrap then it will stay glossy," explains Vincent. "The inks are very flexible, which is essential for wrapping cars like the Praga R1 which has a distinctive contoured chassis."



Dubbed the 'art car', the wrap is based on a 2D piece by artist Cain Caser that was transformed into a 3D wrap by MediaCo.

The uniformity of finish and colour were important to replicate the artist's original painting, in particular the intricate brushwork. It was not possible to scan the painting, so MediaCo's graphic artists worked from hundreds of photographs to render the image. The project including

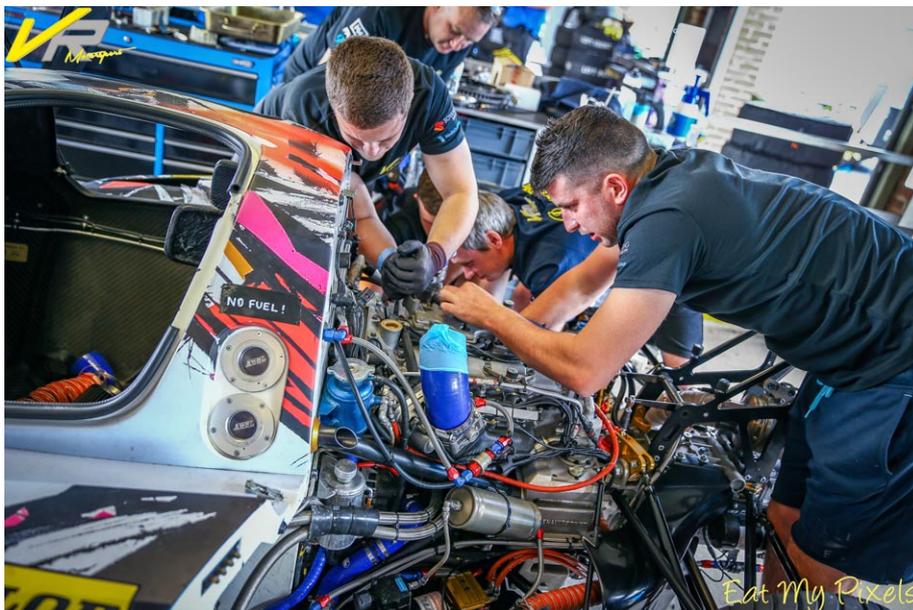
printing by the MediaCo team, wrapping by Visionary Graphics and delivery to Croft, was completed in one week.

"We like to tell the story of our drivers in our racing car designs," says Vincent. "The finished result reflects the driver, Jem Hepworth and the vision of Motorsport Woman's owner Tara Strong. It looks great on the track."

Vincent Randall says that MediaCo was first attracted to HP Latex for its environmental benefits, having already invested in an HP Stitch S1000 for textile work and achieving stunning results. HP's water-based, odour-free Latex inks are GREENGUARD Gold rated at the highest level and are ozone-free. Therefore, both end users and print room operators benefit from cleaner, safer air.

"Sustainability is the future of print," says Vincent. "MediaCo was the first print company to achieve ISO 14001 in the UK, so we were very impressed by the story of HP and by the environmental credentials of HP Latex and Stitch."

www.hp.com



MediaCo's graphic artists worked from hundreds of photographs to render the image.



Stainless steel and acrylic signage fronts M&S in Manchester

A leading digital and traditional signage specialist has completed a six-figure project for retail giant Marks & Spencer.

Leeds-based Widd Signs designed and installed striking new exterior brand signage on behalf of Audas Project Management at the retailer's flagship Market Street store in Manchester.

The eye-catching signage, made from stainless steel and acrylic, includes two 12-metre long cantilever signs which run vertically down the sides of the store, in a feat of engineering that took two days to complete.

Managing director Gary Williams says: "These signs are the latest to be created in a partnership that has seen Widd design and install exterior signage at M&S stores all over the world, over the past three decades.

"We're proud to serve as a trusted supplier to M&S and delighted to have the opportunity to once again showcase the breadth of our industry-leading capabilities

from consultancy and design through to production and installation, at one of their flagship stores."

Steve Bray, director at Audas Project Management, comments: "This was a challenging project, particularly in relation to the design and installation of the vertical signs and we're delighted with the results.

"The professional and proactive approach the team at Widd Signs demonstrated in overcoming the various challenges is a credit to their business and their attention to detail when creating and installing this high-quality signage has resulted in an extremely happy client."

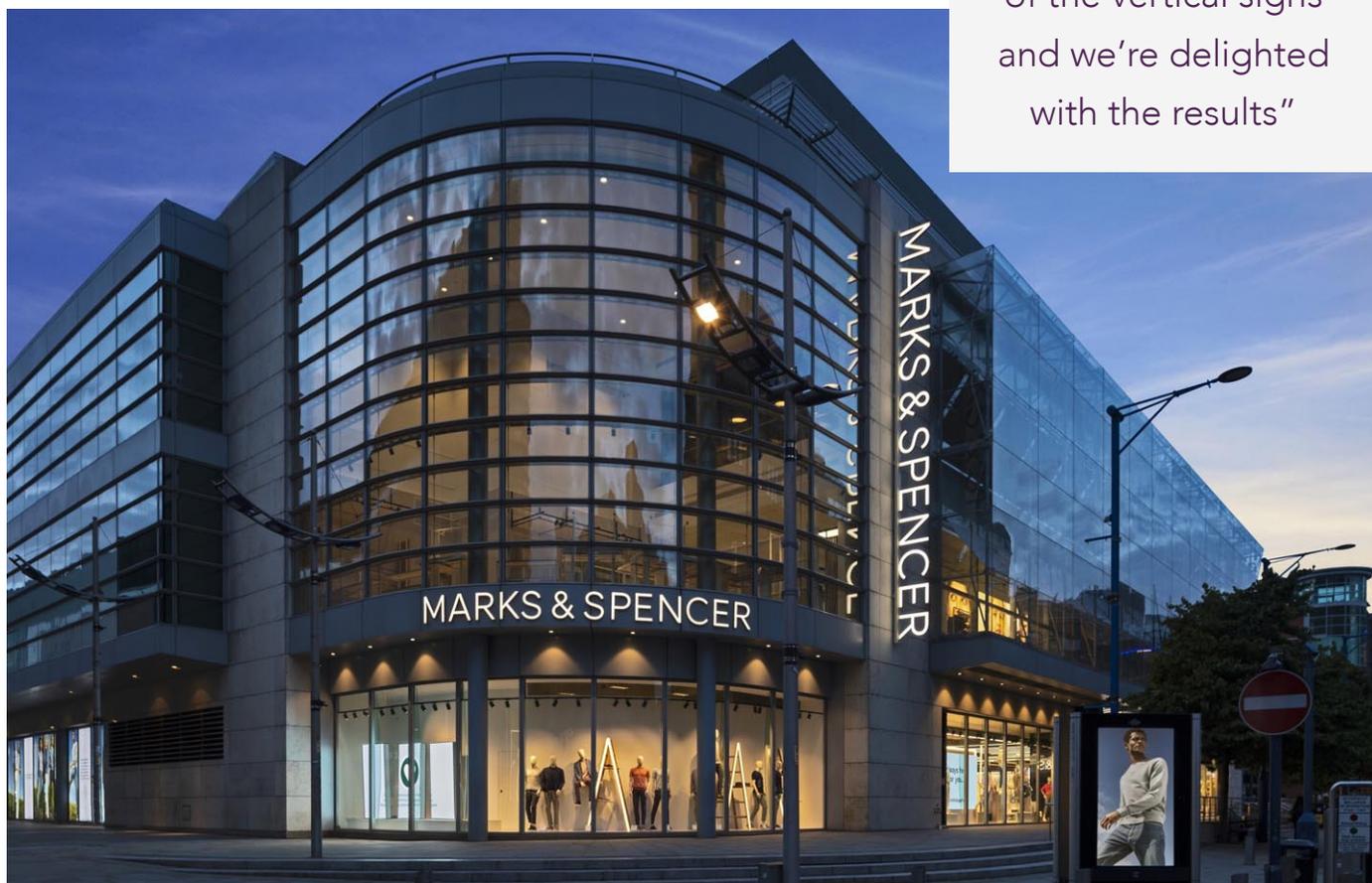
Established in 1888, Widd Signs provides signage consultancy, design and production to a range of high profile businesses operating in the retail, construction and sports and leisure sectors. Its clients include retail giants Marks & Spencer, Primark and Schuh and culture and leisure hubs such as the National Science and Media Museum and Burnley F.C.

Earlier this year, Widd Signs completed the acquisition of Spectrum Sign & Display and its new 20,000 sq ft site in St Helens as part of the company's exciting expansion plans, adding expertise and boosting its in-house manufacturing capacity and capabilities.

In May the company launched a range of bespoke hygiene solutions to help retailers to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic including antimicrobial acrylic protection screens, floor and wall graphics and hand-sanitising stations.

www.widdsigns.co.uk

"This was a challenging project, particularly in relation to the design and installation of the vertical signs and we're delighted with the results"



The eye-catching signage includes two 12-metre long cantilever signs which run vertically down the sides of the store.

PRINT AND CUT Feature

Print, cut and away *By Jack Gocher*

Printing and cutting have always gone hand in hand for sign-makers working with vinyl. Lettering, labels, floor and vehicle graphics and many, many more applications demand high quality images cut accurately, quickly and inexpensively. We look at the options available from some of the major print manufacturers, which cover the benefits of both integrated print and cut machines and separate solutions.

Many businesses find that when they upgrade their printing equipment they create a bottleneck in their finishing department, so it's important to invest in a cutting system that works as accurately, quickly and efficiently as their printer. Vinyl floor graphics are currently in high demand, alongside health and safety signage, POP and retail displays, vehicle wraps and wall and window graphics – all of which require bold, punchy colours and a sharp, professional cut finish. Many of these orders also require a quick turnaround, as social distancing guidelines are updated and businesses reopen. Installing a solution that can produce these vinyl applications at a level that exceeds customers' demands will secure business for print service providers (PSPs) for years to come.



HP's print and cut solution is ideally suited to a busy workflow

Mike Lewis, Latex Channel Account Manager, HP, says, "The HP Latex print and cut solution comprises four components to ensure these needs are

met. Firstly, the HP Latex printer uses odourless water-based inks that are compatible with an extensive range of materials and applications, including sensitive interior environments whilst delivering truly exceptional levels of colour and quality. Prints don't need de-gassing or even lamination for some applications, so can be transferred immediately to the HP cutter, designed in partnership with manufacturer Summa. The separate print and cut solutions also maximise productivity by having the ability to complete both printing and cutting jobs at the same time."

He continues, "The third and fourth components connect to the open-architecture HP FlexiPRINT and CUT RIP. The Barcode system, designed to achieve accurate registration and cutting first time, finally there is also a number of cloud-based applications that enable remote interaction with the FlexiPRINT software by both HP users and their customers. It's really simple to design and send files to the RIP this way. The HP Latex 315 Print and Cut Solution comprises a 1.37m (54") printer with cutter while the HP Latex 335 Print and Cut Solution includes a 1.63m (64") printer, ideal for larger applications."



HP's Latex 315 and Summa Cutter combination offers independent printing and cutting



In late 2019, Glasgow's Tell Design & Print invested in an HP Latex print-then-cut solution. This new workflow has opened up Tell's in-house production options and the variety of services it can offer its customers. "Now the new HP Latex system has been installed we'll be asking our customers what they want us to print with it," says Thomas Kelly, Owner of Tell Design & Print. "We can now become a one-stop-shop for businesses such as pubs, clubs and restaurants."

In addition to vinyl wraps, decals and graphics, Tell Design & Print is exploring new applications with its Latex print and

cut equipment. Thomas says: "We've been working with a gin company to print and cut labels for gin bottles. The quality is better than the customer is used to and I was amazed by the intricacy of the cut edges."

Similarly, Moray-based Signworks invested in the HP Latex 315 Print and Cut Solution in 2019, primarily as a printer upgrade, but quickly found that the ability to print and cut products like stickers and labels was an 'added bonus'. "Previously I had to outsource sticker and label work to another business an hour away, who cut by hand," says Signworks Owner

Cameron Philson. "Now I can cut those while printing another job at the same time, and the barcode system for cutting is just perfect. The HP also serves as a back-up cutting system for my existing 600mm standalone plotter should I need it."

Mike Lewis concludes, "HP's four-component print and cut solution offers more than just effective hardware; it delivers a uniquely flexible workflow that can be adapted to each PSP's needs – and those of its customers."

www.hp.com

The Mimaki Plus Series takes print/cut to new levels

Launched last Autumn, the Mimaki JV300Plus series printers, CG-FX Plus series cutters and CJV300 Plus series integrated printer/cutters have been very warmly received, according to Brett Newman, Chief Operations Manager for Hybrid Services, Mimaki's exclusive UK and Ireland distributor. "We have already installed these new machines in many sign-making businesses and graphics producers across the UK and Ireland. Feedback suggest that customers appreciate the breadth of products available and the cutting-edge technologies that are included in the new range."

The new technologies include Mimaki's Advanced Pass System (MAPS4) and the ID Cut Function. Newman explains, "The latest version of the Mimaki Advanced Pass System retains print quality even at higher print speeds. MAPS4 enables faster and more complex hardware-driven calculations to be carried out, resulting in significant efficiencies across the range of output options. The new ID Cut function has been designed to enable printer operators to contour cut multiple jobs with minimal intervention. Offering trouble-free, automatic cutting of consecutive jobs, it saves time and reduces potential material waste."

The new Mimaki range also offers customers the chance to make sustainable choices that also reduces running costs. Mimaki's Greenguard Gold certified SS21 solvent inks are available in reusable eco-cases for 600ml CMYK ink packs.

In addition to their larger capacity, the new eco-case also brings up to 15% savings in ink costs, compared to the 440ml cartridges and using the eco-case will also eliminate the disposal of plastic waste. The Greenguard Gold inks are certified to meet the rigorous standards for low emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ensure that a product is acceptable for use in environments such as schools and healthcare facilities," he says.

The Mimaki Plus Series printers offer 8-colour configuration, which Hybrid claims enables printing up to 95% of the Pantone Coated range. There is a huge number of ICC profiles available for download so that printed colours can be accurately matched. There is also a newly designed take-up device capable of handling rolls of up to 45kg, ensuring smooth production even on long print jobs.

Continued on page xx



The new JVPlus, CJVPlus and CGPlus printer, integrated print/cut and cutters launched last Autumn by Mimaki

PRINT AND CUT Feature

Park Graphics benefits from Mimaki print, cut and laminate package

When Waterford-based Park Graphics set about specifying print hardware for its ambitious start-up project, the team's requirements were as big as their plans. "We needed a wide format printer that could give us the scope to grow, deliver a wide range of products to our customers and have the capacity to cope with large print runs," recalled owner, Garry Walshe. "As a young business, we also wanted to hit the ground running, so another important factor was ensuring we had the right training and support from a partner."

Settling on a system based around a Mimaki CJV300-160 and matching LA-160 laminator, Park Graphics invested in the kit through authorised Mimaki partner, GPML. "I very quickly realised that the Mimaki would be a great base for a business," continues Walshe. "It can produce such a wide variety of products – from fully printed vehicle graphics, to wall & floor wraps, to signs, banners and posters."

Walshe is also quick to reference the important role that GPML played in the investment. "The phenomenal service GPML provided has made an incredible difference. They are on call whenever you have a question, need help with a certain job or just some additional training on all the different settings you can use!" he exudes. "Equally, the reliability of the Mimaki kit has been top class too."



The Mimaki CJVPlus range offers printing and cutting in a single machine

The Mimaki CJV300-160 is a 1.6m wide solvent printer/cutter with a formidable reputation in the sign and graphics sector. Capable of volume production it uses Mimaki's SS21 wide colour gamut inks and prints at up to 1,440dpi. With a powered take-up roll it's also capable of running unattended and with the business growing at a rapid rate, the production capacity of the CJV300 soon came to the fore at Park Graphics. "We're able to plan our day around printing," he says. "If you have a big job on, you can load the Mimaki up and even let it print through the night; you

don't have to sit over it and watch its every move, so it's a top class machine in that sense," recounts Walshe.

Bernard Hoey, sales executive at GPML sees great opportunity ahead for Park Graphics. "The energy and enthusiasm that Garry and his young team possess is matched by their capacity to take on jobs from start to finish," he says. "The breadth of work they've already installed is hugely impressive."

In addition to delivering numerous vehicle graphics jobs, Park Graphics uses its Mimaki system for wide ranging work, from signs and banners right up to high end interior décor designs, with a kitchen recently fitted out with easy to maintain, mosaic-effect printed splashbacks and concrete-style door fronts. "In reality, we'll take on almost anything," says Walshe. "Our designers are as capable of delivering eye-catching sign and display graphics as they are cut out pink unicorn stickers!"

With plenty on the cards for Park Graphics, the ambitious business is anticipating rapid expansion. "Although we're a fairly young company, it feels like we're already making a mark. Our passion is in delivering start to finish branding application services; we'll take jobs from initial creative, through production and ultimately installing them, so our Mimaki print and finishing equipment plays a hugely important part in that," concludes Walshe.



Park Graphics' Garry Walshe (left) with the Waterford-based business' new Mimaki CJV300 purchased through Bernard Hoey of GPML (right)

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PRINT AND CUT Feature

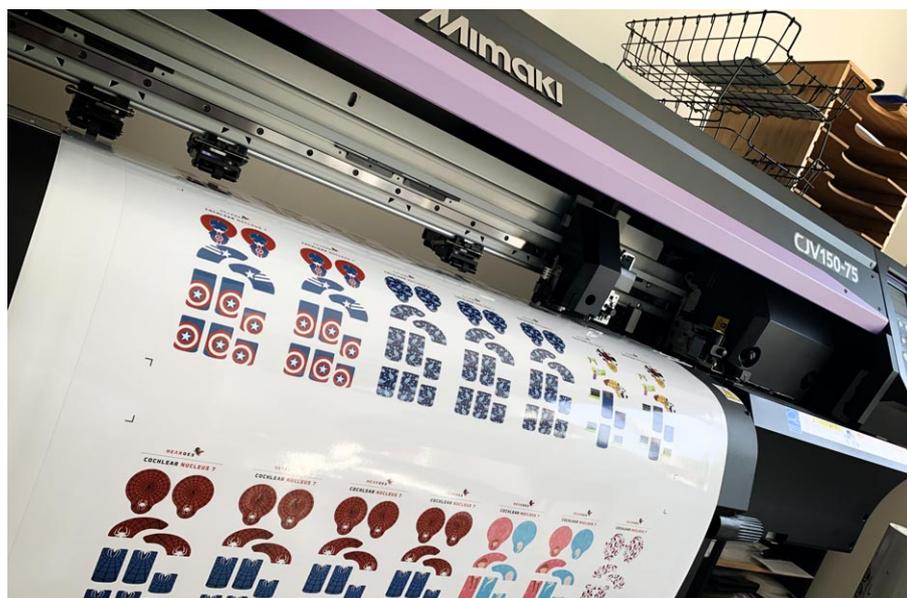
HEAROES helping to break down the stigma of children's hearing products

HEAROES is an independent family run business that creates unique and personalised skins and accessories for hearing equipment, particularly for children. The company has recently acquired a Mimaki CJV150-75 integrated print and cut machine and Vivid Laminator from Newcastle based reseller, Your Print Specialists (YPS). The new equipment has helped HEAROES meet the ever-increasing demand for their products and allows them to grow the business even further.

Marc Murray and Carly Duffield, co-founders of HEAROES, wanted to find a way of personalising hearing products in order to help remove the stigma around them, particularly for children. "We have two sons who are profoundly deaf and when our second son was diagnosed, we wanted to personalise their devices and

make them special to them. They wear Cochlear Implants, which have an external device and typically they only come in a limited range of plain colours. We wanted them to be able to choose how their processors looked so we could encourage them, and others, to be proud of them."

For his first three years, their older son wore his Cochlear implants undecorated. "We became aware that there were skins to decorate them, but they were only available from the US and Poland. By the time they were bought and shipped it was pretty expensive. I decided to employ my graphic design skills to come up with a home-made solution, based on his then love of all things Captain America. With just a standard desktop printer and a hobbyist cutter, I managed to make some new skins for him and I'm delighted to say he loved them!"



The Mimaki CJV150 in action

Testing the market

It was such a revelation to see his son embracing his new-look device, Marc decided to set up a web site to dip his toe in the market to see if others would be interested. "I wasn't really expecting to get more than handful of orders per month and was shocked when we received 250 orders within 24 hours. Those first few days I was flat out making the skins, but we had clearly hit on something that people really wanted."

HEAROES is about more than simply creating something that looks better. The standard NHS prescription devices are very dull and uninspiring, which doesn't help parents who are encouraging their children to wear them. HEAROES is about raising self-esteem and encouraging children, and adults alike, to be proud of their equipment.



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Marc explains, "The HEAROES skins create a feeling of familiarity and acceptance for the children and this is backed up by my own experience and the feedback I have had from parents. Many have said that other children in the classroom, when they see the devices with the latest cool images or funky colours say 'Wow, I want those' rather than ask what they are or why they have to wear them. This is so important for the children themselves to help them feel better about their devices and simply accept them as a normal part of their lives. Being able to make them look how they want can be the vital difference between a child wanting to wear them or not."

Meeting Increased demand

Having seen the number of orders far exceed expectations, Marc decided to look around for better equipment to help them cope. "I did some research and found YPS based nearby and gave them a call. We had a good chat and they were able to offer some very sensible and valuable advice. We weren't quite ready at that time, but a couple of months later I was back in touch and we agreed to purchase the Mimaki CJV150-75 print and cut machine."

He continues, "I was printing the skins using an A4 printer and then cutting them out one at a time. It was very time consuming and had become unsustainable for the demand we were getting. Orders were stacking up both for the UK and all around the world. With the Mimaki we were able to print more stickers at a time and could set it to automatically cut them out. Also, having an integrated machine meant a significant space-saving, which was vital as we were still running from our spare room."

Having agreed on the printer, Marc then worked very closely with YPS to find the right media. "I can't thank YPS enough for their patience and support, particularly Lauren on the consumables side. Finding the best media was very important and they worked with us all the way to make sure we found what we needed. We wanted a sticker that was very tacky, but also able to be removed without leaving any residue. This was important because tastes change and we didn't want children to be stuck with an image that no longer met the 'cool' criteria."

Garry Brown, Managing Director of YPS, says, "I was completely blown away by what Marc was doing with HEAROES. It was such a simple product idea, but one that would clearly have a very positive effect for very many children and their families. We were more than happy to work very closely with Marc to find the best possible solution and we are delighted that the company continues to go from strength to strength and has now supplied thousands of stickers for children around the world."

HEAROES has now added a Vivid Laminator to the workflow process. "The hearing products go through a fair bit of wear and tear and by laminating the stickers we have improved the skins meaning that they are more robust, waterproof and last longer. It is an extra process, but definitely worth it as the look and quality of the product is all-important. The Vivid laminator is an excellent product and very easy to use. The whole system now works really well and we can now design and produce stickers at a level I never expected when we started."

In June 2020, HEAROES entered its second year of trading and was into the



Examples of the unique HEAROES stickers for children's hearing aids and cochlear implants

thousands in terms of products sold, with numbers steadily increasing, even through the lockdown. Marc Murray concludes, "We are really happy with how the company has developed and the way that YPS has worked with us to provide a print, laminate and cut solution that perfectly fits our business. We now have the capability and scale to grow the business further and this means helping thousands more children personalise their hearing devices, making them proud to wear them and, ultimately, improving their quality of life."

www.hearoes.co.uk
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PRINT AND CUT Feature

Roland

Roland is the market leader in combination printer/cutter devices, with well over 129,000 units sold around the world. According to Rob Goleniowski, Head of Sales – UK & Ireland – Roland DG (UK) Ltd, this is because they're designed to offer both high-quality printing and accurate cutting, with each aspect as important as the other. "This is essential, as Roland ranges, including TrueVIS, are relied upon every day for vinyl-based print-and-cut applications including vehicle wraps, floor graphics, wall murals and window decals. These systems can also produce smaller, added-value work like stickers, decals, labels and heat transfers for apparel."

A single machine combining wide-format printing and cutting functions can prove an efficient choice for businesses just starting out in the sign and display market: a cost-efficient, space-saving solution that can handle any number of different job types. Wall decal designer Nutmeg Studios, large-format print supplier The Print Hive, vehicle graphics specialist The Vinyl Guys, sign-maker Mac Signs and many more have built or developed their businesses with Roland printer/cutters. "The smallest Roland device in this category, the VersaSTUDIO BN-20, is a truly desktop system, ideal for entrepreneurs dipping



The Roland LEC2 can print, cut, crease and emboss on a single system

It's been designed for the high-level production of vivid vehicle wraps, exhibition graphics, wall graphics and window films alongside a cutter

their toes into graphics or existing sign companies looking for a simple, affordable way to add contour-cut full-colour prints to their service offering," adds Goleniowski.

He continues, "Larger systems, such as Roland TrueVIS printer/cutters, can help businesses jump straight into profitable digital graphics production. The new TrueVIS VG2 features over 40 enhancements based on Roland's decades of experience – some major upgrades such as newly formulated TR2 ink Orange and Green options, and some small but useful adjustments that make everyday work easier. Many of these upgrades came about as a direct result of customer input and feedback, ensuring this newest printer/cutter was a true response to market needs."



The new TrueVIS is a large-format eco-solvent inkjet printer with a focus on colour vibrancy and accuracy

The TrueVIS SG2 is another new printer/cutter running TR2 inks, an update on the earlier workhorse device. "TR2 inks are certified GREENGUARD Gold UL2818 for environmental sensitivity and have 3M and Avery Dennison ink certifications for compatibility with popular media, and work with the software's True Rich Color preset to hit colours accurately. On the VG2, the combination of inks and hardware make it possible to finish prints in just six hours, with the integrated cutting system further streamlining the process," he says.

While a combination printer/cutter may prove invaluable for many businesses, some print workflows may benefit from a print-then-cut process using two separate solutions. This set-up can be faster, as the printer can work on one job while the cutter is busy getting through another, and can allow businesses to keep one trusted machine in use while upgrading the other. Roland CAMM-1 series large-format and desktop vinyl cutters can be found in busy print rooms around the world, simply getting the job done on signage, vehicle graphics, floor decals and many more applications.



The VersaSTUDIO BN-20 is a truly desktop system and is ideal for entrepreneurs

"The TrueVIS VF2-640, without a cutting function, is the latest addition to the TrueVIS range. A large-format eco-solvent inkjet printer with a true focus on colour vibrancy and accuracy, the VF2-640 also uses TR2 inks in combinations of up to eight colours including Green, Orange and White. It's been designed for the high-level production of vivid vehicle wraps, exhibition graphics, wall graphics and window films alongside a cutter," he adds.

Rob Goleniowski concludes, "As well as eco-solvent devices Roland has a number

of UV-LED printer/cutters, a technology that is compatible with a practically unlimited variety of substrates including vinyl, canvas, wood, plastic and textiles. VersaUV LEC and LEC2 wide-format systems can print, cut, crease and emboss on a single system. Investing in the right technology for the job is essential for any business, so having a choice of combination printer/cutters and separate printing and cutting solutions, along with a number of ink options, can help a graphics specialist find the perfect solution."

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Sign Here says the Epson nailed it

Kevin Mahoney's team at Sign Here Worcester were commissioned for a specific project that required a vibrant orange to sign off his customer's vehicle in the same way as a cut vinyl, but using print. However, his existing wide-format printers couldn't meet his needs.

Mahoney explained, "At Sign Here we have always pursued a 'can do' philosophy, whatever the project, we can do it. Then we took on a catering vehicle wrap that required printing a really vibrant orange with burgundy overlay and our existing printers couldn't match the brief. It was time to update the system."

Sign Here is a full spectrum sign specialist covering every facet of print and design. Since its launch in 2001 it has grown to be one of the leading sign manufacturers in Worcestershire with a work ethic that has earned a growing list of customers nationwide.

He continued, "We evolved our service portfolio to meet our customers' changing needs, and, as we have invested in new technology, we only source the best. Our clients aren't interested in how we do the job, they just want to see the best possible outcome, delivered on time, and time after time.

Match any print

"We can match any print and design requirement from vehicle graphics to specialist retail and healthcare signage, embroidery and printed clothing to business cards, whatever you need we can do it. Then we were asked to print that orange. I talked to some people, and that was when I heard about the Epson S-Series S80600 solvent printer.:"

Epson say the Epson SureColor SC-S80600 is renowned for its reliability, image durability, precision sharpness, and colour fidelity. It meets the needs of both the professional signmaker/printer/designer and photographic/fine art arena. It is an



The SureColor 80600 offers reliability, image durability, precision sharpness, and colour fidelity

Jobs that used to
take up to an hour
are now completed
in 15 minutes

eco-solvent printer that can print in nine or ten colours, light cyan, light magenta, light black, orange and red, alongside the standard CMYK. Its colour gamut means it can produce 98% of the Pantone range with an exceptional depth of colour. Kevin Mahoney had found the perfect machine to print his vibrant orange, and to print the kind of greys that once gave him a headache.

Sign Here also invested in a Summa S class 1600 cutter plotter, and the new printer came supplied with an Onyx RIP. He added: "When we use the new Epson and the Summa in tandem with the Onyx

RIP the system's ability to print and cut are seamless. Jobs that used to take up to an hour are now completed in 15 minutes.

"When it came to colour, the Epson nailed it, and I've used a Summa cutter for years. This is a bigger version of the one we already own. They are bullet proof, reliable technology. Together they have future proofed our business. We sourced the new machines through SEDO, again through recommendation. We approached a few resellers but Andy McGuinness and his team at SEDO seemed keen to get our business and to make sure we got what we needed. Andy was great, really helpful."

Basildon-based SEDO's MD, Andy McGuinness, concluded: "We work with the leading large and wide-format manufacturers and take an holistic approach to all our customers' needs, including printers, consumables and finishing. Our team of advisers bring over 70-years-experience to any print problem.

"Sign Here's very specific requirement for depth of colour, and to speed up production, made the SC-S80600 an obvious choice. It uses Dual PrecisionCore TFP printheads and Ultrachrome GS3 inks for more vibrant colours, and print can be displayed out of doors for up to three years without fading, perfect for a vehicle wrap. It was a pleasure to work with Kev and his team."



The Epson SureColor colour gamut means it can produce 98% of the Pantone range with an exceptional depth of colour

www.epson.co.uk
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Lemon Signs launches trade only business

Since setting up as a one-man band in 2015, Derby based Lemon Signs' owner and managing director Martin Lemiesz has pursued his solo crusade to bring uncompromising quality and professionalism to the signage industry. Combining decades of industry experience, a forensic attention to detail and the ability to produce elegant, cost-effective solutions for customers, Lemon Signs has grown every year since its inception, leading to several periods of growth in both premises and staffing.

Despite the Covid pandemic, Martin and his team have remained as busy as ever, serving existing clients' needs and supplementing this with health and safety products such as social distancing floor vinyls and screens which have been supplied to both existing and new clients.

Now that the economy is showing the first glimmer of a reawakening, Martin is again

experiencing an unprecedented demand for his firm's particular set of skills and services and realised that, once again, it is time to expand.

One of the key areas of this expansion is the imminent launch of a trade only business arm of Lemon Signs, serving fellow signage professional with bespoke 'white label' services, including a range of signage created from alternative materials including 3D lettering. This latest spike in demand has impacted on all areas of his business and while Martin has already addressed this in the production and marketing departments, he needs to further this growth with more production staff, artworkers and estimators.

"Like so many businesses, we fully expected to see a drop in demand during the pandemic but this has not proved to be the case, with many of our clients taking the opportunity of lockdown to refresh, improve or renew internal and external signage," says Martin. "Our order books are still full and I need to ensure that I can continue to deliver the level of service that our customers have come to expect".

Lemon Signs is particularly keen to speak with production workers, estimators and artworkers with signage industry experience who want to join a vibrant, relaxed and creative business.

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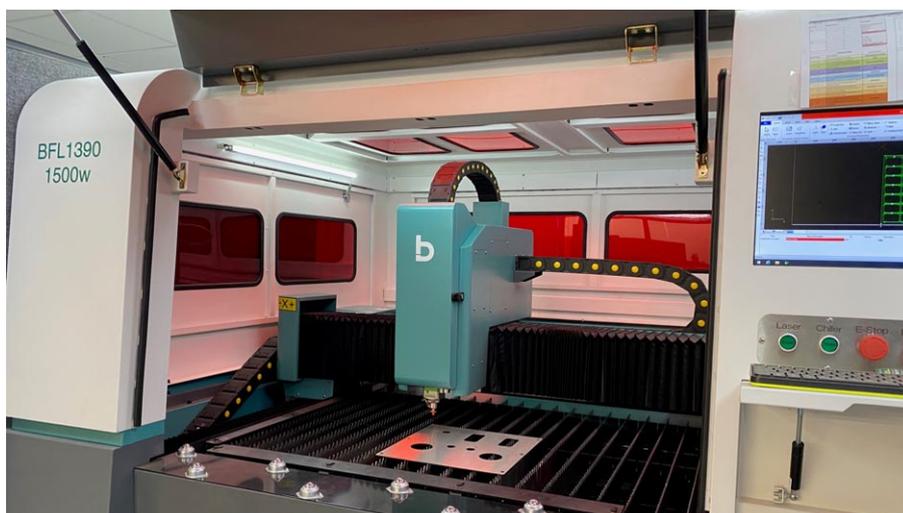
Brunel increases investment to meet every engraving need

Over the past few years Brunel Engraving has invested over £150K in cutting edge technology to significantly increase its efficiency and output, providing a rapid one-stop service to sign makers and trophy providers throughout the country.

The specialist engraver has quadrupled its laser engraving capacity with the installation of two machines at its production facility. In addition, a dedicated 1.5kw fibre laser profiling machine which is able to cut metals such as stainless steel up to 3mm thick will allow Brunel to cut profiles, shaped labels and control panels from pre-etched and engraved sheets.

Brunel has further invested in an additional rotary engraving machine to expand its production in rotary engraving work. This brings the company's total rotary machines to seven, the largest of which has a maximum bed capacity of 610mm x 1220mm. The new machines will enable Brunel to offer its customers a faster response time, improved quality control and more competitive pricing.

"Despite the disruption caused by Covid-19 and the resulting recession we have made a



Brunel Engraving has invested over £150K in cutting edge technology to provide a rapid one-stop service to sign makers.

further substantial investment in state of the art engraving equipment as we are determined to support industry and our customers", says managing director and founder Martyn Wright. "Over the past couple of years we have invested significantly on upgrading our technology and expanding our premises. We will continue to invest in the

future to remain at the forefront of the engraving industry and provide the best possible standards of service."

Brunel Engraving has ISO9001 accreditation .

www.brunelengraving.co.uk

Unclear distancing signs impact shopper numbers

More than 40% of UK shoppers have stopped visiting stores that have unclear signage on social distancing, according to the findings of a European study of 2,500+ shoppers from Roland DG. The study reveals that clear signage has a significant impact on shopper confidence. More than 80% said they feel safer in shops with clear signage on social distancing and almost 78% are more likely to shop in stores with clear instructions on social distancing measures.

The findings of the study indicate brands risk reputational damage from inadequate Covid-19 signage with UK shoppers saying the number one emotional impact is the feeling businesses are not taking their safety seriously enough (more than 40% of respondents). Signs are in the spotlight more than ever before, with an overwhelming majority of shoppers (75%) saying they are more aware of in-store signage than before the pandemic.

In the UK, the stores with the most unclear social distancing signage are clothes shops (chosen by 21% of respondents), followed by supermarkets and grocery stores (19%) and restaurants and bars (16%). Younger shoppers were found to be the most likely to be influenced by in-store signage. Shoppers between 16 to 34 years are the most likely to have already stopped visiting shops with poor social distancing measures (with 54% having done so) and the most likely to feel safer in shops with clear signage (85%) and to visit stores with clear signage (78%).



There's a big opportunity for brands to use signage to differentiate themselves and rebuild shopper confidence.
iStock.com/georgeclerk

"Bricks-and-mortar retailers need to increase consumer footfall and effective signage plays a vital role in giving shoppers the confidence to visit stores but the data shows that most businesses are clearly not giving it enough attention," says Jerry Davies, managing director of Roland DG UK. "Stores that fail to prioritise Covid-19 signage will continue to see shoppers stay away. There's a big opportunity for brands to use signage to differentiate themselves and rebuild shopper confidence and print businesses have a critical role to play in educating retail customers of the power of effective, directional signage. The print industry is pivotal in putting shoppers at ease, building trust and keeping everyone safe".

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Online lighting solutions training and video chat

As we all adapt to the new normal, signage and lighting solution manufacturer Applelec has been looking at how it can better support its customers. The company's solutions include new resources such as video chat on its website which enables face-to-face meetings to continue with the ability to share screens, ensuring full transparency and understanding of projects without compromising personal customer service.

Applelec has also launched a range of online training courses, the first session of which is *Illuminated lettering: a step-by-step guide to delivering a successful project*. These courses are free-of-charge and available to all by contacting Applelec to organise a time that is appropriate.

Andy Armitage, who delivers the sessions is aware that "many customers have suffered during these challenging times, however, by evolving and working together there are opportunities to work better and



New resources include video chat on the website which enables face-to-face meetings to continue with the ability to screen share, ensuring full transparency of projects.

smarter in the future. Online training is one of the ways we can provide the support our customers need, delivered when they want it. By the end of the *Illuminated lettering* session, attendees will be able to confidently understand how to deliver a successful illuminated sign and be aware of some of the pitfalls that could cause customer dissatisfaction.

"Creating the right illuminated signage

solution can be easy once you fully understand what the client wants and are aware of the techniques that can be used to achieve this. By considering the environment in which the sign will be placed, control options available and the difference that can be made by selecting the right kelvin temperature, customer satisfaction can easily be achieved".

www.applelec.co.uk



TAYA Groups supplies PVC-free banner media to UK

CMYUK has signed a multi-million-pound exclusive contract with TAYA Groups to supply its Kavalan PVC-free banner range into the UK and Ireland. Phthalate-free, it features a biodegradable coating and weighs up to 50% less than traditional PVC banner, which significantly reduces carbon emissions during transportation.

Kavalan is said to provide weld strength at an attractive price point. In tests carried out by global welding manufacturers FIAB and Miller Weldmaster, the results of tear strength and weldability tests were equal to, if not better than traditional PVC banner, says CMYUK.

FIAB CEO Bjorn Bora says: "All industry players need to address environmental issues and to this end, we can truly recommend Kavalan as a unique solution. It is a non-PVC material with all the positive properties associated with traditional PVC banner in terms of quality and weldability but with environmental concerns at its core. Kavalan can be a real alternative for many customers and we are excited to be part of the next evolutionary step in the plastic welding industry."

Rob van Dijken, EU BV business manager at Miller Weldmaster says: "The first time I saw the Kavalan products I found it hard to believe they were not PVC. I can imagine it will be a big game-changer in the industry."



From left: Eric Zhang, product manager, TAYA Groups; Nova Abbott, head of marketing, TAYA Groups; Robin East, CMYUK Group sales & marketing director; Jon Price, CMYUK group finance & operations director; Michael Crook, CMYUK commercial director; Linda Zhang, sales manager, TAYA Groups.

TAYA Groups vice president Vincent Lin comments: "When it comes to distribution we look for a close partnership that shares our philosophy so we were super impressed with CMYUK's professionalism and dedication to the development of sustainable solutions."

"CMYUK's fresh marketing approach, its comprehension of the technical aspects of a product and its understanding of product positioning within a wider environmental context, will make this a successful and

solid partnership for years to come."

Robin East, Group Director at CMYUK says: "We are delighted to be working with TAYA to introduce and develop the Kavalan PVC-free range of materials into the UK and Ireland. It completely matches our mandate to offer the UK's digital wide-format printing industry a wide variety of environmentally responsible materials."

www.cmyuk.com

Zund UK and Inca Digital announce solutions based partnership

Zund UK and Inca Digital have announced a partnership whereby both companies work together to offer customers in the signage, graphics and packaging industries fully automated print, cut and robotic offload workflow solutions.

As part of the SCREEN Graphic Solutions group, Inca Digital is one of the world's leading manufacturers of inkjet printers and automation solutions. Zund is a globally respected manufacturer of digital cutting equipment; their modular cutting systems are "highly sought-after solutions for processing a wide variety of materials."

This synergy of both companies' state of the art technology will enable customers and end users to further enhance

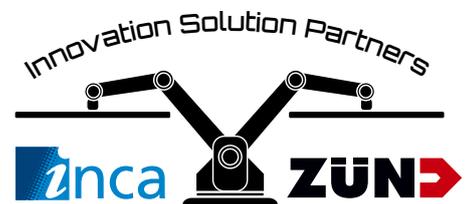
efficiencies and productivity through a seamless, integrated workflow while maintaining the highest levels of quality. Combining their leading-edge technology, Zund and Inca can deliver customised solutions that are able to be enhanced or modified to meet the ever-changing needs of their respective clients.

Matt Brooks, head of products & solutions, Inca Digital, comments: "We are excited to partner with Zund to offer innovative solutions tailored to our customer needs".

Customers will be able to fully benefit from a complete workflow solution from pre-press automation, cloud-based set-up, print job completion and direct to cut finishing.

Dean Ashworth, UK sales & marketing manager, Zund UK, says: "This innovative partnership is very important to the industry and we are pleased that our collaboration will allow our customers to experience a unique, high end print and cut workflow".

www.zund.com
www.incadigital.com



Finance package offered to help businesses recover from COVID-19

UK businesses recovering from the impact of COVID-19 may be eligible for a new business package from ADAPT in conjunction with First Business Finance.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme (CBILS) back-to-business offer is a Supported Capital Asset Finance (SCAF) package that provides loans of between £30,000 and £1 million to UK businesses meeting specific criteria. It is intended to assist SMEs who would likely fall outside of asset finance funders' normal remit.

The qualifying criteria include an annual turnover of no more than £45 million and self-certification that the business has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The business must not have been classed as a business in difficulty on 31 December 2019.

CBILS provides ADAPT's lenders with a government-backed guarantee, potentially enabling them to provide asset finance facilities to SMEs to support investment in new and used assets. The loans are available for terms of between 12 and 60



The qualifying criteria include an annual turnover of no more than £45 million and self-certification that the business has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

months with no interest or fees for 12 months (capital repayments only). Agreement types considered are hire purchase, finance lease, sale and HP/lease back. There are no personal guarantees up to £250,000.

"Each lender really decides upon their own underwriting criteria but the latest CBILS

updates have simplified the application process and widened the eligibility criteria," says sales director Adam Booth. "Now significant numbers of limited company SMEs can apply, getting them back to work after the effects of the pandemic."

www.amaridigital.com

Perspex relaunches website with colour selector

Perspex Distribution's redesigned website provides an interactive colour selector containing over 250 materials, supporting sign makers' online demands for product images and quick access to technical information. The site features new product

photography enabling visitors to quickly view their entire product range, a fresh navigation and an improved technical library, says the company.

An interactive colour library has been developed, giving visitors visibility of the UK's largest range of Perspex acrylic colours and a tool to compare all other products within their range including Alupanel aluminium composite, Palight PVC foam and acrylic mirror. The colour selector includes filters so users can view available substrates based on colour, material properties or material type.

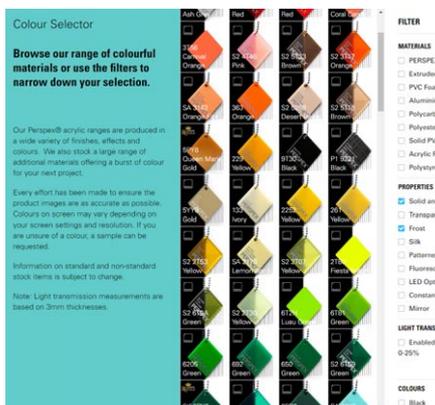
An improved technical library and inspirational customer project gallery have been added to help end users make the most out of materials available and showcase new possibilities with their products. For users requiring a physical product sample, a sample service has been upgraded with a new sample shopping tool.

Marketing manager Luke Martyn explains: "Using new product photography, our website redesign brings our large substrate range into the spotlight and offers visitors a simple view of available materials from our range.

"While many visitors know us for our range of Perspex cast acrylic, they will be pleasantly surprised at the additional range of products on our shelves including a unique range of UK manufactured products."

The new platform includes all of the previous drop-down menus to help visitors navigate their way around the site including a quick quote form for easy pricing. Their growing range of LED solutions have been given their own area of the site to better showcase the options for signage modules and bespoke lighting.

www.perspex.co.uk



The redesigned website provides an interactive colour selector containing over 250 materials,



Practical adhesive webinars and videos now available online

As the Corona virus started to gain traction, the government imposed lockdown forced many businesses to either furlough staff, reduce production output or simply close temporarily. This situation gave many sign makers and business owners time to reflect.

Many decided it would be a great opportunity to improve their skill sets by joining a virtual 'adhesives masterclass' webinar with Eurobond Adhesives. The company was due to deliver two workshops at this year's Sign & Digital exhibition, however, Eurobond's technical team joined forces with the organisers Faversham House to deliver a one-hour master class on the topics: how to select and use the right structural adhesive; how to select and use the correct acrylic adhesive tape; substrate surface preparation; preventing potential adhesive contamination; and techniques and tips on how to do it right first time, every time.

Hosted on the 'Hopin' virtual exhibition platform, it gave participants an opportunity to network and chat online with other signmakers before the main event, watch the webinar, tour a virtual exhibition



Simon Dearing was delighted with the number of signmakers joining Eurobond's online masterclass.

and join a Q & A session with Eurobond's technical manager Kevin Henry. Managing director Simon Dearing says: "I was delighted with the number of signmakers that joined our online masterclass. The content is now available: www.signuk.com/sign-digital-online/adhesives-101how-to-avoid-costly-sign-failures

"We have uploaded new video content to our website (click on knowledge-bank/videos/) with short films on subjects including: how to bond plastic & metal

locators; how to use structural acrylic adhesive tape; and how to use Penloc 2-part structural adhesive.

"We're committed to helping our customers revive their businesses as they emerge from lockdown, offering free half-day adhesives training workshops throughout the year, either at our customers factories or at 'easy to get to' venues around the country.

www.eurobond-adhesives.co.uk

Graphtec offers WID C laser engravers/cutters

Following appointment as the exclusive UK and Ireland distributor for WID Innovations, Graphtec GB has added the latest WID C Series of dual laser engraving/cutting systems to its diverse range of finishing solutions. Available in four models (500, 700, 900 and 1000), the machines are robustly constructed and of a compact design to facilitate installation in areas where space may be at a premium.

The C Series of machines have respective processing areas of 700 x 500, 1000 x 700, 1300 x 900 and 1300 x 900mm, with variable cutting speeds of up to 90,000 mm/min. They incorporate CO2 tube and on selective models RF (radio frequency) lasers, sourced through partnerships with leading specialist laser manufacturers, with power ratings ranging from 60W up to 120W. The systems are supplied with dedicated multi-tool software, are compatible with AI, DST, PLT, BMP and DXF graphic file formats and provide USB and Network connectivity.



The latest WID C Series of dual laser engraving/cutting systems are available.

Key features include automatic temperature and air control systems and smoke/dust extraction and waste retrieval units. An autofocus-empowered CCD camera ensures precise material/object recognition, adjustment and alignment to handle the most complex applications.

Developed to accommodate the varying skill levels of both entry level and



seasoned professional operatives and in applications for which conventional CNC routing/cutting/engraving systems are not suitable, the WID C Series will laser cut and/or engrave a wide range of disparate materials including acrylic and plastics, various woods, laminates and glass used in the sign manufacturing industry.

www.graphtecgb.co.uk

Signwriter launches neon business

Former owner of a Yorkshire sign making firm, Mark Davies has returned to the trade with the launch of Neon Works – an independent business specialising in LED neon and illuminated lettering. Having travelled to Shanghai in September 2019 to learn about the latest LED neon and manufacturing technology and how it could be blended with Yorkshire craftsmanship, the initial launch was put on hold following the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Using the lockdown to acquire and fit-out a 1,100 sq ft workshop in Mirfield, as well as source local and international suppliers, the business was eventually unveiled in March and received several orders from hospitality and leisure companies across the region. The lifting of lockdown restrictions and long lead times from other PPE suppliers has led to the introduction of a new range of products, with over 30 clear acrylic 'sneeze screens' delivered in recent weeks.

"I've worked in sign making for the whole of my professional career but while my previous business was a success, I'd lost the opportunity to think creatively and do what I enjoy – manufacturing - so I sold up and went back to the drawing board," says Mark. "There were definitely some challenging times when it came to setting up a business from scratch in the middle of a pandemic but now, being able to go



With graphic design capabilities in-house, Neon Works will sell to the trade and end users.

into my workshop and think about how to bring someone's idea to light is what makes it worthwhile and confirms that I made the right decision."

With graphic design capabilities in-house, Neon Works will sell both to the trade and end user and work alongside business owners, shopfitters, architects, design

agencies and homeowners to deliver creative visual solutions. While every product is handmade to order, over 200 off-the-shelf designs are available from the website as well as a 'create your own sign' tool, which instantly shows a visual mock-up of the customer's bespoke phrase.

www.neon-works.co.uk

Gardiner Graphics supports Roland dealers

GGSEU has been enlisted to manage and further develop a new and progressive Roland DG media programme, serving Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

The UK firm, having undertaken substantial investment in the past two years to increase its manufacturing capabilities, comes with over 35 years' experience within product R&D and media distribution within the wide format sector. The partnership has been initiated to further provide a complete and saleable solution in which the Roland DG machines and media work harmoniously for optimised end results.

"We are all very excited to work with this very agile and professional organisation" says Paul Willems, head of business

development & product management for Roland DG. "We have been offering Roland branded media for many years but are ready to take this to the next level".

GGSEU CEO Tom Powell adds: "we are overjoyed to have the opportunity to work with Roland DG. Their products are unparalleled within their field and we shall be providing no less with our media programme". Matt Littler, EMEA sales director of GGSEU, says: "we are exceptionally excited to work with Roland DG and to see the media range evolve.

Our goal is to support Roland dealers in further strengthening their routes to market with media perfectly suited to their needs".

Prior to a full portfolio launch, the partners announced the collaboration with a series of introductory showcase products, designed specifically for short to medium term floor and wall applications.

GGSEU managing director Will Duggins adds: "with so many printers turning their hand to conveying important social distancing guidelines it was clear that was where we had to start. It's all about supporting Roland DG's printers and dealers in getting back to business with the right media and the right solutions".

www.rolanddg.co.uk





Leap in demand for printable floor graphics

With recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic creating an unprecedented demand for printable floor graphics, the AlumiGraphics range has seen significant adoption by signmakers and print providers seeking a long-lasting, slip-resistant flooring material that can be used on interior and exterior surfaces. Launched by FloorSignage and Soyang Europe in 2013, the aluminium foil-based substrate gained immediate recognition for its ingenuity, ease of use and easy recyclability.

More recently, further materials designed to be applied to challenging surfaces have been added to the range including AlumigGraphics Smooth and EZGrip Graphics; however, the original AlumiGraphics Grip product has paved the way as the ultimate material to use for graphics installed direct to outdoor walkways, pavements and forecourts.

As the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, Soyang Europe quickly saw the substantial, upcoming requirement for creating social distancing signage, considering both interior floor graphics and additional external space-marking signage, sited outside public spaces.

"We could see the potential requirement was going to be vast," says managing director Mark Mashiter. "With AlumiGraphics Grip proven as the

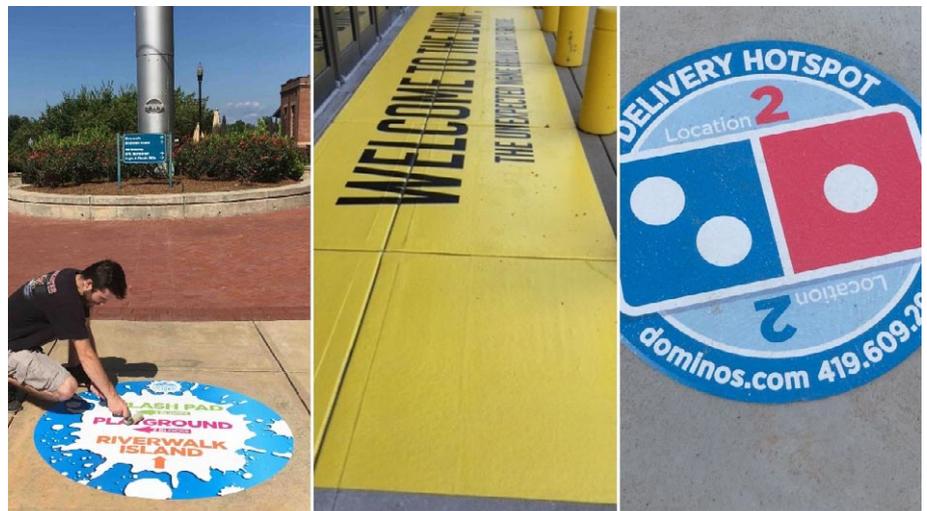
most reliable mid to long term solution for external applications, we made the leap and invested heavily in order to bring significant inventory to the UK on a planned schedule to meet demand.

"While the demand for AlumiGraphics has been unprecedented, we're well placed to continue to supply high volumes of the material through the partnership we have with the manufacturer. With its unique combination of a high grip rating, ease of application and removal and important

green credentials, we encourage signmakers to specify AlumiGraphics Grip for their most demanding installations."

"The result of the long-term commitment that Soyang Europe has made with the AlumiGraphics range is that it has elevated itself as an industry leader," says Micah Causey vice president of business development at FloorSignage.

www.soyang.co.uk



Further materials designed to be applied to challenging surfaces have been added to the range including AlumigGraphics Smooth and EZGrip Graphics.

UK Graphic Awards set for February 2021

Vism and FESPA UK have announced that the inaugural UK Graphic Awards will now take place on Tuesday, 2 February 2021.

This event along with the Thrive in Print conference will take place on the same day at Oulton Hall in Leeds.

Vism and FESPA will work closely with those attending to ensure that the conference is "a day filled with highly valuable content by understanding and focusing on the topics that will be most important to them going into the new year."

Vism director Dan Tyler comments: "these awards were always designed to be a hugely positive experience for all involved and the new date provides a great opportunity for the industry to come

together with a sense of determination and excitement for the year ahead. We're lucky to have such fantastic sponsors that have all backed this decision and we can't wait to bring everyone together in February".

Carol Swift, director at FESPA UK, highlights the support the event has received from its sponsors, saying: "we're incredibly lucky to be working with such brilliant sponsors and looking forward to

collaborating with them over the next few months to give the industry the party it will deserve come the new year".

With some fantastic entries having already come in, these will remain valid and the dates for entries and judging have been extended.

Projects completed between 1 July 2019 and 30 November 2020 will be eligible for entry and the entry deadline has been extended to Friday 4 December 2020.

Entry is free of charge and winners will be supported in capitalising on their accolade to drive new business right through 2021 and beyond.

www.ukgraphicawards.com





Flag maker donates signage to events industry march

Leeds-based flag and banner maker Northern Flags donated more than £2,000 worth of signage which was used at the local #WeMakeEvents march on 11 August 2020. The signage, including banners and boards displaying the Red Alert logo, was held by protestors at the Leeds event.

Organised by people who work within the events industry, #WeMakeEvents took place in cities such as Leeds, Manchester, London, Glasgow and Belfast.

It aims to draw public attention to the plight of tens of thousands of people who work in the UK's events industry who have not enjoyed the same level of government support as other sectors.

Various activities happened as part of the day including a silent march in Manchester and over 300 iconic venues including the Royal Festival Hall, Wembley Arena and The Mac in Belfast, lighting up red in support of the cause.

Managing director Iain Clasper-Cotte says: "We have decades worth of experience working with the events industry. Some of those relationships are so well



The signage, including banners and boards displaying the Red Alert logo, was held by protestors at the Leeds event.



established; they have developed from clients into friends. That's why it was so important for us to contribute to our local march. We're proud to play our small part

in this important fight. Vital for the events industry and also important for us too."

www.northernflags.com

Women in Sign and Graphics UK launch event

Founded by Sarah Winterbottom, business development manager at Josero and Izabella Ivanovici, specialist recruitment consultant for INV Recruitment, Women in Sign and Graphics UK is a new initiative that aims to inspire, encourage and promote women in the industry,

A special event will be held on 3 December at The Sign Group, Leeds to launch the initiative and will include



From left: Izabella Ivanovici and Sarah Winterbottom.

inspirational male and female speakers offering their perspectives on working toward a more gender-balanced industry, with a particular focus on apprenticeships, education and helping the next generation kickstart their careers. The Sign Group supports the initiative and offered its premises as a location for the event.

Women in Sign and Graphics UK is working with The Printing Charity and a



representative from the organisation will speak at the event along with The Sign Group, Sam Armstrong of Make It Happen, Marcus Timson of FM Future, Karis Copp of Karis Copp Media and founders Sarah and Izabella.

Sarah says: "Our purpose is to unite Women in Signs & Graphics UK to inspire, encourage and promote women in the industry whilst being part of a group of like-minded individuals sharing ideas and working with male and female ambassadors to help in our quest for the industry to be more equal."

Izabella adds: "A massive part of the conversation will be how can we inject new blood into the industry and of course and keep moving forward post-COVID. We want everyone to leave our events with a wealth of information and ideas as well as new relationships."

www.linkedin.com/groups/8853035

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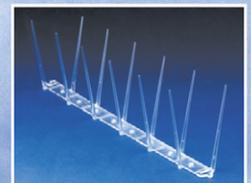
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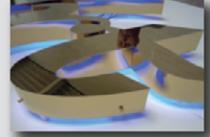
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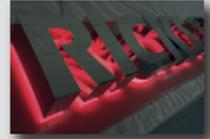
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Unit B1, Felling Business Centre,
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Tel: 0191 469 1199
acrylics3d@hotmail.com
www.3dacrylics.co.uk

In house manufacturers of high quality built up and flat cut lettering and logos, we can offer back trays and fixings along with face and/or halo LED illumination. Our prices are very competitive and offer a prompt service.

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Tel: 0113 2242124
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Manufacturers of built up acrylic letters and logos. We can offer face or halo illumination with the installation of LEDs if required. Please call our staff on the number below if you have any questions.

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester,
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Tel: 08085 428021
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Trade service for 3D built up lettering & logos in a variety of materials. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help.

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In house manufacturers of high quality built up and flat cut lettering and logos in aluminium and stainless steel, we also offer a painting or powder coating service & most letters can be fitted with LED modules. Our prices are very competitive and offer a prompt service.

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

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waterjetsigns@btconnect.com
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quotes@falon-nameplates.co.uk
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enquiries@sott.co.uk
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www.multitechnic.co.uk

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Tel: 01307 463997

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www.signindustries.com

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Tel: 01536 203813

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enquiries@sott.co.uk

www.sott.co.uk

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WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

info@ward-signs.co.uk

www.ward-signs.co.uk

Wards of Bristol Specialise in manufacture, restoration and accurate reproduction of historic and modern coats of arms. We are able to produce from originals, information from heraldic associations, or even from a photograph. Check our website for recent projects.

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MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS
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4DA

Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of plaques in stainless steel, brass and aluminium, chemically or machine engraved, colour filled to your choice. Logos and text from artwork supplied.

SIGN INDUSTRIES

Unit 3, Roberts Street, Forfar,
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Tel: 01307 463997

info@signindustries.com

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Sign Industries is one of the UK's leading sign making manufacturers, offering a broad range of memorial and commemorative plaques in many varying styles using the finest materials such as bronze, brass, stainless steel and wood. You can now create your own custom plaques and nameplates and order them directly from our website.

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www.sott.co.uk

Cast blue plaques with detail in relief. Usually cast in solid rigid polyurethane and painted blue background with white, silver or gold letters. Send us artwork or copy of the text for a quote.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk

Wards of Bristol have produced countless cast metal commemorative blue plaques, but also specialise in traditional bronze plaques and custom 3D hand crafted plaques, which are hand painted to depict scenes of historical events, places and figures.

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Tel: 0113 224 2124
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A fully comprehensive service to the trade in acrylic, foam PVC, MDF, brass and aluminium. Contact us for price list or quotation.

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester, LE3 5EZ

Tel: 08085 428021
sales@sign-here.co.uk
www.sign-here.co.uk

Trade service for flat cut lettering & logos in Acrylic Foamex, Dibond, Aluminum, Stainless steel & MDF. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help.

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

225 Long Lane, London N3 2RL

Tel: 08085 456700
sales@signtrade.co.uk
www.signtrade.co.uk

Plastic is our speciality including Flat Cut lettering in Perspex, foam pvc and aluminium composite. All supplied with locators and template as standard. We also offer a complete range of Moulded letters in Perspex and ChromaForm, offering over 60 years experience.

SYGNET GROUP LTD

129 Humberstone Rd, Leicester, LE5 3AP

Tel: 0116 262 6288
sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk
www.sygnetgroup.co.uk

Sygnnet Group is the sign-maker's sign-maker, having serviced the UK sign trade since 1974. We'll manufacture any type of sign and have a range of over 5000 styles to choose from. We'll also work closely with you if you'd like to supply your own plans or artwork. At our Leicester HQ, we manufacture laser or router-cut signs from acrylic, mdf, foamex, polycarb, Dibond, aluminium and stainless steel.

WATERJET SIGNS LTD

Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4JG

Tel: 01843 225666
www.waterjetsigns.co.uk

Specialise in manufacturing signs to the trade with over 40 years' experience in the signage industry. 3D Built up letters, Flat cut letters, Projecting Signs, Facia Signs, and Illuminated Light Boxes. All work undertaken in house. Competitive prices and prompt service.

CUTTING MATS

CUTTINGMATS XXL

Tel: 020 3936 1106
info@cuttingmatsxxl.co.uk
www.cuttingmatsxxl.co.uk

CuttingmatsXXL specialises in transparent and flexible cutting mats to protect your work table. Nr1 table protection for all signage companies. Your blade will cut smoothly through your foil and with the 'self-healing' characteristic the surface will stay smooth. Our mats are also widely used on top of all brands of flatbed applicators like RollsRoller, Roll-X, Lamidesk, CWT and Rollover.

RHINO CUTTING MATS

Brackley, Oxfordshire

Tel: 01280 840 493
sales@rhinocuttingmat.co.uk
www.rhinocuttingmat.co.uk

The UK's No.1 trusted brand and original Rhino Cutting Mats. The Rhino Heavy Duty is a perfect heard wearing choice for cutting and workbench protection. Sizes up to 4880 x 1220mm and 3657 x 1828mm. The Rhino SupaSeal is the ultimate self-healing choice for finer knives and scalpels, and designed to work on all brands of flat-bed applicators. Sizes from 1000-2200mm wide up to 20m long.

DIGITAL POSTERS

SCREENSPACE DIGITAL SIGNAGE

107 Brighton Junction, 1a Isetta Square, 35 New England Street Brighton BN1 4GQ

Tel: 01932 769 962
hello@screenspace.live
www.screenspace.live

Screenspace is built around a small low-cost device that when plugged into any screen or TV, can in 5 minutes, turn that screen into a smart digital sign, capable of displaying your customers own adverts that can contain text, images or videos. When the device is connected to Wi-Fi these adverts can be scheduled, edited or updated instantly and sent to a screen, anywhere in the world.

DIGITAL PRINTED SIGNS

AVENUE SIGNS LTD

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

Tel: 01634 841300
info@avenuesigns.co.uk
www.avenuesigns.co.uk

Trade service for digital printing and laminating up to 1600mm wide. Printing onto vinyl, banner, canvas, paper, etc.

SIGNOMATIC.CO.UK

Box 21, 433 21 Partille, Sweden

Tel: 01489 326 052
info@signomatic.co.uk
www.signomatic.co.uk

Custom signs online. Design your own signs, banners, roll ups, stickers, name badges and much more using the Design Tool. Engraved and printed products of high quality. Top service.

DIGITAL PRINTER SUPPLIES

ARTSYSTEMS

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Tel: 0115 9380 380
marketing@artsystems.co.uk
www.artsystems.co.uk

UK Trade Distributor for HP Designjet, HP Latex, HP UV printers, Colortrac scanners, Summa Cutters, and Onyx RIPs. ISO 9001, ISO14001 Certified HP and Canon consumables, Neschen media and our own large format media range called Xativa.

MACTAC UK LTD

Room 232, Victory House, 400 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, Northampton NN4 7PA

Tel: 01604 644697
www.mactacgraphics.eu

Mactac is a global manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for wide-format digital printing (solvent, eco-solvent, latex & UV), with ICC profiles for the highest printed quality. Our innovative products help you to express your talents, across applications that include interior decoration, commercial architecture and visual communications – on buildings, windows, points of sale, vehicles & boats.

DIGITAL SIGNAGE

SCREENSPACE DIGITAL SIGNAGE

107 Brighton Junction, 1a Isetta Square, 35 New England Street Brighton BN1 4GQ

Tel: 01932 769 962
hello@screenspace.live
www.screenspace.live

Screenspace is built around a small low-cost device that when plugged into any screen or TV, can in 5 minutes, turn that screen into a smart digital sign, capable of displaying your customers own adverts that can contain text, images or videos. When the device is connected to Wi-Fi these adverts can be scheduled, edited or updated instantly and sent to a screen, anywhere in the world.

DOMES & DISHES

PROJECT PLASTICS LTD

Unit 7 Grange Way Business Park, Whitehill Industrial Estate, Colchester, Essex CO2 8HF

Tel: 01206 868 696
project.plastics@btinternet.com
www.projectplastics.co.uk

Manufacturing and stocking clear acrylic domes and dishes in over 25 sizes and all produced on site at our factory in Colchester. We also stock over 170 different size blowing rings for other shapes and weird and wonderful diameters. Pans, dishes, squares, oblong and ovals are our speciality.

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225 Long Lane, Finchley London N3 2RL

Tel: 020 8346 8515
sales@talbotdesigns.co.uk
www.talbotdesigns.co.uk

With 70 years of making Domes & Dishes, our Teedy Domes have set the standard. With our vast range of tooling we can make almost any size – so just ask. We are now the first to offer unbreakable Polycarbonate Domes.

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Britannia House, Granville Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ

Tel: 01622 689 410
orders@signtradesupplies.co.uk
www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

Sign Trade Supplies has a wide range of double sided tapes and adhesives designed specifically for the sign making industry. The Stykra branded products provide unrivalled performance at an excellent price point. Our range of tapes include Structural bonding tapes, Toffee Tape, Banner Hemming Tape, Single Sided Banner Tape, 1mm Foam Tape, POS tape, Hook & Loop Tape and many more.

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KINGS PLASTICS LTD

The Signbuild Centre, Kelso House, Waterloo Street, St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0PH

Tel: 0117 9411 411
www.kingsplastics.co.uk

Edgelits are our speciality, we supply our tracks with integral or separate power supplies. Single colour or fully programmable RGB colour changing all up to 3m long. Panels CNC engraved and laser engraved. We supply three tracks the Reflex, Miniflex & Dualflex. For images and prices please visit our online shop or contact our experienced sales team.

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AES SIGNS LTD (EST. 1972)

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Tel: 0117 951 0234
sales@aessigns.co.uk
www.aessigns.co.uk

The complete sign service Engraved / Etched & Screen Printed signs Nameplates etc. in all materials. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality, full design service, prompt response to all enquires

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Tel: 07739 800 501
mail@alanrobertsengravers.co.uk
www.alanrobertsengravers.co.uk

Fast Confidential Engraving Service to the trade. We can provide plaques, nameplates, control panels, safety signs, switch plates, commemorative plaques with unveiling unit (on hire basis), bespoke signs and labels etc.

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Tel: 01322 340 194
mail@desp.co.uk
www.desp.co.uk

DESP has been trading for over 55 years. CNC engraving, Laser engraving, Heavy Duty machine engraving, Chemical etching, Screen Printing, (ALL CARRIED OUT INHOUSE), including artwork. So whether its a 1 off or 1,000 off, we can offer a quick competitive turnaround.

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Unit 1, Raynham Close, Raynham Rd Ind Estate, Raynham Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 5JP

Tel: 01279 467999
sales@firstsignsandlabels.co.uk
www.firstsignsandlabels.co.uk

We manufacture and engrave nameplates, Labels, Tags, Switchplates, Mimics, Brass Plates, Components, Warning labels, Plaques, Logo's and Signs. We also produce printed fire & Safety Signs & Vinyl Graphics.

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ETCHING & SIGNS LTD (EST. 1899)

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Tel: 020 8686 6649
sales@hallmarksigns.co.uk
www.hallmarksigns.co.uk

Superfast and reliable trade service with 100 years experience for all etching, routing and profiling. Specialists for nameplate and commemorative plaques in bronze, brass, aluminium, stainless and plastics. Logos and crests. High quality graphics - drawings free of charge. Precision industrial engravers of panels, labels and moulds. Keytop specialist. Presentation silverware and glass engraving experts.

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Mob: 07957 870 756
www.impactengraving.co.uk

REAL Trade prices for Engraving and chemical etching, rotary, diamond, laser and acid. Control panels, data plates etc. Stainless steel, Traffolyte, special laminates, brass, aluminium etc. ULTRA FAST DELIVERY !

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Tel: 01603 666699
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www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of all types of plates or plaques, machine engraved or chemically etched using a variety of materials, brass, stainless steel, aluminium, plastics and wood. For high quality and intricate detail with colour infills to your choice.

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Gofaso Software makes quoting fast and easy! Gofaso has been specialised for Sign companies, providing user-friendly calculation templates, workshop management, invoicing and customer relations upkeep. With module E-CRM you can make use of QR-codes on worksheets. Gofaso includes startling new tips and innovative techniques giving your company the strongest advantage.

EXHIBITIONS

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SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of Fingerpost sign systems. Our high quality Fingerpost systems combines aluminium or steel posts, with double skin finger-arms, making it highly durable, and ideal for public locations. We have two systems available; Our Traditional fingerpost system and our "New" Waypoint fingerpost system.

FLAT CUT LETTERS

ACCENT SIGNS LTD

Units 4, Broadcote Ind. Est., Station Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT
Tel: 0121 561 4600
accsign1@aol.com
www.accentssigns.co.uk

Accent Signs have been supplying the sign trade with quality flat cut letters in Acrylic, ACM, Foam PVC, MDF and other substrates for over 30 years. Our letters are supplied with Plastic Locators, Brass Locators or VHB tape, complete with fixing templates or fixing stencils if required. Fast turnaround and confidentiality assured.

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park, Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk

Trade suppliers of flat cut out letters, logos and intricate laser work. We offer lettering in a variety of materials such as acrylic, foamex, dibond, stainless steel, aluminium and MDF in different finishes, with or without fixings. Please contact our friendly team for more information and to request a free and unbranded product brochure. (3D built up lettering is also available).

CENTRE SIGNS (UK) LTD

Alexander House, Liiffe Avenue, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5LH
Tel: 0116 271 4247
graphics@centresigns.co.uk
www.centresigns.co.uk

Trade only supplier for all Flat cut lettering and Logo's. Available in Stainless steel, Aluminium, Alupanel, Dibond, Perspex, Foamex, Polycarbonate, Brass and all composite materials. Laser cutting and Router cutting services as standard. Painted finished are always available. We can supply with or without fixings and always with marked fitting templates. We also supply Builtup Metal lettering.

FABRICUT

Unit 2 Browells Lane, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7EQ
Tel: 020 8751 7250
mailus@fabricut.co.uk
www.fabricut.co.uk

Trade suppliers of flat cut letters and logos etc with a 24 hr next day service available. Lots of materials to choose from: Foamex, Perspex, Composites, MDF, Ply, Aluminium, Polished/Brushed Stainless. Aluminium Composite trays signed, glued ready for you to hang. Plastic, brass & nickel locators, various studs & sleeves, 3M VHB tape, drilling templates also available.

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester, LE3 5EZ
Tel: 08085 428021
sales@sign-here.co.uk
www.sign-here.co.uk

Trade service for flat cut lettering & logos in Acrylic Foamex, Dibond, Aluminum, Stainless steel & MDF. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help.

SYGNET GROUP LTD

129 Humberstone Rd, Leicester, LE5 3AP
Tel: 0116 262 6288
sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk
www.sygnetgroup.co.uk

Supplier to the trade since 1974, Sygnet Group has a huge selection of over 5000 styles to choose from. You're very welcome to supply your own artwork, and we'll be happy to work with you to create the perfect flat-cut lettered sign. Whether it's acrylic, foamex, mdf, polycarb, Dibond, stainless steel or aluminium signage you require, we'll do you proud at our factory in city centre Leicester.

WATERJET SIGNS LTD

Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4JG
Tel: 01843 225666
www.waterjetsigns.co.uk

Specialise in manufacturing signs to the trade with over 40 years' experience in the signage industry. 3D Built up letters, Flat cut letters, Projecting Signs, Facia Signs, and Illuminated Light Boxes. All work undertaken in house. Competitive prices and prompt service.

GENERAL SIGN SUPPLIERS

KINGS PLASTICS LTD

The Signbuild Centre, Kelso House, Waterloo Street, St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0PH
Tel: 0117 9411 411
www.kingsplastics.co.uk

For all types of sign. Individual flatcut & built up lettering, illuminated with LED's. Edgelit signs, Illuminated signs, Tray signs, Modular sign systems, Frames & panels, acrylic fabrication. LED's, LED Flexi neon & converters etc. Also material supplies cut to size & laser cutting. A complete service to the trade. For further information, check out our website & online shop.

SIGN SUPPLIER

Unit 15 Dale Industrial Estate, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 1AD
Tel: 0800 133 7555
info@signsupplier.co.uk
www.signsupplier.co.uk

Sign Supplier is a leading designer, manufacturer and installation specialist of business signage including signage boards, projecting, illuminated and neon signs, sign trays, sign posts, sign lettering, sign lighting and digital signage.

WHITE VILLA LTD

London (SE14) and Chichester (PO20)
Tel: 020 7237 8000
sales@whitevilla.co.uk
www.whitevilla.co.uk

Here at Whitevilla we have been supplying the sign trade with quality Acrylic, ACM, Foam PVC and other substrates for over 20 years. We stock over 30 different colours and finishes in our Villabond/ACM range. We fabricate trays using Lasers/CNC routers and we supply fully illuminated fascias to our clients. All work is undertaken in-house by our specialist team and can offer a next day service.

GOLD LEAF SUPPLIERS

GOLD LEAF SUPPLIES

Unit C, Ogmor Court, Abergarw Ind. Est. Brynmenyn, CF32 9LW
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Highest quality products and a prompt reliable service. For all your Gold leaf, Gilding and Traditional Signwriting materials. All qualities of Gold leaf from 6ct to 24ct. Extensive range of products and full product support.

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Mob: 07850 060 840

Our highly experienced sign installation crews based in Essex offer you the quality of service you deserve. All aspects of signage covered across the U.K. including neon, flex face and vinyl. CSCS, IPAF, PASMA certificated.

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Mob: 07967 190089
lou@birchsigns.com
www.birchsigns.com

"The largest independent sign installation and maintenance company in the UK." Specialists in all sign work, large or small, neon, LED, all Flexface systems, illuminated, non illuminated and vinyl. Corporate change over specialists.

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BluePrint Signs & Garments, 20 Apsley Road, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands, JE2 4LR
Tel: 01534 857633
Mob: 07700 800 999
paul@blueprintsigns.co.uk
www.blueprintsigns.co.uk

Blueprint Signs & Garments offers a professional signage production and installation service throughout the Channel Islands, fully qualified crews based in Jersey completely cover all of the Channel Islands inclusive of Guernsey, Sark, Herm and Alderney.

GLOBAL ERECTING SIGN SERVICES LTD (EST. 1996)

Ascension House, Phoenix Business Park, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 8EP
Tel: 01480 211948
info@gessltd.co.uk
www.gess.uk.com

The complete package. We offer an exemplary installation service for all types of signage, from street level to extreme high level, specialising in abseiling. We have full Public and Company Liability Insurance. For each installation we provide a full project management service, from site survey to sign off and provide a full Risk and Method Statement prior to any works being undertaken.

MEDIA ABSEILING

69 Soulbury Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 2RW
Tel: 0845 345 7712
Mob: 07702 950 218
info@mediaabseiling.com
www.mediaabseiling.com

Rope access company specialising in the installation and maintenance of all types of signage, banners and lighting. We operate nationwide and throughout Europe and provide advice, site visits, fast turnaround and most importantly award-winning results.

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sales@vivid-online.com
www.vivid-online.com

Vivid supply a wide range of laminating products including the award-winning Easymount range of wide format laminators, available in cold, heat assist and hot models. Vivid also supply the Boss range Pressure Sensitive Over Laminates, Self Wound Mount Films & Printable Vinyl Roll fed and the Trimfast range of wide format Board Cutters and Multi Substrate Cutters.

LASER CUTTING/ENGRAVING

CENTRE SIGNS (UK) LTD

Alexander House, Iliffe Avenue, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5LH
Tel: 0116 271 4247
graphics@centresigns.co.uk
www.centresigns.co.uk

Trade only service for quality Acrylic Laser Cutting, 3mm, 5mm -10mm. Our 10mm clear laser cut acrylic is ideal for POS and specialist projects. Professional cutting bed area 1400 x 900mm. Cutting services for MDF and Ply is also available.

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester, LE3 5EZ
Tel: 08085 428021
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www.sign-here.co.uk

Trade service for Laser flat cut & built up lettering & logos in Acrylic, Aluminum & Stainless steel. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help. Work with us.... work with experience

SYGNET GROUP LTD

129 Humberstone Rd, Leicester, LE5 3AP
Tel: 0116 262 6288
sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk
www.sygnetgroup.co.uk

At Sygnet Group, we offer a laser-cutting service and stock a wide variety of materials in various thicknesses. We can also fabricate signage from free-issue materials, utilising our lasers to cut stainless steel up to 4mm and mild steel up to 12mm in thickness, and cut minute acrylic detail with pre-applied double-sided tape. What's more, all work is carried out on-site, here at our Leicester HQ.

LASER CUTTING/ENGRAVING MACHINES

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Dewsbury Road, Elland, West Yorkshire, HX5 9BG
Tel: 01422 324 810
www.boxford.co.uk

Our range of cost effect Laser Co2 Cutters and Engravers have bed sizes from 500 x 300mm to 1300 x 900mm and feature integrated chiller cooling systems, auto focus system, air assist c/w integrated compressor, red dot pointers and honeycomb cutting tables. Metal Cutting and Marking Lasers also available including fibre based systems. Supplying lasers since 2003, we have a wealth of expertise.

GRAFITYP UK LTD

Grafitack House, 103 Mariner, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7UL
Tel: 01827 300500
www.grafityp.co.uk

Grafityp UK Ltd is a leading UK supplier of high-performance laser engravers and laser cutters from GCC Laserpro. Our Lasers are perfect for a wide range of industries and education sectors, the range includes Co2, fibre and galvo laser machines with a varied range of power options to suit your budget and manufacturing requirements..

GRAVOGRAPH

Unit 3 Trojan Business Centre, Tachbrook Park Drive, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV34 6RH
Tel: 01926 884 433
info@gravograph.co.uk

Gravograph have continued to pioneer engraving technologies since 1938. Our mechanical and laser systems are manufactured in Europe. Engrave and cut any material including acrylic, wood, metal and more. Our team of inhouse trouble-shooters and field engineers ensure all our customers benefit from our expert advice. Meet us at one of our regional showrooms across the UK for a free demonstration.

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www.hpclaser.co.uk

Specialist suppliers of LASERSCRIPT CO2 laser engravers and cutters. Our lasers are capable of cutting, engraving and marking a wide range of materials including laminate, metal, glass, acrylic, textiles, wood, paper, card and leather. Optional 1 to 3 year ONSITE warranty available and unlimited technical support. Established in 2006, over 4500 machines supplied!

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sales@troteclaser.co.uk
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Leading manufacturers of laser cutters and laser engravers, Trotec's broad range of flatbed, large format and galvo laser machines are available for demonstration in six dedicated showrooms across the UK and Ireland. In addition, Trotec's UK warehouse holds stock of thousands of rotary and engraving materials and accessories, available with next day delivery as standard.

LED ILLUMINATED LETTERS

ACCENT SIGNS LTD

Units 4, Broadcott Ind. Est., Station Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT
Tel: 0121 561 4600
accsign1@aol.com
www.accent-signs-ltd.co.uk

Accent signs "SLIMLITE" flat cut letters & logos made from 6mm opal acrylic with imbedded super bright white Led's to create a unique edge and halo illumination. Available with ACM, Acrylic or vinyl faces. Suitable for internal & external use. Supplied with standard locator fixings for ease of fitting.

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Unit 1, 411 Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow, G41 1QZ
Tel: 0141 422 2500
sales@citi-led.co.uk
www.citi-led.co.uk

We are a trade only supplier of LED Modules for all types of channel letters, light boxes and solid acrylic "Neon" effect type letters. We have some very unique specialist LEDs, visit our website for product information and installation tutorials. We offer premium grade reliable products at highly competitive prices. Our unrivalled pre-sales guidance and after sales support will ensure your projects are executed with maximum effect.

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park, Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk

Sole UK distributor of SloanLED LED systems. Trade suppliers of LED lighting solutions and manufacturers of the flat light unit, LED Light Sheet. We supply energy efficient, award winning LED modules in a variety of colours including RGB (colour changing). We'll support you in choosing the right LEDs for your project whilst our after-sale technical support ensures you receive continued assistance.

ARTILLUS LTD

Britannia House, 29 Station Road,
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Tel: 0333 123 0345
artillusltd@gmail.com
www.artillus.com

Our 12v or 24v Garnet super bright edge lit LED boards produce balanced lighting, shadow and hotspot free and will backlight any type of translucent material you care to imagine, such as thin cut stone, marble sheets, fabrics, vinyl etc. providing pure, unadulterated freedom for your creative mind to produce stunning wow factor lighting features for hotels, leisure centres, restaurants and homes.

FOCUS LED UK LTD.

Unit 38 Cariocca Business Park, 2
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Manchester, M12 4AH

Tel: 0161 27 27 778
www.focusledltd.co.uk

Specialise in LED Lighting for Signs & Shop fitting, Kitchens, Restaurants, Commercial & Domestic Lighting. Quality & Professional Lighting to get your job done by giving you our best advises, there is no job too small. You only pay for quality products at Focus LED. Check out our gallery to see how we helped others to achieve their projects.

KINGS PLASTICS LTD

The Signbuild Centre, Kelso House,
St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0PH

Tel: 0117 9411 411
www.kingsplastics.co.uk

White, warm white & coloured LED modules in 4 sizes and LED ribbon – Flexi ribbon & RGB ribbon. New our LED Flexi Neon in two different sizes & LED Cabochon bulbs. 12v power convertors, RGB controllers, together with a range of connectors. LEDS ideal for lettering & lightboxes. For full details on our range, prices and for images, check out our website & online shop. Competitive prices guaranteed!

LED MONKEY

129 Humberstone Road, Leicester
LE5 3AP

Tel: 0800 999 7797
sales@ledmonkey.com
www.ledmonkey.com

LED Monkey supplies energy-efficient LED products, PSUs and control gear to the sign trade. UK distributors for HiTechLED, specialising in RGB modules for signage illumination, we offer a 5-year warranty on trade products. We also supply DMX systems, neon flex and IP-rated power supplies, as well as a wide variety of top quality LED bulbs, light fittings and LED strip lights to the domestic market

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

225 Long Lane, London N3 2RL

Tel: 08085 456700
sales@signtrade.co.uk
www.signtrade.co.uk

Chromasign launched at Sign UK. We offer a complete range of ChromaForm Letters with Halo Lighting not available anywhere else. Ring Susan or Lesley for details and samples.

LED WINDOW DISPLAYS

ISPI TRADE LTD

Unit 3.3 Strathclyde Business Park,
19 Starling Way, Bellshill ML4 3PU

Tel: 0141 764 1600
sales@ispitrade.com
www.ispitrade.com

iSpi Trade is the UK's premier supplier of LED window display solutions. With A4, A3 and A2 size options in portrait or landscape, we can supply fully configured kits which are designed to match your windows specifications, plus we provide single panels, accessories and replacement parts, all at low trade prices.

LIGHT BOXES & LIGHTING

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,
Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW

Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk

Trade suppliers of fabricated and extruded light boxes, custom made to client design requirements. From flat faced and curved styles, to LED illumination and colour changing modules, a definitive range of light box products is available. Applelec's flat light unit LED Light Sheet is regularly used to create ultra slim light boxes with bright, even illumination at a depth of just 25mm.

ARTILLUS LTD

Britannia House, 29 Station Road,
Kettering, Northants NN15 7HJ

Tel: 0333 123 0345
artillusltd@gmail.com
www.artillus.com

DIAMOND 12v and 24v edge lit LED light boxes can be produced in any size up to 3000 x 1500mm. These ultra slim light boxes at 20mm or 16mm deep have a 25mm snap frame front and rounded corners for added safety. Custom sizes in single or multiple units can be made in single colour white LED, Dynamic White or RGB. Frame colours include Polished Silver, Gloss or Matt Black and Silver anodised.

MAGNETIC MATERIAL

ANCHOR MAGNETS LTD

Bankside Works, Darnall Road,
Sheffield S9 5AH

Tel: 0114 244 1171
www.anchor magnets.com

UK's largest stockist of magnetic & ferro material including universally printable & wide format digifilm® ferrous media (1600mm) supaferro® ferro sheet (1260mm) & supamag® magnetic sheet (1270mm) with the UK's highest pull force & anti-mark UV coating, in white, plain, self-adhesive & dry-wipe. For graphics, retail POS, signage, holding & hanging products use the UK's leading magnetic innovators.

BISBELL MAGNETIC PRODUCTS LTD.

Hillfield Lane, Stretton, Burton on
Trent, Staffs DE13 0BN

Tel: 01283 531000
sales@bisbellmagnets.com
www.bisbellmagnets.com

The UK's widest range of digitally printable wide format magnetic and ferro sheet (up to 1524mm wide). Maxmag vehicle grade magnetic materials available in white, plain or adhesive backed - by roll or cut to your specific requirements. Also available dry-wipe sheets, magnetic chalk boards, window graphics, neo magnets, vehicle roof magnets and a full range of magnetic and steel tape.

MAGNETIC SOLUTIONS LTD

Brooklands Business Park, Leigh
Street, Sheffield S9 2PR

Tel: 0114 2422211
sales@magnetic-solutions-
ltd.co.uk

www.magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk
Part of the Sanders Group, Europe's largest combined supplier of magnetic & ferro sheet materials including wide format, PVC FREE magnetic (1370mm) and ferrous media (1600mm). Also available, retail POS graphic materials, magnetic flooring, neo magnets, sign grippers and magnetic tape with a range of adhesive finishes to suit your requirements. We can provide the solutions.

MODULAR PANEL SIGN SYSTEMS

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems, notice boards & information displays. Our systems create a wide range of sign solutions including; post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs; wayfinding signs, wall directories, monolith and fingerpost signs. Other products include exterior notice boards, poster/menu cases, and letter boards.

MOULDED & FABRICATED PLASTICS

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS 51-59 Waterworks Road, Norwich NR2 4DA

Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

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

PROJECT PLASTICS LTD

7 Grange Way Business Park,
Whitehill Industrial Estate,
Colchester CO2 8HF

Tel: 01206 868696

project.plastics@btinternet.com
www.projectplastics.co.uk

Manufacturers of acrylic domes and shapes, tubes, point of sale displays and showcases. Bespoke plastic fabrication. CNC routing, diamond edge polishing, 3m x 2m moulding oven for oven forming, vacuum forming and screen printing. Plastic cut to size service.

MOULDED LETTERS

ACCENT SIGNS LTD

Units 4, Broadcote Ind. Est., Station Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT

Tel: 0121 561 4600

accsign1@aol.com

www.accent-signs.co.uk

Largest range of moulded acrylic letters in the UK. Mirror effect moulded letters, LED illumination, logos, panels, complete fascia panels, blow moulding, aluminium, composite trays and more! Samples on request.

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2 4DA

Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

Moulded letters and logos in all standard Perspex colours and UV stabilised gold and silver acrylics, in 8 standard sizes, bespoke sizes available on application. Press, vacuum and blow moulded pans, in acrylic and petg also available.

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

225 Long Lane, Finchley London N3 2RL

Tel: 08085 456700

sales@signtrade.co.uk

www.signtrade.co.uk

Moulded letters are our speciality with stock of 20 fonts 8 letter heights in coloured Perspex and 1000's of flat cut letters as well. Your own font or logo is made by our own toolmakers. With over 60 years of experience to call on.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

info@ward-signs.co.uk

www.ward-signs.co.uk

Having patented the original method of making cast resin letters, Wards of Bristol can manufacture and supply resin lettering to the highest standard. Our stock patterns for resin letters are a cost effective method of achieving the same styles as traditional bronze and aluminium (which we also cast in house) but we can also make custom designed patterns for letters and logos for all your needs.

NEON MANUFACTURERS (TRADE)

A1DESIGNS

4 Sandy Lane North, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8JX

Tel: 020 8646 9886

enquiry@a1designs.co.uk

www.a1designs.co.uk

Neon & Cold Cathode Manufacturers to the Trade. Fast turnaround & Delivery. Quick repair service. Installation, Fault diagnosis, Repairs & Maintenance. Confidential Service. All neon accessories, Transformers, Cable, Tube supports etc.

AVENUE SIGNS LTD

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

Tel: 01634 841300

info@avenuesigns.co.uk

www.avenuesigns.co.uk

Full computerised design service neon and cold cathode lighting. Fully qualified installation engineers, fault diagnosis, fast repair service. Complete sign service from vinyl through to acrylic to polished stainless steel to transformer and neon accessory supplies.

LOGOTECH DISPLAY SOLUTIONS LTD

Unit 6, Atley Business Pk, North Nelson Ind Est, Cramlington, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE23 1WP

Tel: 01670 737 225

sales@logotech-ltd.co.uk

www.logo-tech.co.uk

Specialists in neon manufacture to the trade, all types of neon work undertaken. Quick repair service. Very competitive prices. Over 25 years experience in the sign trade.

NEON REPLACEMENT LETTERS

ACCENT SIGNS LTD

Units 4, Broadcote Ind. Est., Station Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT

Tel: 0121 561 4600

accsign1@aol.com

www.accent-signs.co.uk

Accent Signs "LITEFORM" letters & logos with a moulded half round acrylic profile of only 15mm to look like Neon glass. Illuminated with super bright Led's. Available in a wide range of colours. Suitable for internal & external use. Supplied with standard locator fixings for ease of fitting.

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park, Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW

Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

Trade suppliers of NeonLux, a faux neon letter system suitable for interior and exterior applications according to specification. Available in a range of colours and embedded with high quality LEDs to deliver bright, clear illumination. Don't forget, any shape or logo can be created, not just letters! Contact our friendly team for more information and request a free and unbranded product brochure.

NOTICE BOARDS - LOCKABLE/EXTERIOR

NOTICE ME

2 Glenister House, Avondale Drive, Hayes, Middx UB3 3PP

Tel: 0208 581 1067

www.notice-me.org.uk

Sign companies come to us for a truly extensive range of standard and made to measure, indoor & outdoor notice boards and whiteboards. Standard internal pin boards are available in over 100 felt colours and our cut to size service is available on many products. We supply some extremely competitive outdoor notice boards to compliment your sign work. See our complete range of display products.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852 888

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems and notice boards. We have the widest range of exterior notice boards of all UK manufacturers, and specialise in tailoring our boards to suit each location. This is achieved through a wide range of options, including; wall, rail, post and stand mountings, mains/solar illumination and custom graphics.

PLASTIC SHEETS

BRETT MARTIN PLASTIC SHEETS

24 Roughfort Road, Mallusk, Co Antrim BT36 4RB

Tel: 028 9084 9999

semifinished@brettmartin.com

www.brettmartin.com

Brett Martin is a leading manufacturer of plastic sheet products for signage, interior design, shop outfitting, POS displays and fabrication. Products include Foamalux, the extensive foam PVC range in bright White, Satin and Gloss colours and an environmentally friendly Recycled material in addition to Polycarbonate, PVC, Acrylic, aPET, PETg and Styrene sheet.

RIGHTON BLACKBURNS LTD Building 38, Second Avenue, The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 7UE

Tel: 01384 276400

sales@rblimited.co.uk

www.rightonblackburns.co.uk

UK distributor of Polycasa Crylux Cast & Crylon extruded sheet acrylic. Available in a wide range of clear, opals, colours and special finishes. Also stocked: Alucobest aluminium composite sheet, Marlon solid polycarbonate, PET-G, SAN, polystyrene, hygienic cladding, rigid PVC and fixing accessories, sign post systems, aluminium sheet and extrusions.

TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

South Strand, Lawford,
Manningtree, Essex CO11 1UP
Tel: 01206 803 580
sales@teleganpressedproducts.com
www.teleganpressedproducts.com
Leading manufacturer of plate pressed PVC sheet offering equivalents to Darvic, Pacton and Cobex under our trade name TELBEX. We also manufacture VYNALAST™ engraving laminate. A comprehensive range of photoluminescent boards and self adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class B and Class C to order.

POINT OF SALE FITTINGS

DISPLAY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Unit 4 Fordgate Business Park,
Crabtree Manorway, North
Belvedere, Kent DA17 6AS
Tel: 01322 444 400
sales@displaydevelopments.co.uk
www.displaydevelopments.co.uk
Display Developments began in 1956 and we have always strived to lead the field in providing first class service and consistently adding new and better products. We manufacture a wide range of display and Point of Sale products including snap frames, leaflet holders notice boards and menu displays etc.

POSTER HOLDERS / CASES

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk
Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of notice boards, modular sign systems & information displays. Our Avenue poster case provides high quality yet affordable, external poster display in a variety of sizes.

PROJECTING SIGNS

IRON DESIGN

37A Douglas Rd., Poole, BH12 2AU
Tel: 01202 463573
enquiries@ironsigns.com
www.ironsigns.com
Leading trade suppliers of high quality traditional and contemporary projecting signs and brackets, offering a large range of brackets, panels and lights off the shelf, as well as a comprehensive bespoke service. Competitive prices and next day service. Please visit our website or phone for a brochure.

REFLECTIVE VINYL/TAPES

ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial
Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale,
Lancashire OL12 9EF
Tel: 01706 633043
sales@apptape.co.uk
www.apptape.co.uk
Suppliers of Micro prismatic reflective tapes (3m, Avery, Reflexite) and glass bead reflective vinyl for use on emergency vehicles (police cars & chapter 8 legislation etc) also HGV markings as per EC 104. We stock Conspicuity tape manufactured by Reflexite and Avery which are some of the most reflective materials available on the market. Chapter 8 chevron kits also available.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

Britannia House, Granville Road,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ
Tel: 01622 689 410
orders@signtradesupplies.co.uk
www.signtradesupplies.co.uk
Supplying a variety of sign making supplies nationwide including aluminium signs posts, post clips, fixings, vinyl and tools. We have a large UK stock of Image Perfect vinyl, sign fixings and aluminium extrusions ready for same day despatch. We also provide trade manufacturing service including diamond edge polished acrylic, flat cut acrylic lettering, sign trays and more.

ROUTER CUTTERS/ PLOTTER BLADES

ATA ENGINEERING PROCESSES

ATA House, Unit B, Boundry Way,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7SS
Tel: 01442 264411
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www.ataeng.com
Extensive range of high quality solid carbide, PCD, carbide tipped and HSS cutters manufactured by ONSRUD CUTTER offer routing solutions for most types of material.

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Tel: 01928 739 799
info@edwardmathias.com
www.edwardmathias.com
Specialist manufacturers/suppliers of tungsten carbide plotter blades and router cutters. We don't just sell blades, we are the UK's leading manufacturer. Note - we have no connection with any other company who sell or re-sharpen blades.

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Kent DA8 2HY
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DESP has been trading for over 55 years. Screenprinting, anodic printing, correx boards, stickers, overlays, signs, chemical etching, engraving processes also covered (ALL CARRIED OUT INHOUSE), including artwork. So whether its a 1 off or 1,000's off, we can offer a quick competitive turnaround.

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Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 5JP
Tel: 01279 467999
sales@firstsignsandlabels.co.uk
www.firstsignsandlabels.co.uk

We specialise in high quality screen printing. We are suited to meet print requirements onto many substrates. We have finishing capabilities with die cutting and CNC routing. We offer a fast and efficient service, should you require 1 off's or larger run's give our team a call.

HT SCREEN PRINT

15 Ridge Way, Hillend Industrial
Estate, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9JH
Tel: 01383 824522
info@htscreenprint.co.uk
www.htscreenprint.co.uk
Trade screen printing of garments, estate agency boards, pvc, vinyl, acrylics, metals, glass, wood, POS, anything flat. HT Screenprint have been in business for over 20 years, supplying the highest quality screen printing to the trade at very competitive prices. Our experience produces quality quickly!

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS 51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2 4DA

Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk
High quality screen printing to all types of rigid and flexible base materials ie. self-adhesive vinyl, paper, plastic and metal. From single to full colour and small or large runs.

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Bristol BS31 1XG
Tel: 0117 986 7894 / 7291
bryan@bryanrawlings.com
www.bryanrawlings.com
Designers and makers of coats of arms, emblems and all types of sculptural and decorative signage. GRP, cast resins, metals, detailed hand painting and much more. Large range of royal coats of arms available. Specialist suppliers to the sign trade.

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RIGHTON BLACKBURNS LTD Building 38, Second Avenue, The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 7UE

Tel: 01384 276400
sales@rblimited.co.uk
www.rightonblackburns.co.uk
UK distributor of Polycasa Crylux Cast & Crylon extruded sheet acrylic Available in a wide range of clear, opals, colours and special finishes. Also stocked: Alucobest aluminium composite sheet, Marlon solid polycarbonate, PET-G, SAN, polystyrene, hygienic cladding, rigid PVC and fixing accessories, sign post systems, aluminium sheet and extrusions.

TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

South Strand, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1UP
Tel: 01206 803580
sales@teleganpressedproducts.com
www.teleganpressedproducts.com
Leading manufacturer of plate pressed PVC sheet offering equivalents to Darvic, Pacton and Cobex under our trade name TELBEX. We also manufacture VYNALAST™ engraving laminate. A comprehensive range of photoluminescent boards and self adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class B and Class C to order.

TROTEC

9 Didcot Way, Boldon Business Park, Boldon Colliery, NE35 9PD
Tel: 0191 580 1184
materials@troteclaser.co.uk
www.troteclaser.co.uk

Trotec's UK warehouse is fully stocked with engraving materials available with cut-to-size and next day delivery. As well as a range of laminate, acrylic, metal and wood sheets, we also supply a range of engraving consumables such as marking pastes and accessories including mounting devices and braille beads.

VISIONS IN PLASTICS

Unit 3, Delta Court (Robin Hood Airport), Auckland, Doncaster, DN9 3GN

Tel: 01302 775920
sales@visionsinplastics.co.uk
www.visionsinplastics.co.uk

Stocks of Mirrored Extruded Acrylic in clear, 19 colours, See-Thru, Two sided, Anti Scratch, Anti Fog. Mirrored Polycarbonate, Petg and Polystyrene. Non mirrored sheet in Acrylic, ABS, Polycarbonate, Polystyrene and PVC Foam.

SIGN & DISPLAY SYSTEMS

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign and display systems, notice boards & other information displays. Our 6 major sign systems are used and combined, to create a wide range of sign display solutions, including full signage schemes. With all products made to order, we specialise in tailoring solutions to suit each client, location and application.

VERY DISPLAYS LTD

17 Boston Road, Gorse Hill Industrial Estate, Leicester LE4 1AW

Tel: 0116 232 3156
www.VeryDisplays.com

Our aim is to set the benchmark for trade display solutions by providing innovative, high-quality products at the most competitive prices. Trust Very Displays to enhance your brand and exceed expectations, from a personalised service through to same day dispatch. Get in touch today to find out more about our comprehensive range of products.

SIGN LOCATORS

F. K. MOORE LTD

5 Wilton Road, Haine Industrial Park, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5HD.

Tel: 01843 593 440
enquiries@fkmoore.com
www.fkmoore.com

British manufacturers of screw type Brass Locator Nuts, Wall Fixings and stockists of Nylon Locators for the Sign and Shopfitting Industries. As well as other shopfittings, we also manufacture Coverhead Screws, either Flat, Dome, Conical or Mushroom shape in various finishes, in addition to the famous "Moore's Super Clips" mirror fixings.

SIGN POSTS & FIXINGS

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD
Britannia House, Granville Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ

Tel: 01622 689 410
orders@signtradesupplies.co.uk
www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

Supplying a variety of sign making supplies nationwide including aluminium signs posts, post clips, fixings, vinyl and tools. We have a large UK stock of Image Perfect vinyl, sign fixings and aluminium extrusions ready for same day despatch. We also provide trade manufacturing service including diamond edge polished acrylic, flat cut acrylic lettering, sign trays and more.

SIGN SUPPORT SYSTEMS

ISPI TRADE LTD

Unit 3.3 Strathclyde Business Park, 19 Starling Way, Bellshill ML4 3PU

Tel: 0141 764 1600
sales@ispitrade.com
www.ispitrade.com

I-SPI Trade supplier of sign support systems. Our range includes wall mounts, cable & rod display systems, screw covers, LED lighting and much more all at THE REAL TRADE PRICE. Massive stocks and next day delivery. See our products on our web site or give Stephen or Sean a call for a brochure.

SHOPKIT GROUP LTD

Unit B, 100 Cecil Street, Watford, Hertfordshire WD24 5AD

Tel: 01923 818282
www.shopkit.com/brochures/

Shopkit manufactures a wide range of sign support systems in our UK FACTORY, offering COMPETITIVE PRICES on quality products, working in different metal finishes with an ONLINE SHOP with next day delivery and quick lead times on CUSTOM ITEMS. Products include project fixings & sign standoffs, banner systems, rod signage supports & cable signage systems all for both interior & exterior use.

SIGN SURVEYOR

PB WILLIAMS SIGN SURVEYOR

48 Durley Rd, Aintree L9 9AW

Tel: 07885 486 182
achromesigns@yahoo.co.uk

We specialise in sign surveying to the trade, with 30 years of experience as a sign fitter/manufacturer. I was contracted to large companies in the north west, and country wide. I am based in Merseyside and have PASMA, IPAF/PAL & CSCS qualifications and will travel UK and Europe. For further details please contact the above number or email.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIERS

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park, Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW

Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk

Highly confidential, trade only supplier to the sign industry. From metal flat cuts and built up letters to fascia, projecting and totem signs along with leading components such as our stocked SloanLED modules. Operating for over 20 years, our manufacturing facilities are constantly advancing to ensure we're always ready to help with your next project. Ask for our free unbranded product brochures.

DISCOUNT DISPLAYS

31-35 Wortley Road, Croydon CR0 3EB

Tel: 0844 800 1020
sales@discountdisplays.co.uk
www.discountdisplays.co.uk

Discount Displays are UK based experts in all things display and signage. As well as a huge range of hardware for exhibitions, events and retail, we also specialise in large format print solutions. We are able to offer super low trade prices on a variety of printed signage, all produced in-house using high quality inks and materials. Visit our website for more information and to view our full range.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

Britannia House, Granville Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ

Tel: 01622 689 410
orders@signtradesupplies.co.uk
www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

Supplying a variety of sign making supplies nationwide including aluminium signs posts, post clips, fixings, vinyl and tools. We have a large UK stock of Image Perfect vinyl, sign fixings and aluminium extrusions ready for same day despatch. We also provide trade manufacturing service including diamond edge polished acrylic, flat cut acrylic lettering, sign trays and more.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems, notice boards & information displays. Our systems create a wide range of sign solutions including; post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs; wayfinding signs, wall directories, monolith and fingerpost signs. Other products include exterior notice boards, poster/menu cases, and letter boards.

SYGNET GROUP LTD
129 Humberstone Rd, Leicester,
LE5 3AP

Tel: 0116 262 6288
sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk
www.sygnetgroup.co.uk
At Sygnet Group, we've been supplying bespoke and off-the-shelf signage to the trade since 1974. Whether you require fascias, built-up or flat-cut letters & logos or custom LED illuminated signs, our specialists will cut them using our lasers or CNC routers. We use the latest 3D/CAD development in the design and manufacturing processes, and all this happens on-site at our Leicester city centre HQ.

SNAP FRAMES

SNAP-FRAMES.COM
Earlsmead, Letchworth, Herts, SG6
3UE
Tel: 01462 682 210
www.snap-frames.com

Snap frames are the clever front opening poster frames for the professional display for your promotional posters, signs, notices etc. Order online from huge stocks, for all sizes and styles including mitred corner, rounded corner, locking, tamper resist, freestanding, water-resist, coloured, wood effect, illuminated etc. Individually boxed and including anti-glare cover sheet, screws, wall plugs.

SOLAR POWERED SIGNS & DISPLAYS

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD
Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk

An eco-friendly and long term cost effective solution, our Eco-Vision Solar Display System provides solar powered illuminated noticeboards, monoliths and stencil cut backlit signage. Powered purely by daylight, it is an ideal solution for remote and highly urban locations where illuminated information is required and where routing a mains power supply is undesirable, unpractical or costly.

SPECIALITY FILMS

ATC LTD
Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial
Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale,
Lancashire OL12 9EF
Tel: 01706 633043
sales@apptape.co.uk
www.apptape.co.uk

Suppliers of various speciality films including Etch glass, Reflective, Fluorescent, Reflexite daybrite, Reflexite prismatic reflective, Hi intensity reflective, Photoluminescent, Cast metallics, 2yr Fluorescent, Transparent colours, Checker plate, Mirror colours, Prismatic colours, Glitter colours, Brushed aluminium silver and gold.

MACTAC UK LTD
Room 232, Victory House, 400
Pavilion Drive, Northampton
Business Park, Northampton NN4
7PA
Tel: 01604 644697
www.mactacgraphics.eu

Mactac is a global manufacturer of many different PVC, PET, PP and PE self-adhesive films. Specialities include etched films, fluorescents, phosphorescents, mirror films, rear projection films, erasable films and textured laminates – all designed to complement and enhance your creative talent.

STREET SIGNS

SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD
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LU7 9QG
Tel: 01525 874 185
enquiries@sott.co.uk
www.sott.co.uk

Street signs in a variety of materials. Cast polyurethane, aluminium and bronze. Die pressed street signs for council specification. For a quotation send us the text required on your signs and specify what material is required.

**TRADITIONAL
SIGNWRITERS/GILDERS**

ART DESIGN SIGN
Swindon, Wiltshire
Tel: 07495 778 631
sarahlouise0405@gmail.com
www.artdesignsign.co.uk
Sarah at Art Design Sign is a Traditional Signwriter and Artist. Services include: Traditional hand painted lettering and artwork, Pub and Restaurant Signage, Chalk boards, Gilded lettering, Menus, Vehicle Livery, Wall Art and Lettering, Logo Recreation, Restoration Projects, Original Artwork and Event Signage. Free Quotes available, please contact to discuss your needs.

BAILEY'S FREEHAND SIGNS & GRAPHICS
Southern England
Tel: 01865 863 669
Mob: 07906 177 276
signs@baileysigns.co.uk
www.baileysigns.co.uk

Bailey's signs is a specialist in the more traditional techniques of sign making such as Traditional Sign-writing & pictorial signs / Honours boards, Gold & silver leaf gilding on signs or glass / Restoration & Conservation area signs / Heraldic shield signs / Coach lining sign-work / Decorative Artwork / Mural / Fresco / Fine art / Portraiture / Picture & Mirror frame gilt work / Pub signs.

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PRESSES**

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Boscombe Road, Dunstable LU5
4SB
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sales@themagictouch.co.uk
www.themagictouch.co.uk
Manufacturers of Transfer Papers and Materials used in conjunction with Laser Printers and Copiers (toner based) for full colour image transfer onto T-Shirts, Caps, Polo's, Mugs, Mousemats etc. Plus Magicut® film for use with Plotter/Cutter for heat transfer.

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**FREELANCE GRAPHICS
INSTALLER**
London area / M25 / Kent / Surrey
Mob: 0756 4057 343
graphicsfitters@gmail.com

With 28 years experience in the industry, specialising in the installation of office manifestations, window films, office graphics, general signage, vehicle graphics, I can work as an additional member of your team on larger projects, or where there is a tight deadline, can also work on my own initiative. Available by the day or the by the job, flexible approach to work hours.

VINYL SUPPLIES

APA (UK) LTD
Unit 10 Capital Ind. Est., Crabtree
Manorway South, Belvedere, Kent,
DA17 6BJ
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