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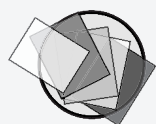


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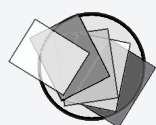
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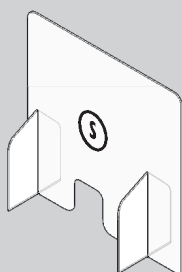
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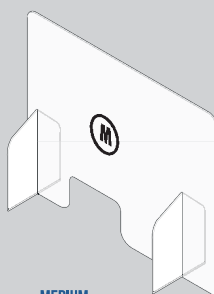
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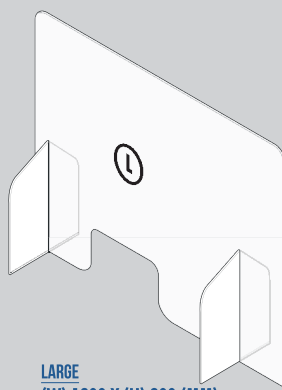
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Cautious optimism

A new year and new beginnings? Of course, the issue dominating last year – Covid-19 – has, unfortunately, not gone away so while the future looks a little brighter with the promise of mass vaccinations, for many the challenges, particularly those affecting your business, continue. Brexit still looms large as the trade talks hit the buffers and at the time we went to press, no decision had been reached although 31 December was set for the UK ceasing to follow EU trading rules. So, what of our industry?

A Roland DG study of more than 340 UK digital printers during November revealed cautious optimism with 60% planning to increase production or expand their offering over the next three years. Adding support to that positive outlook is the announcement that Sign & Digital UK 2021 is going ahead during May and opening on a Sunday with a completely new format.

However, businesses still need financial support and the GPMA reported in October the response they had received from the Government to their joint statement calling for a disaster relief fund. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy “acknowledged the importance of the graphics and print media sector to the UK economy” and that the industry’s request for a grant had “been noted and will be borne in mind as the policy response to the pandemic evolves.” We will, of course, have to wait and see how that works out in practice!

In this issue we focus on lamination and finishing tables, promotional product printing and flat-cut letters along with flex face signage and our regular features. In the next issue will include features on Education and Training and Wayfinding; as always, your editorial submissions are welcome for all sections of the magazine.

Sue Deane
Editor



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Fully integrated print and cut RIP software solution

The latest release of CADlink Technology's Digital Factory builds upon the existing power of the RIP software's high fidelity colour management engine and highly flexible production workflow capabilities.

Digital Factory v10 provides the ideal solution for today's high, in-demand automated production workflow processes. The all-inclusive RIP software package is said to address most pre-production, job scheduling and management requirements while supporting most digital print applications including wide format print, print and cut, textile, UV as well as many specialty print applications.

It essentially eliminates the need to use third-party pre-production software packages as well as separate RIP applications for different printers.

The new version includes packages and modules that can be configured to address what digital print shops in 2020 require most, the ability to distribute and print jobs across a variety of workflow scenarios; network, cloud-based as well as local workstation printing using automated production processes.

Notable feature additions include barcode-based job processing, custom template creation for automating print layouts, automatic job sorting and centralised RIP server printing. All of these new optimisation tools are built around Visual Production Manager, the "easy to use, centralised RIP control hub that has been the focal point of Digital Factory since its original release."

Digital Factory includes custom drivers and colour profiles for all the latest, most widely used digital printers. Also included



in certain packages are hundreds of cutter drivers with support for seamless in-RIP contour cutting of even the most complex shaped graphics, providing users with the ability to print, as well as print and cut jobs all from a single RIP software solution standardising and streamlining production workflows of all types.

www.cadlink.com

Router enhances performance-to-cost capability

AAG has launched a small format solution, the XYZ Innovator, which replaces the Z-Series of machines and provides an enhanced performance-to-cost capability founded on new and improved design characteristics. The Innovator incorporates many of the design features and performance capabilities of much larger XYZ machines but at a commensurately lower cost, says the company.

Based on the traditional solid steel frame construction for increased rigidity, aluminium processing bed and vacuum material clamping deck, the Innovator is available in two standard sizes: 1.2 x 1.2m and 1.5 x 2.4m (4' x 4' and 5' x 8') with a gantry clearance of 152mm. It features as standard a premium rack and pinion drive system with integrated servomotors and the XYZ A2MC machine control system for faster and smoother machine operation. The machine comes packaged with Vectric VCarve Pro design and production software to accommodate more

complex 2D and 3D applications and to provide compatibility with virtually any alternative popular software program.

Available for the first time on any small format machine in its class, Innovator has an optional three-station ATC (automatic tool change) system to allow continuous processing of a wider range of materials without operator intervention. The ATC incorporates a protective cover to eliminate problems frequently encountered with environmental pollutants including dust and dirt. Further optional features include the latest AVS (XYZ Vision System) for optimum routing/cutting accuracy and special cooling/lubricating and dust collection systems for improved machine performance and reliability.

The compact design of the Innovator makes it ideal for installation where available work space might be at a premium including sign manufacturing. It will process virtually any material normally handled by much larger and more expensive machines. Typically, these include all kinds of solid and particle woods, aluminium and similar alloys, foamed board, plastics and laminates.



The XYZ Innovator, which replaces the Z-Series of machines provides an enhanced performance-to-cost capability founded on new and improved design characteristics.

www.axyz.co.uk

Soft metallic flex for garments and textiles

TheMagicTouch has introduced an addition to its extensive range of Flex, Flock, Glitter, Reflective, Holographic and Foil products, all part of the established MagiCut brand.

The new Soft-Metallic product is said to 'tick all the boxes' for those looking to decorate a range of different garments and textiles with the ultimate soft metallic feel.

The market for personalised and short run garment decoration has never been stronger as the demand for more 'unique' effects and styles continues.

After two years in development, the soft-metallic offers easy cutting and weeding using traditional plotter/cutters.

"With its lightweight (62 micron) high elastic properties precise and detailed designs are easily produced and together

with a superb look and feel offers great potential for sportswear, fashion, promotional, workwear and craft markets," says Jim Nicol.

"Perfect for cotton, polyester and poly/cotton blends as well as performance fabrics that require that extra stretch flexibility from the transfer, the Soft Metallic transfers are applied at 150°C for 10 seconds, medium pressure and then peeled cold."

Available by the metre in 500mm roll width format in nine "stunning" colours, the product is available in the UK from Ralawise and Pencarrie as part of their 2021 new product offering.

www.themagictouch.co.uk



The soft-metallic offers easy cutting and weeding using traditional plotter/cutters.

Flatbed printers equipped with vacuum table

swissQprint flatbed printers now come equipped with a vacuum table that is subdivided into as many as 256 segments. The user can switch segments on/off quickly and easily at the touch of a finger, says the company. Tip Switch Vacuum is said to eliminate tedious and time-consuming masking and taping, not least in the gap between boards and dual rolls. Because there is no air leakage, the vacuum develops its full force and reliably holds down even unruly media such as corrugated board. The vacuum table incorporates a cutting channel that provides a defined and precise trimming edge for roll materials and thin media.

For tandem production the vacuum table is divided into two zones, independently adjustable by the Tip Switch Vacuum. Tandem enables non-stop production: media are loaded onto the printing table alternately at the front and rear. While printing is underway on one side, the operator loads the other side and vice versa without idle time, until the series is complete. Via the output software the user regulates the vacuum strength and is able to reverse the thrust, meaning that the pumps blow instead of sucking. This creates an air cushion on the print bed that eases the handling of heavy



For tandem production the vacuum table is divided into two zones, each independently adjustable by the Tip Switch Vacuum.

boards. They can thus be positioned or moved with little effort and without risk of material damage.

The vacuum pumps are pressure controlled so they automatically reduce speed once the required negative pressure has developed. This contributes to the system's overall low power consumption.

All swissQprint flatbed models: Oryx, Impala and Nyala are now shipping with the new vacuum system. The swissQprint Karibu roll to roll printer has featured the Tip Switch Vacuum since its introduction last year and this has proven itself, with users praising it as an "ingenious feature".

www.swissqprint.com

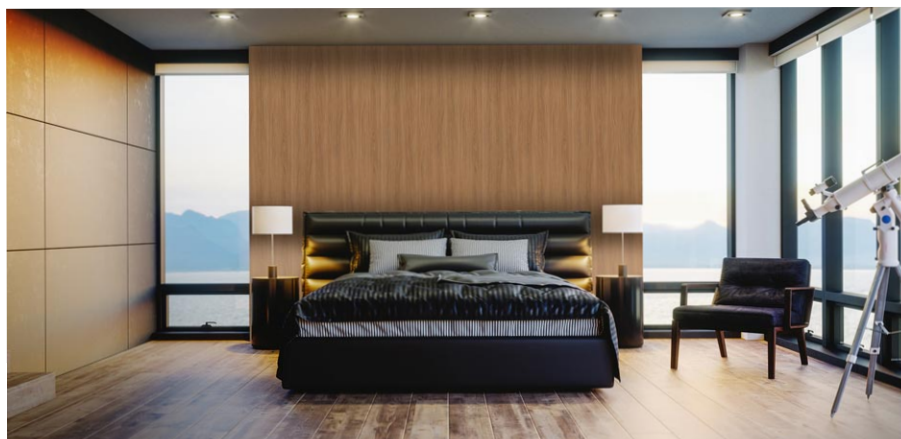
Expanded range of architectural vinyl films for interiors

Spandex is expanding its range of speciality products for interior décor applications with the addition of Cover Styl' Architectural Interior Vinyl Films. This portfolio offers a choice of 600+ colours and patterns, allowing customers to inject colour into interior spaces as well as reproduce the aesthetics of wood, marble, stone, metal, glitter, fabric and leather.

Cover Styl' films can be applied to a broad range of underlying surfaces including plaster, wood, aluminium and PVC. Durable against water, heat, humidity, UV rays, dirt, abrasion and regular cleaning, they come with a 10-year guarantee against cracking, discolouration and delamination.

Leon Watson, VP marketing comments: "Cover Styl' products offer excellent value in terms of price and performance, with customers able to order in running metres for delivery in 24/48 hours. This gives sign-makers and wrap installers an opportunity to get into what is a fast-growing market, despite current circumstances.

"The vast majority of interior décor



This portfolio allows customers to inject colour into interior spaces as well as reproduce the aesthetics of wood, marble, stone, metal, glitter, fabric and leather.

installations using wrap films involve flat surfaces and walls so most installers already have the skills to get involved in décor at this level. With Spandex's support in the form of expert product advice and application workshops, they have the scope to progress to more challenging jobs such as wrapping three-dimensional

objects, for example items of furniture. Products such as Cover Styl', which can be applied quickly and efficiently by customers' regular signage and graphics installers, offer a practical and cost-effective solution."

www.spandex.co.uk

Entry level roll-to-roll inkjet printers

Hybrid Services has released Mimaki's 100 Series: two entry level roll-to-roll inkjet printers. The UJV100-160 (UV model) and JV100-160 (solvent model) are said to combine high quality printing with high productivity, at minimal cost to the user.

The Mimaki UJV100-160 uses lower cost LUS-190 UV ink which cures immediately after being exposed to UV light, allowing a faster turnaround without the need for a degassing period after printing. This ink can be printed onto PVC and uncoated

substrates such as PET film and paper. The new system is designed to facilitate the introduction of UV printing technology into a production line.



Mimaki UJV100-160 roll-to-roll UV-curable inkjet printer is designed for high quality printing and maximum productivity.

This printer uses Mimaki's SS21 inkset which allows printers to create a multitude of applications, whether for indoor or outdoor use. Available in both a dual CMYK 4 colour mode and an 8 colour mode, the inks are a proven solution for delivering long lasting, vibrant prints, says Mimaki. Both printers utilise Mimaki's DAS (Dot Adjustment System) feature, developed to support a streamlined, efficient printing process. Dot adjustments are normally carried out manually every time the user changes the media type, however, this function performs drop position adjustment for bi-directional printing and media feed compensation automatically, to ensure perfect alignments and print quality.

www.hybridservices.co.uk

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Self-adhesive film for interiors can be UV inkjet printed

Antalis UK has launched Coala Interior Film, a new collection of creative self-adhesive finishes which “perfectly meet the needs of brands, interior architects, designers and refurbishment companies”.

The Coala Interior Film collection offers 650 finishes, capable of transforming and giving a second life to walls and furniture in all types of interiors in homes, offices, hotels or shops. The range comes in eight collections: wood, natural stone, leather, textiles, marble, glitter, fabric or plain colours and can be UV inkjet printed.

Easy to maintain, durable, moisture-proof, UV, fire-resistant and anti-bacterial, the Coala Interior Film range can help to limit waste by transforming existing walls and furniture. It is especially relevant during the present challenging times to quickly refresh a space or surface when differentiation and modifications maybe required or just simply desired.

“Coala Interior Film allows the hospitality, entertainment, retail and various other industries to reinvent spaces quickly, conveniently and cost-effectively,” says



Easy to maintain, durable, moisture-proof, UV, fire-resistant and anti-bacterial, the Coala Interior Film range can help to limit waste.

visual communication product manager Mike Collins. “The range is a natural addition to the Coala brand which aims to combine quality, innovation and usability.

“With the emergence of new printing materials and technologies, the market is

constantly evolving and we want to ensure that our customers seize this tremendous opportunity with our products, services and training support.”

www.antalis.co.uk

Large format printer offers speed and flexibility

Durst launched the newest family member of its P5 technology platform for the large format printing market. The P5 350 HS high performance printer was unveiled in a virtual presentation at the Customer Experience Center Durst’s headquarters in Brixen, Italy in December.

According to Durst, the P5 350 HS model combined with the Durst Automat, a new solution for a fully automated printing workflow from Durst Software, will make production processes far more efficient for customers and provide an easy management of mixed print environments.

The virtual event Firework of Innovations focused on the Durst Habitat System with UVC-R Technology, launched last August, to improve the quality of life in a new normality in a coronavirus world. The innovative air disinfection system combines air exchange and UV rays together and effectively reduces infectious air and therefore the viral load indoors.



The P5 350 HS high performance printer was unveiled in a virtual presentation at the Customer Experience Center Durst’s headquarters in December.

Christian Harder, global sales director, graphics segment, says: “With around 100 units already shipped all over the world, we are really excited to be launching our latest family member, the P5 350 HS. Those

joining us for the virtual presentations were amazed at the flexibility, speed and efficiency of this new printer.”

www.durst-group.com



Esko Software 20.1 update with added features and functionality

Esko has unveiled innovations for its integrated Esko Software 20.1 platform, together with new hardware solutions, developed to deliver even more functionality as well as outstanding value to packaging, label and wide format customers. Updates and new features include Tasks Plugin: digital transformation can only be successful if the solution is fully adapted to the user's requirements, and with the addition of a social media style dashboard and new connectors for Adobe Creative Suite applications, WebCenter does just that, says Esko.

ArtPro+ 20.1 Plate Cut is an automated feature that finds the optimal individual cutting path for each separation, reducing preparation time for flexo plate mounting by up to 30 minutes.

ArtPro+ 20.1 Trapping is a new aesthetic trapping algorithm which closes misregister gaps and accommodates individual exceptions, making trapping



Esko's software has been updated to deliver even more functionality.

jobs up to 70% faster, says Esko. AVT AutoSet: an integration between EskoAutomation Engine and AVT's press inspection system, reducing setup time of the inspection system to almost zero

Alongside updating Esko Software 20, hardware innovations include the Kongsberg VariAngle tool for the Kongsberg range of digital finishing equipment that enables cutting at any angle from 0° and 60° at high speed, delivering total freedom in the design of 3D creative displays

"Our innovations serve to illustrate our commitment to customers, ensuring they enjoy a greater user experience and improved efficiency," says Jan de Roeck, director of marketing, industry relations & strategy. "For example, ArtPro+ 20.1 now features the innovative Esko trapper which ensures prepress operators achieve a consistent, aesthetic trapping result with the correct distance, direction or colour. The latest software updates not only deliver greater accuracy, efficiency and consistency across a design and print workflow but are integral tools for converters taking the next steps along their own digital transformation journey."

www.esko.com

Heavy-duty automated feed and take-up system

Mutoh Europe has announced availability of the IJ-TUP100-01 100 kg heavy-duty feed and take-up system designed for their XpertJet roll-to-roll 64" (162 cm) sign and display printers. The system is mounted onto the original stand of any XpertJet

1641SR/1682SR and is an addition to the existing Mutoh 30 kg/40 kg take-up units.

All standard Mutoh XpertJet printer configurations incorporate a robust and easily accessible newly designed roll off

system to allow easy media loading. The new system is said to be the ideal choice for users who frequently print full rolls at a time and/or are using heavy media types or who are using media which is difficult to unwind and feed due to static or a sticky coating.



The new IJ-TUP100-01 feed and take-up system will offer print providers real all-round flexibility. It is quick and easy to fit to the original stand. The finished output is automatically wound to maximise production efficiency and speed up the workflow. Operators can feel confident leaving the printer unattended, maximizing both workflow and productivity.

An extra advantage for print providers investing in a TUP100 system is that they can increase their production efficiency. For smaller print runs and low weight media rolls, they can use the standard 30 kg roll off system in combination with the 100 kg take-up system.

www.mutoh.eu

Mutoh Europe's IJ-TUP100-01 100 kg heavy-duty feed and take-up system is designed for their XpertJet roll-to-roll 64" (162 cm) sign and display printers.

Higher performance desktop digital cutter handles wider range of media

To replace the CE Lite-50 small format digital cutter, Graphtec GB has launched the widest and most cost-effective addition to its range of Silhouette Cameo machines. The Cameo 4 Pro is packaged with performance-enhancing design features that provide a radically increased 610mm (24-inch) cutting width (representing a 100% increase over existing Silhouette Cameo machines) and a maximum cutting speed that is three times faster than the Cameo 3 option.

The Cameo 4 Pro offers an enhanced cutting force of 5kg, enabling the processing of a much wider range of media and in particular those that are thicker and invariably more complex that other similarly positioned cutters might find too challenging.

Further design features include an adjustable clip-on roll feeder and vinyl cross-cutter for consistently cleaner and more precise cutting accuracy; a more efficient LED backlit multi-functional operating panel to replace the LCD touchscreen of the Cameo 3; an increased three-millimetre head clearance and three auto-detect blade attachments (including a deep-cut version) to better accommodate thicker materials. The Cameo 4 Pro is



The Cameo 4 Pro is said to be ideal for a wide range of signage and graphics related applications involving the use of an equally diverse range of media.

supplied, as standard, with Silhouette Studio software and the option of three further Silhouette Studio programs (Designer, Designer Plus and Business) to accommodate additional cutting applications if required. The printer also offers a 2GB storage capacity, higher speed internet connection for both PC and Mac platforms and a one-month free subscription to the Silhouette Design Store housing a huge selection of downloadable images and special effects.

The Cameo 4 Pro is said to be ideal for a wide range of signage and graphics

related applications involving the use of an equally diverse range of media including, for example, heat transfer, self-adhesive vinyl, heavier (up to 350gsm) cardstock, vellum, magnetic paper and rhinestone. It is a more cost-effective solution to the production of small signs and labels, customisation of print wear and promotional products and vehicle personalisation (including partial wrapping and special effects). It comes with a two-year performance warranty and full ongoing technical support.

www.graphtecgb.co.uk

PVC-free floor and wall graphics media

Drytac has added two new products to its extensive range, meeting demand for eco-friendlier PVC-free options that are both scuff- and slip-resistant.

The popularity of floor graphics has increased significantly in recent months owing to their effectiveness as directional signage and social distancing notices.

Award-winning Drytac SpotOn SynTac is a 120µ (4.8 mil) PVC-free PP film, coated on one side with a dot-pattern adhesive for simple application and removal. SpotOn SynTac can be combined with Drytac's slip-rated Interlam EcoTex PVC-free overlaminating film for extra longevity without compromising on sustainability. This 'peel and stick' product is ideal for seasonal promotions and offers 12 months' durability indoors on standard smooth floor and wall surfaces.



The graphics meet the demand for eco-friendlier PVC-free options that are both scuff- and slip-resistant.

Drytac Polar PET 170 is a scuff- and tear-resistant PVC-free media for indoor floor and wall applications for up to six months. It contains up to 40% industrial recycled

content, a good choice for retailers with demanding green initiatives. This product is coated on one side with pressure-sensitive adhesive to make installation and removal clean and simple, while the other side has a textured, matte finish that is non-slip without lamination. Part of the Polar range, Polar PET 170 is designed to withstand extreme temperatures and is compatible with most standard wall and flooring surfaces.

When SpotOn SynTac is used with Interlam EcoTex, it has achieved post-printed anti-slip ratings and certifications according to DIN 51130, US ANSI A137.1, and the EN 13036-4/ASTM E303 Pendulum Test. Polar PET 170 also has achieved these slip certifications and is EN 13051-1 fire rated.

www.drytac.com

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Relocation includes new flatbed and roll-to-roll printers

Signs Express Lancashire is continuing to build on its success with a custom renovated unit to suit their requirements.

Centre manager Matt Rutledge explains: "the idea is that we'll invite customers to our new premises and it will provide a full showcase of the services we offer and the work we produce."

With a significant amount of work being carried out for the NHS which involves the production of tactile and Braille signage, the Mimaki JFX 200-2513 EX wide format flatbed was a clear frontrunner thanks to its 2.5D textured printing capabilities. For Signs Express Lancashire, the relocation was the perfect opportunity to replace the older machinery, purchasing the JFX200-2513 EX to replace an Oce Arizona flatbed with a Mimaki JV300 roll-to-roll printer taking the place of a Mimaki JV33.

With the new equipment acquisitions coinciding with the relocation and renovation, it was important that the process was smooth. Their chosen supplier needed the experience, technical expertise and exceptional customer service to ensure the purchase and installation went off without a hitch.

"The plan was set out that when we moved we would have the new machines delivered directly to the new unit and could carry on working on the old machinery



The Mimaki JFX 200-2513 EX wide format flatbed was a clear frontrunner thanks to its 2.5D textured printing capabilities.

before jumping on to the new printers, with no downtime," explains Matt. "Josero accommodated it all so well, everything was arranged by them: delivery, unloading and sending out of all the survey forms prior. We knew exactly what was happening and when and it all went very, very smoothly.

Josero has offered us an additional free training session that we can take anytime, whether that's in two weeks or two years. That means new starters can easily

receive the training they need. In addition, Josero's technician gave me his personal mobile number and told me to call him no matter when. It's great to have a point of contact like [business development manager] Sarah Winterbottom, who is literally there whenever we need her. Even when we were working ridiculous hours trying to get everything running, I would get an immediate response even if it was a request technical information. Josero was the obvious choice, the customer experience was just so easy."

With the equipment installed, the effect it is having on productivity, efficiency and quality is clear.

"Our operation is now much faster, we can take on larger projects, produce tactile and Braille signs in a much better way and it has allowed us to free up more space. It's a nicer finish, the print quality in comparison to our previous machine is insane. We opted to get the flatbed with the white ink and the resin, which means that we can now print acrylic panels so that they're really vibrant but we can also print a white behind them so that they're not transparent and then flip them over and add spot UV details and matte laminate details, which saves us another process. It means that we don't have to start using different laminates and other processes; we can do it all on the prints."

www.josero.com



A Mimaki JV300 roll-to-roll printer has replaced a Mimaki JV33.

LED signage features in extensive digital upgrade for Wembley

In early 2020, as part of an expansive digital upgrade to Wembley Park, Eclipse Digital Media delivered an extensive digital signage overhaul using Absen LED. In total, Eclipse Digital Media implemented over 150m² of Absen XD6 LED screens as part of the digital upgrade. These have proved to be the perfect medium to attract attention in the past few months, not only for advertising or for managing the flow of persons but to raise awareness and understanding when the screens were used to pay tribute to the NHS staff and all front-line workers.

The Bobby Moore Bridge has been upgraded to a modern digital experience which marks the beginning or end of a trip to Wembley. London-based The Light Lab was responsible for the management, installation and fabrication of the digital makeover, working with to design the LED signage, software and installation for the two sides.

"We chose Absen's XD6 due to its design, resolution and support offered," says Drew Harding, sales and marketing manager for Eclipse. "In being created for outdoor installations, the screen provides a great visual impact and is easily maintained, which are both critical factors for installations like this."

A total of 100m² of Absen's XD6 was used at the southern and northern ends of the underpass, welcoming pedestrians with a stunning LED fixture. The ceiling of the underpass, with The Light Lab's embedded diagonal LEDs, is kept well-lit at all hours. The walls boast individually controlled multi-LED pixels behind laminated, toughened glass to provide a level of safety for those leaving after an event in or around the stadium. In order to preserve its history, a portion of the original mural has been saved, framed and illuminated on the east side of the underpass. The whole LED installation had to be completed within a period of two weeks.

"We met this deadline thanks to the hard work and collaboration of the teams involved," says Drew. "We wanted to do this monumental bridge justice and you could see that every member of our team was ready to make it happen."

Olympic Way, more commonly known as Wembley Way, required a digital upgrade



The ability to sync the screens gives Wembley Park the option to create digital experiences combining all three displays; a feature used for the NHS commendation.

to enliven the route. Eclipse was asked to digitalise this area, with the installation of several 5.6m-tall displays to give directional information and key messages to the general public. These displays were also placed at White Horse Square which provides a pathway from Wembley Stadium train station to Wembley Park.

The totem structures, designed and installed by Astley Signs, harbour 16m² of Absen LED XD6, which wraps around the concrete plinths, covering almost half of each plinth in digital screens. The content on the screens is controlled using multi-platform digital signage software embed signage, which adjusts the brightness levels depending on the time of day. The ability to sync the screens gives Wembley Park the option to create digital experiences combining all three digital

displays in this area; a feature that was used for the NHS commendation.

With a capacity of 16,500, the bright pink car park required digital signage that could communicate to the drivers the parking regulations and ever-changing event information. For this, Eclipse chose a mix of Absen's XD6 and a number of IP65 high bright outdoor LCD displays; 10m² of Absen's LED XD6 displays are located inside of the lower level staircase, in order to provide unmissable communication for directional messages for events, crowd management and advertising opportunities.

"Absen LED was chosen for this area as it offered the robustness, size and resolution required for the environment, which is something we could only find in Absen's products," concludes Drew. "The Wembley Park project is a great example of how LED can be used to provide a digital upgrade to modernise old architecture," says head of brand and marketing at Absen Europe, Alex Couzins. "We look forward to the future developments of Wembley Park with Eclipse Digital Media."

www.absen-europe.com
www.eclipsedigitalmedia.co.uk

"The Wembley Park project is a great example of how LED can be used to provide a digital upgrade to modernise old architecture"

Digital screens attract attention inside Liverpool's busiest railway station

Concept Group was commissioned by OPEN Media to install and service two digital displays in Liverpool's busiest railway station.

"We already have a large format LED display on the outside of the station, also provided by Concept Group but we felt that there was an opportunity to capitalise on internal commuter traffic as well as the roadside traffic", says managing director Mike Smith.

The two 5m x 3m LED displays are located inside of the station opposite each other on a bulkhead, surrounded by dozens of retail outlets. Following an initial out-of-hours invasive survey to determine the make-up of the bulkhead, a structural engineer formulated a structural design prior to fabrication and installation. The screens were then deployed during the first lockdown, ensuring enhanced safety operational procedures were followed.

Both screens are made of Daktronics' QVN LED product line with 5.9mm pixel pitch and 1,500nits high brightness. This is one of the first deployments in the UK to use the QVN series, designed for indoor applications including DOOH (Digital Out of Home) advertising. Content is fed to the screens and managed using a Scala CMS.

David Neale, director at Concept Group comments: "We were excited to work with this new technology and have been pleased with the quality and robustness of



The two 5m x 3m LED displays are located inside of the station opposite each other on a bulkhead, surrounded by dozens of retail outlets.

the QVN line. We have been fortunate to see continued demand for our services this year, which has been largely down to our close partnerships with companies such as OPEN Media".

"We are very satisfied with the end results," concludes Mike. "We have worked closely with Concept Group for a number of years and they make the whole process seamless from planning right through to delivery.

"Their hard work makes our job very straightforward and comfortable so it was an easy decision to continue using their

services for the installation of our newest displays".

The Liverpool Central project is one of 50 large format LED installations that Concept Group has delivered in three months; a record quarter for the company.

Despite challenging economic conditions, the company has seen an upsurge in demand from its DOOH (Digital Out of Home) business, which has come back strongly after an initial period of uncertainty.

www.conceptsigns.co.uk



The Liverpool Central project is one of 50 large format LED installations that Concept Group has delivered in three months.

"We already have a large format LED display on the outside of the station but felt that there was an opportunity to capitalise on both internal commuter and roadside traffic"

“Eye-catching” exterior signs and interior decor

Highfield Group was moving into new premises in the Icon building which was located at one of the main entry points into Doncaster town centre; this would be the location for their new business headquarters. Highfield approached Visual Group as they were requiring new signage throughout the building and as a key landmark from the M18 via White Rose Way, it was paramount that signage had to stand out and be eye-catching.

The project included a number of ideas which covered not only the signage for the exterior of the building but ways to bring the office interior to life.

Visual Group took on a large works contract including manufacture and installation. The sign for the exterior of the building, which is black by day and changes colour by night, involved the Highfield Group logo being created as a 10.5m x 2.32m sign made from fabricated aluminium, acrylic and internal RGB LED illumination. The interior of the building took a very different design, incorporating themes about Highfield Group, what the business stands for, what it does and where they are based in Yorkshire.

These designs saw some truly amazing concepts delivered, all to be manufactured on wall vinyl. Shelley Houlbrook, director of communications and strategic partnerships comments: “Thank you Visual Group for all your hard work on this



The sign for the exterior of the building, which is black by day and changes colour by night includes a logo made from aluminium, acrylic and internal RGB LED illumination.

project; the office and building look amazing. Visual Group certainly met our expectations; we have been very impressed with the service, advice, quality and installation. During the planning stages there was excellent advice on achieving the look required, working closely with our team,

“Visual Group provided that expert eye to bring our requirements to life. This was a big project that the team worked very hard on, consisting of a wide range of office

“During the planning stages there was excellent advice on achieving the look required, working closely with our team”

interior wall vinyls as well as a 10.5m x 2.32m colour changing exterior sign for the front of our building which is a predominant focal point as you first come into Doncaster”.

Visual Group director Nigel Spencer comments: “This was a fantastic job to work on; the creativity for the interior of the building was truly innovative and the team really enjoyed working with Highfield Group on this project.

Located on a main entry point into Doncaster, this building was traditionally known as the Icon building but is now the Highfield building and we are proud to be part of that”.

www.visual-group.co.uk



The interior of the building took a very different design, incorporating themes about Highfield Group,

How do I decide which are the best mechanical locator fixings for the job?

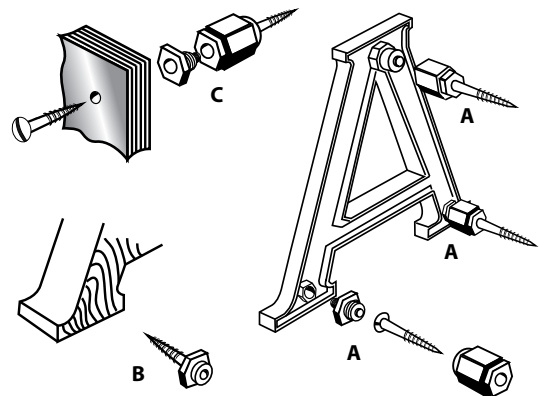
Your finished flat cut letters will need attaching to their destination whether a fascia, wall or shop front and there are various types available. FK Moore is a long time supplier to the sign and display industry of both nylon and metal locators. Karen Jackson gives a few pointers on selecting the most appropriate product.

Metal letters can be offered in large or medium sizes with three options available on the male part. Fixed stud is supplied in either M4 or M5 thread; these would be screwed onto the back of the letter using a predrilled hole or insert. Then we have internally threaded fixings, also available in either M4 or M5 thread, with the option of being soldered or bonded onto the back of each letter, screwing onto studs that are already in place or using a screw through the front of the letter and screwing back into the male fixing. For smaller metal letters we offer a miniature locator fixing with either a fixed stud or internally threaded in M3 which work in the same way as the large or medium sizes and are available in either self-coloured brass or nickel-plated finish, depending on personal choice and aesthetics.

For wooden letters and fitments with wooden backing we suggest using a brass locator fixing with a fixed 8-gauge woodscrew on the male that will screw into the wood. The male locator fixing is pointed in order for it to be used to mark accurately the positions on the wall (or other support) at which the corresponding female fixing are to be fixed. The female fixing is then screwed to the surface, enabling them to rotate on the screws and then tightened around the male locator fixing until secure, using a spanner. Available in either self-colour brass or



For wooden letters and fitments with wooden backing we suggest using a brass locator fixing



Nothing beats a metal locator for strength, length of life, security, value for money and ease of maintenance.

nickel-plated finish (depending on personal choice and aesthetics) dimensions are as follows: large - overall length 17mm, width 12mm; medium - overall length 12mm, width 10mm; and small - overall length 10mm, width 8mm. In our experience, nothing beats a metal locator for strength, longevity, security, value for money and ease of maintenance.

Nylon locators are suitable for use with acrylic, ACM and foam on smooth, reasonably flat surfaces; these are perfect for both internal and external use as they are UV stabilised and frost-resistant. Although nylon are used externally, we would always recommend a mechanical fixing (metal locator).

These are available in black and white cups as standard in four sizes: mini with stud diameter of 8mm and overall length including socket of 12.4mm; small with stud diameter of 12.5mm and overall

length including socket of 19mm; medium stud diameter is 16.5mm with overall length including socket of 19.9mm; large size has a stud diameter of 18.5mm and overall length including socket of 24mm.

We recommend using Penloc VT Plus with the nylon locators, this is a toughened 1:1 ration structural adhesive formulated for bonding thermoplastics, metals and composites. The combination of minimal surface preparation (ie lightly abrade the surface before applying adhesive) and rapid fixture time, makes it ideal for a variety of assembly operations (working time 4-6 minutes, fixture time 10-12 minutes (always follow these bonding guidelines). A word of caution: never over-tighten screw in female part; to avoid failure, allow for expansion. Finally, never use our nylon locators with any other manufacturers' brand as they will fail.

www.fkmoore.com



How can I form large letters that are lightweight and durable?

Selecting the most appropriate material is the short answer, according to Gillian Fraser, brand manager for Brett Martin. The manufacturer of specialist plastic products for the sign and display sector has developed a calibrated foam PVC construction board that appears to fit the bill.

A multipurpose calibrated foam PVC construction board made by Brett Martin combines an exceptionally lightweight core with a hard, smooth durable surface.

Manufactured in thicknesses of 10 to 30mm, Foamalux Calibre is ideal for making large letters, signs and displays. It offers dimensional stability, will not rot, mould or corrode and has a high insulation value and fire performance.

Calibre is made alongside the rest of Brett Martin's Foamalux foam PVC range at its main manufacturing site in Mallusk, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Like the free foam PVC products, it is manufactured using a foaming technique whereby a chemical agent is added to the base PVC compound. Heat from the extrusion process creates a chemical reaction, resulting in a product with a fine, uniform closed cell structure.

Being manufactured using this technique means that it is more lightweight than alternative materials such as wood-based products or composites.



Heat from the extrusion process creates a chemical reaction, resulting in a product with a fine, uniform closed cell structure.

Unlike other Foamalux products, the sheet is calibrated using modern technologies which give the dual benefits of minimum thickness variation across the sheet plus harder, more durable surfaces, top and bottom. The manufacturing process results in tangible product benefits which make Calibre the perfect choice for a range of signage, display and construction applications, especially where wood based products are traditionally used.

Its smooth, hard surface makes it ideal for a variety of finishes including lamination, printing and spray painting and it has a range of processing capabilities including routing, sawing drilling and riveting.

Calibre's consistent, calibrated thickness makes it the ideal sheet for displays which can be fabricated with precision while the smooth white Foamalux surface is perfect for printing. A calibrated thickness is advantageous where the product needs to sit inside a frame or needs to be mounted completely flush. Suitable for both internal and external applications, Calibre is also available in a weatherable UV grade.

www.brettmartin.com



Calibre has a range of processing capabilities including routing, sawing drilling and riveting.

Can I cut and drill it?

Calibre can be fabricated and processed using standard wood cutting and drilling machinery and engraved using routing equipment to create surface designs. As with all PVC products, laser cutting is **not** recommended due to the excessive heat build-up which results in hazardous gases.

Can I print and laminate it?

Yes, it can be printed in the same way as standard Foamalux products as the surface, though harder, is made from free foam. Calibre's surface quality and calibrated thickness make the product ideal for lamination. Vinyl films, veneers and other laminates can be applied for decorative or branding purposes.

Can it be bonded?

Foamalux Calibre can be bonded to itself and a variety of other materials such as uPVC, GRP, woods and metals. Different types can be used including 1 and 2 parts polyurethane or cyanoacrylates based adhesives.

What is the best way to apply flat cut letters?

An amalgamation of sign companies, **TRADE-LETTERS.COM** is a trade only letter supplier that works closely with clients to ensure that artwork received meets the requirements for flat cut letters and the whole project. Mark Ashcroft, MD of Snapfix shares practical tips for fixing.

SNAPFIX was first invented and patented in 1969 when we created the fixing that is now commonly known and highly regarded in the sign industry as The Locator. Over the years it has become the industry standard letter fixing, Preferred and trusted by companies globally knowing they will not be let down regardless of the weather conditions; from sub-Saharan Africa to the Faroe Islands SNAPFIX always performs.

We offer small, medium and large sizes which are more than adequate for any project they will be used for. SNAPFIX is the only locator supplier to supply its cups in 10 colours to match panel colours, our Rainbow range. Manufactured in the UK to ISO 9001 standard, they are shipped to our distributors and directly to customers across the globe. In early 2016 SNAPFIX moved into a purpose-built factory to further increase storage and manufacturing capability due to worldwide demand for our product, SNAPFIX has been No 1 for almost four decades and the move has enabled us to cement that position and supply our customers for the next 50 years. Here are my top 10 tips:



Using the correct adhesive for acrylic/foam or two-part methacrylate for ACM apply the selected size of locator to each letter.



Number each letter on the template with its counterpart to ensure fitting is easier if there are two letters the same.

1. Once letters have been cut and removed from excess sheet, they should then be checked and where necessary cleaned off so that the edges are smooth (remove protective cover off the backs).
2. Using the same file that has been used for the cutting process, print off the template for the finished design in order to mark locator positions.
3. Place the text onto the template reverse side up to make sure that there are no items missing.
4. Using the correct adhesive for acrylic/foam or two-part methacrylate for ACM (Dibond/Reynobond material), apply the selected size of locator to each letter (usually between 2-4 per letter depending on size). Leave the adhesive to dry (usually around 30mins, although this can vary depending on climate conditions).
5. Once the adhesive is dry and the locator cannot be moved, turn each letter over and press down on to the paper so that the locators leave an indentation; Snapfix is manufactured with a small sharp point for this purpose. After all letters have been through this process, using a stamp or pen mark where each indentation appears.
6. Number each letter on the template with its counterpart to ensure fitting is easier if there are two letters the same.



Drill fixing holes suitable for the surface and screw the locators through the template precisely onto the pen marks.

are two letters the same and as a second check that all letters required are there).

7. Fit template to wall in the desired position that the letters need to be installed and use masking tape to hold template in position.

8. Drill fixing holes suitable to whatever surface you are fixing to and screw the locators through the template precisely onto the pen marks made in step 5.

9. Remove the template and push the letters into the locators fitted to the wall.

10. Once all the letters have been installed remove the protective film on the face of each letter.

www.snapfix.co.uk



Remove the template and push the letters into the locators fitted to the wall.



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Can I achieve an outstanding finish that is affordable?

From humble beginnings as a metal fabricator, Applelec combines activities as a trade manufacturer of bespoke signage, display and lighting products and as an LED supplier. Anodised finishing of flat-cut letters is making an impact, despite often being perceived as a complicated and therefore expensive option.

Anodised signage is an art to perfect and one that many companies are cautious to offer. As stunning as it can be tricky to produce, it is often perceived as an expensive option which can show up the natural flaws of the material.

However, Applelec offers a range which overcomes both obstacles to create a beautifully anodised product which stands apart from other flat-cut finishes to complement any design.

Corrosion resistance

The grained and brushed detail achieved by the company's vibrantly coloured flat-cut anodised signage is both distinctive and striking. This hardwearing material offers resistance to corrosion, which makes it less likely to crack and peel and has meant that their anodised products have fast become a favourite with Applelec's clients and their clients' customers alike.

Head of customer engagement Andy Armitage explains: "Applelec's anodised finish is a really noteworthy option, providing signage companies and designers with something uniquely different to offer clients. It creates a



The grained and brushed detail achieved by the vibrantly coloured flat-cut anodised signage is distinctive.



beautiful impact that is supported with our quality guarantee and customer support."

The bonded anodised finish is achieved through a polished, lacquered and painted process, giving the aluminium a strengthening protection which is suitable for both internal and external signage, even in the most extreme environments.

Colour stability

The anodising process ensures colour stability while retaining the appearance of the finish for longer. This not only increases the product's lifespan but provides a low maintenance signage solution, ensuring long-term value.

Applelec's anodised colour finishes liberate flat-cut lettering design restrictions, providing endless opportunities for creativity. Ranging from bright and vibrant to more classic tones, the colours offer a depth and richness that is distinct and beautifully finished, making them a perfect option for eye-level signage requirements.



The anodising process ensures colour stability while retaining the appearance of the finish for longer.

www.applelec.co.uk

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Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
3mm	1.00	1.25	1.39	1.65	1.96	2.61	3.28	3.49	4.07	4.91	7.44	8.07	9.07	10.21	12.48	14.45	19.28	34.03	41.86	50.88
5mm	1.39	1.77	2.09	2.57	3.23	3.93	4.80	6.25	7.31	8.51	9.92	11.34	13.61	16.45	18.98	20.42	26.66	34.03	51.04	65.72
10mm	2.58	3.09	4.08	5.07	6.33	8.10	9.70	13.61	14.74	17.86	20.46	24.39	27.79	32.33	36.29	40.83	56.71	82.80	106.61	137.80

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
Coloured	1.75	2.25	2.81	3.32	3.93	5.06	6.18	7.41	8.54	9.48	11.53	12.92	15.73	17.98	19.10	23.03	27.53	39.33	51.69	70.79
Mirror (silver)	2.58	3.24	4.49	5.62	7.30	8.99	10.11	12.36	15.17	17.98	19.66	22.47	26.40	29.78	31.46	36.52	42.70	53.37	57.30	108.43
Mirror (gold)	2.84	3.56	4.94	6.18	8.03	9.89	11.12	13.60	16.69	19.78	21.63	24.72	29.04	32.76	34.61	40.17	46.97	58.71	63.03	119.27
Brushed	1.96	2.47	3.21	4.01	4.66	5.71	6.88	8.16	9.91	11.66	13.41	15.16	18.66	20.41	22.74	25.65	33.81	45.47	57.13	78.71

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

MOULDED ACRYLIC LETTERING (includes locators and paper template)

Height	152mm	203mm	254mm	305mm	380mm	457mm	610mm
Colours*	6.14	9.22	14.50	15.85	21.50	25.48	44.75

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A great finish *By Jack Gocher*

Lamination is and remains a very important part of the print process, specifically for protecting or mounting the printed image. Ink quality and durability of inks has increased remarkably over the years, to the point that almost all print ink types can survive the outdoors and are durable enough to take a lot more than in the early days of digital printing. Nevertheless, protection of the printed image is still important for many reasons.

Lamination still plays a key role in ensuring the required durability of the finished print, or image. Heavy traffic areas, vehicle transport graphics, walls and surfaces in public areas, retail, signage, transport and more all depend on the ink and print to be up to the job and the duration the client wants and has now learnt to expect.

Derric Landor, Managing Director of Landor UK, which supplies a broad range of products for the printing industry, explains, "In the early days of digital inkjet, inks did not last very long outdoors. Quite often, if the prints got wet or were frequently being transported or handled, they usually ended up getting destroyed. As a result, they had to have additional protection for the most basic applications for even just getting them from the finishing suite to the installation site in one piece."

Liquid lamination is a very manageable, cost effective and profitable solution that by its very nature increases the range of applications over and above traditional film laminate applicators

He adds, "As more and more printed substrates – such as rigid boards are printed directly without flexible substrates, the client expectation of durability and life of the print becomes that much greater. Print lamination remains important to the print service provider in terms of delivery, longevity and quality as well as value for money for the client. Good quality print finishing is essential, and, as with so much to do with business - time is money."

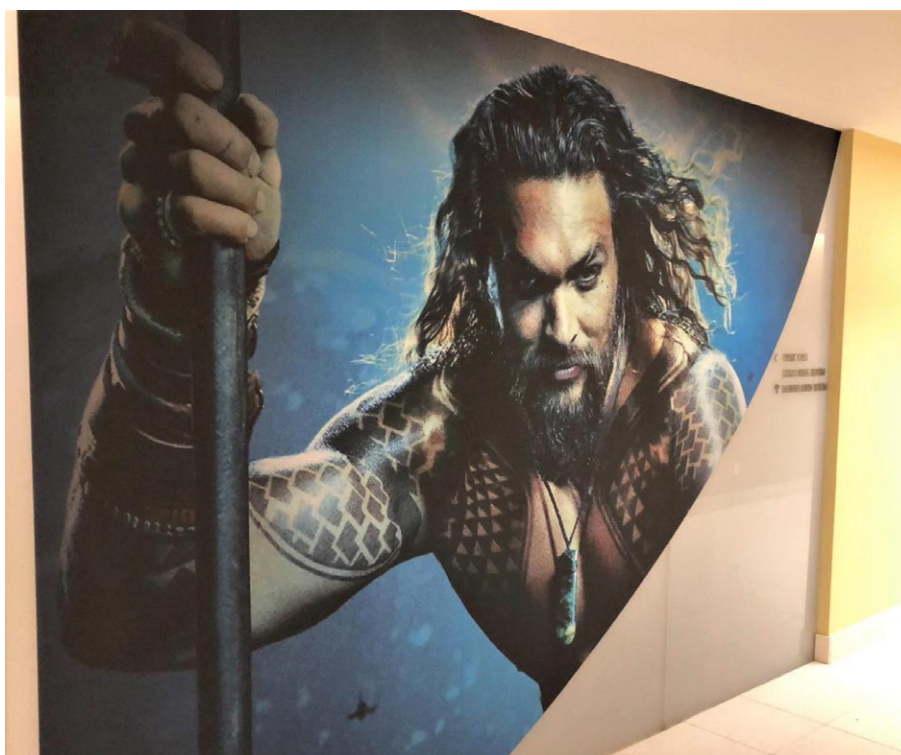


Lamination is necessary for applications requiring greater durability

Liquid lamination

Liquid lamination is an alternative to the film lamination process. Landor explains, "Liquid lamination proves very attractive as there is no necessity for capital equipment outlay. It is possible to apply a liquid laminate manually and this can be achieved with ease and with little or no skill, using a hand roller, brush, foam pad or spray."

Often liquid lamination can be done after installation, or on site, rather than prior to installation, which is the prerequisite for film lamination, with a skilled operator and a high-quality laminator. Liquid lamination coating machines are efficient and productive for the larger print house or service provider, delivering added quality and profitability to the application as well as dependability. This is particularly beneficial when using higher cost and higher value products such as cast films, canvas, fine art, flex face signs, outdoor hoardings and wallcoverings.



"Liquid lamination will enable you to exceed the performance of film lamination in some cases – but not all. Stable and protected coated prints with greater tensile strength is an important advantage that liquid lamination has over standard film laminates for many applications. There are a few applications and substrates where film lamination simply will not work or be suitable. This could be protecting a print with textured surfaces such as artists' canvas, textiles, textured wallcoverings and PVC banner," he says.

Derric Landor concludes, "Liquid lamination gives you the ability to double the life of a PVC banner with relative ease. It can also provide a very flexible protective coating on a vehicle wrap, at a much lower cost than traditional products, such as cast film."

www.landoruk.com



Liquid lamination works well for large soft signage, such as needed on large vehicle graphics

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Laminator versus application table

It's true to say, that in an ideal world a sign-maker would have both a laminator and an application table to hand. The laminator, for fast roll to roll working and to achieve the best results from the lamination process, and the Application table, for fast and efficient lay downs of vinyl and tapes.

According to Allan Ashman, Managing Director of Atech Limited, says, "Traditionally in a sign shop, lamination and mounting were done by hand with a roller or squeegee. This is no longer practical with the increased workload and physical size of the units to be mounted. The demand from far more discerning customers and the production speed of printers, has resulted in this method of working, lacking in every respect."

He continues, "Squeegee hand applicators are obviously a cheaper alternative to an application table or laminator and can make a good starting point at entry level. They are not particularly suited to any form of laminating, but more suited for vinyl and tape applications. Squeegee application could very well meet the requirements of smaller sign shops that would struggle to see any fast return on investment from an application table. Another benefit of squeegee applicators is that they are easily transported, making them invaluable for on-site applications."

Advantages of application tables and laminators

Essentially the main advantages of application tables and laminators is the consistent high finish quality and speed of application. "Roll laminators have been around for more than 40 years and still



The new CWT Evolution Flatbed Applicator

offer the best possible results when it comes to the lamination process due to the sheer amount of pressure they can apply, plus the added benefit of heat in the roller to give optimal clarity to the laminate. Modern laminators are now specified with multiple unwind and rewind features to enable continuous roll lamination, so full rolls of printed or coloured vinyls can be laminated with perfect clarity in just a few minutes," says Atech.

He continues, "Laminators come in many guises and are often designed for specific processes within the Sign and Graphics industry and so selecting the right laminator for the job is key. At Atech we have arguably the most experienced engineers and sales staff in lamination and print finishing and ensure every detail is covered for your specific application when deciding on what machine to go for. Therefore, if it's all about lamination or even specific display work such as mounting visuals behind clear acrylic sheet is concerned, then the right laminator is the only way to go."

However, Ashman also says that application tables have revolutionised how we handle vinyl, and when it comes to laying down work, nothing is as fast, as accurate or as foolproof. "With minimal training anyone can quickly learn how to apply application tape to cut vinyl, mount down work with total accuracy and apply them all onto multiple substrates such as foamed PVC, DiBond, MDF, glass and fluted Correx without fear of start/stop marks and creases. Illuminated table options are a must have, enabling total accuracy when applying oversized graphics to board. Another advantage is how during the application process the board remains static on the table with the

roller moving over the work, thus giving total control and pinpoint accuracy of the subject being laid down and as a result equipment requires less than half the working area, when compared to passing a board through a typical laminator set up."

In the absence of a dedicated laminator, a standard application tables can also be used to put down laminate providing it is accepted that the results may not be as good as those through a good laminator. Close inspection may reveal silvering under the laminate due to lack of heat and pressure, although for some this can be more than acceptable.

The latest generation application table from CWT, is set to bridge the gap. "The new Evolution-series of fully electric flatbed Application table/laminators from CWT Worktools have the possibility to add a heat-assisted roller and an electric drive. This electronic workstation creates an automated workstation that will achieve a higher and more consistent lamination quality. In addition, there is the possibility to add electric table height adjustment for an even more ergonomic working environment," he says.

A satisfied customer, Jeremy Vera, Technical Services Consultant at FASTSIGNS International, has the final word, "With this table I have increased production time and happier clients. I was laying down approximately 15 – 8x4's per hour with my laminator, now I can easily lay down 45-50 an hour using my new CWT application with just one person... WOW what a time saver! Overall, this has been one of the best pieces of equipment we have purchased."

www.atech.co.uk



Application tables have revolutionised how we handle vinyl

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Kala offers roll laminators and application tables

For many years, Kala's primary focus was on roll laminators. The introduction of application tables has changed the workflow in many print shops. In this growing segment of the market, Kala is one of the latest players. Managing Director, Laurent Bouchard, says, "We are often asked the same question about what is best between a flat-bed applicator and a roll laminator. Our answer is that those two products complement each other inside a sign shop by providing a complete range of application solutions."

He continues, "For film application, our roll laminators can laminate a full roll of 50m print without skewing in less than 15 minutes, including webbing time and with a perfect surface result. It can also be run unattended for improved productivity and time-saving. This operation would require much more time with an application table. Mounting a print on a board can be done in different ways. Based on some studies done with large customers in America, mounting a 3m long print to a board takes on operator approximately 1 minute 20 seconds with a table, 2 minutes 20 seconds with our Mistral laminator and 6 minutes for 2 people applying it manually with a squeegee. In our opinion, workshops doing lots of roll lamination and mounting in a day and looking for flexibility should definitely have both."

Versatility

Bouchard says the advantages of an application table are that it can be used for other purposes such as cutting and weeding. It serves as a working table and brings versatility to the workshop. They are simple to use, without extensive operator skills.

He also points out that one of the issues with Application tables is the floor space occupied. "With Kala, the space underneath the table is completely free and can be used for storage material without extra cost. Kala's tables are expandable to meet the growth of the company's business. The introduction of tables to the market has met a real demand from sign-makers and solved many production issues. Since then, more players have joined the market, with most using an economical pneumatic system. None of those pneumatic system is fully safe to operate because compressed air does not allow a proper control of the roller until it comes into contact with a surface, including body parts. Kala has taken a different technology approach with the use of electrical motors controlled electronically for the elevation. This electrical solution is completely secured with a laser eye detecting any objects or body part between the table surface and the roller. Those motors allow the operator to control the pressure applied on the media directly from the machine and not by guessing from a compressor."



The Kala Mistral roll-fed laminator provides perfect surfaces and unattended laminating

Manual application of prints with a squeegee onto rigid surface is cheaper in terms of investment but is simply not as profitable as investing in a laminator or an application table for serious work. According to Bouchard, for limited budget and start-up companies, a roll laminator is probably a safer and more versatile investment in a first step.

Laurent Bouchard concludes, "Another way to produce rigid printed panel is to print them directly with a flat-bed UV printer. Such investment decision should be done based on the type of work produced by the workshop and the expected return-on-investment. Under the current health and economic circumstances, such acquisition has to be considered with highest care. Depending on the printer brands, running costs are lower but productivity can be a question and operator time to load boards into the machine is not the easiest to estimate. In comparison, a roll of print can be printed overnight on a roll to roll printer, laminated if required after degassing and mounted onto a board the day after with a table or a laminator. That could be a smoother workflow and a good alternative for print companies with limited staff."



The Kala Applikator 4400 application table can be used for a broad range of applications

www.kala.fr

Bubblefree Pro is ideal for sign and display

Bubblefree applicator tables have been sold exclusively in the UK by Josero since 2013. Since that time, 120 + units have been sold into a variety of different industries. The most popular sector is sign & display, where the Bubblefree cuts down dramatically on the labour time for mounting vinyl or applying a laminate directly onto rigid boards or flexible substrates. In addition to mounting and lamination, another strong feature is the ease of applying a clear application tape onto self-adhesive vinyl used in the installation process for applying vinyl to the surface area.

Josero's Managing Director, Loic Delor, says, "The main advantage for having a dedicated table instead of using a make-shift table with a roll-fed laminator, is the reduction of time and the ease of use, which ultimately allows for a more cost-effective turnaround. Another nice feature is the 3-layer glass table backed with LED illumination, which assists with accuracy and again ease of use when handling large sheet sizes."

He continues, "Typically, you will need two people and high skillset to mount vinyl on boards using a laminator. You'll also need a table in the front and one in the back. The flatbed applicator is really a single operator tool that allows up to 20 boards an hour to be mounted reliably and successfully. It also saves a great amount of space as there is no need to have the double board area required with a traditional laminator."

The Bubblefree tables come in a range of different sizes depending on the work required. The most popular size by a long stretch is the 1.7m x 4m specification as



The Bubblefree Pro application table

this size caters for both 4'x8' and 5'x10' sheet sizes. In many cases, because the difference in cost isn't much compared to the smaller table. "Space permitting, customers will favour this table with the knowledge that when the business grows over time, they will have the ability to handle a wider range of work," says Delor.

Quality build

He continues, "In comparison to many other brands, the Bubblefree tables are fully welded thus ensuring a straight and constant movement of the roller, along with overall stability, accuracy and consistency. The sturdy design will last for many years and is the reason all tables come standard with a 5-year comprehensive warranty. Rarely does a situation arise when a 2nd hand unit becomes available. Once installed, they are an important part of your business for the long term."

Some of Josero's customers have explained why they love their Bubblefree Pro machines. James Taylor of Pixel Media, adds, "I know I have said how good the Bubblefree Pro is from Josero, but I've spent the weekend mounting vinyl onto Dibond and it's a breeze.....even my oldest boy aged 10 can use it." Josh Ainsley of Ainsley Signs says, "The Bubblefree Pro has helped us as a business massively. Our production time and finishing time is probably done in half the time now and this gives us great flexibility to take on more work without having to worry about getting more staff to meet the higher demands."

Simon Platt from Pumpkin Sign & Display says, "Having looked at other application tables on the market we felt the build quality, price and lead time offered by Josero for the Bubblefree table far exceeded what was on offer and as such had no hesitation in placing an order for one. Plus, the fact that you can specify the colour of your table is a really nice individual touch. And finally, James Clarke of EP Cowen Signs, says, "The accuracy of the application is very consistent even across hundreds of 8'x4' boards."

In addition to the standard table configuration, there is a choice of two options available both designed around making the operation easy for one person. Options include a KeenCut cutter fitted at the end of the table and an electric table height adjuster that can be programmed depending on the individual's requirements. "Another nice touch liked by our customers, is the ability to choose the colour of the table when ordered. This becomes especially relevant when the business has a strong brand identity," he concludes.

www.josero.com



Josh Ainsley of Ainsley Signs says his Bubblefree Pro from Josero has halved production and finishing time

Increased efficiency and productivity

Spandex is a UK supplier of materials, sign systems, displays and equipment to the signs, graphics and wrapping industry and is the UK distributor for Rollroller. Ian Plenty is the company's flatbed applicator expert and he says there are several advantages with having a moving head such as a Rollroller compared with a moving substrate such as on a roll-fed laminator, particularly around time saving and increased production.

"A moving head provides more accuracy and it is easier to align and position the graphics exactly where you want it with millimetre precision. It is also more flexible, allowing you to go from applying application tape to mounting application tape and finally adding laminate in a matter of minutes without needing another work table, because. With a roll fed laminator it is a bigger operation to change between the different materials."

He continues, "Roll-fed tables are simply faster and ensure more products can be delivered to happy customers. They give operators a better overhead view and puts them in total control. And if something does go wrong, there is still a possibility to make it right. A roll-fed machine provides a combination between craftsmanship and



A roll-fed applicator table is easy to use and increases productivity

machine support that is indisputably the most successful way of working with self-adhesive materials."

Ian Plenty points out that it is true skilled craftsmanship to handle self-adhesive materials and many people still work more manually and take high pride in it. "However, it requires many years of experience to be really good at finishing by hand and avoid having to redo work and therefore waste expensive materials. Even the most experienced sign-maker cannot beat the Rollroller production method in mounting time. And what happens with your production if your experienced staff get ill, have vacation or takes another job? An applicator table future-proofs your business, adding consistency and quality that can only benefit by having experienced finishers using it."

He adds, "Rollroller are the original inventors of this type of equipment and have been making, developing and improving their products for over 25 years and have the largest range of bed sizes and models available. This is a must-have piece of equipment in any sign shop due to the massive labour saving and reduced wastage because of less rework. It also allows for more competitive quoting, which results in winning more business and is vital in the current climate with companies running with reduced staffing levels while still trying to maintain customer service levels."



The Rollroller increases application flexibility

Rollsroller Flatbed Applicators eliminate several time-consuming steps for sign making and print finishing in mounting, lamination and pre-masking. One operator can mount large format digital print and self-adhesive film to many substrates like acrylic, rigid boards, corrugated plastic, metal plate, banners and glass. The flatbed gives you complete control over positioning and produces a result free from bubbles and creases.

It is designed for cold flatbed lamination of digital prints and signs, by using pressure sensitive lamination film direct from roll or sheet by sheet for minimum waste. A heat assist roller is available as option. Ian Plenty concludes, "With a Rollsroller a typical sign company can save over 800 hours of work per year. This is a huge advantage and enables them to work more efficiently, get through more orders and, particularly in these difficult times, increase potential revenue and profits.

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What is flex face signage?

The sales team at Nova hear this question every day from customers often apprehensive about installing it. Lisa Sperring provides an insight into flex face signage including materials, finishes and applications.

Quite simply, flex face signage uses a banner substrate material with printed graphics in place of rigid panels when acrylic is not suitable. The flexibility of the substrates allows for a seamless finish with no joins that are inevitable when using rigid face materials. This also means that you are not restricted by size as you are with acrylic and composite panels; it is possible to achieve almost any size when using flexible faced signage.

We often hear from customers that they are apprehensive about installing flex boxes or worried that there will be additional time required for installation. In reality, the installation of the back box is no different to fitting an acrylic box faced box; the same principles apply, often just on a bigger scale. There are several systems available for flex banners; at Nova we have designed our systems specifically with the installer in mind.

Full perimeter tensioning

NovaFlex is the only full perimeter tensioning system on the market; this means that the banner is tensioned at all points around the perimeter of the box. The skin requires a loop to be welded



NovaFlex is suitable for boxes of any size and due to its full perimeter tensioning can be fitted in any location with no chance of blowouts.

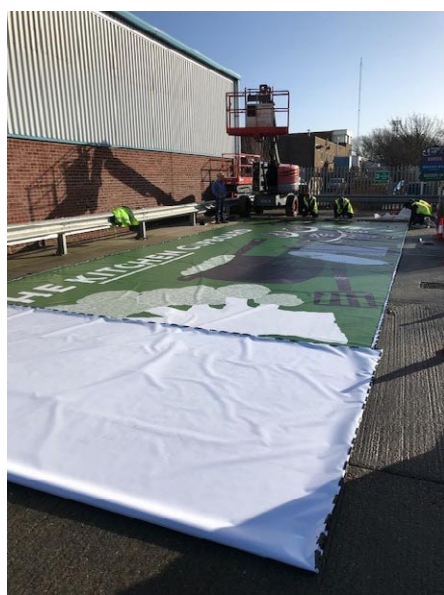
around the edge, an aluminium rod slides into the pocket created and the puller profile slides over the pocket which is then hooked into the brackets and tensioned using a power drill. This method ensures wrinkle-free skins every time as NovaFlex has the most adjustment when tensioning than any other system.

At 200mm in depth, NovaFlex can be backlit using LEDs giving striking visuals, particularly when using a multi-layer print. NovaFlex is suitable for boxes of any size and due to its full perimeter tensioning can be fitted in any location with no chance of blowouts. When it comes to the back box, there are three supports available depending on the size of the box required: 50mm supports are used on the open end of each section and when over 3000mm in height, 100mm supports are used as standard on the ends of the box and in the centre of each middle section.

For much larger boxes over 4000mm in height the 150mm wide support is used on both ends. These prevent the box from distorting under tension and allow plenty of secure fixing points for the installer. NovaFlex has recently been used to produce boxes 24000 x 7500mm with no horizontal joins. Boxes were delivered to site in 7500mm long sections.

Our fleet of vehicles enable us to make boxes in the best configuration for fitting as we will deliver directly to site when required by the customer.

Working in conjunction with SignComp Europe, we developed NovaComp which is tensioned using black clips and available at both 135mm and 200mm deep backlit with LEDs, it incorporates the same support sections as NovaFlex. The installation of the skin in NovaComp is achieved by fitting black clips at 150mm centres around the perimeter of the skin and then installing them into the box using



The installation of the skin in NovaComp is achieved by fitting black clips at 150mm centres around the perimeter of the skin.



All depths except for the 18mm can be perfectly illuminated with LEDs if required using the NovaTex profiles.

fitting tools. Nova supplies additional SignComp systems including the 30mm non-illuminated frame.

Which system is best?

Should you use NovaFlex or NovaComp? Once you have determined that both systems are suitable for the application, then it only really comes down to the preference of your fitter. Some will prefer one system over the other and once some have tried the other, you may well find they are converted.

As demand for non-illuminated signage using flexible faced systems increased, Nova designed a system tensioned using the same black clips as NovaComp. At just 75mm deep, the fascia frame is a great alternative to folded sign trays.

With just two extrusions making up the perimeter, it is easy to transport and fit. The body section has two fixing points all around its perimeter to prevent it from bowing under tension. The skin is installed using the same process as other NovaComp systems. Also available made up with supports and a back, the 75mm fascia frame is a budget solution for flexible faced signage. For a shallower option, NovaSkin is just 40mm deep.

Full perimeter fixing is available as standard and supports can be fitted if required. The skin is fitted in place a white plastic extruded clip; also in the range is the NovaSkin Adaptor. This section fits into existing rigid faced lightboxes in place of the bead that retains the acrylic panel. Once fitted, the skin is installed in the same way, transforming your High Street lightbox into a flexface.

Internal advertising is becoming more popular and requires a softer look than external flex signage and has graphics that are likely to be changed regularly.

This is where our NovaTex suite of profiles is the system of choice. Available in depths of 18mm, 40mm, 65mm and 83mm including a double-sided option at 100mm deep, there is a solution for every requirement. All but the 18mm can be perfectly illuminated with LEDs if required.

Screw-free appearance

With its completely screw-free appearance, NovaTex is ideal for any environment from office to retail. The printed skins have a silicone edge stitched to the perimeter, enabling it to be simply pushed into the back box.

Flexible faced systems have become more popular than ever in the past few years and with retailers wanting to regularly



The only full perimeter tensioning system on the market, the banner is tensioned at all points around the perimeter of the box.

update their image, it is the perfect option. Nova understands the apprehension towards the systems, especially if you are new to them so our knowledgeable sales team with 50 years plus experience between them are always on hand to offer advice or answer questions; even if it's not about one of our systems, we will do all we can to help and point you in the right direction. To make ordering your flex face systems as easy as possible, we offer a one stop shop.

Working closely with printers that know our systems as well as we do, we can offer fully prepared and printed skins for all our systems so you can be assured you will

have all you need to complete the job. This is just a brief insight into flex face signage; for more information please contact our team who will be delighted to help or visit our website to browse all of the signage systems we have available including acrylic lightboxes, wayfinding and overhead lighting.

Our experience dates back many years, allowing us to continue to bring new and innovative systems and solutions to the market. If you need a particular solution and we don't currently have it, we will use our expertise to find one.

www.nova-aluminium.com



Installation of the back box is no different to fitting an acrylic box faced box; the same principles apply, often just on a bigger scale.

UV or not UV - that really is the question!

By Jack Gocher

The personalised gift market has grown dramatically in recent years and has absolutely skyrocketed over the last year. With many people spending lots of time at home with nothing but the internet to satisfy their shopping needs, personalising gifts has become the norm and very much expected. Moving into this market you find plenty of options and a key question is whether or not to invest in a UV-based print solution or use a toner-based option from companies such as theMagicTouch.

We spoke to Jim Nicol, Managing Director of TheMagicTouch, which has more than 28 years of committed and award winning service on the “personalisation” clock and he took the opportunity to remind the sign industry of the many opportunities and advantages created by increasing the range of B2B products to existing and future customers.

“In business today, profit margins have generally reduced, markets are more competitive, costs have risen and the range of products demanded by customers has increased, he said, adding, “This combined with lower order value and quicker fulfilment expectation all contributes to changing markets. Hence, now is the time to review the best affordable options for the future.”

For those considering adding both textile and non-textile products to their portfolio, there is no single print solution that does everything, but a very clear choice exists

today between toner-based direct printing using TheMagicTouch transfer process and UV printer technology. Nicol explains, “Both technologies allow full colour imaging onto bottles, tiles, phone cases, diaries, notebooks, wood, MDF, acrylic, metal, leather and glass, but with a significant entry-level price difference. Plus the white-toner transfer technology requires no pre-treatment of any special coating to enable the decoration to be done, the same applies to garments.”

Variable success of industrial UV printers

According to Nicol, many current users of industrial UV print technology have been very successful and seen a good return on investment, however equally as many have struggled to master the technology or

indeed focus their sales and marketing to keep the printers busy and to maintain good margins. “In a market driven by technology and closely aligned with “return on investment”, the white-toner transfer process from TheMagicTouch remains the best entry-level solution. Whichever way you consider it, a good branded UV printer regardless of make or model will still cost around £20k which is serious investment for many. The white-toner entry-level cost remains at less than £3k.”

He continues, “One important factor to always remember is that internet sellers are unable to compete with traditional selling methods that enable the customer to “Touch and Feel” the product first to ensure that all quality expectations are met and exceeded. This often means that too many customers order personalised



Images show the broad range of products that can be produced using theMagicTouch toner-based technology

and promotional products online only to be disappointed. Submitting a personalised sample for evaluation is not only pro-active and appreciated by recipients, it's also tax deductible as part of any marketing budget. TheMagicTouch recently conducted a print evaluation on the new Bagbase® range of wallets, passport holders, bags, accessories and B2B promotional products from Beechfield Brands highlighting the ease of transfer printing and the low cost per transfer for the various items."

Jim further explains, "Over many years we have considered adding UV printers to our product portfolio, but nothing in my personal view made commercial sense. Many products at the time had almost reached saturation point in terms of availability and most of them can also be produced using our existing direct to substrate transfer process."

Another important aspect to consider between the technologies is on-going running costs especially when the manufacturer's warranty expires. Take into consideration replacement UV print heads and the cost of any extended warranty. The TMT/OKi white toner solution offers 3 year onsite warranty and no print heads to replace!

"Recent additional accessories for UV printing for the decoration of bottles and cylindrical objects are considered by many as over-engineered and overpriced as the



OKI toner printer with theMagicTouch media range

finished product can be decorated using existing TMT technology for a fraction of the cost and speed," says Nicol.

One distinct advantage of UV ink technology is the ability to create a textured feel to the printed surface, highlighted in the production of braille-based surface products. However, this niche application is not commonly used

due to the considerable increase in ink cost and production time involved. Another advantage of UV is the ability to print areas greater than A3 in size.

Nicol adds, "The marketing potential to directly transfer print onto non-garments offers great opportunity across many markets including promotional printers, screen and pad printers, embroiderers, reward and recognition industry, sign industry, commercial printers and those involved in gift personalisation. The toner-based option obviously also offers the advantage of being able to use the full range of transfer papers from TheMagicTouch to decorate almost any garment, any colour, quickly and very cost effectively."

Jiim Nicol concludes, "Future markets are being created in front of us and none greater than the demand and awareness for more ecological and environmental products. This year TheMagicTouch introduced coasters and placemats in both natural cork and slate together with cork note books and a range of vacuum bottles and enamel mugs. The bottom line is simple, offering a wider range of products and services to your existing customers offers them benefits of the convenience of a multi-product supplier assisting in customer loyalty and satisfaction."

www.themagictouch.co.uk



Mimaki adds flexibility to UV flatbed

Mimaki is well-known for its substantial range of LED UV direct to object printers that encompass options to suit most budgets, applications and size requirements. Brett Newman, Managing Director of Mimaki's exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland, Hybrid Services, says, "Starting at just £12,995, the Mimaki UJF range can be installed with a choice of inks, from highly flexible options that suit printing onto more malleable materials, such as phone cases, packaging prototypes that require creasing and folding, leather or personalised stationery such as notebooks."

Further up the range, harder and even more scratch resistant inks are well suited to printing to metal, glass, wood, polycarbonate and acrylic. "This means the Mimaki UJF can also create bespoke awards, photo blocks, pens and signage. Combined with the ability to print primer to enhance ink adhesion, the UJF makes short work of printing onto the most challenging materials. Additional white and clear inks are also available to maximise the printers' creative potential," adds Newman.



Great example of the Mimaki UJF's Kebab device for cylindrical printing

The extensive Mimaki UJF range includes models with A3 and A2 format beds, higher head gap options and the range topping UJF-7151plus, which offers industrial level precision, quality and further ink choices including metallic.

Printing for business, not just for printers

Newman continues, "The consistent results achievable with Mimaki's range of LED UV printers across a vast range of substrates and applications has been one of a number reasons for their popularity and market leading reputation. Found in a wide variety of print businesses – and a lot of the time, in manufacturing businesses that wouldn't describe themselves as 'printers' – the capabilities of the Mimaki hardware and the inks available for it result in its wide appeal. It is as capable of producing a print onto a wooden panel or electrical component as it is to a plastic pen or USB stick, the Mimaki UJF offers significant opportunity for companies to expand their product offering, from just the one machine."

Mimaki's pioneering 'Kebab' option for several of its UJF Series LED UV printers has enabled companies to print to the circumference of cylindrical items for a number of years. Ideally suited to packaging prototyping and short run bespoke production, the Kebab has proven to be a popular way to create mock-ups directly onto cylindrical glass and metal beakers, cups or tubes in a single process.

"For printing to ceramic cups, beakers and mugs, utilising one of Mimaki's dye sublimation printer/cutters is a great way to automate the creation of the printed and cut-out transfer paper graphics, prior to applying them to the polyester coated item and transferred via a special mug press or oven. This delivers a long-lasting print onto a shaped surface that can be tapered or fluted, depending on the capabilities of the heat press and its platen design," he says.

Mimaki's approach

Brett Newman adds, "The Kebab is a typical example of Mimaki's approach to providing innovative printing solutions. Widely used for a variety of applications, it has provided a popular add-on to Mimaki's flatbed UV printers for companies requiring the ability to print entirely around the outer surface of cylindrical objects."



The Mimaki UJF-6042 MkII direct-to-object UV desktop, flatbed printer

He concludes, "An additional Mimaki innovation is its 'Long Drop' technology. This is available on the most recent flatbed printers and delivers improved printing onto uneven and curved items, such as golf balls and heavily textured surfaces. By firing ultra-accurate droplets of ink, they retain their circular form even when fired over an extended distance, resulting in increased print areas on spherical items and higher quality prints on bumpy and raised objects."

www.hybridservices.co.uk



The Mimaki UJF allows you to print direct to items such as headphones

Ricoh builds on previous UV success

Building on the successful Ricoh Pro TF6250, Ricoh recently launched the Ricoh Pro TF6251, a true UV flatbed printer with optional roll to roll capability that expands the application potential for print service providers. Yucel Salih, Large Format Specialist, Ricoh UK, explains, "Designed to deliver vibrant, durable output on flexible media – ideal for many display applications – the new printer's compact 2.5m x 1.3m table can also accommodate rigid substrates and objects up to 110mm thick. This means it can be used for creative promotional goods and giftware on a commercial scale. UV printing uses low temperatures, allowing the direct printing of even heat-sensitive and fragile materials and providing PSPs with practically unlimited creativity."

The durability, fast turnaround and diversification potential of Ricoh UV printing was demonstrated in the USA last September, when Ricoh partner UT Print San Antonio used its Ricoh Pro TF210 UV flatbed printer to print full-colour photographs of fans of the Texas Longhorns, the University of Texas's American football team. The life-size cut-outs were used to populate the stands on game days when social distancing measures meant fans weren't able to

The Ricoh Ri direct-to-garment printers are ideal for t-shirts and a huge range of other textile products



For curved surfaces,
such as mugs, you
can rotate the object
and keep the
printhead stationary



attend games in person.

Salih adds, "Ricoh UV systems can print onto almost all products that have a flat surface and are less than 110mm in height. It is always good printing practice to have clean surfaces to ensure the quality of print and adhesion. A few surfaces and certain applications do not lend themselves to good UV ink adhesion, but Ricoh has overcome this by integrating a primer channel into the design to further enhance printing and adhesion quality when required."

"Direct-to-garment (DTG) printers are largely designed for T-shirts but can be used for a whole range of textile-based promotional items," says Salih, adding, "These include baseball caps and tote bags, but also more unusual promotional and gift products like socks, pencil cases, cushion covers and kitchen towels. Importantly for today's market, the Ricoh Ri 100, Ri 1000, and Ri 2000 DTG printers are also fast and efficient benchtop devices for printing face masks. These can be personalised for every customer or end user."

Overcoming limitations

Due to the nature of traditional UV printers the gap between the printhead and the media must be kept to a minimum for very accurate drop placement. Yucel Salih explains, "Ricoh printheads achieve extremely high levels of accuracy, so they can be further away from the media without loss of quality, but there comes a point that even the best printheads lose accuracy. Any peaks or troughs of the media surface will therefore have a detrimental effect on print quality as the printhead height must be set higher than the highest peak on the media. This means that the troughs in the media could have inkjet droplets not landing in the correct position or with the correct intensity, reducing the quality of the image."

He concludes, "To overcome this obstacle, you can make the printhead follow the contours of the media but this is very difficult. For curved surfaces, such as mugs, you can rotate the object and keep the printhead stationary; this is effective for single items but not efficient for mass production. Therefore, PSPs may prefer to use transfer papers and a heat press for items like cups and beakers."

www.ricoh.co.uk



The new Ricoh TF6251 produces vibrant, durable output on flexible media

UV printing from Roland DG delivers versatility in promotional goods production

The UK digital printing industry has had a challenging year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, but according to Roland DG, printers specialising in promotional items such as drinkware, bags, clothing and stationery have been hit particularly hard due to the cancellation of hundreds of events and trade shows that drive so much demand.

However, optimism that we will return to a 'new normal' has been buoyed by the UK government approving a COVID-19 vaccine. A study from Roland DG suggests this is translating into the print sector too, with 60% of print shops looking to increase their production or grow their business into new areas over the next three years.

Within that group, 9% are looking at expanding through new technology and devices including UV printing. UV printing makes particular sense for printers in the promotional merchandise sector because of its versatility and adaptability.

The VersaUV LEF2 series, the latest generation of Roland's benchtop UV printers, can print directly onto a huge range of substrates and objects, from plastics to metals, wood to glass, Foamex



Roland's IU-1000F UV-LED flatbed printer is a powerful solution for printing larger format promotional items

to Dibond, Lexan to leather. Furthermore, LEF2-300D supports a maximum thickness of 200 mm (7.87 in.) in the height direction, allowing users to print not only on thicker materials, but also on a wider variety of shapes by incorporating a more diverse assortment of jigs.

With the VersaUV LEF2 series, print shops can create photos, graphics and finely-detailed text to a high quality. In addition, the printers can create lifelike textures, simulated 3D embossing and Braille text, as well as gloss and matt finishes.

The ability to print on curved surfaces - such as a mug or a water bottle - is also a critical piece of functionality. Roland's LEF2 range allows the rotation of an object so the printing surface is directly below the print heads for accurate dot placement. It also supports an optional rotary axis jig for printing onto bottles and other cylindrical objects, providing maximum versatility.

For all print shop owners, another key consideration is the time and effort required to prepare the substrates for printing. With Roland's LEF2 range, the majority of substrates just require a simple wipe with clean hands. Glass and polished metals may require a primer to achieve the desired level of ink adhesion.

Roland's IU-1000F UV-LED flatbed printer is also a powerful solution for printing larger format promotional items, especially signs, exhibition graphics, interior decor applications, backlit displays and canvas wall art. It delivers the speed, super-accurate colour reproduction and creative print expression, and its high-density, high-adhesion UV inks are compatible with an impressive variety of substrates including acrylic, PETG, PVC board, foam board, polycarbonate, wood, aluminium composite plate, metal and glass.

For printers that specialise in promotional gifts and merchandise but are not yet ready to embrace UV, the traditional alternatives are still robust options. Laser printers, transfer papers and a heat press can be used on surfaces such as metals and wood. Simple cut vinyl, dye sublimation and engraving are also effective ways of providing customisation to clients.



www.rolanddg.co.uk

The VersaUV LEF2 series can create photos, graphics and finely-detailed text

Lemon Signs launches trade only service

Incognito Trade Signs launched in November as a trade sign supplier for “small but mighty” sign manufacturers across the UK, helping sign makers who may be struggling to create certain products due to a lack of equipment or know-how by lending out their machinery and experienced team to help fulfil demanding and tricky projects. The Derby-based business is the brainchild of Lemon Signs and promises to be “the trade supplier the industry has been looking for”.

“The initial idea came when we were looking for a supplier ourselves,” says Martin Lemiesz, founder of Incognito. “We tried to outsource our more complex signs but couldn’t find the quality or expertise we needed and struggled to find the level of service and attention to detail that our clients expect of us.”

“Eventually, we discovered a supplier in Kent with the same values as us and even with the delivery considered it still made more sense than going with some of the local guys. At least we could be sure of the quality of the finished product. We knew if this was our experience, there were likely to be other small sign makers out there, struggling to find that reliable, trusted trade supplier too and so we set out to develop



Offering a totally confidential expert service for trade clients, Incognito is home to a variety of CNC machinery and talented sign makers to help bring virtually any idea to life.

a service that the wider sign industry was clearly missing. Incognito was born”.

Offering a totally confidential expert service for trade clients, Incognito is home to a variety of CNC machinery and talented sign makers to help bring virtually any idea to life. Although specialising in 3D signage, Incognito has the capabilities of creating signs for almost any brief,

environment or application and from practically any material. The business hopes to be a helping hand for the ‘small but mighty’ sign manufacturers in the Midlands and beyond and intend to grow with its partners as they broaden their offering and expand their reach.

www.incognito-tradesigns.com

Bannertite partners specialist to develop solution

Bannertite has engaged the services of Paul Fahey, managing director of Specialist Project Services to promote its new signage solution. Bannertite’s engineers have developed a product to solve a long-standing industry problem and instructed Paul to promote the patented design. The tension marketing

pillar uses innovative technology to display signage in a clear and concise way while providing a long-lasting solution that actually improves health and safety.

“We have all seen examples of badly displayed banners,” says Paul. “The standard is low and throughout my years

in the industry I have come across the challenge many times. What Bannertite has created offers a simple solution to the long-standing problem. The design is new to market, cost effective and can be retrofitted to existing infrastructure or fitted directly to a wall. When the team presented their product to me I was excited to get on board; the universal system ticks all the boxes, it’s low maintenance, guaranteed and manufactured in Great Britain. I immediately thought of organisations who would benefit from this and I am excited to present the solution to my network.”

Director Niven Whiteoak says: “We are excited to have Paul in the team. His industry knowledge is impressive and his contribution to audience challenges has helped us to understand the market, giving us confidence that our solution offers added value to the industry.”

www.bannertite.co.uk



From left: Claire Matten, Niven Whiteoak, Paul Fahey and Scott Taylor.



Trotec launches first UK virtual laser exhibition

trotec



Trotec UK's first virtual laser exhibition
26-28 January 2021

Trotec UK Live will be the first virtual exhibition of its kind, says the company. Taking place 26-28 January 2021, this interactive event will focus on all things laser cutting, marking and engraving with 17 sessions across the three days.

These will include live product demonstrations, a materials workshop, customer interviews and informative webinars on topics such as print & cut, photographic engraving, how to finance a laser machine, plotters vs galvo lasers and the differences between glass and ceramic laser sources.

This event is being organised by Trotec

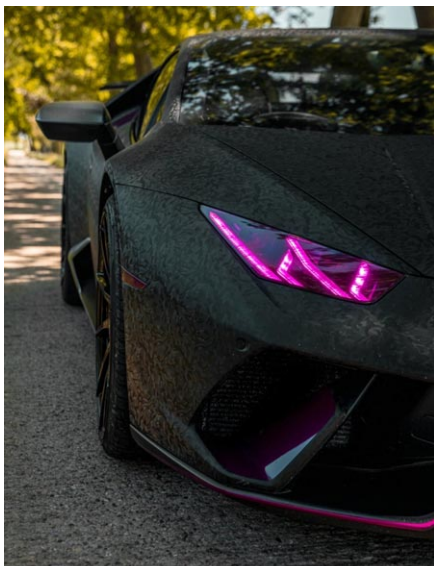
Laser UK and Ireland with the aim of providing informative and insightful content for laser users of all experience levels as well as businesses which are considering bringing a laser machine in-house.

Registration to the event is completely free and delegates can attend as many or as few sessions as they like.

For a full schedule and to register for the event go to www.troteclaser.com/en-gb/news/2020-12-trotec-uk-live-exhibition/ or follow Trotec UK and Ireland on social media for updates.

www.troteclaser.com

Lockdown Legends winner announced



Refined Edition is the UK winner for this attention-grabbing black and pink wrap of a Lamborghini Performante.

Spandex and 3M have announced the UK winner of their Lockdown Legends competition, celebrating creativity in vehicle wrapping. Refined Edition in Chelmsford, Essex, won the first cash prize of £1000, while Norfolk-based Signs FX took the second prize of £500.

The winning entry was for a stunning full wrap of a Lamborghini Performante, responding to the client's brief to change the original satin white to something that would really grab attention. The company used 3M 2080 Shadow Black for the main bulk of the car, choosing the product for its texture and reflective properties which alter the pattern in different light conditions. 3M 1080 Furious Fuchsia was used for colour pops and detailing, "making a bold visual statement and complementing the Shadow Black".

The competition was open to any Spandex customer for projects involving a full or partial wrap of any type of vehicle using a

3M film from the 1080, 1380, 2080 and IJ180mc or IJ480 series during 2020.

Spandex sales director Ben Scammell says: "With our competition we wanted to recognise the amazing creativity and technical skill of our wrapping community and showcase the astounding results that can be achieved with these high performance products. Reviewing the entries from all over Europe reminded us of the 'wow factor' that our customers deliver for their clients every day. At the end of a very challenging year for visual communications businesses, it feels great to be able to celebrate and reward these talented people and their work."

A selection of entries to the competition can be viewed on the Spandex company LinkedIn page using the hashtag #LockdownLegends.

www.spandex.com



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Sign & Digital 2021 opens on Sunday in May

Sign & Digital UK 2021 (SDUK) has been rescheduled to 16-18 May 2021.

Event director Jenny Matthew says:

"We have been in close contact with the NEC over the past few weeks and can confirm the show will now go ahead from 16-18 May 2021 in Hall 5.

"With the positive news of the vaccine rollout and the government indicating a return to normality for the events industry by Easter, we felt a 10-week extension to our March dates would give us and our exhibitors the time needed to deliver a safe and successful show. In addition to planning for a COVID-safe exhibition, we have taken the opportunity to re-imagine the traditional exhibition format.

16-18 May 2021, Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham

sign&digital UK

SIGNAGE | PRINT | DISPLAY | DÉCOR | DESIGN

"We have reviewed all aspects of exhibiting and looked at how we can drive down costs for our exhibitors without compromising on quality, simplify the whole exhibition experience and ultimately deliver more value to our exhibitors and

visitors. With an already packed floorplan we look forward to bringing more exhibitors on board, and welcoming the industry back in May 2021"

www.signuk.com

Website support wide format industry jobs

A free to use jobs board has been launched to support those across the wide format print and signage industry affected by the turmoil caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Jobs in Print & Signage allows employers to create a profile, advertise jobs and search for potential employees. Individuals looking for work can apply for positions, set up email job alerts and add their CV for potential employers to see.

Dan Tyler, managing director at project management software company Vism, created the jobs board alongside his colleagues, to give something back to the industry, supporting anyone who is currently struggling to find or fill a new role within the industry.

"Before launching Vism I spent several years working in recruitment within the wide format print and signage industry so when the pandemic hit I was being contacted for advice by a number of

JOBS IN PRINT & SIGNAGE

people who I'd worked with in the past who had been made redundant and started seeing LinkedIn fill up more and more with stories of people finding themselves suddenly out of work.

"So a few weeks ago we decided to see what we could do to help and after a brilliant effort from the team, this is the result. We wanted to create something that could help people get back on track, building on industry experience.

"Jobs in Print & Signage, which is completely free to use for both employers and job seekers, aims to bring all the industry's opportunities together in one place, now and in the future so that connecting people can be much more simple and efficient.

"Even if businesses aren't recruiting now, they can create a company profile on the site in a few seconds so it's ready to go when they start hiring."

Job seekers can sign up quickly and easily and set up email alerts that will notify them when new positions become available.

The site will only cover direct employment, with no agency adverts so anyone looking for a new post can be confident that they are applying for a specific role, directly with the potential employer.

www.jobs.thriveinprint.com



Clip frame for ease of poster changing



Lockable battery housing



ON/OFF switch
Battery life indicator



Trotec laser cutter features on Channel 5's Gadget Show

Trotec's flagship laser engraving and cutting machine has appeared on Channel 5's Gadget Show to mark the 60th anniversary of laser technology. The Speedy 400 laser cutter was put through its paces on the TV show by host Jon Bentley during a segment which showed the evolution of the laser since it was invented.

Marketing director Siân Sweeney says: "When I got the enquiry from the Gadget Show's assistant producer, I was really excited. It makes sense that a programme dedicated to tech and gadgets would want to feature market-leading products and we were delighted to help out."

Filming for the show took place in August for the show aired on 27 November 2020. Area manager Jamie Wakefield installed the Speedy 400 laser machine and made sure everything went smoothly on the filming day as well as take some behind-the-scene photographs.

Jamie says: "Jon was really excited about



the Speedy 400, as were the rest of the film crew. Jon wanted to check with me that he was using the correct terminology when talking about the laser."

The Speedy 400 is the newest addition to

Trotec's Speedy range of laser systems, featuring a 1016 x 610 mm working area and delivering a 4.3 m/s engraving speed with 5 g and laser power up to 120 watts.

www.troteclaser.co.uk

Visual Group invests half a million pounds

Visual Group invested around £500,000 in 2020 despite Covid 19 to ensure continued growth for the business. Established in 2018, at the start of 2020 the business commenced a major refit of the premises when the lockdown hit.

Managing director Paul Kantecki says: "it is hard to believe what we have achieved and where we are now in both the refit, business structure and growth".

The improvements started with investments in new manufacturing



A breakout area called The Loft, introduces a range of signage.

machines and processes including a Zund conveyor cutting machine, 3 Mimaki large format roll to roll printers, Kala and Crest laminators an Agfa Jeti Mira (3.1m x 2.69m print area) UV flatbed printer, IPS metal channel letter bending machine and a Henrob blind riveting machine.

As the building saw walls removed and put up to create specific areas and rooms for digital printing, finishing, packing as well as a mezzanine giving additional manufacturing floor space of over 5,000sq ft and a total in excess of 95,000sq ft including a dedicated fabrication workshop. Covid 19 hit and the country entered into lockdown but the refurbishment continued.

"Due to being classed as an essential business, we were very fortunate to be able to remain open, making social distancing products for businesses that continued throughout the lockdown as well as those preparing to open afterwards," explains Paul. "With a mix of people working from home and in the building, the team and I continued to work hard on this, everyone in the business

saw the The aim was to incorporate signage into the interior design to create not only a nice working environment but to also act as our showroom, showcasing our capabilities.

"We wanted to create an environment that demonstrated 'creativity', as a custom signage manufacturer, it's important to show our clients how creative we can be and inspire them".

A breakout area called The Loft, introduces a range of signage. The Loft Sign itself was made from shaped letters and stuffed with foliage, then combining illumination created a stunning sign. An employee tree has been added to the wall, made from a combination of wall vinyl and 3D shapes featuring employee photos.

Work on the refit will continue but with many projects now nearing completion the team are excited to be entering into their new working environment and very proud about what has been achieved in what has been difficult period for everyone.

www.visual-group.co.uk

Coating line uses solvent-free adhesives

A small but fast-growing company has set about revolutionising the sign and wide format markets with UV polyacrylate adhesives. The creation of a dedicated coating line by Nu-Coat that uses solvent-free, non-aqueous adhesives cured by UV-C light brings the exceptional qualities of this technology to a broader field of applications.

Directors Chris Martin and Rob Musto saw the benefits of creating a flexible and agile production facility that could respond quickly to changes in market demand and also handle short run jobs profitably.

"We have developed an extensive range of adhesives specifically for the requirements of our industry," says Rob. "They can be coated onto a wide range of films such as PVC-based, PET and other non-PVC films."

Production is carried out on a compact 1.7m wide coating line capable of speeds up to 100m/min depending on the coating level required for each job, with converting handled by two slitter rewinders. Work can be supplied in standard or custom size rolls in runs as short as 1000 linear metres, which is where Martin sees niche market opportunities.

"When researching the market for the best equipment to fulfil its production criteria,



Rob Musto says Nu-Coat's Vetaphone technology gives him peace of mind as well as production efficiency.

Nu-Coat approached Vetaphone for surface treatment advice and assistance," says Chris. "I chose Vetaphone because of my previous experience with the company and the fact that they are acknowledged as the market leader in surface treatment. Not surprisingly, we've had no issues with their Corona system.

"Our coater requires up to 65% less power than a conventional line and has a smaller footprint that allows us to use space more

efficiently. Even the PVC we use is 25% thinner than is customary, with no compromise in its performance and we recycle everything we can."

At a time when environmentalists believe the world is at a tipping point with regard to pollution, it's companies like Nu-Coat with innovative ideas and solutions that will make the difference.

www.vetaphone.com

Why buy a pre-owned large format printer?

swissQprint says it has seen a high demand for pre-owned systems, driven by the "renowned reliability and performance of swissQprint." A pre-owned system provides an opportunity for those with a growing demand to upgrade to a high performance dedicated flatbed printer. According to UK managing director



All pre-owned systems are fully guaranteed and covered by the same service warranties.

Erskine Stewart, a pre-owned system can represent a viable proposition for a company that might be risk-averse and unable to invest in a new system.

"A pre-owned system remains a durable, long term investment and a pre-owned Impala represents a formidable investment and great value for money," says Erskine. "All pre-owned systems are fully guaranteed and covered by the same service warranties as a new system so in terms of cost and performance, the return on investment is quite remarkable."

swissQprint works closely with customers when they are thinking about upgrading or replacing their existing swissQprint systems. They can offer customers a trade-in and then refurbish the preowned system for resale. In order to fulfil the market demand for pre-owned systems, the Swiss company's UK centre has an area dedicated to the refurbishment of

trade-in swissQprint systems.

This is where the printing machines undergo a deep clean and polish to bring them back to a high standard and any worn parts such as bearings, belts and print heads are replaced and or upgraded to new to ensure that every printer that leaves Bracknell adheres to swissQprint's high engineering standards and unparalleled service ethos.

Prior to delivery to the customer, the printer will be thoroughly tested and calibrated to ensure that the production quality of the output meets the standards set by swissQprint's manufacturing plant.

"This reflects the residual value of every machine we supply and as such our ethos is to make each customer feel equally important as if they had ordered a new model direct from our factory," says Erskine.

www.swissqprint.co.uk



Anti-microbial copper films pass the test

Tests have evaluated the viability of the COVID-19 virus on various films and non-porous surfaces including Safety Guard Copper Anti-Microbial Film (CuGuard). The results of which are that the coronavirus strain responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic is inactivated within four hours on pure copper.

Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than soft such as those with fibres so the research explored the findings from four different common surfaces. It was found that the virus was inactivated the fastest on the copper anti-microbial film compared to 24 hours on cardboard, 48 hours on stainless steel and 72 hours on plastic. The Safety Guard film uses 99.99% pure copper and has 500% more copper content than similar products on the market. It also has PET (polyester) as a base material and as a result is more durable than an equivalent PE (polyethylene) based product.

Peter Davidson, head of IP consumables sales highlights: "These findings are significant. While we knew that anti-microbial copper coatings can play an important role in reducing bacterial transmission, these results show that this



Copper antimicrobial film has a significant part to play in combating COVID-19 virus transmission.

type of film has a significant part to play in combating COVID-19 virus transmission."

The film is easy to install with non-adhesive and self-adhesive options, which can adapt to the variety of surfaces it can be applied to. The repositionable adhesive means it can remain in position for a time and removed without leaving residue. It can be cleaned with typical household cleaning products, such as non-alcohol based multipurpose cleaners or water. The film has high transparency and clarity which makes it particularly ideal for touch screens.

"These copper-alloy films are perfect for any frequently touched surfaces such as desks, door push plates and handles, touchscreens, counters and power switches," says Peter. "As a result, we are working on several products using the film which will mean it is available in other formats."

Available now as 30m rolls in 50cm widths, this film is particularly good for helping protect people as part of an overall cleaning management approach.

www.inktec-europe.com

Dragon Signs meets demand for workplace PPE

Diversification to meet the demand for protective equipment to tackle the risk of Covid-19 in workplaces has seen a series of contract wins for Dragon Signs.

Among the first companies to benefit the company's manufacturing agility was Connells Group, one of the country's largest estate agency networks. The two organisations joined forces to ensure the safety of all Connells Group's staff and customers as they reopened their 600 branches following lockdown.

Protective equipment delivered to Connells Group included shatterproof, polycarbonate sneeze screens and desk dividers, health and safety stickers and floor directional stickers, as well as CE approved category 3 full-face visors.

Director Rhys Harrington says: "It is thanks to the flexible way our company operates that when the pandemic hit earlier this year our teams were quick to adapt and



Rhys says the flexible way the company operates enabled them to quickly adapt and utilise its in-house facilities.

utilise our in-house facilities to produce this vital equipment.

"It's safe to say that 2020 hasn't been what we had envisaged but I'm proud that by thinking creatively we have been able

to transform our business, protect jobs and produce vital equipment that will enable organisations to keep going at this incredibly challenging time."

Phil Smith, head of group procurement at Connells Group, comments: "The safety of our colleagues and customers is paramount so, from the beginning of the pandemic we have been working with our team and suppliers to ensure that we can continue to operate in the safest way possible. "Having previously worked with Dragon Signs we already knew that they produced materials of the highest standard so we felt confident that their protective equipment would be second-to-none."

Dragon Signs offers a complete in-house service, enabling them to design, manufacture and install products for customers quickly and to a high specification.

www.dragonsigns.com

Roland study points to cautious optimism in digital print sector

A major Roland DG study of more than 340 digital print companies in the UK conducted during November 2020 revealed that despite the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, the industry is currently cautiously optimistic about its future. The study polled digital printers across a range of sectors including sign and graphics, textile and apparel, vehicle and fleet graphics, promotional items and gifts, print and copy services and interior decor. It discovered that their most common three year business goal is increasing their production capacity, with over a third (36%) describing it as their 'key objective'.

A further 24% of respondents described 'expansion' as their key business objective over the next three years. This includes expanding into new applications or markets with existing devices (9%) or into new technologies/devices such as fabric or UV (9%). In light of the turbulence over the previous six months, a further third of those sampled were focused on digging in and maintaining what the business is currently doing. Encouragingly, just 3% said they were looking to reduce and rationalize their offerings and only 4% of those polled expected to close or exit the business in the next 36 months.



CMYK has purchased four new machines in the past 12 months, including a new Roland TrueVIS VG-540.

Paul Willems, director of business development and product management, EMEA comments: "We're living through one of the harshest business environments in history and yet this data

shows that digital print shop owners are determined to look forward, stay positive and seize new opportunities. If ever you needed evidence of the resilience and entrepreneurship that defines our sector, this data is it."

In a further sign of confidence, 51% of the respondents indicated that they would replace or purchase at least one new printer, cutter or engraving machine in the next 12 months, with one in eight (13%) planning to replace or purchase two or more machines.

Lewis Pearce at CMYK has purchased four new machines in the past 12 months, including a new Roland TrueVIS VG-540 printer cutter and moved into bigger premises in Burnley during November.

"At the height of the pandemic we saw an opportunity to diversify into floor graphics," explains Lewis. "Six months later, we had printed and shipped 50,000 of them. This has enabled us to come out the other side in a strong financial position. My attitude then and now is that the best way to overcome a challenging economy is to experiment and try new things."

www.rolanddg.co.uk

Mimaki wins EDP Best Roll-to-Roll printer award



Many of the features that make the UJV100-160 printer cost-effective, reliable and easy-to-use were noted as key factors that contributed to winning the award.

Confirmation of the prestigious award coincides with the high quality, high productivity printing solution being imminently available for the UK and Irish market. Many of the features that make the UJV100-160 printer cost-effective, reliable and easy-to-use were noted as key factors that contributed to the EDP judges choosing this printer for the award.

EDP's Technical Committee states: "Mimaki offers a price breaking device with UV printing speeds up to 23m²/h.

"This printer offers not only CMYK but has also the option to install white and clear inks, and the new innovative system helps to maintain the quality because of the control of dot placement and media feeding, one of the most common errors in inkjet printing. The UJV100-160 is

certainly an excellent entry level printer, including many features of Mimaki's advanced UV technology at an affordable price."

Brett Newman, managing director at Hybrid Services, Mimaki's exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland, comments: "The features recognised by the EDP Technical Committee are precisely what makes the new UJV100-160 such a powerful offering for companies looking to invest in all the many benefits of Mimaki's proven LED UV cured print technology.

"The response to the new printer has been extremely positive and it's satisfying to see it recognised so highly."

www.hybridservices.co.uk

Ultima outlines forecast for COVID survival

Innovating now can help your business survive the next wave of COVID-19 restrictions, says Ultima Displays as it outlines its forecast for the industry and the opportunities on offer. When the UK was placed into lockdown on 24 March 2020, many of us forecast the effect on our industry. At the time of publication in November we looked back and see which of our predictions came to pass.

Travel remains largely on pause; bars and restaurants had significantly higher levels of restrictions placed upon them than our initial thoughts; schools stayed closed until the autumn term and offices have reopened but with far fewer staff. All of these realities have reduced the demand for signage and graphics, even those relating to social distancing. However, in other areas our expectations were correct and to support these trends we have developed and reimagined our core products and services. We helped customers maximise their opportunities with social distancing, physical separation and hygiene products along with associated marketing collateral.

We expected a second wave of COVID-19 but didn't anticipate the level of restrictions preventing the predicted 'V'-shaped economic recovery. However, anticipating economic shifts and adapting as



Ultima Displays has released a guide titled 'Innovating to Survive COVID-19 Together'.

necessary should continue and, to that end, we have identified key trends and the opportunities they may offer to sign and display businesses.

In many industries, companies delayed the return of staff to offices until at least Q1 2021 but these sites needed to be made COVID-secure including revisualising spaces to allow social distancing and increased cleaning. Some sign and graphics companies have valuable transferable skills here. With many industries hit hard this year

and restrictions, based on the science of how COVID-19 is transmitted, will continue well into Q2 and Q3 2021. Sadly, we expect a number of companies will not survive. However, creativity, innovation and may help your business overcome the next set of challenges. As a key supplier we are developing new products, many designed in line with our forecasts. We offer 3D CAD support including site survey visits for larger enquiries.

www.ultimadisplays.co.uk

Trotec and Hybrid team up for webinar

Trotec teamed up with Mimaki exclusive distributor for the UK & Ireland Hybrid Services for an exclusive webinar in December. Print & Cut | Grow your business with Mimaki UV printing and Trotec laser cutting technologies demonstrated how laser cutting and UV printing can be combined to take your business to the next level.

With print and cut applications becoming increasingly popular for the breadth of design possibilities, companies can use the technologies in harmony to expand their service offering and exploit new business opportunities. The webinar showcased three separate applications combining UV printing and laser cutting, demonstrating the full production process including printing direct to products, laser cutting printed registration marks, making and using a print jig and creating flame-polished acrylic edges.



Throughout the webinar, the hosts discussed the techniques used for each application and offered tips and tricks of the trade on how to get the best results. UV printing and laser cutting were shown to work harmoniously together to produce stunning ready-for-market

designs including a point of sale display, layered signage, packaging and branded promotional items. This webinar was aimed at companies that operate within the signage, display, print, promotional and general engraving sectors in addition to manufacturers, gift producers and other market segments where laser cutters and UV printers are used.

This live streamed webinar was hosted by Trotec UK's Alex Beckingham and Bryan Jater, alongside Hybrid's Mimaki experts Ashley Carr and Richard Williams. The hosts share decades of experience in laser cutting and UV printing technologies respectively and imparted their knowledge about how businesses can maximise the potential of printing and laser cutting equipment, particularly when used together.

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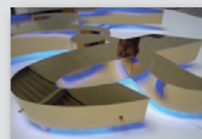
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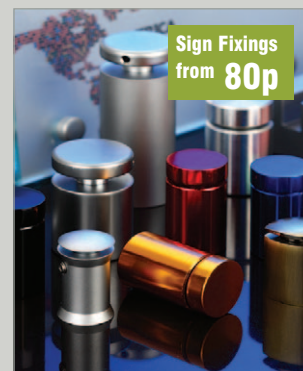
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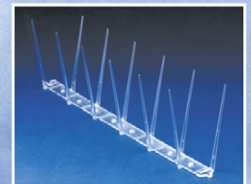
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Trade service for 3D built up lettering & logos in a variety of materials. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or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

BUILT UP LETTERS ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

INCOGNITO TRADE SIGNS

Unit 1 Colemans Yard, Alfreton
Road Derby, DE21 4AL

Tel: 01332 322750
info@incognito-tradesigns.com
http

We are a trade supplier of 3D letters, logos, crests & stage props using alternative materials such as XPS Foam & Signblock which is a more cost effective way of creating a 3D effect than traditional acrylic or metal. We can produce almost any shape in numerous finishes, giving the appearance of other materials such as wood, steel or plastic but without the associated limitations.

BUILT UP LETTERS METAL

3D ACRYLICS & METALS LTD

Unit B1, Felling Business Centre,
Green Lane, Gateshead, Tyne &
Wear, NE10 0QH

Tel: 0191 469 1199
www.3dacrylics.co.uk

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.

A1 METAL LETTERS

Unit 169a, Hertford Road, London
N9 7EL

Tel: 0208 804 6183
Mob: 07930 121 222
sales@tradecut.co.uk

Specialist TRADE ONLY metal fabricators. We won't be beaten on price. We specialise in Built up letters in Stainless Steel, Aluminium, Gold, Titanium, Stainless & Rimless acrylic face letters (Brass and Copper also available on request). We can also supply stand off locators, & LED Illumination.

AES SIGNS LTD (EST. 1972)

The Old Laundry, 15 Barratt Street,
Easton, Bristol BS5 6DE

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

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

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 quality 3D built up metal letters and logos. Lettering starts at just 50mm high in materials such as stainless steel, brass, copper, titanium and aluminium with a variety of different finishes. Built up letters are available with halo and / or face lit illumination from our award winning and cost-effective LED range. A free and unbranded product brochure is available on request.

AVENUE SIGNS LTD

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

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

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

CENTRE SIGNS (UK) LTD

Alexander House, Iliffe Avenue,
Oadby, Leicester LE2 5LH

Tel: 0116 271 4247
graphics@centresigns.co.uk
www.centresigns.co.uk

Specialist metal fabricators to the sign trade only. Built up letters in Stainless Steel, Aluminium, Gold Titanium Stainless, Brass and Copper. LED illumination for all builtup letters available. "LUMA" lettering is our speciality. Fabricated Aluminium and Stainless boxes to any shape also the option of LEDS available. Powdercoating and Wet spraying is another option for all our 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 3D built up letters and logos. Full LED service available for Halo or Face illumination. Stove enameling available from BS, RAL and Pantone colours. Fast turnaround with competitive prices.

ICE SIGNS

Tannery Works, 12 Whingate,
Leeds LS12 3BL

Tel: 0113 2242124
sales@icesigns.co.uk
www.icesigns.co.uk

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

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

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

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 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.

SYGNET GROUP LTD

129 Humberstone Rd, Leicester,
LE5 3AP

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

Since 1974, Sygnet Group has built a reputation as the best in the business. A trade supplier of 3D built-up letters with a brushed, satin, mill or chemically-coloured finish. Our aluminium is 1050 grade and we use 304 and 316 marine-grade stainless steel. We also offer a wide variety of back trays and are LED illumination specialists. All work is undertaken in-house at our Leicester headquarters.

WATERJET SIGNS LTD

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

Tel: 01843 225666
waterjetsigns@btconnect.com
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.

CABLE DISPLAY 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

Cable display systems are simple yet highly flexible. Available in high quality solid brass with a polished chrome finish or satin finish aluminium. Cable systems can be used for modern retail shelving, displaying signage and LED window displays which are highly effective for shop fronts. We supply all parts individually or as simple to use complete kits. Need help? Use our new online chat.

SHOPKIT GROUP LTD

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

Tel: 01923 818282
www.shopkit.com/brochures/
Shopkit manufacture versatile cable & rod display systems to support signage & graphics in our UK FACTORY, offering quality products at COMPETITIVE PRICES in different sizes & metal finishes, with an ONLINE SHOP with next day delivery & quick lead times on CUSTOM ITEMS. Products include sign hanging systems, banner systems, graphic & poster displays, poster & brochure holders & cable fixing kits.

CAST SIGNS

FALON NAMEPLATES LTD

10-13 Stephenson Court,
Barrington Industrial Estate,
Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 7DN

Tel: 01670 530136
quotes@falon-nameplates.co.uk
www.falon-nameplates.co.uk
Falon Nameplates are a family run business, we have been in the manufacturing business since 1952 and are the largest cast signage company within the UK. We specialize in many areas, these are some we think you would be the most interested in: Finger Poles, Memorial Plaques, Town Trails, Blue Plaques, House signs, Pet memorials and Trophies. We hope we can help with all your casting needs.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD

Wingfield Road Tebworth, Beds,
LU7 9QG

Tel: 01525 874 185
enquiries@sott.co.uk
www.sott.co.uk

Specialists in the manufacture of quality cast signs - mainly cast in polyurethane but also grp, bronze, brass and aluminium. All patterns are made by our in house pattern maker to your specification. A few millimetres up to several metres in size. Cast signs for town entrances, buildings, way finding fingerpost signs, blue plaques, street signs.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
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Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk

Plaques, Crests, Lettering. In aluminium and Bronze. From Pattern Making to Finishing in Stove Enamel. 60 Years of Experience.

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AES SIGNS LTD (EST. 1972)

The Old Laundry, 15 Barratt Street,
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Tel: 0117 951 0234
sales@aesigns.co.uk
www.aesigns.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 enquiries.

DARTFORD ENGRAVING & SCREENPRINTING LTD

Unit 4 Power Works Industrial
Estate, Slade green Road, Erith,
Kent DA8 2HY

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

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

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Unit 2, Ashgrove Farm, Piltdown,
Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3XN

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

SUPERFAST and efficient trade service for ALL commercial and industrial etching, using the latest technology and computerised equipment. One-off urgent specials or long runs no problem. Full graphics and artwork service for logos, crests and designs. Specialists for commemorative plaques, company name plates and awards in all metals and plastics. Professionally designed-drawings supplied free.

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

REAL Trade prices for chemical etching, brass and stainless steel a speciality. ULTRA FAST DELIVERY

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51/59 Waterworks Road, Norwich
NR2 4DA

Tel: 01603 66 66 99
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

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

MERCURY ETCHING LTD

Unit 10 Fiddlebridge Ind Est,
Lemsford Road, Hatfield, AL10 0DE

Tel: 01707 261 782

Mercury Etching Ltd is a new TRADE ONLY SIGN ETCHING SERVICE - Although newly established we have over 20 years experience in deep chemical etching of signage. We specialise in etching on Brass & Stainless Steel (including 316 marine grade) as well as other materials. We also offer Patina/BMA finishes. Quality work guaranteed with fast turnaround times, excellent service and competitive prices!

MULTITECHNIC LTD (EST. 1972)

Coopies Lane, Morpeth,
Northumberland NE61 6JQ

Tel: 01670 512 090

sales@multitechnic.co.uk

www.multitechnic.co.uk

We are established specialists in chemical etching. WE ARE THE ONLY TRADE ONLY SIGN ETCHING SPECIALISTS IN THE UK. We can offer effects that nobody else can do such as complex blended colours. All our stainless steel is 316 marine grade, we don't use inferior grades & our brass is the best too. We want your business so will give you a fast turnaround & excellent service.

SIGN INDUSTRIES

Unit 3, Roberts Street, Forfar,
Angus, DD8 3DG

Tel: 01307 463997

info@signindustries.com

www.signindustries.com

SIGN INDUSTRIES are specialist TRADE MANUFACTURERS of etched Stainless Steel, Brass, and Bronze. We also Laser Engrave Plastics and Wood as stand alone products as well as moulds for castings. SIGN INDUSTRIES normally work with 3 mm thick material, and can etch bend and weld Stainless Steel up to 3 metres x 1.5 metres, and down to small sequential tags for wiring looms.

TRADE ETCHING DIRECT LTD

Unit M Edison Courtyard, Brunel
Road, Earlstrees Ind Estate, Corby
NN17 4LS

Tel: 01536 203813

sales@tradeetching.com

www.tradeetching.com

Trade Etching Direct Ltd is a well-established chemical etching company specialising in high quality etched signage. Our work is 100% guaranteed. Our etching machines are specially designed for deep etching. We can offer gradient fills, a range of patina finishes and hand filled complex multi colours, on a wide range of metals. We can produce etched signs up to 4m x 2m in size.

CHEVRON KITS

ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial
Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale
OL12 9EF

Tel: 01706 633 043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

We supply Chapter 8 chevron kits for the rear of numerous vehicles using the best quality products while offering the most competitive prices. All our kits are fully flooded using air release fluorescent yellow making fitting so much easier. Please contact us for a quotation on the above.

CHROME PLATED LETTERS

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Tel: 08085 456700

sales@signtrade.co.uk

www.signtrade.co.uk

ChromaForm; the NEW generation of Chrome effect letters. We now offer a complete range of ChromaForm Letters for a 7 day turnaround not available anywhere else. We can also supply and fit LED lights to the ChromaForm range of letters for an even better effect. Ring Susan or Lesley for details and samples.

CNC ROUTING & ENGRAVING MACHINES

ATA ENGINEERING PROCESSES

ATA House, Unit B, Boundry Way,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7SS

Tel: 01442 264411

sales@ataeng.com

www.ataeng.com

The Atacama range of CNC routers and Lasers offers a wide variety of options from 3 axis machines and 4 axis Routers and Metal and Non Metal Cutting CNC Lasers.

COAT OF ARMS

BRYAN RAWLINGS DESIGN

45 Nunney Close, Keynsham,
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.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD

Wingfield Road Tebworth, Beds,
LU7 9QG

Tel: 01525 874 185

enquiries@sott.co.uk

www.sott.co.uk

Cast in polyurethane with detail in relief and hand painted full colours. May be cast on their own or as part of an entrance sign, blue plaque or street sign etc. We also cast coats of arms in aluminium, grp or bronze. Please send details for a quotation.

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.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2
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,
Angus, DD8 3DG

Tel: 01307 463997

info@signindustries.com

www.signindustries.com

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.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD

Wingfield Road Tebworth, Beds,
LU7 9QG

Tel: 01525 874 185

enquiries@sott.co.uk

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.

CUT-OUT LETTERS

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).

ICE SIGNS

Tannery Works, 12 Whingate,
Leeds LS12 3BL

Tel: 0113 224 2124

sales@icesigns.co.uk

www.icesigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of flat cut letters in ALL materials. Incl. Acrylic, Foamex, MDF, Stainless Steel, Brass, Copper, Corian. Many finishes available- Gilding, painting, powdercoating, lacquering. A special service at a competitive price.

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51-59 Waterworks Road, Norwich
NR2 4DA.

Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

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.

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

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Brackley, Oxfordshire

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sales@rhinocuttingmat.co.uk
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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
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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.

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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

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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
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Square, 35 New England Street
Brighton BN1 4GQ

Tel: 01932 769 962
hello@screenspace.live
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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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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
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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.

ENGRAVING

AES SIGNS LTD (EST. 1972)
The Old Laundry, 15 Barratt street,
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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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Wirral, CH61 3XN

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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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Unit 4 Power Works Industrial Estate, Slade green Road, Erith, Kent DA8 2HY

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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Tel: 01279 467999
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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.

HALLMARK ENGRAVING

ETCHING & SIGNS LTD (EST. 1899)

Unit 2, Ashgrove Farm, Piltdown, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3XN

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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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.

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

Tel: 0121 561 4600
accsign1@aol.com
www.accent-signs.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
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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 signs folded, 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: 08005 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.

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Mob: 07968 169 618
info@massdesigncompany.co.uk
www.massdesigncompany.co.uk

Specialising in design for the sign industry. With vast knowledge and experience of materials and manufacturing processes we provide artwork & design services to sign companies. Including superimposed mockups, creative design of signage, vehicle graphics, wall art & exhibition graphics, design for digital screens.

GENERAL SIGN SUPPLIERS

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

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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.

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Unit 15 Dale Industrial Estate, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 1AD

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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.

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London (SE14) and Chichester (PO20)

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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.

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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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Tel: 01534 857633
Mob: 07700 800 999
paul@blueprintsins.co.uk
www.blueprintsins.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.

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Cambridgeshire, PE19 8EP
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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

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Buzzard, Beds, LU7 2RW
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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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la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 2UZ
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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.

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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.

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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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Our range of cost effective 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.

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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..

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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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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, Broadcote Ind. Est., Station
Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT
Tel: 0121 561 4600
accsign1@aol.com
www.accentssigns.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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3D SIGN SYSTEMS LTD T/A CITI LED

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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,
Kettering, Northants NN15 7HJ
Tel: 0333 123 0345
artillustd@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.

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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.

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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 converters, 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
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Tel: 0800 999 7797
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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

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225 Long Lane, London N3 2RL
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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.

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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.

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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,
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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.

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UK's largest stockist of magnetic & ferro material including universally printable & wide format digifilm® ferrous media (1600mm) supaferr® 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.

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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.

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

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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

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Tel: 08085 456700
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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.

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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

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Tel: 020 8646 9886
enquiry@a1designs.co.uk
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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.

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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.

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sales@logotech-ltd.co.uk
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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, Broadcott Ind. Est., Station Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT

Tel: 0121 561 4600
accsign1@aol.com
www.accent-signs-ltd.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

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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.

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NOTICE ME

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Tel: 0208 581 1067
www.noticeme.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 complement your sign work. See our complete range of display products.

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sales@signscape.co.uk
www.sasl.co.uk

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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.

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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.

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South Strand, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1UP

Tel: 01206 803 580
sales@teleganpressedproducts.com
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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.

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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.

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
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
sales@ataeng.com
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.

EDWARD MATHIAS & CO

PO BOX 121, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 1AA

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.

SCREEN PRINTING

DARTFORD ENGRAVING & SCREENPRINTING LTD

Unit 4 Power Works Industrial Estate, Slade green Road, Erith, Kent DA8 2HY
Tel: 01322 340 194
mail@desp.co.uk
www.desp.co.uk

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 1,000s off, we can offer a quick competitive turnaround.

FIRST SIGNS & LABELS LTD

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 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.

SCULPTORS

BRYAN RAWLINGS DESIGN

45 Nunney Close, Keynsham, 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.

SHEET MATERIALS

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), Auckley, 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

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
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

www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

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SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

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

Tel: 01934 852888

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.sasl.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.

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, Gemstone metallics, Multi lens, 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

Wingfield Road Tebworth, Beds,
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.

TRANSFER PAPERS/HEAT PRESSES

THE MAGIC TOUCH

Unit 4, Apex Business Centre,
Boscombe Road, Dunstable LU5 4SB

Tel: 01582 671 444

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.

TRAY SIGNS

ILLUMEX

Wigan, WN1 3AB

Tel: 01942 243 341

Hello@illumex.co.uk

www.illumex.co.uk

Producing bespoke tray signs for the trade in both solid aluminium and alupanel composite, trays can be supplied as blanks or complete with an array of lettering and illumination options. We offer national delivery along with project services such as installation and graphic design. Always ensuring exceptional levels of service along with quality of products to match.

VINYL & GRAPHIC INSTALLATIONS

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

Tel: 020 8311 4400

apauk@apaspa.com

www.apaspa.com

One of Europe's main vinyl manufacturing companies supplying own brand self-adhesive plotter vinyl and Digital Print media. Plotter vinyls from short-term up to 10 years including Truck, Cast, Vehicle Wrapping, Frost-effect, Solar, Reflective and an extensive range of Print material for UV, Solvent and Dye/Pigment inks, all application aids are available.

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

Distributors of Ritrama UK's full range of signmaking vinyls including their complete portfolio of Digital Films. We also have available a full range of signmaking vinyls manufactured in the UK by KPMF. We stock a range of application tapes from R Tape USA and various Digital Media manufactured by LG Hausys. Discounts available on credit card payments.

AVERY DENNISON

Nelson Way, Cramlington, NE23 1JR
Tel: 01670 59 2095
graphics.averydennison.eu

Avery Dennison is a leading manufacturer of high-performance self-adhesive materials, for vehicle and building graphics – including digital, cut and screen applications. We innovate constantly to make graphics exciting and easy to install. Decades of know-how and the latest technologies (e.g. Easy Apply Technology and Supreme Wrapping Film) help you to transform your ideas into impactful messages.

CREATIVE FILMS

3 Acorn Enterprise Centre, Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, Kidderminster DY11 7RA

Tel: 01562 747 000
sales@creativefilms.co.uk
www.creativefilms.co.uk

We stock an unusual range of sign vinyl rolls. Specializing in unusual and striking special effect films, including: Glitter Film, Many textured metal effect films such as coarse brush and diamond plate, Sequins and various holographic effects, Mirror (chrome) film, Mozaic films and more. Available in our standard 20 colours. Ask for samples.

GRAFITYP UK LTD

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

Grafityp is a leading manufacturer and supplier of self-adhesive sign making vinyl, wrapping/decorating vinyl, digital printing vinyl/films and overlaminates. We manufacture films for a vast array of applications, which include interior decor, signage, etched window, fluorescent to vehicle graphics. Grafityp is leading the way with an excellent range of PVC FREE Films.

GREENSTIK MATERIALS LTD

Unit 9 Lancaster Road, Carnaby Industrial Estate, Carnaby, Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO15 3QY
Tel: 01262 602 222
www.greenstikmaterials.co.uk

Suppliers of Ritrama vinyl & application tape, Poli-Tape HTV and digital media, R-Tape vinyl EFX digital printable media. Trade conversion available on state of the art machinery – we can convert your vinyl & digital materials to any size required. No account needed

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 films designed to bring out your talent. Our highly innovative printing and marking products transform interior decoration, commercial architecture, signage and visual communications – for applications that include buildings, windows, point of sale, vehicles and boats. Mactac solutions are used by some of the world's most prestigious brands.

MDP SUPPLIES

Unit 3 Lumina Park, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 3PT

Tel: 0151 272 1234
info@mdpsupplies.co.uk
www.mdpsupplies.co.uk
Distributor to sign makers and garment printers. Stocking Ritrama, KPMF, DeTape and many other leading brands. Order online at www.mdpsupplies.co.uk, by phone or at any of our 9 branches across the UK. No account needed. Last order time - 6pm for next day delivery.

PYRAMID DISPLAY MATERIALS LTD

Head Office, Unit 5 Westpoint Enterprise Park, Clarence Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1QS
Tel: 0161 872 5666
www.pyramid-display.co.uk

We supply a huge array of different sign vinyl products with options suitable for virtually any sign vinyl application you may need. Choose from monomeric vinyl, polymeric vinyl, premium cast vinyl, reflective vinyl translucent vinyl, fluorescent vinyl and etched vinyl, produced by leading manufacturers such as MACTac, Avery Dennison, LG and Aslan.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

Britannia House, Granville Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ
Tel: 01622 689 410
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.

SPANDEX UK

1600 Park Avenue, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4UA

Tel: 0800 77 26 33
info@spandex.com
www.spandex.co.uk
Spandex distributes products from leading material and equipment brands for sign making, graphic production, digital printing, vehicle wrapping, interior décor and textile printing. We offer products from 3M, Avery Dennison, Arlon, ORAFOL, ImagePerfect, STEK, Cover Styl', HP, Epson, Roland and many others.

WAYFINDING SIGNS

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 curved or flat-faced way-finding and aluminium display systems with directories incorporating wall mounted, projecting and totem signs. Poster display frames with a snap side profile to allow for easy interchange of inserts and an exterior light box series is available. Please contact our friendly team for more information and to request our free and unbranded product brochures.

ICE SIGNS

Tannery Works, 12 Whingate, Leeds LS12 3BL
Tel: 0113 2242124
sales@icesigns.co.uk
www.icesigns.co.uk

Suppliers of internal and external wayfinding and directory systems to DDA (1995) guidelines if required.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

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

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems & information displays. We have 4 major systems for creating interior and exterior wayfinding sign solutions including; post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs; desk, door and wall signs, wall directories, monolith and fingerpost signs. We have also offer a full graphics service if required.

WIDE FORMAT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

COLOURGEN

Bray House, 4 Westacott Way, Maidenhead Office Park, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3QH
Tel: 01628 588 733
sales@colourgen.com
www.colourgen.com

Colourgen is the UK's leading specialist distributor of large format digital colour printing solutions, consumables, bespoke software, engineering and technical support services. The Company is the exclusive UK distributor for the Mutoh Sign & Display, Speciality/Industrial, Dye Sublimation and Direct to Textile printers.

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're 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.

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Tel: 0208 686 6649
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www.hallmarksigns.co.uk

Quality joinery for Notice Boards, Honours Boards and Bespoke Signs. Directional signs, Finger Posts and Waymarkers made in all timbers. Backboards and Plinths can be made to any shape - singles or bulk orders. Memorial bench rails, crosses and wooden signs can all be engraved with designs and lettering. Please call for a prompt quotation or to discuss any project. Please go to our website to see examples of our work.

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Cable Display
Systems



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Sign Locators



Nylon
Sign Locators



Bespoke Design
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Sign Hangers



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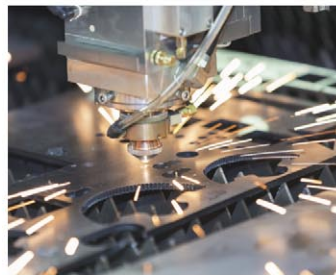
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☒ 100% of our waste material is recycled

APPROVED FABRICATOR
PERSPEX
Distribution Ltd

We use only the highest quality materials in all our manufacturing processes to ensure the goods you receive are of the highest standard



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