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Speedy 400 Run on Ruby® laser cutter

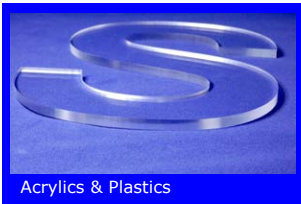
Now with NEW lid camera – Vision Design&Position.

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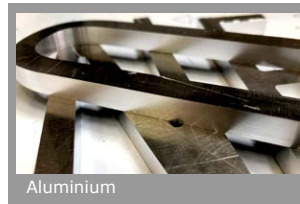
Taking the guesswork out of CNC routing



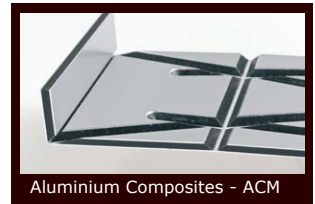
Acrylics & Plastics



Woods & Composites



Aluminium



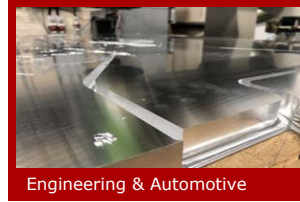
Aluminium Composites - ACM



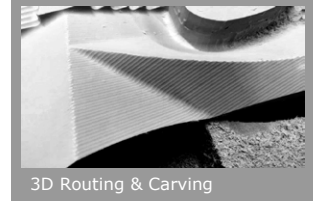
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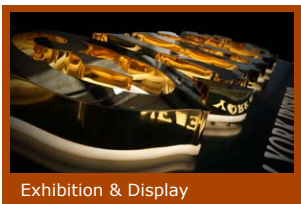
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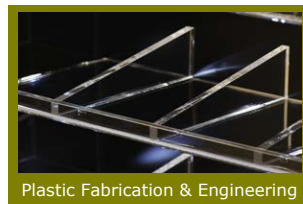
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WELCOME Page

signs² signs

Hope Springs Eternal!

What a joy it was to see the sign industry come together again at Sign & Digital. I've never known quite such a jolly atmosphere, but it was clear that as an industry, we were really happy to have returned to 'normal'. In a few weeks, some of us get to do it all again in Berlin at FESPA. Business is back and for many, it is thriving.

With all the difficulties we are facing locally and globally, it is a relief to see a positive increase in nuts-and-bolts signage and display installations increasing. We are possibly yet to see the full effects of fuel and cost of living increases, but having already been through so much, I can see the industry squaring up and taking it on - helping each other through as they do it.

Evidence of the heart in our industry can be seen in the waves of support – emotional, physical and financial – that has been poured out for the people of Ukraine. Several fantastic initiatives have been set up by companies and individuals that have been wholly supported and embraced and have delivered real help to people in desperate need of it through no fault of their own.

Here at Sign Update we are looking forward to Spring and Summer by bringing you our annual round up of substrates. Rigid and roll-to-roll, eco-friendly and pocket-friendly – we have plenty for you to see. We also look at a rather lesser discussed product – the flatbed applicator table. If you haven't come across one of these before, we think you might be pleasantly surprised. And if you have – we have contributions from the main players in the market.

So, please enjoy this issue while resting in the early evening sunshine with your favourite tippie.

Jack Gocher

Features editor



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PRODUCT News

The most intelligent laser engraver just got smarter with Trotec Vision Design&Position

Trotec Laser has upgraded its flagship laser cutting and engraving machine with a new lid camera which is designed to save even more time during laser processing.

The Speedy 400 Run on Ruby® laser system is already the fastest of its kind, with cutting speeds up to 8 times faster than other systems. The new 12 megapixel patent-pending Vision Design&Position lid camera further speeds up workflow by delivering a live image of the entire work area on to the operating PC in real time.

A full colour and detailed image of the laser bed and workpiece is displayed within Trotec's proprietary Ruby® software, allowing the laser operator to position the artwork file exactly where they'd like it to be cut or engraved, and to see a visual representation of how it will look before the job is started. This new feature negates the need for manual positioning of the laser pointer and saving graphic position data to the software, making laser job setup faster and easier than ever before.

The Vision Design&Position camera is the latest feature to be added to the Ruby® software which incorporates all design and preparation stages of the laser cutting and engraving process to drastically reduce the time and cost of the workflow. The software is under continuous development by Trotec with more time-saving features being planned for future releases.

Trotec's Speedy 400 Run on Ruby® laser system boasts a touch screen operation,



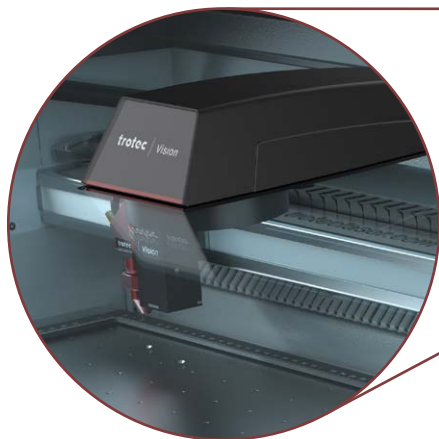
thanks to Ruby®, making it possible to operate the laser in the network via Ethernet or WiFi without an additional PC. The versatile 1016 x 610mm working area is suitable for many standard sheet sizes while power options up to 120 watts and a maximum processing speed of 4.3m/s make the Speedy 400 a highly productive professional-grade cutting and engraving system.

All Trotec Speedy systems are available with a range of accessories in addition to CO₂, fibre and flexx laser source options and are fully supported by a UK based technical service team.



The Trotec Speedy 400

www.troteclaser.com



The new 12 megapixel patent-pending Vision Design&Position lid camera



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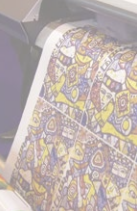


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Glossier and more colourful: new RI-Mark Platinum range signed Ritrama by Fedrigoni

Fedrigoni Self-Adhesives presents RI-Mark Platinum, its new series of polymeric vinyl films engineered to meet all the professional needs in the sector of self-adhesive materials for cad-cam plotter use. From vehicles personalisation to POS advertising, to creation of signs, indoor & outdoor decoration, the novel range is suitable for dry and wet application methods, for flat, uneven and curved surfaces.

RI-Mark Platinum is platinum quality in name and in fact. The 72 new colours of the palette are all REACH & RoHS compliant, ready to convey in the most effective way each message. The high gloss premium polymeric vinyl, UV stabilised, has an external colour stability up to 10 years: without risk of colour alterations or discolouration over time, vividness is ensured. Combined with the very cohesive solvent-based adhesive, these materials ensure excellent dimensional stability, as well as water and solvent resistance.

The cad-cam plotter sector can rely on RI-Mark Platinum series materials for outstanding technical performances, both in terms of adhesion to the substrate and application versatility. Indeed, the high conformability and flexibility of the 65µm

face lead to successful results even on flat, uneven and curved surfaces.

Regarding workability features, RI-Mark Platinum allows impeccable cutting, easy stripping & weeding thanks to the blue contrast siliconized liner. For fast and easy application, white and black are also available in airflow.

Next to the Platinum, the RI-Mark range includes other series: event (short to medium term gloss and matt film), translucent and transparent (for lightboxes and window decorations), etch (for window decorations), and gemstone (High visual impact with glitter films).

selfadhesives.fedrigoni.com



100% recycled Priplak R100 now available from Antalis

Antalis Visual Communications has added Priplak® R100, the first recycled polypropylene range made from 100% post industrial waste, to its sustainable portfolio.

Priplak R100 is a strong, flexible plastic sheet that is ideal for POS, stationery, labels, packaging and counter-top display applications. It has a smooth, white surface that is corona treated on both sides for UV printing.

It is manufactured using certified post-industrial polypropylene waste, a

combination of Priplak's manufacturing waste and that of customers participating in the Priplak 'buyback' scheme. As with all the Priplak range, Priplak R100 is 100% recyclable and can be recycled many times over. It is also halogen free.

Antalis' Visual Communications Product Manager, Paul Neale, comments: "For some applications, plastic offers significant advantages, including longevity, durability, protection, and reusability. Priplak R100 and the Priplak 'buyback' scheme helps to close the loop, creating a product that is also highly sustainable."



Priplak R100 is available via Antalis from stock. For customers seeking a polypropylene sheet produced from 100% post-consumer polypropylene waste, Priplak PCR100 is available to order ex-mill.

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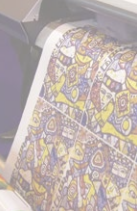
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Trade Service



Antalis introduces new, eco-friendly, outdoor display boards

Antalis has expanded its ever-growing portfolio of environmentally friendly products with the introduction of three, new, fibre-based outdoor display boards.

The new boards help meet an increase in customer demand for plastic-free products, expanding Antalis' Visual Communications sustainable portfolio and choice of highly rated materials within their Green Star System™, which has been designed to make it easy for customers to identify a product's environmental credentials.

Antalis' Visual Communications Product Manager, Paul Neale, explains the reason for the additions: "Customers are looking for eco-responsible alternatives for outdoor applications. Traditionally, plastic-based products have been used due to harsh weather restricting the use of fibre-based materials. We've been working with our suppliers to explore fibre-based products that are suitable for external environments, providing quality and durability, as well as strong environmental credentials."



The new fibre-based outdoor display board products are:

Libra Weather Board – an alternative for the creation of short-term signage and promotional displays that can be used outdoors for up to eight weeks. It has a core of water-repellent recycled fibres, laminated either side with a kraft liner to give the product rigidity. Libra Weather Board is made from FSC® certified fibres and is 100% recyclable.

DISPA® Outdoor – a smooth, printable, white surface with a unique paper core that provides flatness and dimensional stability whilst being lightweight. DISPA® Outdoor is suitable for short-term outdoor display and signage applications and is made from FSC® certified paper and is 100% recyclable.

Katz Outdoor Board – an environmentally-friendly alternative to PE-coated substrates and polypropylene fluted sheets. Comprising a water-resistant spruce wood core laminated with poster paper, it is the ideal choice for short-term (up to 12 weeks) outdoor advertising, such as for election campaigns, event signage and POS. It offers excellent print quality and can be recycled in standard waste paper streams.

www.antalis.co.uk

Applelec launch Built-up Eco Letters

Applelec Sign has proudly announced the latest product in their environmentally friendly signage range, their Eco Built-up Letters. Engineered to include more sustainable components and designed for disassembly; they are a great alternative for the environmentally conscious customer.

Created using fully recyclable stainless steel or aluminium shells, closed loop, 100% recycled and recyclable acrylic and backed with a lightweight, resilient, Foamex, which contains up to 80% reclaimed postproduction waste content; these letters reduce landfill without compromising on quality.

Powerful, bright illumination is supplied by their highly energy efficient Sloan Prism 24V LED modules, which are industry leaders on lumens per watt and carry an impressive 10-year warranty. LED layout is planned to ensure the optimum number of LEDs are used and with SloanLEDs high

output capabilities, it creates luminance levels far brighter than anything possible with typical LEDs, avoiding wasted materials and reducing energy usage, without compromising on illumination. LEDs are then mounted to its backboard to allow for disassembly at the end of the products life, which can either be re-used or recycled through Applelec's WEEE programme, ensuring they are recycled responsibly. What's more, LEDs can also be linked to timers, sensors, and even solar power to control and optimise power usage even further.

Front to back, Applelec's eco engineered built-up letters offer a more sustainable option to the signage industry and if that's not enough, for every order that includes their ECO letters Applelec

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Just ask their sales team for more information or challenge them to eco-engineer your latest project with eco-friendly swaps.

www.applelec.co.uk



New 330 Series Sign Graphics & Textile launches for Mimaki

Mimaki has announced the 330 Series – a brand-new, large format inkjet printer range, that includes the JV330-160, CJV330-160 and TS330-1600, as well as a new range of CG-AR cutting plotters. Launched during the company's Global Innovation Days event, the 330 Series leverages Mimaki's cross-platform strategy, to offer a high-end yet cost effective printing solution across several sectors. Similarly, the CG-AR Series offers users new workflow enhancing, entry-level cutting plotter technologies available in three sizes. Both launches align with Mimaki's objective to grow both its high-end and entry-level product range, to further encourage and support customers expanding and improving upon their printing services and product offering.

Introducing Mimaki's latest printers – the 330 Series

Following on from the success of the 100 and 300 Plus Series, the 330 Series has been developed to offer mid- to high-end printing models, focusing on high image quality and productivity. As a company renowned for its high-colour range, Mimaki's newest printers can achieve high resolution, durable prints for both the Sign Graphic and Textile industries.

The JV330-160 and CJV330-160 eco-solvent inkjet printers deliver the high-standard of colour required for indoor and outdoor sign graphics through the new "Deep Color Natural" input profile, offering eye-catching and vivid solid colours, natural skin tones as well as deep reds and neutral greys. In-built cleaning mechanisms and monitoring features ensure an efficient workflow and allow for longer running times.

Both models feature a newly designed unwinding system that allows three rolls of media to be loaded simultaneously, greatly reducing the time and labour required to change print media. One operator can bring the desired media into position simply by turning the media changer. Another standard feature is an "XY slitter" - a highly precise cutting technology, which provides in-line X-axis and Y-axis sheet-fed cutting. This eliminates the unwinding and manual cutting from the workflow, helping printers to significantly speed up and streamline the post-process, with less interference needed.

The JV330-160 print-only model as well as the CJV330-160 integrated printer/cutter is available globally from April 2022.

In addition to the Sign Graphics solutions, Mimaki has also released the TS330-1600, a sublimation transfer inkjet printer, for the textile industry. Enabling both high production and high image quality, and equipped with new functions to improve stable operation, the TS330-1600 can achieve a printing speed of 69sq m/h in draft mode with a 4-colour ink set, with the fastest mode reaching up to 135sq m/h.

The TS330-1600 has optional add-ons to further increase efficiency, including a 10kg ink tank supply unit which reduces ink cost when compared to the standard 2L ink pack, and allows for longer continuous printing. A mini jumbo roll unit can also be added to load large rolls of transfer paper and further reduce running costs.

An improved take-up system featuring dual motors equipped on both sides of the printer distributes the load and strengthens the winding power, allowing stable winding of printed paper even for long runs. TxLink4, Mimaki's RIP software dedicated to the textile market is included with every TS330-1600.

All products in the series are fitted with 'Mimaki Weaving Dot Technology' (MWDT), a technology that changes the order of ink droplet placement depending on the printing conditions. 'Mimaki Remote Access' (MRA) is also available across the series, improving ease of operation by allowing users to remotely access the machine and check the printer's status.

Increasing efficiency with entry-level CG-AR plotting cutter series

Alongside the 330 Series, Mimaki has also launched the CG-AR Series cutting plotters. Available in three different sizes (CG-60AR, CG-100AR and CG-130AR), these plotters go above and beyond currently available entry-level options. Recognising customer demand for shorter delivery times, the new models provide increased speed and accuracy, all with user-friendly operability. In addition, the cutters have the ability to handle a diverse range of materials, such as PVC, fluorescent and reflective sheets.

The Mimaki CG-AR Series is also equipped with Mimaki Remote Access, and features Mimaki's ID Cut function, which allows integrated print-and-cut operations when used in combination with a Mimaki printer, by automatically retrieving cutting data via a barcode.

"Following the positive reception of the 100 Series among our customer base, we saw, from Sign Graphics to Textile, that there is a significant market demand for more cost-effective, mid- to high-end technologies," says Arjen Evertse, General Manager Sales EMEA. "This is the drive behind our newest cross-platform technology, the 330 Series. Adhering to our strategy of enhancing production efficiencies and streamlining workflows, the new capabilities of this series cater to customers across various sectors, who are looking to improve on quality and delivery time."

www.hybridservices.co.uk



Mimaki's latest large format series of printers, including the new CJV330-160 inkjet eco-solvent printer/cutter, achieves high colour quality at high speeds.



Valuable updates to CorelDRAW Graphics Suite will power productivity

CorelDRAW Graphics Suite, the professional graphic design solution for vector illustration, layout, photo editing, typography, and collaboration, introduced today several valuable updates for subscribers. These updates allow individuals to maximise their creativity and productivity, while remaining connected with clients and colleagues in an ever-increasing world of remote-first work.

The all-in-one design solution delivers a new personalised learning experience that empowers users to expand their knowledge and skills tailored to their unique needs and interests, while access to real-time collaboration makes it easy for clients and teams to work together from anywhere. Additionally, the updates include accelerated photo editing alongside timesaving enhancements to a variety of features across the suite, making it faster than ever for subscribers to achieve their unique creative vision.

John Falsetto, Head of Graphics and Productivity Products says, "The way we work has changed dramatically and employees need solutions that empower them to tap into their creative genius, collaborate with others, and remain highly connected. The latest updates to CorelDRAW Graphics Suite accelerate our mission to democratise design and unlock the power of creativity across any business. Organisations can now benefit from the diverse minds and ideas in their workforces rather than restricting creativity to specific departments, improving employee engagement, boosting productivity, and driving business growth."

CorelDRAW® Graphics Suite subscribers can enjoy a more flexible way to stay up to date with access to the newest tools, enhanced features, learning materials, additional fonts, creative templates, and support for the latest technologies to maximize their creative potential. New subscriber-exclusive updates include:

- Create stunning images fast with enhancements to photo editing: Boost creativity with new, non-destructive stackable adjustment presets, and achieve superior results up to 10 times faster with the enhanced Adjustments docker/inspector in Corel PHOTO-PAINT™. Additional adjustment filters and new editing options for existing filters help make it quicker than ever

to produce amazing results. The new image adjustment workflow lets you organize presets into custom categories or choose from a new collection of curated preset styles, plus you can now save adjustment filter settings for easy use later.

- Learn new skills and techniques with access to a personalised learning experience: Be successful sooner with access to training tailored to you. Find recommended learning content based on how you work and what you want to see in the Learn docker/inspector, and search online content as you create from the Explore tab.
- Accelerate your workflow and enjoy boosted productivity with new user-requested enhancements: Deliver professional results with access to a variety of modern new templates to inspire your creativity and customize templates with ease to produce unique designs. Add pages faster with less manual arranging, and view and resize pages more naturally thanks to improvements to Pages, plus enjoy new support for TIFF, EPS, and SVG in the multi-asset export workflow. A new product feedback loop empowers designers to contribute directly to the future design of CorelDRAW Graphics Suite with the ability to submit development ideas and vote on suggestions presented by others.

CorelDRAW® GRAPHICS SUITE



Availability and pricing

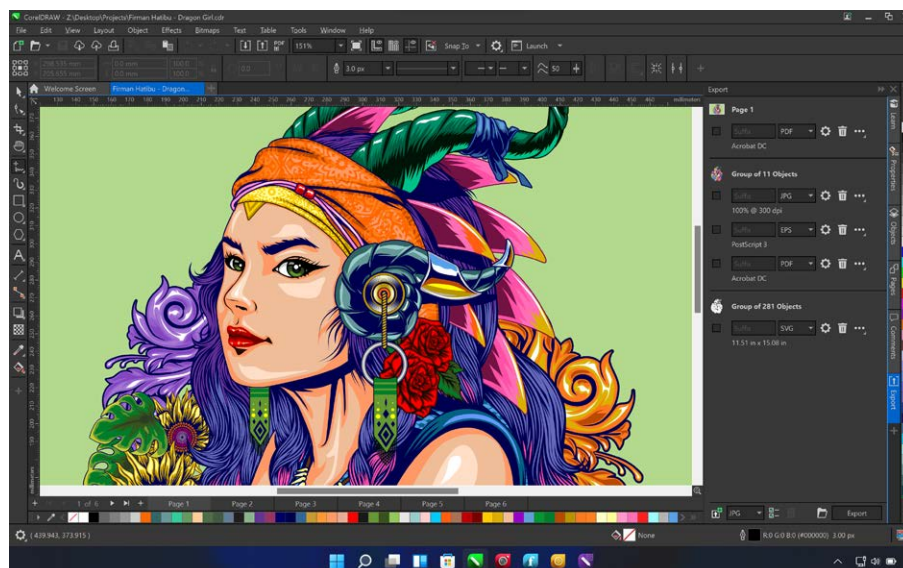
CorelDRAW Graphics Suite is available on Windows, macOS, web, iPad and mobile in English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Dutch, Polish, Czech, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Turkish, Swedish, and Japanese.

Subscription is £319 per year. CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 2021 is available for one-time purchase at the suggested retail price of £659. Prices include VAT.

Access to the enhanced photo editing features, optimized learning experience, real-time collaboration, dynamic asset management, additional fonts, creative templates, and customer-inspired feature improvements are exclusively available with a CorelDRAW Graphics Suite subscription or with a license plus added maintenance.

Business and education clients can take advantage of volume licensing options and maintenance, which offer benefits including software deployment and virtualization support.

www.coreldraw.com

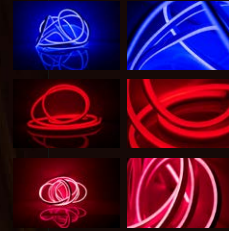


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"A very professional team, and really happy with the product quality and reliability. Will definitely be ordering again!" - Sam Topham

ECOLUX **The sign fitters' choice - Ecolux Mini.**

Ecolux Mini is the UK's Number 1 best-selling trough light system, ideal for retail, brewery and restaurant signage programmes. The best things are always simple and this LED sign light is jam packed full of new ideas and innovative design.

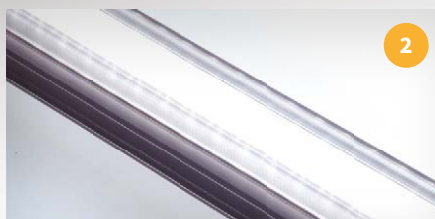




Ecolux Mini is the UK's Number 1 best selling trough light system.



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



Behind Ecolux Mini's 90° magnifying lens, the superb 1650 lumen 14.4W per metre LEDs deliver a punch to sign fascias and an unrivalled performance of even illumination.



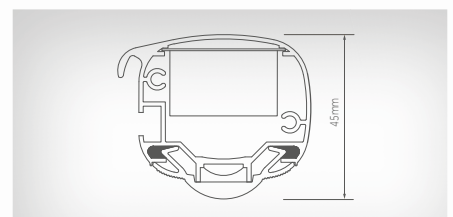
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The brilliantly designed Multi Bracket is double slotted, allowing the fitter in an instant to orientate the back plate fixing position from horizontal to vertical.



The clip fix uses a clever and unique spring clip fixing captive in the channel at the rear of the sign light. The clip slides and springs over a retaining nipple on the bracket fixing.



The new IP68 connector is concealed within a new cast aluminium chamber and sits comfortably in a step grommet allowing cables to freely pass through for easy installation of longer runs.



The new sleek and stylish 45mm casing is the slimmest available in the UK with integral drivers.

Find out more at www.portlandlighting.co.uk/ecolux-mini

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Email: sales@portlandlighting.co.uk

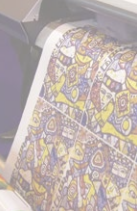
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Finishing tables

It's all about Speed and Productivity

For many sign shops, the question about acquiring a lamination table is more when than why. According to Kala, it's a logical move.

Laurent Bouchard, CEO of Kala says, "Applicator table make mounting a print on a board or applying an adhesive transfer to a print much quicker and faster than other methods."

Based on our studies with customers, mounting a 3 x 1.5 metre print to a board takes an operator approximately 1 minute 20 seconds with a table. It takes them 2 minutes 20 seconds with a laminator and a whopping 6 minutes for 2 people applying it manually with a squeegee."

He adds, "The real saving is in the speed, efficiency and minimal reprinting costs due to handling errors."

Another important advantage of an application table is its flexibility. "It can be used for other purposes such as cutting, weeding assembling prints together and much more. It changes the workflow in a workshop. It serves as working table and brings versatility to the entire production process," adds Laurent.

He also adds, "They are simple to use, without extensive operator skills. And they are not limited to sign production but can serve other purposes when it comes to binding two materials together."

Make space for profit

The main issue for the acquisition of such tables is the floor space these table occupy. Although because they

also double as a workbench, you don't necessarily need to find additional space.

Laurent explains, "Kala tables don't require a compressor. They are very silent and the space underneath the table is completely free. So the square footage is optimised, material, jobs done or in progress can be stored at no extra cost. The introduction of tables to the market has fulfilled a real demand from sign-makers and has helped to solve many production issues."

Safety is another important consideration when looking at an applicator table. "Other suppliers offer a system based on an economical pneumatic system. However, a pneumatic system is not entirely 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," he says.

Manual application of prints with a squeegee onto rigid surface is of course a cheaper investment but Laurent says it is simply not as profitable as investing in an application table for serious work, leaving no space for errors and reprints.

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."

Laurent concludes, "In comparison, a roll of print can be printed overnight, laminated if required after degassing, and then mounted onto a board the day after with a table. This is optimized productivity with more versatility and a huge improvement on workflow. A great investment!"

www.kala.fr



User safety and comfort is a very important consideration when looking at an applicator table



An applicator table gives you great flexibility to work with a range of media

Josero Goes Bubble-Free

The fully welded, durable Bubble-Free flatbed applicator tables offer sign-makers a significant productivity boost, allowing a single operator to efficiently mount and laminate a wide range of materials up to 60mm thick while also eliminating the risk of bubbling and creasing.

The Bubble-Free Pro Applicator is available in three widths, 1500mm, 1700mm and 2200mm giving maximum working widths of 1450mm, 1640mm and 2140mm respectively. Rollers have 15mm of soft rubber which ensure a 'bubble-free' application as the name of the product suggests! The machine can be operated from either side, delivering even greater installation flexibility.

Sarah Winterbottom, Managing Director at Bubble-Free supplier Josero, comments, "When customers see the Bubble-Free they are often surprised by its flexibility, such as the adjustable height and the optional extras that are available which you don't always see on competing models. After installation it's great to hear how many of them are flying through work and are really impressed by the difference it can make to productivity. They are wondering why they didn't invest in an applicator table sooner!"

Talking to Josero's Bubble-Free customers, it's certainly clear that the Bubble-Free delivers a marked productivity enhancement, and fast. Justin Dennington of Plusprint in Penzance describes his experience acquiring a Bubble-Free applicator table, "We needed to streamline

and increase our sign production, we saw some really good reviews about Josero and with their help opted for a Bubble Free applicator. It was installed a week before we had large orders and the increase in speed has been great. The ease of lining everything up and the quickness of mounting on the table is fantastic. Our operator managed to fulfil all 48 ACM signs in a day, which we'd never have achieved before!"

Karl Adlington at Signs Express Nottingham was among those who was initially looking at bringing a flatbed applicator table he had used in a previous role in to Signs Express. However, after a recommendation from within the Signs Express group, Karl explored the option of the Bubble-Free Pro from Josero. "I looked at the Bubble-Free spec sheet and Sarah [Winterbottom] came out to us and explained about the additions we could have on the Bubble-Free. That really sold it to us, the adjustable height and optional extras that you potentially wouldn't have on a competing model, especially at that price point," explains Adlington. The Bubble-Free is now up and running and boosting productivity with daily use.



The BubbleFree is fully adjustable and comes with lots of extra features

Additional features

The addition of cutting systems can help sign-makers maximise the benefits of the Bubble-Free even further, attaching directly onto the table to make mounting, laminating and cutting an extremely efficient and accurate process. Other optional add-ons for the table are a PVC cutting mats, LED Lights, glass top, roll holders, side trays and silent compressors.

Sarah continues, "During the pandemic, and even now as businesses struggle to find staff, the ease of use and single operator requirements of the Bubble-Free are really coming in handy for sign-makers looking to make the most of their equipment, their space, and their team. We've heard from more than one business that take on apprentices or other staff with no prior experience in the print or signage industries that the accessibility of the Bubble-Free is so valuable, just a bit of training up and they are ready to go, even with larger, more complex jobs."

Dyson Signs in Sheffield is one business that found the user-friendly nature of the Bubble-Free to be a key benefit, particularly as they took on apprentices to meet increasing demand. "We do quite a lot of hoardings for the university, and it's so much quicker with the Bubble-Free," says Adam Dyson, Director, Dyson Signs. "The apprentices have come in with no experience and with some training are now able to work with reasonably sized panels. If it was a one-man technique, there would be a lot more training involved."



The BubbleFree Applicator Table allow you to fly through work

www.josero.com



Finishing tables

Reasons to invest in an applicator table

When starting a print business, a flatbed applicator table is usually not at the front of the purchase list and probably doesn't make second place either! An integrated printer/cutter and a laminator are normally considered to be the start up equipment for a new print business.

Once established, an applicator table could be the next logical step for those PSPs looking to expand their presence in the sign and graphics market. A flatbed applicator table can allow a PSP to mount and laminate signage with great accuracy and with a smaller outlay than what is required for a flatbed UV printer.

One such company that made this step is Premier Graphics, based in Blyth, North East England. Started in 2015 by Scott Elliott, Premier Graphics has grown into an extremely successful business with a vast range of print services available for their customers. Starting predominantly with vehicle graphics and garment decoration printed on their Roland VP-540i with Easymount Laminator, Elliott invested in a Bubble-Free applicator table from Your Print Specialists(YPS) in 2019.

Better quality signs

Elliott says, "We spoke with Garry from YPS who gave us a demonstration of a Bubble-Free applicator table. It has always been a goal of mine to have a flat bed printer but given the cost it was too far of a jump for my company at the time. The Bubble-Free table was a perfect solution given the cost of the table was far below that of a direct to board printer (used and new) and the way in which it applies the vinyl to the substrate is far superior and gives us a better quality of sign for our customers."

Elliott continues, "We had a roll to roll EasyMount laminator prior to our Bubble-Free which was used to laminate our 1370mm prints. As this was only an entry



The way in which the Bubble-Free applies vinyl to the substrate gives us a better quality of sign for our customers - Photo credit JaderStudiosUK

level laminator it wasn't practical for then mounting our laminated prints onto the substrates. We would have to adjust the pressure by turning a handle either side of the laminator, which meant that if we did not get the pressure correct our prints would crease. The alternative was for one of us to literally jump on to a bench and hold the vinyl taught with the backing paper removed, spray water on the surface of our substrate while the other person applied the vinyl using a 4" soft edge squeegee (a bit of a nightmare as you can imagine).

Mounting boards through a laminator can be unwieldy and difficult depending on the size of the substrate. This process usually requires more than one member of staff to move the board through, handle the graphic and operate the laminator. An applicator table such as the Bubble-Free Pro offers one handed operation freeing up staff to undertake other tasks, leading to better production and finishing times. As

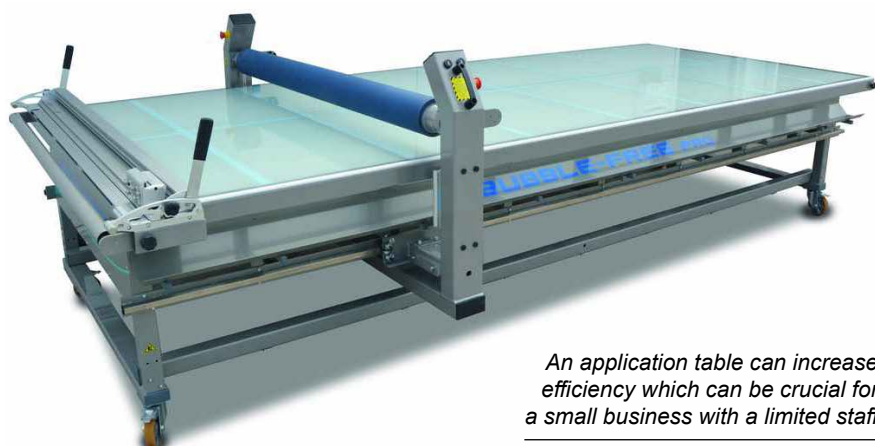
a PSP, this increase in efficiency can allow for more work to be undertaken as well as give the flexibility to offer new services to the client base. For Premier Graphics, this allowed them to take on print contracts that would not have been possible to complete without an applicator table.

Supporting growth and productivity

Elliott explains, "I can't see how we would have progressed any other way as a company without the Bubble-Free application table. In 2021 we had 19 factories all over the UK, every site required around 20 signs ranging from 2440mm x 1220mm to 3050mm x 1520mm. All of these were printed and applied using the Bubble-Free table and one employee. We now have a Mimaki JFX200EX direct to substrate printer installed and we still have a lot of use for our Bubble-Free table."

Many applicator tables start at under £10,000, coupled with existing print equipment, an application table can increase efficiency which can be crucial for a small business with a limited staff. The Bubble-Free Pro applicator table can mount and laminate substrates up to 60mm thick with a 15mm rubber roller for bubble and crease free application. Available in a range of widths and lengths, the table can also be completely customised to suit space and budget requirements making one an attractive investment for those looking to take the next step.

www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk



An application table can increase efficiency which can be crucial for a small business with a limited staff

Roll With It

They come in many shapes and sizes to suit your workshop and they can make you a whole lot more productive. That is the message from William Smith when it comes to why you should invest in a ROLLSROLLER flatbed applicator table.

Jonny Harle, Internal Sales Manager for William Smith, UK distributor for ROLLSROLLER, told us, "Most sign-makers have a table or workbench in their workshop. My advice is to take that out and put a ROLLSROLLER Flatbed Applicator Table in there instead. It gives you so much more in terms of being a good solid workbench – as well as being a multi-purpose work centre."

William Smith says that sign-makers have achieved up to 80% time savings compared to traditional application methods. They are relatively straightforward to operate, requiring just one person for most applications. "We have seen companies easily save the equivalent of two hours to their working day thanks to having a ROLLSROLLER. It allows you to do everything in one area; from weeding, cut vinyl graphics, applying digital prints, application tape and finally onto the substrate," adds Jonny.

Improved Health and safety

Looking after the health and well-being of staff is now more important than ever. An applicator table can help with this for a number of reasons. It restricts the amount of lifting and handling that is often required for many applications. It also makes applying application tape much simpler, with employees no longer needing to walk backwards and bend over whilst holding



The ROLLSROLLER is a multi-purpose work centre that adds speed, productivity and greater comfort for operators

the tape. It is done very quickly, in one single pass.

The soft compound roller and controlled exerted pressure on the ROLLSROLLER, makes it virtually impossible to crush fingers and a height adjustable table means the work surface can be adjusted to the specific height requirement of an individual.

Flexible solution

The ROLLSROLLER has a variable pressured roller that locks the substrates into place throughout the whole application process. This means the media remains stable on the bed to enable a smooth and accurate finish every time, meaning there is a lesser need for costly reprints.

The roller itself can be automatically adjusted in height to accommodate different substrates of up to 60mm thick. You can easily produce flexible skins, hoardings, banners, digital prints, safety signs and other self-adhesive applications on this machine much more easily than with a normal table or laminator. It can also be used for applications onto rigid panels, such as correx, foamex, dibond and aluminium. Traffic models are also available with inbuilt aluminium profiles on the bed for easy traffic sign applications.

"ROLLSROLLER are innovative Flatbed Applicators designed to offer a simple and accurate way to apply self-adhesive vinyls, cut vinyl graphics, digital prints or application tapes to many substrates. Traditional application methods are time consuming and labour intensive. Using a Multipurpose Applicator improves your productivity as applications become quicker and easier to do. Our customers agree, investing in an Applicator Machine has led to impressive time and production cost savings, as well as improvements in health and safety," adds Jonny.

Jonny Harle concludes, "The ROLLSROLLER table can handle materials and panels of any size. You can work on it by hand or with the laminator bar and you know that it is always going to be precise and accurate. There are many inferior imitations out there, but the ROLLSROLLER is the original and best. That's why William Smith has been delighted to partner with them for more than 15 years."



ROLLSROLLER comes in a range of sizes to suit your workshop

www.williamsmith.co.uk



Finishing tables

Speed, accuracy, versatility and choice

According to Atech, the key benefits of an application table are its ease of use, speed, accuracy, and versatility. An applicator table provides high precision mounting and lamination of digital or screen-printed reflective sheeting, transfer tape and overlay film.

Allan Ashman, Atech's Managing Director, says, "Where floorspace is at a premium, an application table requires less than half the space of a laminator when applying vinyl or laminate to boards. When not being used as an application table it can conveniently be used as a worktable. Application tables optimises your existing workflow, streamline and improve your finishing process for lamination and application of sheeting no matter which cut and printing technology you are using."

He also explains how it can you be more profitable, "Imagine laminating a 5'x 10' print on to an acrylic panel, banner, PVC or whatever else you are working on for the moment and then complete it with a layer of protective vinyl. All of this will just take you a few minutes and with our CWT tables.

One-off jobs are made fast and easy with a minimum of set-up time. Long series jobs are where our equipment really comes to its full capacity and with savings in labour time of up to 85% you will have a huge competitive advantage."

Full control over the laminating process

Using a flatbed applicator gives you full control over the laminating process, and you can do it with just one person. "Place whatever substrate you want to laminate on the table and then position your graphics on top of it, once you lower the roller to press it together it won't move anywhere and you don't have to think



One-off jobs are made fast and easy with a minimum of set-up time

about messing up expensive material with wrinkles and bubbles, but keep in mind, always clean the surface thoroughly before exposing any adhesive," says Allan, adding, "Depending on what jobs you are doing, banners, acrylic sheets, folded aluminium sheets or even making your own mixed material sandwich panels, with the versatility of these machines you will almost always find a quick and efficient way to do it."

Easy to transport – easy to use

Atech is the UK distributor of the CWT range of applicator tables. Allan explains, "The modular design makes the CWT worktable easy to transport and install. The units are delivered in compact packages, less than half in volume compared to other suppliers. The low transportation cost taken aside; the slim package can easily be brought inside customer's facilities

through normal sized doors."

He continues, "Working with a quality flatbed applicator is easy to learn and you don't need to hire any special staff to do it. With the high output and quality you can achieve with this table, it will take you to a new competitive level and at the same time make your job more enjoyable."

A broad choice of tables

Atech offers a broad range of CWT products. "These robust application tables designed to last. Starting from smaller pneumatic machines all the way to fully electronic machines, we can help you can find the right machine to meet your own demands. We can also help you with those specifications given by the manufacturers of vinyls and protective films to meet their warranty terms."

A CWT electric flatbed applicator and worktable takes your business to a completely new level of production capacity and functionality.

Electronic settings enable a higher working speed with consistent quality and output. The Evolution Electric series machines are equipped with a 7-step electronic roller pressure setting for media with thickness 0-100mm, EVO HOT Heat assisted roller for a faster lamination process. Heat setting between 30–60°C. Combine with Evo Drive for optimized functionality and a quality-controlled process. The EVO DRIVE Ergonomic option grants for consistent mounting and lamination speed and quality. You can work at a higher speed and with consistent quality output and less strain on your body. The motorized gantry is controlled by a handy remote control giving you the freedom of working from any position. Combine with Evo Hot for optimized functionality and quality-controlled process. Speed setting 1–9m/min.

www.atech.co.uk



Working with a quality flatbed applicator is easy to learn and you don't need to hire any special staff to do it

Case study - Simple Displays

Graham Preston of Simple Displays in Leeds has invested in a CWT1640 Application Table. He explains, "In a very competitive market, it was important for us to invest in equipment that was going to increase the success and more importantly the reputation of our work. We always aim to impress and to stay one step ahead of the competition."

He continues, "At Simple Displays we know how much a client's image means to them and it's our mission to give them the "high-quality" finish they deserve. We contacted Atech as we had purchased equipment from them in the past and we knew Allan would recommend the right equipment for us. We needed a robust and reliable application table to speed up our finishing department and Allan recommended the CWT1640 Premium, and we certainly haven't been disappointed."

Installation went smoothly with very little disruption to production. "The table was delivered in the morning in small sections and was quickly built by the Atech engineers and by mid afternoon we were ready to start the training."



The new CWT Evolution flatbed applicator table

This was very thorough and very easy to pick up, nothing was over complicated," he says.

"We have found the CWT Application Table superb for many reasons!" explains Graham, adding, "Our CWT Application table gives us much better control and less waste than the conventional roll laminator due to the easy and precise positioning of the materials and it also allows us to be able to laminate a much wider range of materials."

We have also increased production and saved time. The ease of use means we only need one person carrying out what was previously a slow two-person job."

Graham concludes, "I would highly recommend this table to anyone that wants to save money and increase production without compromising on quality. It is simple and easy to use and gives that much desired perfect result. It has become the main work area and the centre of our production process. We use it daily".

CWT WORKTOOLS



CWT Premium Series



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Finishing tables

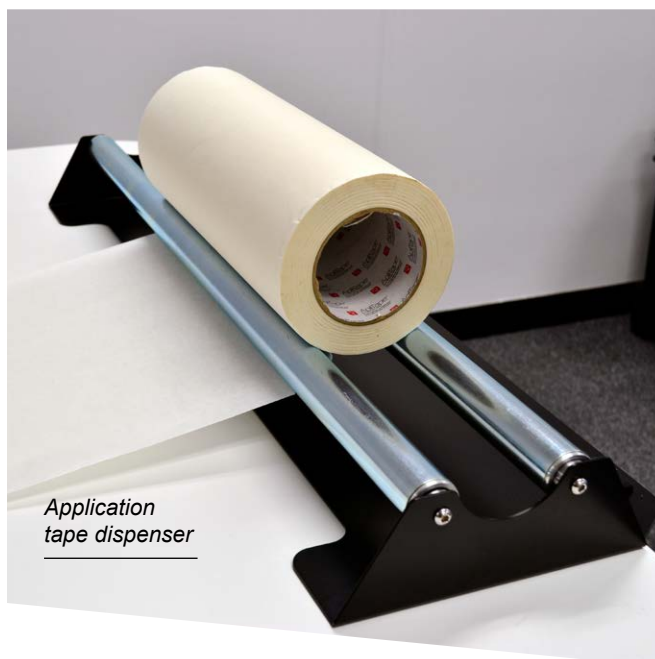
Signgeer offers 2 alternative options

With the best will in the world – not everyone will have the space, or budget, to take on an applicator table. So, if you are looking for a tool to apply application tape and haven't got the space or the resources for one of the flatbed applicators you've seen in this feature, here a couple of entry level options from Signgeer, which can be bench or table mounted.

Application tape dispenser

Designed to either sit on your table or anchored to the edge with easily removable anchor points, the Signgeer application tape dispenser is made from a heavy duty black powder coated steel base with high quality polished aluminium rollers and precision bearings.

Available in a choice of widths to accommodate material up to a maximum of either 715mm, 1230mm or 1540mm wide. Simply load your application tape into the dispenser and you can easily pull the tape off of the roll at the correct tension to tape up graphics quickly and easily every time with no creases, wrinkles or bubbles.



Application tape dispenser



SP140 Speed Applicator

The SP140 Speed Applicator makes easy work of applying application tape to cut vinyl. Yet another time saving machine for your production room from the creators of the 'VR15' Vinyl weeder. Simply screw the Speed Applicator to your bench top, load your application tape on the roller and away you go... applying with a turn of the handle (or a pull through if preferred).

The pressure can be manually adjusted on your SP140 Speed Applicator to accommodate different thickness films. Pair it with the 'VR15' Vinyl Remover for an end to end solution for the ultimate fast track solution for weeding and application.

There are plenty of how-to videos to view at signgeer.com where you can see the tools in action and fully appreciate the amount of time these tools can save your production room.

www.signgeer.com

The Signgeer Speed Applicator is a great value alternative when a full blown applicator table is not suitable for your business



The Signgeer Speed Applicator comes in a range of models, shapes and sizes

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PRODUCT Choice

Cora Graphics expands into new markets with Ricoh Pro L5160e investment

Glasgow-based print and sign-making business Cora Graphics has revealed how its investment in a new Ricoh Pro L5160e latex large-format printer in April 2021 has allowed it to expand into a number of profitable new markets.

Cora Graphics only opened its doors in December 2020, but, thanks to its purchase of the Ricoh machine, enjoyed an incredibly successful first year that saw it expand outside of its initial focus areas and into new sectors.

Cora Graphics first focused on engraving work, but with the Ricoh Pro L5160e having started running just four months after the company launched, it has now established itself as a provider of a range of printing and related services.

From exhibition graphics and site safety signage, through to floor graphics, the Ricoh Pro L5160e has been hard at work in recent months, playing a key role in early growth at Cora Graphics.

"The main reason we went with Ricoh was having prior knowledge and familiarity of Ricoh printers and products from our previous job," Cora Graphics Director Declan McNeil said. "We felt continuity was important as starting a new business had so many challenges already that we thought we could reduce the stress of that one area by choosing something we knew.

"The variety and volume of work the printer can get through and the speed in which it prints allows us to take on many projects



at one time without having to compromise on the quality of the end product.

"This means we can keep customers happy and meet any deadlines we are faced with which will hopefully lead to more opportunities as people pass our information on to others."

One market that has proved particularly successful for Cora Graphics is vehicle wrapping, with the company having taken on a number of interesting and creative van wrap jobs, all of which have been printed on the Ricoh Pro L5160e.

"The Ricoh printer has allowed us to take on van wrapping projects as the latex ink, combined with the media and laminate, creates a high-quality solution that is quicker and easier to apply than graphics created on solvent ink and UV printers," Declan McNeil said.

"It has been a good purchase and we are happy with the machine."

Typecraft increases speed and productivity with Agfa Anapurna H2500i LED from i-Sub

i-Sub Digital, the specialist supplier of wide-format digital printing systems and consumables, has successfully installed an Agfa Anapurna H2500i LED at Cheltenham-based Typecraft.

The new machine has replaced a previous Agfa model which Typecraft inherited following its takeover of fellow Cheltenham business Mark Latchford Screenprint back in 2017. The company made the decision to upgrade after recognising that the new technology in the Agfa Anapurna H2500i LED would allow it to offer a wider range of applications to its customers.

Sales and Production Director Matt Magovern explains: "We also knew we wanted to increase our speed and productivity and the new LED version has allowed us to do that."

Beyond its speed – Typecraft's new machine is able to print at speeds of up to 115sqm/hr in 'Draft Mode' – the hybrid UV LED-curable inkjet printer boasts a printing width of 2.5m and can produce both indoor and outdoor applications. Its six-colour plus white ink set combines high quality

with high productivity for rigid and flexible wide-format jobs and its white ink function also creates possibilities for printing on transparent material for backlit applications or for printing white as a spot colour.

Typecraft made the decision to invest after taking a trip to Agfa's HQ in Belgium to see the technology in action. "It was extremely beneficial and interesting to see the substance behind the Agfa brand. The Agfa HQ is a large operation and as a customer it is important to know and understand what the manufacturer is about. To see the scale and detail of the company first-hand during the visit was invaluable," says Matt.

"We were shown all of their different systems in the range as well as their inks and the processes behind them. There was plenty of printing taking place, so we got a chance to examine the sort of work the H2500i LED could produce."

The machine itself was installed just before Christmas 2021 and has been up and running for almost two months. Matt says that he is delighted with how things are going.

"Day to day we use it to print onto Foamex, vinyl, paper, acrylic and various other different materials. It was key for us to make the move to the LED machine; we don't have to wait for the lamps to warm up as LED lamps are ready instantly. The speed really is the key difference for us; the quality is undoubtedly superior to what we were working with before, but the speed alone is gaining us two hours of production time per day."

www.i-subdigital.com



Typecraft's Matt Magovern alongside new Agfa Anapurna H2500i LED from i-Sub

Manor Signs eyes sustainable growth with new HP Latex R1000 Plus printer

Buckinghamshire-based signage solutions provider Manor Signs has set out plans to target more environmentally focused customers after investing in a new HP Latex R1000 Plus printer. The investment will see the company upgrade its existing fleet to ensure greater flexibility in terms of production capabilities and print features.

The market leading environmental credentials of the HP Latex R1000 Plus will also help Manor signs provide more sustainable solutions to customers looking for high quality print and sign work, including new home signage, glass and wall branding, vehicle wraps and banners – all of which typically have challenges in terms of environmental impact. With the HP Latex R1000 Plus running on innovative water-based HP Latex inks, meaning it has a much lower impact on the environment than other print technologies such as solvent, eco-solvent and UV.

Purchased from approved HP distributor Papergraphics, the machine was installed at Manor Signs' production facility at the end of last year.

"From the moment we first spoke with Papergraphics about the possibility of upgrading our printer, the print quality and versatility we saw from the HP Latex R1000 Plus meant we knew that it was the right machine for us" said Manor Signs Director, Gareth Craythorne. "There was simply no contest in terms of the print quality and its white capabilities, and the level of commitment shown by Papergraphics really helped guide us to purchasing the HP Latex R1000 Plus."

"Compared to other printers of a similar size and capability, the eco credentials of the HP Latex R1000 Plus are far more impressive. Considering how impactful our field can be on the planet, this printer was easily the best option for us.

"Since being in use, and the positive feedback we have received so far, we expect to target the more environmentally focused customer, as well as further expand our new homes customer base.

"With the superior white ink option available with this printer, we also expect to focus on this side of manufacture to expand our production.

"It is all about giving the best option for our customer base, making sure we deliver print of the highest quality, while re-assuring our clients that their graphics have the least possible impact on the environment."

"HP's Latex R1000 Plus fits perfectly with Manor Signs business vision, to target environmentally focused customers, said HP UK&I MV Business Development Manager Stuart Thomas. "It's great to see the importance in terms of environmental impact and shows the way forward in the industry."

Gareth told Sign Update, "I can't speak highly enough of the abilities to print with white. We can reverse print on an optically clear film, followed by a layer of white, then black, then white, and then the 2nd image. This addition of black in the white black white sandwich layer, ensures block



The extension table in the foreground can be turned horizontally and clipped in on the input side of the HP Latex printer



The extension table visible on the output side of the HP Latex printer, allows printing on sheet media upto 10' x 5'

out. This results in 2 separate images visible on either side of the film with no show through of the other image."

largeformat.hp.com/uk/printers



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DIS installs Canon Colorado 1650

DIS Group, the award-winning Midland-based large format sign & digital graphics company has installed a Canon Colorado 1650 from CMYUK.

This new 1.6m wide roll to roll printer is perfect at handling increasing amounts of high-end retail work and complements the existing capabilities of the company's EFI VUTEk h3 hybrid printer.

"Our work volumes are increasing and while switching between rolls to sheets on a flatbed is what a hybrid model is for, I could see where a second printer would enable us to maintain the increasing volumes of roll-to-roll work. The Colorado 1650 is perfect for high-end Duratrans, posters, POS, vinyl wraps that we do for retail hoardings, and the occasional vehicle wrap. It fits comfortably alongside the quality and speed of the EFI VUTEk h3," says Mark Bradley, DIS Group Managing Director.

"The Colorado investment enhances what we usually do and drives our retail work forward, which is a fast-growing area for us," adds DIS Group Sales Director, Dave Purcell.

UVgel inks and sustainability

The company decided to invest in the Colorado 1650 because it was impressed with the way it handles peak volume production, speed and quality. Rated by Canon customers all over the world for its stability, it can be trusted to be left optimally printing unaccompanied overnight safely.

"It's very easy to use and delivers on ever reducing turnaround times, we needed this level of capability and reliability to bring it into our current plant line-up," says Dave.

Another key factor in the purchasing decision was the UVgel inkset. This combines the strengths and benefits of all current ink technologies without many of their limitations.

The crucial innovation about this ink is that it is a gel that doesn't contain any water thereby negating any issues regarding the dimensional stability of media. Using a low heat process, a temperature-controlled platen maintains the substrate at a constant 28 degrees temperature regardless of environmental factors. On contact with the media, the liquefied ink returns to its gel state where the individual ink drops are pinned to the media in such a way as to prevent dot gain.

LED curing takes place after the image swathe is formed and gelled onto the media, resulting in a more uniform and smoother surface. Prints are instantly dry and do not require any evaporative drying process.

"These inks really excited us. They are very durable and offer high levels of UV lightfastness, scratch resistant and can be washed. They can be used with a wide variety of substrates including thin and heat sensitive material," says Dave.

UVgel inks are super sustainable and have low environmental impact. They adhere to stringent eco standards and certifications safe enough to use in internal education and healthcare environments.

Matt and gloss

One of the more impressive factors that Colorado customers comment on is the printer's ability to print mat or gloss at the touch of a button. Thanks to what's called FLX finish technology, this unique feature enables both high shine gloss or velvet matt finishes without the need to change media or inks.

"This function is a real bonus. It will allow us to do spot gloss on presentation packs, visuals and graphics for retailers and other sectors where we know customers are going to love that option. It's a really good selling point," says Dave.

A new provision

"Over the years the business has grown its in-house installation capability. 'Fitting is a fast-paced environment and we employ a number of fitters. For us every stage of a job is vital from the artwork through to fitting and de-installation. Customers know as soon as they press the order button with us, every aspect is taken care of. Our clients know our fitters, there's a real sense of trust with the teams we have," says Dave

"Retail has changed so much," says Mark. "The high street has been really impacted both by on-line shopping and then COVID. We're seeing an emerging trend which is all about experience, so going forward shop fitouts will become more complex and ambitious."

DIS has an even spread of industries it serves, and while it does some exhibitions, retail, interiors, events and automotive are the main areas of focus. During the Pandemic, like so many others, the company adapted to market conditions producing sneeze screens, health and safety signage, wall and floor graphics.

"All our printers have been configured to work in total harmony and the Colorado 1650 is a great addition to our plant list."

www.cmyuk.com



DIS Group Sales Director, Dave Purcell (Left) and Mark Bradley, DIS Group Managing Director, in front of their Canon Colorado 1650 UVgel printer.

Mimaki printer/cutter takes Stripes & Graphics on a mini Adventure

With a 30 year history striping and detailing Minis, Sean Beeston's heritage working with the iconic automobile brand as a sign maker is unique, and investment in a Mimaki CJV150 printer/cutter has fuelled the Stripes & Graphics business; developing new product lines, expanding the team and attracting new customers.

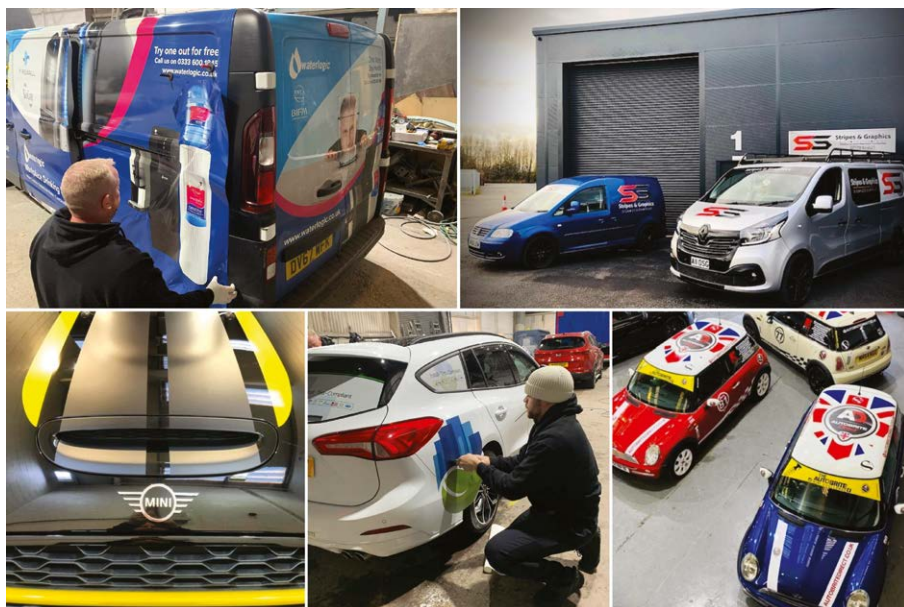
Starting out in the 1990s as a valet with a box of car stripes, Beeston grew his business on recommendation, supplying and fitting graphics to a growing number of Mini dealerships across the Midlands and North West. When Stripes & Graphics purchased its Mimaki CJV150 towards the end of a turbulent 2020, the business soon took new directions as it reaped the benefits of bringing print in-house.

"We'd previously bought in our print requirement, but as the business grew, we needed to ensure we gained tighter control of our supplies," Beeston describes. "The Mimaki has been central to our growth as, throughout the pandemic, we were able to offer a wider variety of products that met the needs of new and existing clients."

In addition to supplying and fitting vehicle liveries, Stripes & Graphics enjoyed strong demand for shop signage and window graphics, with the addition of new products including floor graphics and safety signage helping boost profits and stem the downtrend of a depressed motor trade. However, when that side of the business picked up, introducing further new options such as pull-up banners and dealer branded facemasks brought new revenue streams along too. "Aside from the fact we can offer a wider product range, we're saving around £4-5,000 a month by producing digital print on the Mimaki ourselves," Beeston confirms.



Stripes & Graphics' Sean Beeston (L) and Robbie Beeston (R) with a wrapped client vehicle.



Stripes & Graphics designs, supplies and fits vehicle graphics for car dealerships across the Midlands and North West

Purchasing the CJV150 from Mimaki Authorised Reseller Partner, Granthams, Beeston appreciated the level of training and technical knowledge he received after delivery. "Granthams have been superb. We were up and running in a day, and the Mimaki, alongside the laminator that was installed at the same time, have been an integral part of the business ever since."

Stripes & Graphics is now a true family enterprise, with Sean's wife Jackie overseeing the accounts, and sons Robbie and Lewis joining the business to help cope with demand. "We pick up nearly all our customers through word-of-mouth," he continues, citing a large order for wrapped point of sale units that benefits from the high print quality of the CJV150. "We've never previously been able to deliver full colour print at this quality, so offering high-end point of sale material is a real advantage for us."

One client that's benefiting from Stripes & Graphics expanded product range is Acorn Motor Group, the highly rated Kia, MG and Suzuki specialists with multiple dealerships across Staffordshire and Cheshire. "Stripes & Graphics handle all the vehicle graphics for their new cars, as well as branding and signage across the dealerships. We're even involved in

supplying and fitting the paint protection film for their high-end 'Specialist Cars' arm, working on Ferraris and Bentleys to ensure they stay looking as good as when they left the showroom," Beeston notes.

With rising demand, Stripes & Graphics moved into brand new, 2,000sq ft premises in Ollerton, near Market Drayton, Shropshire in January 2022. "We've always offered a mobile service, fitting graphics and window tints on-site at car dealerships and vehicle accident repair centres, but the new premises give us a new angle on how we work," he continues. "Providing a clean and controlled environment to apply graphics, along with a studio for handling our logo design and branding work elevates our service once again."

Still supplying customers whose business he won over 25 years ago, Beeston sees a bright future for Stripes & Graphics. "Robbie and Lewis share my philosophy of delivering high quality custom designs and it's fulfilling to see the business serving our motor trade customers so well, whilst at the same time, bringing new customers from other industries on board with innovative and exciting products."

www.granthams.co.uk

Digital 23 buys a Mimaki UJV55-320 from CMYUK

Wiltshire-based Digital 23 has purchased a Mimaki UJV55-320 from CMYUK. The 3.2m-wide UV LED roll-to-roll printer investment has enabled the business to now print all its textile work in-house, and provides a versatile platform from which it can expand into new markets.

"The Mimaki UJV55-320 is a gamechanger for us due to its size, speed and versatility. What it's allowed us to do is increase our product range and our production throughput time. We were previously outsourcing our fabric printing, with a four-day turnaround time. Now we can print as soon as a job is approved and the job is completed on the same day, saving us three days of production time. It's a win/win for sales and production," says Calvin Hedley, joint owner of Digital 23.

New start-up in the face of COVID

Digital 23 was set-up by Calvin and his business partner, David Pape in 2019. Both have extensive experience in the exhibitions industry, and decided that rather than working for anyone else, they would go it alone.

A full-service large format digital printing business, Digital 23 specialises in exhibition graphics and services a diverse client base. Silicon edge tension graphics, wall wraps, fabric prints and frames boards account for the majority of its printed output.

We have built up a loyal base of clients who have followed us through a progression of several different companies, so when we set up on our own we had an established customer base from day one," says Calvin.

Digital 23 started out with HP technology but during Lockdown added a Mimaki solvent printer, the CJV30-130, which gave it the much-needed ability to print and cut. The move to investing in a 3.2m wide UV printer was a natural progression.

"We were looking at 3.2m wide machines as we were basically farming out our fabric print work and then finishing the prints in house as required. We had a really busy few months from August to November last year that just highlighted that fact that it made sense to bring the production



The all new Mimaki UJV55-320 grand format LED UV inkjet printer delivers a unique combination of high quality super wide output for volume production of banners, retail, exhibition and window graphics and other similar applications up to 3.2m wide, with the added versatility of twin-roll simultaneous printing.

of fabrics back in house," says Calvin, adding, "The Mimaki UJV55-320 fulfilled our primary goals but also because of the UV technology, we could add the versatility to produce a much wider range of printed substrates. We have also switched all our foamex board production over to it. It's given us the opportunity to expand into other markets like interior décor because we now have full control and can offer competitive pricing and improved service."

CMYUK

From its launch, Calvin had been in touch with CMYUK, and thanks to a lead from hardware sales director, Sue Hayward, sourced a Mimaki solvent printer at an excellent price. Therefore, when it came to investing in a 3.2m wide machine, CMYUK was the first port of call.

"We had a really good relationship with CMYUK so it was the obvious go-to place. Sales Director, Sue Hayward is really knowledgeable and expertly guided us through the whole process," says Calvin.

Onwards and upwards

This side of Covid, Digital 23 intends to consolidate its position, touch base with its existing clients and then begin to widen its fabric and board services to new customers.

Asking about forward plans, Calvin says, "Eighteen months ago, our future plans wouldn't have included Lockdown, so it's been tricky to plan ahead. That said, the exhibition industry has begun to bounce back well after the past 18 months of covid restrictions with strong activity at the end of 2021. Moving into 2022 after a slow start due to uncertainty at Christmas over renewed restrictions the end of the first quarter is looking very strong and we've got everything we need to ensure we can meet and exceed our customers' needs."

www.cmyuk.com

Achieving the impossible? With ‘the art of MacroArt’, it’s a cinch!

A bespoke solution by MacroArt – commissioned by Creation Live for its client, Cinch, and seen by VIPs at the Creamfields, TRNSMT and Isle of Wight Festivals – has highlighted the event branding specialist’s ability to deliver sustainable, multi-site signage and graphics.

As main sponsor at all three festivals last summer, Cinch wanted to welcome guests to its activation areas in comfort and style. With events and brands looking to be more environmentally responsible, achieving a greatly reduced carbon footprint was key to its brief.

The MacroArt team collaborated with experiential experts Creation Live, in partnership with festival structures firm The Halo Group, to design and produce a multi-level activation space from scratch in just over a fortnight.

MacroArt used 1,500m² of PVC-free materials throughout and recovered all materials post-event, for recycling within the relevant waste streams. MacroArt estimates a carbon saving of 69% over conventional materials.

The graphics then had to be installed at the three festivals over consecutive weekends, requiring MacroArt to work to tight 5-day installation schedules at venues across the UK.

Each of the three sites, whilst broadly similar, had individual bespoke requirements. This meant that the team at MacroArt had to regard them as stand-alone projects, dealing with specific and fluid challenges, whilst adding value and strong sustainability credentials to them all. In particular, the MacroArt team devised, constructed, and installed a tailor-made tensioning system for each site, allowing for the application of all the graphics onto the existing structures.

Rich Levinson, Director at Creation Live, said; “We knew this was going to be a testing project and timescale from the outset, but the team at MacroArt worked tirelessly to deliver at every stage of the process, adding value and bespoke solutions as the job developed. We were delighted with both the process and the end results.”



Within three weeks of receiving the initial brief from Creation Group and Halo Group, MacroArt installers were beginning installation at the first location at the Creamfields Festival in Cheshire, followed by TRNSMT in Glasgow and finally the Isle of Wight Festival, just 12 days later.

Matt Phipps, MacroArt’s Project Lead, commented; “Projects of this scale are always a challenge, but we were fortunate enough to be working with the excellent teams at Creation Live and The Halo Group, and their professional expertise fitted well with our own team’s ability to adapt to on-site changes, and we were proud to have delivered such a bespoke, sustainable and eye-catching result.”

Technical

Richard Starr, MacroArt’s Technical Project Lead said “The key challenge (as with so many graphics solutions for a temporary structure) was based around finding a secure fixing method that doesn’t damage the structure or interfere with the overall display effect. This project for Creation Live, in collaboration with The Halo Group, involved the design, production and delivery of a very high-level solution (including a series of 10m/15m wide tension frames) within tight time scales.

“MacroArt’s installations department

worked with our sister company, Aluvista, to adapt/integrate some of our existing aluminium tensioning systems to produce a self-supporting framework to accept the Kavalan Sunlight, PVC alternative product.

“We achieved this by using a brace from our Aluvista range to provide additional, robust stability to the Halo outdoor tension system, creating an entirely self-supporting solution. We also designed a way to secure these frames to the structure as discreetly as possible, avoiding the need for any form of timber fixing points.

“To accommodate the pre-existing M16 fixing points we devised (via CAD drawings) and manufactured bespoke bracket solutions, enabling them to be bolted directly to the aluminium tension system framework, thus allowing the whole installation to be lifted into place and bolted directly to the structure using the existing fixing points.

“Whilst the costs of MacroArt opting for Kavalan Sunlight pvc-free material were marginally higher than its pvc alternatives, the sustainable credentials more than outweighed this, and all materials were recovered post-event, for recycling within the relevant waste streams, yielding an overall carbon saving of almost 70%.

www.macroart.co.uk



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2022 Price List

ACRYLIC PERSPEX® Colours add 10% for Gold & Silver

£20 + 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	1.11	1.39	1.54	1.82	2.17	2.89	3.63	3.87	4.50	5.43	8.24	8.93	10.04	11.30	13.81	15.99	21.34	32.09	48.33	56.32
5mm	1.48	1.88	2.22	2.74	3.44	4.18	5.11	6.55	7.78	9.05	10.55	12.07	14.48	17.50	20.20	21.73	28.37	28.60	54.30	69.93
10mm	2.70	3.23	4.27	5.30	6.61	8.46	10.14	14.22	15.40	18.67	21.38	25.49	29.04	33.78	37.92	42.66	59.26	86.53	111.41	144.00

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

£20 + 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	1.22	1.78	1.87	2.13	2.19	2.54	3.20	3.86	4.36	4.87	6.27	7.72	8.74	9.40	11.26	13.27	12.63	22.71	31.91	36.34
5mm	1.28	1.76	2.18	2.67	3.22	3.79	4.34	4.78	5.55	6.32	7.88	9.25	10.53	11.22	13.04	14.87	23.15	31.57	35.07	38.45
10mm	1.62	1.88	2.57	3.55	4.15	4.79	5.88	6.84	7.81	8.69	10.47	12.45	14.82	16.30	18.28	21.24	25.69	29.64	44.95	53.20
19mm	2.66	3.75	4.35	4.74	6.33	7.41	8.89	10.37	12.55	14.73	15.81	18.47	21.24	23.51	25.49	28.65	36.56	39.52	52.86	80.29

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE (Dibond, Alupanel)

£20 + 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	1.83	2.36	2.94	3.47	4.10	5.29	6.46	7.74	8.92	9.91	12.05	13.50	16.44	18.79	19.96	24.06	28.77	41.30	54.02	73.98
Mirror (silver)	2.45	3.08	4.27	5.34	6.94	8.54	9.60	11.74	14.41	17.08	18.68	21.35	25.08	28.29	29.89	34.69	40.57	50.70	54.44	103.01
Mirror (gold)	2.70	3.38	4.69	5.87	7.63	9.40	10.56	12.92	15.86	18.79	20.55	23.48	27.59	31.12	32.88	38.16	44.82	55.77	59.88	113.31
Brushed	2.03	2.56	3.33	4.15	4.83	5.91	7.13	8.45	10.26	12.07	13.89	15.69	19.32	21.13	23.55	26.56	34.25	47.08	59.16	81.50

MILL FINISH ALUMINIUM (Comes in its raw form ready for coating)

£20 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
2mm	3.12	4.36	4.94	6.60	7.46	8.33	9.41	10.85	12.06	13.25	14.65	18.19	21.58	30.88	41.33	53.61
3mm	3.65	5.07	5.80	7.13	8.22	9.19	10.27	11.72	13.11	15.11	16.66	21.62	25.86	36.13	50.75	75.24
5mm	3.99	5.57	6.65	7.98	8.94	10.27	11.61	13.53	15.58	17.95	20.24	26.19	30.21	42.00	58.21	81.62

EXTERIOR MDF

£20 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
6mm	0.55	1.05	1.83	1.82	2.70	2.84	3.30	3.94	4.54	5.39	6.89	9.73	11.22	12.72	17.92	45.39
12mm		1.81	2.12	2.95	4.24	4.89	5.69	6.40	7.63	9.58	10.48	12.17	14.47	17.56	19.70	59.80
18mm		2.57	3.25	4.24	5.29	6.43	7.93	8.88	11.02	12.72	15.16	17.36	21.19	22.85	29.88	89.40

MOULDED ACRYLIC LETTERING (Includes locators and paper template)

Height	152mm	203mm	254mm	305mm	380mm	457mm	610mm
Colours*	7.12	10.70	16.82	18.39	24.94	29.56	51.91

Add 20% for locators and paper template

Add 30% for double sided tape

Add 30% for 3mm letters

Add 20% VAT

Delivery at £20.00 on all orders up to £300

Since the company was established over 50years ago, two generations of the family have strived to maintain the personal approach and conscientious values which were so important to the founder which have helped establish Mercury Phillips Signs as a family-run, independent business with a reputation for outstanding service and high quality installations.

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→ Etching & Engraving

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Substrates

Applications for rigid substrates

Rigid substrates can be used across the wide variety of signage and display that we see in retail, hospitality and leisure, healthcare facilities, schools and colleges, public buildings, private offices, factories and transport networks. These include branding, advertising, marketing and merchandising signs and displays, wayfinding and directional signage, as well as signs to give information and messaging, such as the ones which have been particularly important during the pandemic.

What properties make rigid substrates ideal for sign and display applications?

Across the range of rigid substrates available on the market, there are many different properties which make them suitable for sign and display applications. Each different type of substrate has its own properties, but overall rigid substrates can easily undergo a number of processes such as printing, cutting, drilling, bonding, laminating, bending and thermoform to achieve the end signage or display that the customer needs. They are lightweight yet strong, able to be made into free-standing items that can withstand impact. They can withstand chemicals such as cleaning agents. They are resistant to moisture and mould and so can be used over extended periods of time then stored away for reuse. At the end of their lives they are able to be recycled.

The importance of working with high quality rigid substrates

It is important to work with high quality substrates for two reasons. Firstly, to minimise wastage during processing – cutting, printing and fabrication, keeping



Try to minimise wastage to save costs and help environment



Brett Martin offers a broad range of rigid substrates



Wind turbine and solar farm helps Brett Martin to use 50% sustainable power

costs to a minimum and reducing levels of scrap. Secondly, a robust substrate will ensure longevity of the end sign or display.

Both of these are important environmental considerations. If you use a high quality rigid substrate and keep scrap to a minimum, you will reduce what needs to be recycled or worse, sent to landfill. And the longer the life of the end sign or display, the lower its overall environmental impact.

What rigid substrates does Brett Martin offer?

Brett Martin's range of rigid substrates includes Foamalux foam PVC, Marlon FS polycarbonate, Marpet-g FS PETg, Marpet-a FS aPET and Marcryl extruded acrylic sheet. Alongside the traditional versions of these rigid substrates, Brett Martin now also offers a range of Eco products.

Brett Martin believes in minimising on-site waste and reusing whatever production waste is unavoidably generated. Marpet-g FS Eco, which contains at least 50% PETg regrind, minimises the amount of PETg which goes to landfill. Similarly, Marcryl FS

Eco contains at least 50% acrylic regrind, again reducing the waste that leaves the site to landfill.

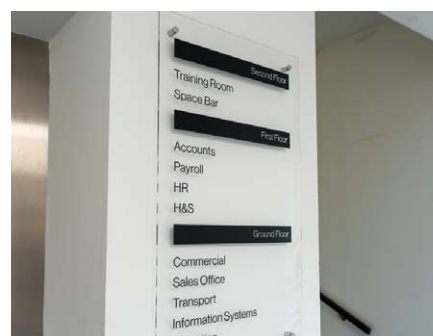
Available in limited quantities, both products can be processed in the same way as their standard equivalents. In the Foamalux foam PVC substrate range, the black Foamalux Eco contains up to 80% reclaimed content, making it Brett Martin's greenest choice of substrate. Foamalux Xtra, which has been established in the market for a number of years, contains up to 80% reclaimed material in its black core but also has one or two virgin white foam PVC surfaces, making it ideal for printing or for engraving to reveal the black core.

As well as incorporating regrind, what other environmental aspects are taken into consideration when making Brett Martin's rigid substrates?

Brett Martin was an early adopter of on-site renewable energy with the installation of a wind turbine on its manufacturing site in 2013. In 2018 they entered a joint venture with BP Lightsource to install a 6.42MWp solar farm above its Mallusk headquarters, feeding energy directly to the site.

The wind turbine and solar farm, along with external sources of renewable energy through its energy provider, result in Brett Martin using 50% sustainable power. The wind turbine saves on average 832T of CO₂/pa and the solar farm saves an average 900T/pa of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

www.brettmartin.com



Brett Martin acrylic in action

Guide to PVC Banner Recycling

It's no exaggeration to say plastics transformed the world. A world without plastics means giving up the cheap and durable material found in packaging, electronics, cosmetics, medical devices and thousands of other things. While we know things need to change, for now plastic isn't really going anywhere.

PVC is the third-largest plastic produced by volume after polyethylene and polypropylene, with 40 million tons produced yearly. It is also the most popular material for banners, with PVC banners providing the durability and printability required for commercial applications.

PVC banners are lightweight, durable and weather-resistant, making them perfect for indoor and outdoor advertising.

With increasing environmental awareness and corporate responsibility, the popularity of PVC banners is declining in favour of PVC-free alternatives. We asked Innotech Digital, one of the UK's largest providers of digital printing materials about PVC banner recycling and PVC's environmental footprint to understand why and if your business should be using PVC banners today.



PVC banners can be recycled and transformed into new PVC products like traffic cones, plastic furniture and other solid objects

Can PVC banners be recycled?

PVC banners can be recycled and transformed into new PVC products like traffic cones, plastic furniture and other solid objects. Recycling removes the plasticisers that make the PVC flexible, creating a solid PVC recyclate. Innotech has a unique recycling scheme for customers, where we deliver a recycling cage that our print partners fill with printed waste. We then collect the cage and take it to a recycling facility, where the waste is sorted and recycled.

If PVC is not recycled, it can end up in a landfill, get incinerated, or enter the environment from irresponsible disposal. We should note that it is widely thought



Once the promotion is over - how do you safely recycle your banner?

PVC can't be recycled. However, this is only true of your green waste bin at home – we can recycle it at private facilities.

How easy is PVC to recycle?

PVC banners can be recycled, but not easily, requiring specialist facilities. The PVC needs to separate from the canvas in a chemical process that releases the chlorine contained in the PVC (as well as other constituent chemicals). The resulting PVC waste has a different chemical composition from before it was recycled, so it can't be used to make new PVC banners without reformulating with additional chemicals to return it to the desired specification.

PVC banners are also more difficult to recycle than solid PVC because of the additional plasticisers that make them flexible. These plasticisers need separating from the PVC, and this releases harmful emissions. This is different to recycling solid PVC, which is easier to recycle with mechanical arms that grind the plastic into pellet recyclate.

Low recycling rates for PVC

Although it is recyclable, PVC is considered a single-use plastic because it is not widely recycled anywhere globally. Calling it multi-use is disingenuous due to low recycling volume. In the UK, just 18.6% of PVC was recycled in 2019/20 (less than a fifth). Part of the reason behind low recycling rates is economic viability. Quite simply, it costs more to recycle PVC than the product's value afterwards

without economies of scale, so only large recyclers are invested in it.

PVC banners and the environment

PVC is a good choice for durable products expected to last decades, but PVC banners are usually only used for a few months. Greenpeace cites PVC as one of the most toxic substances saturating our planet. So, what's the deal? Is PVC that bad?

The problem with PVC is it contaminates the environment throughout its entire lifecycle, making it a pollutant of epic proportions. It affects the environment during production, use, disposal and recycling, requiring significant carbon emissions to make and seeping out chlorine and dioxins over its lifetime. Simply put, it's as far from carbon-neutral as you can get.

PVC-free banners – alternative materials to consider

While PVC can be recycled, recycling rates are low, and PVC can only be recycled once before it becomes useless. This means all "recycled PVC" products reach the end of their life when they are damaged or no longer needed. The solution to the PVC problem is to phase it out and opt for PVC-free banners whenever it is possible to do so. Fortunately, Innotech has plenty of options for you to explore. Just take a look at our web site.

www.innotechdigital.com



Substrates

Antalis does Rigid...

We spoke to Paul Neale, Antalis' Visual Communications Product Manager and asked him some important questions about rigid media.

What are the key issues and trends in rigid substrates now?

Sustainability continues to be an important factor for rigid media selection. At Antalis, we have developed a Green Star System™, which measures raw material use and recyclability of a product at end-of-life. This enables customers to share the data with their clients and other stakeholders, showing the whole supply chain's commitment to making a sustainable difference. Antalis' aim is for 75% of their visual communications products sold to be rated 3-stars or higher by 2030. Antalis can also support businesses wanting to carbon offset the unavoidable carbon emissions in product manufacture. ALL Antalis' visual communications ranges, including rigid media, can be carbon offset with carbon credits purchased helping to fund projects with partners Forest Carbon and the World Land Trust in the UK and worldwide.

Antalis is also keen to support companies interested in improving their waste hierarchy practices. We work alongside a leading waste management service provider to help businesses understand the challenges around recycling volumes and segregation of materials.



Xanita Board can be used to create robust, long-lasting and reusable 3-dimensional displays

What are the key applications for rigid substrates now?

Aside from the core visual communication applications, we are proactive in supporting the trend towards the use of more fibre-based products for both indoor and outdoor use.

Xanita Board can be used to create robust, long-lasting and reusable 3-dimensional displays, and even full exhibition stand manufacture. Katz Display board is fast becoming the specified choice in retail

environments to replace plastic displays and signage. Fibre-based boards for short-term outdoor use can also be used as replacements for plastics where less than 10 weeks outdoor exposure is required.

What are your latest product developments in this area?

Antalis continues to work with leading manufacturers to introduce new sustainable products. The latest introductions include an extension to the Xanita range to include 6mm sheets ideal for signage, whilst retaining the ability to be fabricated to complex 3D designs.

Developments in Polypropylene sheets includes Triaprint, available in both a standard indoor grade with UV and fire-rated additives, certified to B1. Exten Opaque Polypropylene is also being introduced to replace PVC options and soon will extend to include High Modulus PP, a 'stiffened' grade of Polypropylene to compete with rigid PVCs and high impact styrene materials. The inclusion of 'Prime-Ex' coating on these rigid sheets is a development that not only improves ink adhesion to Polyolefin materials but extends the shelf-life of the material beyond the usual 3-6 months for corona treated Polypropylene grades.

New Priplak R100 Polypropylene is a 100% recycled content sheet made of waste collected via the Priplak 'buy-back' scheme operated in conjunction with Antalis and some of the larger European Polypropylene printers and converters.



Antalis continues to work with leading manufacturers to introduce new sustainable products

...and Roll to Roll

Mike Collins, Visual Communication Product Manager at Antalis, then gave us the low-down on Antalis Roll-to-Roll range of media.

The demand for PVC-free display materials is increasing and self-adhesive is one of the largest areas of this growth.

This is being fuelled by an increased understanding that PVC manufacture and disposal poses a negative impact on the environment and brands are therefore specifying more sustainable and recyclable alternatives.

Antalis have developed the Green Star System™ to help customers better understand the impact of various product types and help them make better decisions on their material choices. The framework rates products based upon how environmentally friendly they are to both produce and to dispose of at end of life.

PVC has certain advantages in that it is relatively cheap to manufacture, has good print compatibility and is hard wearing, enabling long life spans and possible reuse of various sign and display applications. It is Antalis' aim however, to have 75% of our products sold to be



Flexible range of media for point of sale and retail environments

rated 3-stars or higher by 2030, and are continuously introducing more sustainable solutions as alternatives to PVC options.

Plastic alternatives can be as equally hard wearing in the right applications and include Polypropylene, Polyester and Polyurethane all of which are more

environmental friendly to produce and to dispose of at end of life, compared to PVC.

COALA PP STICK (Polypropylene) is a range of six different finishes and adhesive types and can be used for most internal and external displays and POS applications.



Antalis media is designed to make maximum possible impact

DRYTAC VIZIPRINT and YUPO JELLY (Polyester) are visually clear window display films with hybrid adhesion for ease of application and removal without residue.

ORAJET® 3981RA+ PROSLIDE Digital Printing (Polyurethane) is a vehicle wrapping film with new ProSlide technology which enables quick and easy application due to its improved repositionability.

Paper offers the cleanest most natural alternative to PVC and we have a range of FSC® sustainably sourced paper faced self-adhesives:

COALA PAPER STICK is available in a range of permanent and removable adhesives making it suitable for indoor and limited external display.

www.antalis.co.uk



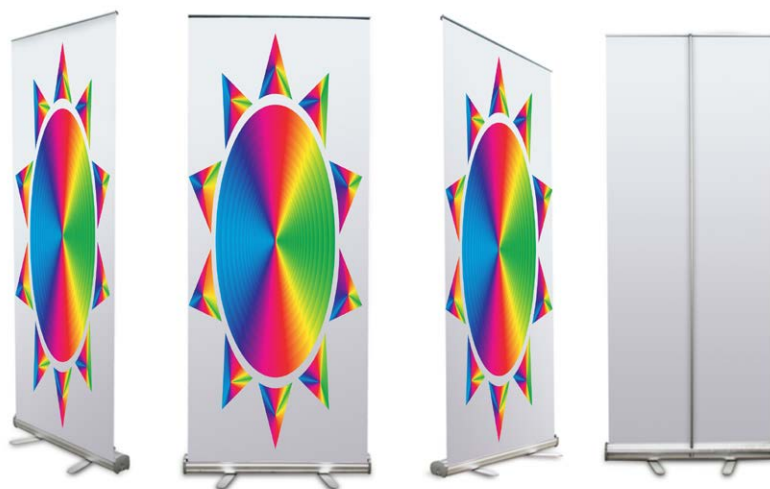
Substrates

Inktec is fighting back against plastic

Quite rightly the UK population has reacted to our extreme reliance on plastics and wants to fight back by reducing the obscene volume that we consume every day. Over the last ten years we have produced more plastic than during the whole of the last century. Sadly, 50% of the plastic we use, we use just once and then throw it away.

The reality is it is virtually impossible to escape plastic in our everyday lives, but people are now increasingly questioning its widespread use. They are turning to businesses to query why and what the alternatives are. Simple steps can be made by using alternative materials or encouraging and educating customers to use products that can be recycled. Tragically, currently just 9% of plastics are recycled, with 12% incinerated and 79% going into landfill. The large format sector is obviously just one culprit of many on this front with just seven out of ten print service providers say they are never asked about environmental credentials.

This is where InkTec can step in, as they manufacture and supply wide format printing consumables, including an extensive range of non-PVC based media. The company has now completely phased out PVC based materials in favour of Polypropylene and Polyester. So, all InkTec products can be recycled.



Pull up banners are a very popular application for roll media

However, the main challenge centres around when it needs to be recycled! Ideally, there needs to be a double pronged approach in the market with printers clearly highlighting the recyclable options, while customers are educated that such products exist and can be recycled post use. Granted these are not the cheapest and this is not going to be a rapid shift in attitudes, however InkTec are hoping that if more awareness is made, more businesses will both question and turn to these alternative products.

Joey Kim, Managing Director at InkTec Europe says, "Concerns about more sustainable media is very prevalent in the market at the moment. InkTec are now being asked on a daily basis how we can help. That is why 100% of InkTec's media range is now fully recyclable. This is due to it being made from polypropylene and polyester material and why as a business we will continue to strive to ensure recyclable materials are used wherever possible."

www.inkteceu.com



Inktec manufactures and supplies wide format printing consumables, including an extensive range of non-PVC based media



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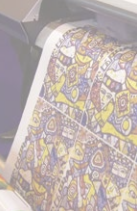


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Substrates

Signage that stands out

For better or for worse, you only have one chance to make a good first impression on a prospective customer. While customer service and quality of products are obviously very important – it is the humble sign-maker that provides many companies with another way to stand out from the competition.

In the modern world of distractions – phones, pets, friends or something else, it gets ever-harder to create a signage display that really grabs attention. However, there is something about a window graphic that is particularly eye-catching and attention-grabbing. That's the power of a branded and meaningful window graphic.

Derric Landor, Managing Director of Landor UK, "Window graphics and optically clear films are a great resource for maximising your company's brand. With the right digital window graphics, you can transform any space—whether it's an office, a retail store, or even a home—into something altogether new. Our optically clear films can be printed in any manner of style, colour, or size, so you can have complete creative control over the kind of visual impact your company makes on the world around it."



There is something about a window graphic that is particularly eye-catching and attention-grabbing

He continues, "Shop window displays are your chance to highlight your brand's unique personality and turn the heads of passers-by. The right window display design can engage shoppers enough to cause them to stop, look back, and walk into your store where your floor staff can help close the sale."

Recyclable self-adhesive fabric

Landor UK is also the exclusive UK and Europe distributor of Phototex. "There is so much talk these days about PVC-free banners and materials made from recycled bottles. It's easy to forget that Phototex, which has been around for 15 years, is also PVC-free and is fully recyclable. It's also a unique self-adhesive fabric that can be removed, reused, repositioned and reapplied – yet it never loses its stickiness and it absolutely never leaves behind any sticky residue," says Derric.

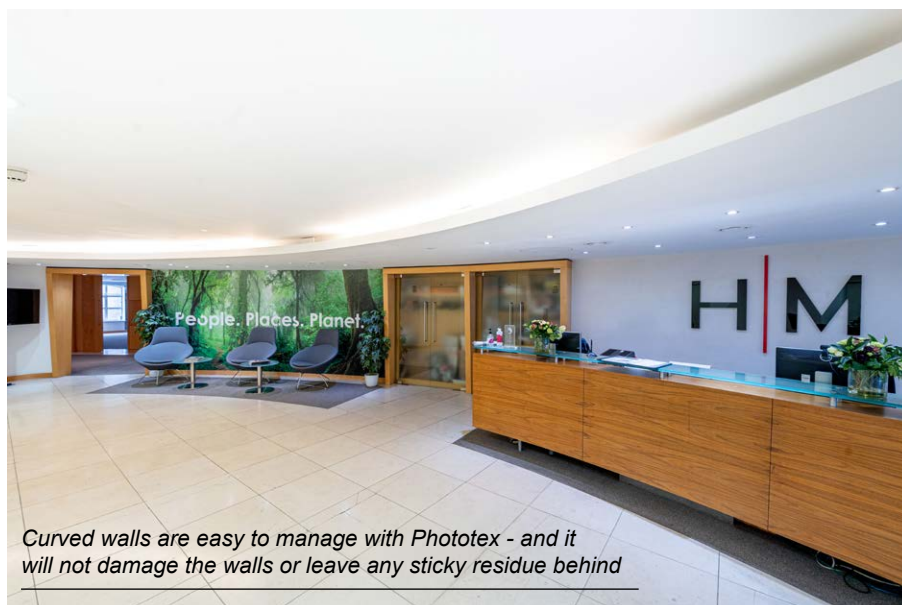
Phototex and our clear film can be printed on most standard large format printing machines, including solvent, aqueous, UV and Latex. "Another huge benefit of these products is that they are very, very easy to install. And even easier to uninstall! So much of the cost of graphics is in the installation time, but with Phototex in particular, it can be applied with minimal fuss. And when the display has served its purpose, it can be easily removed and even stored for re-use another time!" he says.



Phototex repositionable self-adhesive fabric is easy to install and fully recyclable

Emma Gold is Senior Graphic Designer for Hilson Moran who regularly work with self-adhesive graphics specialists, Vinyl Impression. She says that installing Phototex is very easy. "The installations went very smoothly with no surprises and no problems. Everyone in the office was very impressed with the quality of the work. The install process was, in a word, reassuring. Any questions we had were swiftly answered following the survey undertaken by Vinyl Impression, which comfortably allayed any fears we had. Everything was well organised, and I was well prepared for what to expect. First Class customer service!"

www.landoruk.com
www.phototex.co.uk
www.vinylimpression.co.uk



Curved walls are easy to manage with Phototex - and it will not damage the walls or leave any sticky residue behind

Sustainable Soyang

Soyang Group is China's leading manufacturer and supplier of functional textiles. Over the years, the Soyang Europe division has grown from needing one production machine to taking products from six separate production lines. The business has moved from a rented premises to owning facilities with 70,000sq.ft. of space and able to hold 1.5million sq. m. of stock.

"We're very applications focused, meaning that we don't just hard sell to our customers," Soyang Europe's managing director Mark Mashiter explains. "There's no point in simply supplying someone with some cheap banner material when they need a properly coated alternative. You have to consider what they need and what products will help them to get the job done.

"In those early days PVC banner material was our DNA, but as the industry has evolved, we've evolved with it, embracing textile materials. These are often printed using dye sublimation technology, so we've had a lot to learn but we've managed it well. We're vertically integrated when it comes to manufacturing, and it doesn't get any better than that when it comes to production."

Sustainable focus

Another trend that Soyang Europe is on top of is sustainability, producing products in as green a way as possible. This means using solar and wind turbines to power the factory and, when it comes to products, it means materials made from recycled yarns and PET bottle materials and banner



The Soyang Europe factory also passed ISO9001 quality certification



materials that are non-PVC, using PA acrylic coatings instead.

This commitment to the environment can be seen with the RCY range of products. For example, the ST-601 RCY Starlight product is made with recycled polyester yarns, as is the highly popular ST-216 RCY Blackback stretch product. Soyang Europe will also soon have fully matched RCY products for all its popular textile materials.

There is also Polycril GW RCY, a popular grey back product from Endutex, which is produced using recycled polyester to ensure the solution delivers an environmentally option to customers. This is not a new concept for Soyang Europe, as the company has been supplying non-PVC and recyclable banner alternatives from Endutex for around 12 years.

The Soyang Europe factory has also passed ISO9001 quality certification, Standard 100 by Oeko Tex and Global recycled standard, while the business is committed to developing new products to match its ongoing commitment to sustainability.

These developments include the new Solar range, which is ever-increasing with non-PVC banner and non-PVC mesh as replacements to PVC products, thus delivering on Soyang Europe's pledge to offer planet-friendly solutions to like-minded customers.

www.soyang.co.uk



Sustainability is key at the Soyang Europe factory with an ever-increasing range of non-PVC banner and mesh products

Perspex Distribution goes green

Sustainability is the buzz word in the industry right now and as sign makers and end users probe options for materials with significant recycled content and greener credentials. Luke Martyn, Marketing Manager at Perspex Distribution (PDL) has told us how they have been working hard with manufacturing partners to increase availability of recycled products within our range.

Sign Makers are also increasing looking where their materials are sourced and how long their journey from factory to installation really is. Our focus on a unique range of UK manufactured products has led many specialists seeking our substrates.

Currently over 90% of our rigid substrates are 100% recyclable and over 80% of our range is manufactured in the UK.

We saw fantastic excitement for our new Green solutions from visitors to our stand at Sign & Digital UK last month where we launched a range of new materials both available now and others entering our range shortly.

One such product already available is Marpet Eco PETg, a 50% recycled PETg ideal for POS applications. Not only is clear Marpet Eco PETg ideal for retail fabricators seeking to use a more environmentally friendly product, but it is manufactured in Northern Ireland in a plant utilising 50% of their energy from sustainable sources including their own wind turbine and solar farm.



Alupanel Aluminium Composite is the UK's only ACM brand



PDL's new products on show at SDUK

It also maintains all the benefits of standard PETg including the triple advantages of being suitable for digital printing, fabrication and thermoforming at relatively low temperatures without pre-drying. Marpet Eco PETg is available in 2mm and 3mm thicknesses from all PDL branches.

Also launched at the show was PERSPEX[®]re, a new cast acrylic made from 100% recycled MMA obtained from material scraps and production liquid waste. We currently stock this new range in 4 standard colours – Clear, Opal, White and Black. As with all PERSPEX[®] acrylic products, we also offer a bespoke colour matching service for specific requirements.

Did you know every sheet of PERSPEX[®] acrylic contains recycled monomer waste collected during production and re-distilled by a third party to be returned into the production line?

Alupanel Aluminium Composite is the UK's only ACM brand. Using high end recycled LDPE to produce the core of Alupanel, all sheets are manufactured with at least 80% recycled content making Alupanel the ideal substrate for sign makers seeking an eco-substrate for direct print, outdoor applications or 3D fabrication such as trays.

Even more products coming soon

To add to the range of greener options for customers, a new extruded acrylic promising up to 90% recycled content will be hitting the shelves very soon. Its excellent thickness tolerance makes it ideal for direct print and POS applications.

Sign makers and printers will also be excited about our first 100% recycled PVC Foam product – Palight Re-NU made in the UK. It has been developed with a co-extruded PVC format, providing a constantly reliable white surface to benefit printers, with a foamed PVC core.

Unrivalled range of UK manufactured products

As well as our growing range of recycled products, we believe that in many applications, the benefits of a material with a long lifespan can outweigh the impact of a recycled product that requires regular replacements. Many products within our range offer a 10 year external warranty thus saving resources and offering long term solutions.

To support customers to make the right decision about the materials they require, we have produced a new brochure summarise the environmental options available from PDL available to download from our online technical library.

www.perspex.co.uk

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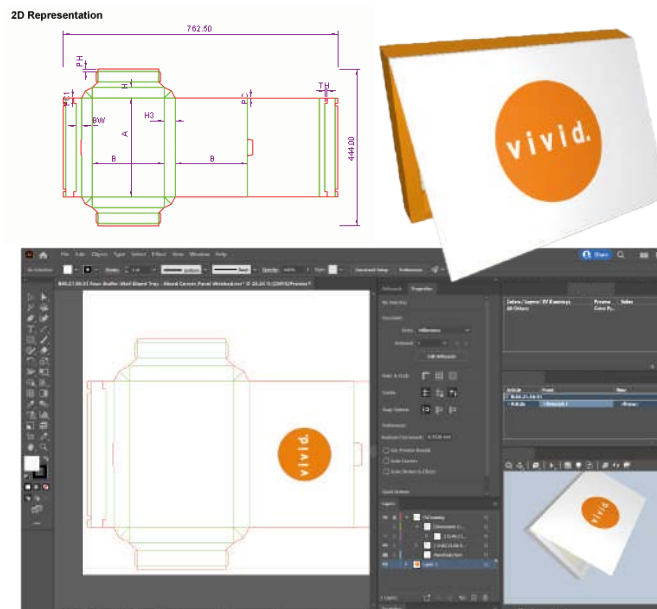


What is Zip Core Packaging Suite?

Zip Core Packaging Suite is a CAD/CAM packaging software that has been created to optimise every aspect of packaging design from start to finish.

Our software provides businesses with a wide range of tools that expedite the everyday jobs of packaging designers, graphic designers and salespeople involved in the creation and production of packaging. There are two bundles to choose from: Zip Core Design and Zip Core Design Pro.

"Choose from endless packaging templates within our library of designs, giving you an infinite choice of packaging opportunities."



Compatible with the Veloblade Nexus and Veloblade Volta range of digital die-cutting systems.

"Zip Core Packaging Suite enhances the use of your digital die-cutting systems."

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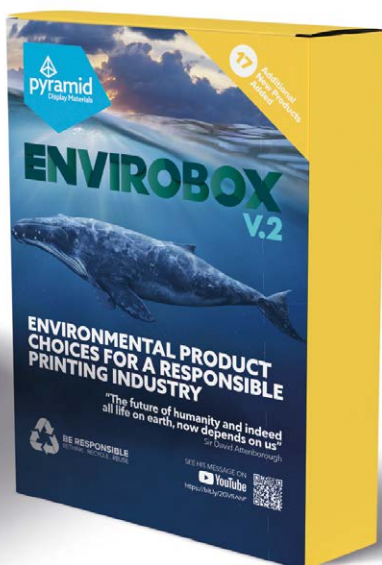
Environmental product choices for a responsible printing industry

Neil McCarthy, Head of Sales and Marketing at Pyramid Display Materials told us about their new range of sustainable media products.

For over 10 years now Pyramid Display Materials has been at the forefront developing and introducing environmentally beneficial products for the Sign & Display industry.

It was in 2008 that we produced the innovative Environmental Choices product selector box, which showcased 35 product groups. This also detailed how these materials were constructed and how they could actually be recycled. This information was also backed up with comprehensive sustainability reports and rafts of background information. The box was extremely well received by the market at the time but the resulting financial crash around the same period moved the focus of the retailers onto their own more pressing problems.

What we are currently seeing is a real focus again on the environment, with the use of plastics again coming to the fore. This can be largely attributed to the Richard Attenborough TV documentary, Blue Planet. The program showed harrowing scenes of ocean life being caught up in plastic waste that has been dumped into the seas. This has created a new worldwide impetus to look at our use



We are currently seeing a real focus again on the environment



The Simply Non PVC self adhesive products utilise only water based adhesives

of plastics and how we must change our attitudes to recycling. We need to reuse as much product as possible for the good of the environment.

The time has now come again for our industry to look at our waste streams. At Pyramid we are again at the forefront of this initiative by presenting the market with real alternative products that make a difference. Within our new Envirobox V.2, we share not just the ground breaking array of environmentally friendly products from our original box, but also 17 new

products added to our offering, the majority of them unique to Pyramid. This enables you to present to your clients reinforcing the fact you are taking the most environmentally responsible approach to print and fabrication substrates.

With the cost of waste disposal via landfill set to soar due to China's ban on waste imports, using non recyclable products won't just be costing the planet it will also be costing you and your clients.

www.pyramid-display.co.uk

Pyramid Launch Exclusive Simply Non PVC Range - A Complete Range of Environmentally Friendly Print Media

Pyramid Display Materials have launched a complete range of environmentally friendly print media under their brand, Simply Non PVC. Responding to market demands for non PVC print media, Pyramid have worked with world class manufacturers to create unique products for a diverse range of applications. The product range includes self adhesive vinyls and laminates, along with exterior banner, pop up media and wallpaper.

The Simply Non PVC self adhesive products utilise only water based adhesives, a move away from solvent adhesives enhancing the environmental benefits of the range. The polypropylene face film is U.K. manufactured and the coating process is also carried out in the UK hence lowering carbon footprint.

A printed swatch containing all the Simply Non PVC products is now available by contacting your local Pyramid branch or by visiting the web site.

Premier Paper answers the rigid questions

We asked Premier Paper's Display Sheets & Thermoplastics Director, Steve Jones some big questions on rigid media.

What are the key issues and trends in rigid substrates now? (Eg sustainability, durability)?

There have been a series of primary issues recently that are not only affecting rigid substrates but rather products in general. The availability of raw material has been under extended pressure whilst the rising energy costs, fuel costs have caused prices of material to increase on a very regular basis combined with transport delays.

Sustainability remains a growing trend and is a big focus for us. At Premier we are intent on increasing our rigid substrate portfolio, whilst at the same time investigating new viable materials that meet the higher environmental standards, at an acceptable cost level to the customer.

What are the key applications for rigid substrates now?

The construction industry in the UK is still very buoyant and there is a constant requirement for new housing. As a result, hoarding board materials are a very popular substrate at present.

Other end-uses that are proving popular at present include interior retail displays and point of sale applications, as sections of the retail industry are experiencing a sales growth in a post-lockdown market and more retailers are seeking new ways to differentiate themselves from their competitors.

What are your latest product developments in this area?

Premier are currently working on several new product ranges to complement the existing, extensive portfolio of display sheets. These include products with improved sustainability and better environmental standards. These new developments and additions will be unveiled as we progress into 2022.

One of our latest and most popular product introductions is Ultraboard from Dufaylite. A fully recyclable, honey combe centred, FSC® certified fibre based rigid display board that is made in the UK. Ultraboard is a perfect addition to Premier's extensive range of products because of its unique and innovative design and its ability



to enable the production of some eye-catching point of sale displays. The CO2 emissions from the production and distribution of Ultraboard are mitigated through Premier's Carbon Capture programme, directly supporting the work of the Woodland Trust.

We also talked about Roll-to-Roll with Premier's Brad West - Director of Wide Format Media & Business Development – Display Graphics

What does the rise in PVC-free media mean for the sign-makers?

PVC has been the go-to product for many years and is still the cost-effective choice of many printers and sign makers. However, the issues with production and ease of recycling can mean that there is a greater environmental cost than using a PVC-free alternative. The rise in availability of PVC-free media provides sign makers with the opportunity to offer a more sustainable choice to their customers, who may be looking for greener solutions.

What are the differences between PVC-free media and traditional vinyl?

PVC-free media such as Premier's eTEC self-adhesive polypropylene film, does not contain additives such as plasticisers (phthalates), which are present in the production of PVC

(polyvinyl chloride). These additives make recycling PVC a bigger challenge. Polypropylene, in contrast, is a much more widely and a more easily recyclable product.

What are your latest product developments in more sustainable media?

The latest addition to our wide format roll media range is eTEC PVC-free self-adhesive polypropylene film. This product features a water-based adhesive that is free of volatile organic compounds (VOC), it is REACH compliant and B-s1, d0 fire rated. This product has up to 4 years durability with virtually no shrinkage, providing a fantastic alternative solution to PVC products.

Premier are working closely on a number of other exciting product developments and initiatives that will be unveiled over the coming months

www.paper.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	1.11	1.39	1.54	1.82	2.17	2.89	3.63	3.87	4.50	5.43	8.24	8.93	10.04	11.30	13.81	15.99	21.34	37.09	46.33	56.32
5mm	1.48	1.88	2.22	2.74	3.44	4.18	5.11	6.65	7.78	9.05	10.55	12.07	14.48	17.50	20.20	21.73	28.37	28.60	54.30	69.93
10mm	2.70	3.23	4.27	5.30	6.61	8.46	10.14	14.22	15.40	18.67	21.38	25.49	29.04	33.78	37.92	42.66	59.26	86.53	111.41	144.00

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE Alupanel

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
Coloured	1.83	2.36	2.94	3.47	4.10	5.29	6.46	7.74	8.92	9.91	12.05	13.50	16.44	18.79	19.96	24.06	28.77	41.10	54.02	73.98
Mirror (silver)	2.45	3.08	4.27	5.34	6.94	8.54	9.60	11.74	14.41	17.08	18.68	21.35	25.08	28.29	29.89	34.69	40.57	50.70	54.44	103.01
Mirror (gold)	2.70	3.38	4.69	5.87	7.63	9.40	10.56	12.92	15.86	18.79	20.55	23.48	27.59	31.12	32.88	38.16	44.62	55.77	59.88	113.31
Brushed	2.03	2.56	3.33	4.15	4.83	5.91	7.13	8.45	10.26	12.07	13.89	15.69	19.32	21.13	23.55	26.56	34.25	47.08	59.16	81.50

FOAM PVC 10mm & 19mm available in white only

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
3mm	1.22	1.78	1.87	2.02	2.19	2.54	3.20	3.86	4.36	4.87	6.27	7.72	8.74	9.40	11.26	13.27	17.63	27.71	31.91	36.34
5mm	1.28	1.76	2.18	2.67	3.22	3.79	4.34	4.78	5.55	6.32	7.88	9.25	10.53	11.22	13.04	14.87	23.15	31.57	35.07	38.45
10mm	1.62	1.88	2.57	3.55	4.15	4.79	5.88	6.84	7.81	8.69	10.47	12.45	14.82	16.30	18.28	21.24	25.69	29.64	44.95	53.20
19mm	2.66	3.75	4.35	4.74	6.33	7.41	8.89	10.37	12.55	14.73	15.81	18.47	21.24	23.51	25.49	28.65	36.56	39.52	52.86	80.28

EXTERIOR MDF

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
6mm	0.55	1.05	1.63	1.82	2.70	2.84	3.30	3.94	4.54	5.39	6.89	9.73	11.22	12.72	14.92	45.39
12mm		1.81	2.12	2.95	4.24	4.89	5.89	6.40	7.63	9.58	10.48	12.17	14.47	17.56	19.70	59.80
18mm		2.57	3.25	4.24	5.29	6.43	7.93	8.88	11.02	12.72	15.16	17.36	21.19	22.85	29.88	89.40

MILL FINISH ALUMINIUM

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
2mm	3.12	4.36	4.94	6.60	7.46	8.33	9.41	10.85	12.06	13.25	14.64	18.19	21.58	30.88	41.33	53.61
3mm	3.65	5.07	5.80	7.13	8.22	9.19	10.27	11.72	13.11	15.11	16.86	21.62	25.86	36.13	50.75	75.24
5mm	3.99	5.57	6.65	7.98	8.94	10.27	11.61	13.53	15.58	17.95	20.24	26.19	30.21	42.00	59.21	81.62

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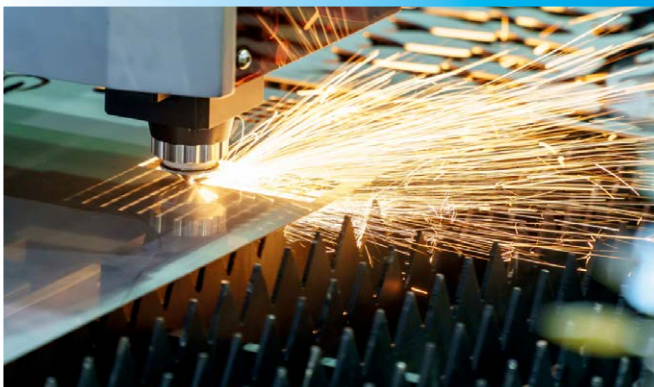
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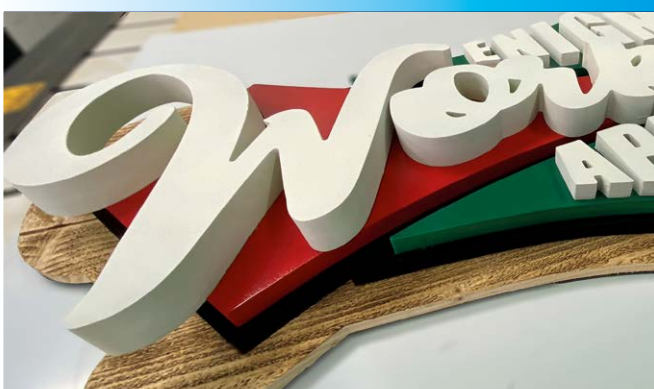
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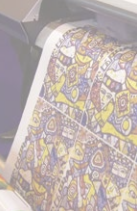
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Company Profile - Innova Solutions

20 years in business: How to adapt and grow through two financial crises

This year, Innova Solutions, a leading supplier of high strength bonding tapes, photoluminescent materials and structural adhesives, turns 20. The Lancashire firm, which was founded by Managing Director Glenn Dunleavey and Spencer Kelly in 2002, now employs 22 and is marking two decades in business by celebrating its achievements and setting an ambitious new target of becoming a £10 million turnover business in the next five years.

Throughout its history, Innova Solutions has faced several challenges – none more significant than the 2008 financial crash and subsequent economic downturn, and the ongoing uncertainty caused by Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic. However, Innova Solutions' agile management structure has enabled fast decision making and early investment, helping the company adapt to changing landscapes and sustain performance.

In this article, Glenn Dunleavey, who attributes the company's success to building positive long-term relationships with good people, partners, and customers, describes the 20-year journey and looks ahead to the future as Innova Solutions goes for growth.

When we first started Innova in 2002, we could not have foreseen the true scale of the challenges ahead. We are well used to 'bumps in the road' but have also encountered immovable objects that required careful navigation. In meeting these challenges, we created springboards for growth, through market penetration and diversification. By taking tough but brave decisions through these challenging times, we created new market opportunities and developed an excellent team through considered investment.

As a result, from humble beginnings, with just three of us, sharing a small warehouse and offices with my brother's company, we now employ a talented team of 22 people, operating from three sites comprising more than 25,000 sq. ft.

During the first five years, we focused solely on the signage and graphic market, developing products specifically tailored to their needs. It was important to start with a clear proposition and focus to ensure we could deliver improved production efficiency, finished product aesthetics, and longevity. For this we were rewarded with customer loyalty and patronage that continues today.



Managing Director Glenn Dunleavey of Innova Solutions

The past 20 years has seen a steady decline in UK GDP growth. In business, we have always taken everything in our stride, and looking back on 2008, when we encountered the worst global recession in living memory, it was our flexibility and quick reactions that not only saved us but propelled us forward in a way that we didn't think possible.

We reduced our workforce by 20% and diversified into new markets to counteract the drop in order value and frequency that we were seeing in our existing customer base. For three years, we flatlined – in hindsight, a remarkable achievement – but as we emerged from the recession in 2011, growth from our existing and new markets was a beneficial double-whammy, delivering year-on-year growth to double the size of the business in the next 3 years.

On the back of this, we invested £100k in SAP, a business platform that would help take us to the next level, in 2015. It was challenging, but our team immersed themselves in the implementation and we quickly achieved a clear return.

The UK's decision to leave the European Union in the Brexit referendum of June 2016 heralded the start of another turbulent time for our currency. By this time, Innova Solutions was dealing in both dollars and euros on a major scale, leading to severe pressure on our import/export trading margins. Six years on, we are still contending with the red-tape, hurdles and additional expenses incurred in trading overseas.

The biggest game changer came in 2020: global pandemic; a one-in-a-hundred year event; for most, a moment for consolidation, not investment.



The recent investment in a slitter and rewinder 12-head spooling machine, as part of a decision to invest over £250k during the pandemic

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We were fortunate to have a reputable customer base, and whilst we did not lose any clients, the volume and frequency of orders dropped significantly. We had already made inroads into the plastic extrusion market, and we knew that to penetrate this volume-using sector in a significant way, we had to invest in our own conversion machinery.

At the height of the pandemic, we took the decision to invest over £250k in a new slitter and rewinder, a 12-head spooling machine, and a 10,000 sq. ft. premises in which to house it. This was a calculated risk, but one we were able to take quickly. Once again, fortune favoured the brave and we are already at full capacity on the equipment with plans to invest further to satisfy demand.

The best investment we have made is in building the excellent team we have around us. We have continually injected youth into the business, to maintain energy and proactivity levels, and introduced a production-skilled workforce into the operation – an unconventional move for us but built through word-of-mouth referrals from trusted employees.

Now in 2022, it seems like just yesterday we were starting this business. But when we break it down over the many game-changing events that we have encountered, the time frame is



Some of the Innova Solutions team that have contributed to the company success over the last 20 years

pronounced. I am resolute that our success has been managed professionally but it is our ability to make quick decisions and take calculated risks, with the flexibility of the whole business to react, that has seen us overcome challenges and turn them into opportunities for growth.

We are forever grateful to our loyal customers and supportive supply partners. We have established long-term,

trusted partnerships and a reputation for reliability and being a safe pair of hands, earned through successfully navigating choppy waters for the past 20 years. Looking ahead, we hope to build even more partnerships and help support our customers through the inevitable challenges that we will overcome in the next 20.

www.innovasolutions.co.uk



'UV Light' Curing Adhesives

See the light – New business opportunities with Eurobond's UV bonding adhesives

In today's ever demanding and challenging economic climate, sign makers are looking to attract new business opportunities by investing in new technology, diversifying and improving their product offerings and growing both existing and new revenue streams.

One such new revenue stream could be the introduction of Eurobond's 'UV light' curing adhesives to your plastic fabrication department.

Traditionally, solvent weld adhesives are used to bond two acrylic pieces together. This can be messy, time consuming and ultimately produces a poor quality end product. The trade-off for sign makers is, it's cheap to use. But if you're looking at improving your product quality, increasing your product offerings and opening up new revenue streams then, you have to change your process.

'UV light' curing adhesives vs solvent weld adhesives

Solvent weld adhesives often leave visible 'crazing' or 'white fracture lines' along the adhesive line where the acrylic has been over stressed. Spillage and drips can cause



This handy pocket sized 365nm LED UV(A) torch is ideal for curing UV adhesives and resins on small applications. No warm up or cooling phase allows fast and efficient operation.

the work to be irreparably damaged, resulting in it being thrown away. This costs time & money as well as adding to your plastic waste. They often have long cure times, causing production bottlenecks and can have a significant health & safety impact on both the user and the environment. Legislation is already in place to limit the use and phasing out of some of these types of potentially dangerous chemicals.

By contrast – 'UV light' curing adhesives are completely stable and will not damage or overstress your acrylic. When they are subjected to a concentrated, highly focused beam of UV or visible light they turn from an inert liquid to a solid state, bonding two pieces together in a matter of seconds. They are "cure on demand" and give the plastic fabricator complete control over the quality and speed of production. They offer optically clear adhesive lines, free from crazing, bubbles and

mask any imperfections in the sawn or cut edges that are now bonded together. They are designed to bond many different plastics, glass and metals. Eurobond have an extensive range to suit all sign making applications. In addition, they offer a range of UV light curing systems to suit all budgets as well as, free demonstrations and free training to potential customers. The resultant end product will improve production times, reduce waste and result in a far superior quality product.

Eurobond's UV light curing adhesives are used in the manufacture of indoor acrylic signs, display cases, POS, awards, furniture, creative and decorative artworks, TV and film props as well as in the highly specialised manufacture of disposable medical devices, electronic devices, optical lens bonding and fibre optic filament splicing.

Eurobond's UV light curing adhesives are extremely versatile and ideally suited to sign makers. They provide an opportunity to improve quality and production times, develop product lines, and grow new revenue streams.

The friendly team at Eurobond are always available to give demonstrations.

www.eurobond-adhesives.co.uk



Optically beautiful edges on joins between acrylic sheets achieved with 'UV light' curing adhesives.



Cutting Sheet Materials

How to cut Aluminium Composite Panels by the experts

From eye-catching signage and point of sale displays to wayfinding solutions, we are all familiar with Aluminium Composite Panels. ACP is a popular material for use in the signage, advertising, and construction industries, but it can be challenging to cut. We asked representatives of two UK manufacturers to give us their expert opinion on the best way to cut this incredibly useful material.

Debbie Pendergrast of cutter specialists Keencut and Olaf Ruterhenke of Alupanel manufacturer Multipanel began by discussing the material's construction and uses. Olaf said, Aluminium Composite Panel or ACP is a fantastic material for the sign maker. Multipanel's ACP material Alupanel combines tough resilience with high rigidity, low weight, and outstanding weatherproof properties; it's incredibly versatile, and there's a wide range of colours and finishes. But with a sandwich construction with outer layers of aluminium foil around a tough polymer core, ACP needs to be cut cleanly with an accurate edge. You don't want a rough cut with burred edges or lots of dust and debris created in the cutting process. Debbie continued, Olaf and I have discussed our top tips to cutting ACP, and we agreed on 8 key points to consider:

1. Don't cut by hand

Cutting ACP by hand with a knife is dangerous, slow and results in a poor-quality finish and low precision. Why risk mistakes that waste costly materials or slow down your production? With a specialist cutting machine, your safety is guaranteed, and the polymer core is cut neatly, avoiding the rough edges that result from hand snapping.

2. Buy a cutter that cuts and finishes in one pass

You want to achieve a clean, accurate finish. A top-quality cutter should deburr edges to remove any sharpness that would otherwise require additional finishing. The material should be safe to handle immediately. There should be no need for extra edge finishing, so productivity is increased, and safety is guaranteed.

3. Cut without dust

A manual cutter with composite cutting tools, creates no dust or static when cutting, so you do not need an expensive extraction system. Cutting without dust and debris is better for your health as well as the performance of expensive printing machinery that can be damaged by such particles.

4. Increase productivity and repeatable quality

You should choose a cutting machine that increases your productivity. This is all about the speed and ease of set-up. How easy is it to align the ACP ready for cutting? Look for a sight-line strip that simply and accurately shows you where the cut line will be. Consider the ease and effectiveness of the clamping mechanism. You need a firm clamp that also protects the material surface. The ability to lower the clamp to make final tiny adjustments to align the material before firm clamping is vital. Are the scoring and cutting blades permanently mounted for instant use, and do they cut along the same line? In a high production environment, repeatable, accurate cutting reduces waste and increases productivity. A pair of left and right-hand production stops and a precise squaring arm will allow you to cut boards

to a specific measurement quickly. There is nothing more impressive than a stack of perfectly identical signs, so the setup and ease of alignment are essential.

5. Cut with no off-cut bend

You do not want to waste material. There are tight flatness tolerances for successful flat-bed printing as any curve above 2mm can cause interference problems. To solve this problem, Multipanel asked Keencut to look at how to minimise the curvature on Alupanel after cutting. Keencut designers have created the C2 cutting head for the SteelTrak, which eliminates all post-cutting curvature on ACP.

6. Cut with minimal effort

You could be cutting ACP most of the day. You need a cutting machine that minimises the effort and is ergonomically designed to be comfortable to use. Look for a vertical cutting machine with a low friction bearing system to reduce user fatigue.

7. Cut large panels

Look for a cutter that easily tackles large boards such as 2.4m x 1.2m (8' x 4') panels. Cutting your own boards rather than buying in pre-cut sizes will help your workflow, ensure quality, and reduce costs.

8. Remember versatility

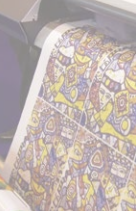
If you are buying a cutting machine, think about areas your business may expand into. What other materials can the cutter cut? Do you have the option to cut v-grooves, so that you can produce sign trays, boxes and exhibition stands? Can the machine cut and score glass or acrylics? Is it able to cut Steel Composite Panels without creating dangerous sparks?

It is so important to consider cutting and finishing said Olaf. I recommend the Keencut SteelTrak for high and medium production sign shops because its features make it the perfect machine to cut and finish ACP. I would definitely stress our top 8 points when looking at your cutting and finishing equipment.

www.Keencut.com
www.multipaneluk.co.uk



Keencut's SteelTrak vertical cutter



Josero wins new Summa accreditation

Wide-format equipment distributor Josero has received a new Summa Cutter Partner accreditation, enabling the business to offer expert consultations and impartial advice on the full range of Summa products, and work with customers to ensure their finishing operations are thoroughly optimised.

Having sold the range of Summa cutters and print finishing solutions for a number of years, this latest development further utilises the technical knowledge and practical expertise of the Josero team and represents a closer relationship between the two businesses that focuses on supporting customers in maximising their use of Summa equipment.

Sarah Winterbottom, Managing Director, Josero, says: "At Josero, we've carried Summa's versatile and robust finishing solutions for years, and have always loved the reliability they offer our customers. Now, our accreditation means we can deliver even more for our customers with a consultative approach to their cutting and finishing needs."

John Draycott Marketing Manager, ArtSystems, adds: "We're very pleased to welcome Josero to the Summa family. Their professionalism and long association with Summa makes them the perfect partner, and we look forward to working with them to help develop their Summa business."



www.josero.com

ADAPT signs deal with Epson to supply SureColor printers in the UK

ADAPT, part of the Vink Group, has reached an agreement to supply seven models of the Epson SureColor printer range in the UK. One of the country's leading suppliers of roll media, inks and wide-format machinery to the sign and display sector, ADAPT is now able to offer its customers Epson SureColor SC-S40600, SC-S60600, SC-S60600L, SC-S80600, SC-S80600L, SC-R5000 and SC-R5000L printers, as well as Epson OEM inks.

James Argent is the Hardware Sales Manager at ADAPT, having joined the company last year. He arrived already having had a longstanding relationship with Epson. "I've worked with Epson for around ten years," he said, "In fact I've had a relationship with them ever since the original SureColor was launched."

With this in mind, once James took up his new position at ADAPT – and with the company being such a major player in the signage market – this new arrangement was a logical step for all concerned.

"ADAPT already has contacts across the signage market," says James "And that means we have lots of potential customers for the Epson SureColor printer range. For example, we run lots of vehicle wrapping courses at our training centre in Nottingham and offering this range is a natural progression for us."

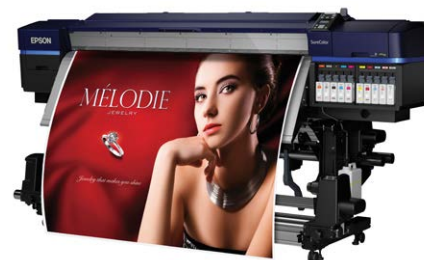
"A lot of the customers who come on our courses are only just starting to explore the possibilities that print has to offer and the Epson portfolio is a great way for them to take those first steps."

"For Epson's part, they are looking to broaden the range of partners they work with when it comes to signage and, given the large client base we can offer across the entire Vink group, it's a perfect match."

ADAPT, which operates facilities in both Manchester and Nottingham, will be offering customers everything from demonstrations to training and installation services, as well as long term support and maintenance.

ADAPT is very experienced in the large format print sector having longstanding relationships already in place with leading names from across the industry including the likes of Mactac, Kernow Coatings, Canon, HP, Mimaki and Summa. As such, the company is ideally positioned to work in partnership with Epson.

On the new business relationship, Phil McMullin, Head of Sales Commercial & Industrial Printing, Epson (UK) Ltd, comments: "We are excited to welcome ADAPT as our latest value-added partner for our signage printer range. With an excellent media proposition and true national coverage, the ADAPT organisation will bring award-winning



Epson technology to an even wider customer base.

"We have also invited the ADAPT team to host prospects with us on our stand (Stand 40) at the Sign & Digital UK event to showcase our technology to interested parties. Customers will be able to see a demonstration of one of Epson's most recent large-format printer introductions for the first time in the UK – the 64" SureColor SC-R5000 printer which uses odourless water-based resin ink in large ink pouches."

ADAPT's James Argent says he sees particular potential in this solution. He states: "While we envision the majority of our customers coming from the signage market – after all, that is our home turf – we believe that the Epson SureColor SC-R5000 will be of great interest to other sectors such as retail. This new model, which is Epson's first signage printer to include a resin ink solution, was launched during the pandemic, so perhaps they haven't really taken off as they might have done... yet."

Sign & Digital UK's return, with record breaking exhibitor rebook rate

Sign & Digital UK, which ran from 22 to 24 March, against the challenges of covid cases on-the-rise and rocketing fuel prices, welcomed almost 4,000 visitors, in buying mode, to the NEC, Birmingham.

Many substantial deals for new equipment were made over the three-day signmaking, digital printing and display solution show, with visitors having access to the industry's leading exhibitors, networking opportunities, the SDUK explains lounge – featuring a packed programme of business advice, and the Sign Studio – where all the latest sign making techniques were on display.

Another show highlight was the HEXIS Battle Wrap contest, which saw contestants compete in heats over the three days. The high-energy skill testing contest concluded with a competitive final on the last day, with Mike Szwacki of WEP Wrap Squad winning the trophy and final prize of £2,500.

Jenny Matthew, event director for Sign & Digital UK said: "It's been a challenging time for the entire industry, but we rode out the storm and delivered another fantastic Sign & Digital UK. I would like to say a big thank you to all the exhibitors, visitors, partners and media supporters who came to the show. To see so many deals done on the show floor was phenomenal - it's always a pleasure to see end-users and suppliers come together to do business and seal deals.

"We're already looking forward to hosting another great event in 2023. This year we had a team of market researchers speaking directly to visitors on the show floor, getting valuable feedback and insight into the areas our visitors are moving into and how SDUK can continue to evolve to best meet their business needs. The response to SDUK 2022 from our exhibitors has been overwhelming and is reflected by the record number who have re-booked for 2023."

"Sign & Digital UK remains an unrivalled meeting place for the signage, display and print industry, to keep up to date with what's new, to see demos, and to do business, and 2023 is already shaping up to be a record breaking show. Watch this space for all the updates."

Feedback from exhibitors at the show reflected how lively the show floor was and the quality of visitors. Some comments include:

Graham Jones, Head of Marketing, GRAFITYP (UK) LTD:

"The show has exceeded our expectations. There's lots of visitors here, the stand has been busy and we're looking forward to the next two days."

21-23 March 2023, Hall 2, NEC, Birmingham

sign&digital UK

SIGNAGE | PRINT | DISPLAY | DÉCOR | DESIGN

Rob Goleniowski, Head of Sales UK & Ireland, Roland DG:

"The show is great. We have waited a long time to come and spend time with our friends and customers again. It's been really busy! People come to SDK for a reason, and that's to get a chance to look at products and talk to people. It's really important to come and get that first-hand information."

Scott Wilkins, Managing Director, HEXIS UK LTD:

"Sign & Digital UK is very important. HEXIS have been at the show for the past 27 years and we love the show, it's fantastic for us. Even some of our suppliers come and see us at the show. It's a great focal point for everybody to be in one place at one time."

Ellen Wain, Business Development, Graphtec GB:

"The show has been really great for us this year. It's just getting busier and busier - it's great to be back again and we're already looking forward to coming back next year. It's been really interesting seeing the different types of customers who have been approaching us, we are so excited for what's to come" (day 1).

Paul Hughes, County Print & Signs UK:

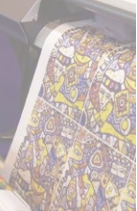
"We've had a number of truly valuable leads at Sign & Digital 2022. We've had some really interesting customers who could take this business to a different level."

Sign & Digital UK returns to the NEC, Birmingham from 21-23 March 2023 and is free to attend for visitors.

www.signuk.com



The HEXIS Battle Wrap contest, saw contestants compete in heats over the three days.



SOS to supply GMG Color products in the UK

GMG Color has formed a partnership with Service Offset Supplies (SOS) to sell its software products in the UK, supporting GMG's continued growth into the UK wide format, commercial printing, and packaging markets. It also expands the range of software products offered by colour specialists SOS, to complement its hardware solutions in those sectors.

The products that will be sold by SOS include GMG ColorServer and GMG ColorProof. Automated colour conversion solution GMG ColorServer brings efficiencies by eliminating correction cycles and reprints, and includes tools that make profiling quicker and less resource intensive. And for verified contract proofing, GMG ColorProof is ideal in customer-facing applications with demanding colour communication.

The GMG prototype proofing solution will also be available through SOS. The Roland LEC2-330 UV device that SOS supplies can be driven by GMG ColorProof and GMG OpenColor to provide reliable calibration and profiling when producing mock-ups

on production substrates, with finishing possibilities including metallic effects.

Russell Weller, commercial director at GMG Color UK comments: "With over 50 years' experience in the printing industry, SOS is the perfect partner to further strengthen our colour management offering into the UK market. Whether it's high-end colour accurate proofing, realistic mock-ups, or best in class colour conversion, GMG UK, in partnership with SOS, can fulfil the entire end to end colour management process. I am very excited to be working with the entire SOS team and look forward to a successful relationship."

Omran Anwar, Technical Manager at SOS comments: "GMG provides a welcome addition to our portfolio of colour management solutions, with some market leading products fulfilling key niche requirements. GMG has excellent credentials and a great reputation; we can only benefit from having them on board as we strive to maintain our position as the go-to source for colour expertise in the UK print market."

www.gmgcolor.com
www.serviceoffsetsupplies.co.uk



Russell Weller and Ashley Fleming

UK Graphic Awards announce details of 2022 event

The organisers of the UK Graphic Awards have announced the details for their 2022 event. The awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday 5th October in Manchester.

Dan Tyler, founder of the awards and CEO at installation workflow management provider Vism, said: "After a long wait, our inaugural event last September was a great success, with brilliant feedback coming in from sponsors, winners and attendees. This year we'll go even bigger and better. We can't wait to bring the industry together again."

The UK Graphic Awards is the annual event that brings the UK's wide-format print industry together to celebrate and recognise the talent and creativity that goes into producing the UK's most exceptional projects and the impact these have on the broader commercial and social community. The ceremony consists of a drinks reception, gala dinner, live music and awards presentations.

The inaugural event which took place in September 2021 was hailed as a "raging success" by sponsors and attendees, being the industry's first opportunity to get

together in almost two years. Outstanding projects, initiatives and development were recognised and celebrated in 12 categories, ranging from branded interiors and graphic roll-out to innovation and sustainability awards.

John Bayly, Director at Wild Visual Communications, who won Retail Project of the Year, said: "The most memorable part obviously has to be winning. I would be lying if I didn't say that. But in general, mixing with everyone, seeing some old faces, there were people I worked with who were just great to chat to and see the world coming back to life. I think the timing of it was quite nice."

Graphic materials supplier Soyang joins the list of sponsors for 2022, with Managing Director, Mark Mashiter commenting "We felt that the event was well focused on our sector of the printing industry and a great networking event with industry leaders who are like minded in their approach to the market in terms of sustainability and quality."

"A number of people came to us after last year's event, with some brilliant suggestions for additional areas where

we could be recognising the industry's achievements, and so we're excited to be adding a handful of new categories for 2022", added Dan.

The awards are free to enter and open to all members of the UK's wide-format print industry for work that was produced between 1st July 2021 and 30th June 2022.

Entries already opened in April and more information on categories and how to enter can be found at online.

www.ukgraphicawards.com



Two of the many winners from 2021's UK Graphics Awards

Premier Boost Service Capabilities to Display Graphics Customers

Premier's Dartford facility has undergone a series of developments to help ensure that the merchant meets the ever-growing demand of the sign and display industry.

In 2019 Premier, one of the UK's leading suppliers of paper, packaging and print media, opened the doors to their new 48,000 square feet facility in Dartford. Since then, the merchant has invested in a series of technology and equipment to help meet the needs of their display graphics customers.

Steve Jones, Premier's Director for Display Sheets and Thermoplastic, explains "Customer expectations are shifting. Increasingly, customers have different requirements that need alternative solutions with a rapid response and turnaround. Realistically, this can only be delivered when offered from under one roof."

Premier have invested significantly in state-of-the-art conversion machinery to ensure that every customer requirement can be delivered from the same location, helping to speed up and improve the conversion service offered to customers of thermoplastic products. One such machine is the Schelling FK6, a plastic and composite panel saw, that cuts with speed and precision, on sheets up to 120mm thick. Premier also added the Cauhe GH 366, a high-performance, heavy-duty guillotine with the ability to cut up to 3,660mm wide sheets. Both machines join a semi-automated, wall mounted Streibig Saw, giving Premier increased capabilities to cut products including Plexiglas, Foamalux, Etalbond, Marlon FSX and many more.



The Schelling FK6, a plastic and composite panel saw, that cuts with speed and precision, on sheets up to 120mm thick



Premier's Dartford Facility

Jones continues, "We have grown our depot in line with our customer demand. By listening to our customers' needs, we have developed a conversion hub that strengthens our capabilities, giving them ease of access to all of our services."

Premier operate their own dedicated delivery fleet and nationwide stock holding branches throughout the UK. Recent additions to Premier's fleet include some a series of 18 tonne delivery vehicles that have been designed specifically to Premier's specifications. Featuring some of the latest innovations in clean emissions and road safety, the vehicles also have a unique twin floor trailer which is fitted with cameras, a bungee cord strapping system and reinforced side curtains. The trailers are

comprised of a 400mm high lower-level compartment as well as a 7-foot-high upper compartment, allowing for the protected and stabilised transportation of wide format media.

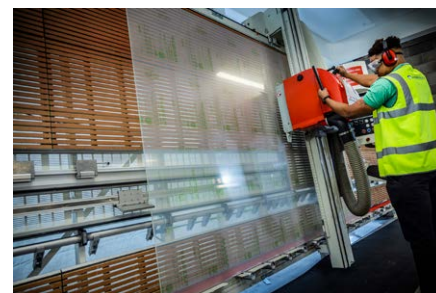
"There are so many benefits to Premier, in having our own fleet," explained Steve, "But by far the biggest beneficiaries are our customers, as orders can often require an urgent response and our teams are permanently on hand waiting to provide just that."

These investments further highlight Premier's commitment to the future and to improving the overall levels of service provided to their customers.

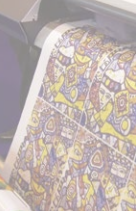
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The Cauhe GH 366, a high-performance, heavy-duty guillotine with the ability to cut up to 3,660mm wide sheets



The wall mounted Streibig Saw



Signs 24-7 earn top safety accreditation for the fourth year running

Hartford based Signs 24-7 has once again been awarded accreditation from Alcumus SafeContractor for achieving excellence in health and safety in the workplace.

Alcumus SafeContractor is a leading accreditation scheme which recognises extremely rigorous standards in health and safety management amongst contractors. It is used by thousands of organisations in the UK including SMEs and FTSE 100 companies.

The accreditation plays a vital role in Signs 24-7 delivering nationwide projects for clients such as Moto, Costa and M&S, as well as demonstrating that the business is fully compliant with Construction Design and Management Regulations which help to ensure all projects are planned with safety in mind.

The process to ensure that Signs 24-7 maintained its SafeContractor status was once again overseen by Health and Safety Manager Emilie Davies, who commented: "To hear that we had received

the SafeContractor accreditation for the fourth year in a row was fantastic as we're constantly striving to ensure the company adheres to the highest health and safety standards as possible.

"It also gives peace of mind to our clients who know that when they work with Signs 24-7 they can rely on us to ensure projects are carried out with safety and security at the forefront of everything we do."

Gemma Archibald, Chief Operating Officer of Alcumus SME, said: "Major organisations simply cannot afford to run the risk of employing contractors who are not able to prove that they have sound health and safety policies in place.

"More companies need to understand the importance of adopting good risk management in the way that Signs 24-7 has done. The firm's high standard has set an example which hopefully will be followed by other companies within the sector. SafeContractor plays a vital role in supporting our clients in meeting their



compliance needs, whilst working with their contractors as they progress through the accreditation process."

Having been operational for over ten years, Signs 24-7 produce signage and graphics in-house for businesses of any size and recently completed a comprehensive window vinyl project on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

www.signs24-7.co.uk

IPIA aims to stimulate print economy with networking events

The IPIA will continue to pursue its goal of stimulating the UK print economy through running a series of networking events and special initiatives across 2022.

Argentinian steak restaurant, Gaucho, in Birmingham will thus form the backdrop for some 'beefy' business opportunities on May 20th when the Independent Print Industry Association (IPIA) hosts its first physical networking event of the year.

Representatives from the print industry, agencies, suppliers, printers, print buyers and end users are all expected to be among the attendees. "The IPIA Spring Networking lunch is always a big draw for members and non-members alike, a chance to explore collaborations and increase print volumes," says Sharron Mahony, Marketing and Events Manager of the IPIA.

Sharron continues: "It's a relaxed atmosphere where people get to connect with familiar and new faces, spark creative conversations and build new relationships and business. Our role, as hosts, is to

provide an informal environment where our consummate networkers can flourish and, having secured exclusive use of the intimate and understated Gaucho restaurant, we're confident of a very well-attended and productive event."

The full IPIA events programme, consisting historically of some ten events a year, is highly valued by members and sets it apart from other associations. Its virtual Big Breakfast networking events, set up during the pandemic, continues to draw some 60 attendees every month, but the IPIA is thrilled to also be back doing in-person meetings. These events give attendees the chance to not just explore new business, but also discuss best practice and significantly expand their referral network.

The IPIA Spring Networking lunch takes place on Friday May 20th at Gaucho in Birmingham, just a stone's throw from Cathedral Square in the city centre. It starts with welcome drinks at 12pm followed by a 4-course sumptuous lunch at 1pm and departure at 3.30pm. Guests



are moved in between courses to different tables to ensure everyone gets the chance to connect with those they want to meet.

Tickets are on sale now from £56 for IPIA/BAPC members and £69 for non-members, including drinks and lunch, and can be booked at: <https://ipia.org.uk/networking-lunch-2022/>

Plans are also being drawn up for the annual national IPIA conference which is expected to take place this September. Details will be announced in due course.

www.ipia.org.uk

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The ideal candidate would have the following skills

- General sign making and fabrication of all types of signs
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- Use of Large format Printer / Vinyl plotter / Laminator.
- Vinyl installation on vehicles / windows etc.
- Full UK Driving licence.
- CSCS, PASMA and IPAF certifications preferred, but not essential

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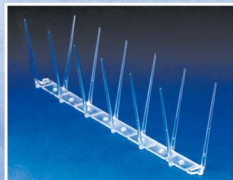


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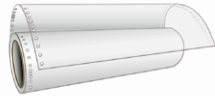
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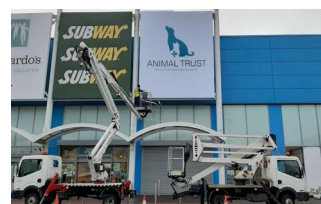
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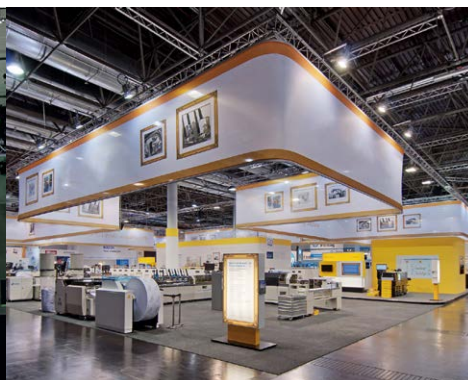
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Full colour graphics that are genuinely under the surface of anodised aluminium. Unlike any other process, the highest quality digital print is created inside the anodised layer as part of the anodising process. This means that the signs cannot be defaced by scraping off the image, making digital anoprinting ideal for signs in public buildings such as schools, colleges & student accommodation.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNAGE DESIGN

SIGNBOX
1-3 Egham Business Village,
Crabtree Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8RB
Tel: 01784 438 688
sales@signbox.co.uk
www.signbox.co.uk
Signbox signs make buildings and people, well, just work. The signage industry's finest We've built a reputation on our innovative approach to signage that's emulated by our rivals and coveted by our clients across the globe and, in recognition of our iconic sign solutions, the signage industry has rewarded us with a number of prestigious design and product awards.

VISUAL GROUP
Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH
Tel: 01302 800 250
sales@visual-group.co.uk
visual-group.co.uk
The importance of a stylish, high quality, well-made product cannot be underestimated. Here at Visual Group, we aim to manufacture to the highest level enabling complete satisfaction. Our highly skilled craftsmen with over 30 years' experience within the industry, use a combination of traditional and modern manufacturing techniques and have the latest technologies on hand.

BLADES / SMART KNIVES

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.

BRILLE AND TACTILE SIGNS

BESPOKE MANUFACTURING LTD
Unit 1B Commerce Way, Walrow
Industrial Estate, Highbridge,
Somerset TA9 4AG
Tel: 01278 793 800
sales@bespokemanufacturing.co.uk
www.bespokemanufacturingltd.co.uk
Bespoke Manufacturing specialise in a wide range of Braille and Tactile signage. We've been trading for over 20 years and have built up an impeccable reputation in the braille and tactile sector. We use substrates such as acrylics, brass, copper, stainless steel and aluminium including slats style systems providing single signs, to complete directories. All our work is carried out in house.

BRILLESIGNS.UK
Part of the Display Signs Group,
Uxbridge UB8 2UB
Tel: 01895 812161
Info@displaysigns.net
www.brillesigns.uk
Brillesigns.uk provide clear, easy to read signs for the visually impaired. We can supply signs in most colours and materials that will help you comply with current DDA regulations. Standard ranges for Care Homes, Hotels, Offices, Education and the NHS combine raised tactile lettering, Class 1 UK Braille in a choice of matt finish colours. Custom Signs in a variety of materials.

BRONZE PLAQUES

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD
78 Venture Point West, Even Road,
Liverpool, L24 9PB
Tel: 0151 4862 821
kim@photocast.co.uk
www.photocast.co.uk
Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

BUILT UP LETTERS ACRYLIC

3D ACRYLICS & METALS LTD
Unit B1, Felling Business Centre,
Green Lane, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE10 0QH
Tel: 0191 469 1199
acrylics3d@hotmail.com
www.3dacrylics.co.uk
In house manufacturers of high quality built up and flat cut lettering and logos, we can offer back trays and fixings along with face and/or halo LED illumination. Our prices are very competitive and offer a prompt service.

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.

BUILT UP LETTERS ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

INCOGNITO TRADE SIGNS
Unit 1 Colemans Yard, Alfreton Road
Derby, DE21 4AL
Tel: 01332 322750
info@incognito-tradesigns.com
www.incognito-tradesigns.com
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
acrylics3d@hotmail.com
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.

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
Trusted TRADE suppliers of hand crafted; quality 3D built up metal letters & logos. Lettering starts at just 50mm high in materials such as stainless steel, brass, copper, titanium & aluminium. Finishes include satin, polished or brushed & RAL or British Standard (BS) paint processes. Also available with halo & face lit illumination from our award winning & cost-effective LED range.

FABRICUT

Unit 2 Browells Lane, Feltham,
Middlesex, TW13 7EQ
Tel: 020 8751 7250
mailus@fabricut.co.uk
www.fabricut.co.uk
Offering a trade service for 3D built up lettering and logos with or without LEDs for face or halo illumination. Various styles and finishes available including powder coated, wet sprayed, rimless, rim & return, fairground, aged/rusted and sand blasted. We're known for our high quality and attention to detail; email your enquiries to receive a prompt quotation or call us to discuss your project.

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
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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.

SMITH TRADE SIGNAGE

Grove Works, Barnard Castle, Co
Durham, DL12 8JG
Tel: 01833 694700
info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk
www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk
Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only fabricator of commercial signage products including Built-Up Letters. With over 200 years industry experience we are able to assist with all project types including Face Illuminated Letters, Halo illuminated, Rim and Return, and standard Non-Illuminated Letters.

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.

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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.

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD

78 Venture Point West, Even Road, Liverpool, L24 9PB
Tel: 0151 4862 821
kim@photocast.co.uk
www.photocast.co.uk
Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

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

CHEMICAL ETCHING

AES SIGNS LTD (EST. 1972)

The Old Laundry, 15 Barratt Street, Easton, Bristol BS5 6DE
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The complete sign service. Engraved/etched screen printed, signs, nameplates, etc in all materials. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality. Full design service. Prompt response to all enquiries.

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 turnround.

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Tel: 01296 488902
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

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Tel: 01603 66 66 99
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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.

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD

78 Venture Point West, Even Road, Liverpool, L24 9PB
Tel: 0151 4862 821
kim@photocast.co.uk
www.photocast.co.uk
Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

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.

SMITH TRADE SIGNAGE

Grove Works, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8JG
Tel: 01833 694700
info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk
www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk
Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only manufacturer Chapter 8 Chevron Kits. Our extensive portfolio of templates covers all popular commercial vehicle types, with kits supplied 'ready to apply' straight out of the box. All orders are available with same day despatch if ordered before 12pm.

CHROME PLATED LETTERS

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

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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.

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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

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Tel: 0117 986 7894 / 7291
bryan@bryanrawlings.com
www.bryanrawlings.com
ROYAL COATS OF ARMS. Huge range of sizes, styles and finishes available. All designed and made in house and BRD copyright. Hand made and best quality. Specialist supplier to the sign trade.

WARD SIGNS

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

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD

78 Venture Point West, Even Road, Liverpool, L24 9PB
Tel: 0151 4862 821
kim@photocast.co.uk
www.photocast.co.uk
Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE
Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk
Wards of Bristol have produced countless cast metal commemorative blue plaques, but also specialise in traditional bronze plaques and custom 3D hand crafted plaques, which are hand painted to depict scenes of historical events, places and figures.

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APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park, Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk
Trusted TRADE suppliers of flat cut letters, logos and intricate laser work. Cut rapidly in-house on one of four CNC routers to ensure competitive pricing is offered on these sign industry essentials. Available in a variety of materials such as acrylic, foamex, dibond, stainless steel, aluminium and MDF in different finishes, with or without fixings. Talk to our experienced team today.

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51-59 Waterworks Road, Norwich NR2 4DA.
Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
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A fully comprehensive service to the trade in acrylic, foam PVC, MDF, brass and aluminium. Contact us for price list or quotation.

SIGN HERE

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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
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WATERJET SIGNS LTD

Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4JG
Tel: 01843 225666
www.waterjetsigns.co.uk
Specialise in manufacturing signs to the trade with over 40 years' experience in the signage industry. 3D Built up letters, Flat cut letters, Projecting Signs, Facia Signs, and Illuminated Light Boxes. All work undertaken in house. Competitive prices and prompt service.

CUTTING MATS

CUTTINGMATS XXL

Tel: 020 3936 1106
info@cuttingmatsxxl.com
www.cuttingmatsxxl.co.uk
CuttingmatsXXL specialises in transparent and flexible cutting mats to protect your work table. Nr1 table protection for all signage companies. Your blade will cut smoothly through your foil and with the 'self-healing' characteristic the surface will stay smooth. Our mats are also widely used on top of all brands of flatbed applicators like RollsRoller, Roll-X, Lamidesk, CWT and Rollover.

RHINO CUTTING MATS

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

DIGITAL POSTERS

SCREENSPACE DIGITAL SIGNAGE

107 Brighton Junction, 1a Isetta Square, 35 New England Street Brighton BN1 4GQ
Tel: 01932 769 962
hello@screenspace.live
www.screenspace.live

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

DIGITAL PRINTED SIGNS

SIGNOMATIC.CO.UK
Box 21, 433 21 Partille, Sweden
Tel: 01489 326 052
info@signomatic.co.uk
www.signomatic.co.uk
Custom signs online. Design your own signs, banners, roll ups, stickers, name badges and much more using the Design Tool. Engraved and printed products of high quality. Top service.

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN5 9SH
Tel: 01302 800 250
sales@visual-group.co.uk
visual-group.co.uk
Visual Group is committed to continuous improvement and it is our intention to provide the highest levels of quality in production and customer service. It is our philosophy of continuous investment in the latest technology which enables us to bring the benefits to you. We currently have over 10 machines from yag lazer, flat bed digital printers and roll to roll digital printers plus much more.

DIGITAL PRINTER SUPPLIES

ARTSYSTEMS

Units 10 – 12 Glaisdale Point, Glaisdale Parkway, Nottingham NG8 4GP
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marketing@artsystems.co.uk
www.artsystems.co.uk
UK&I Trade imaging and print distributor for Epson, HP, Kala, Neschen, Onyx, ShiL and Xativa media. UK's leading print and imaging distributor in the Sign & Display sector. Exclusive UK&I distributor of HP Latex and HP Stitch printers. We are also the exclusive distributor for Summa cutters and ONYX Rips and provide the Authorised warranty service for HP Latex, HP Stitch and Summa Cutters.

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Tel: 01954 232 564
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Josero offer a complete portfolio of products from machinery, inks, software solutions and spare parts for wide format and super wide printers as well as technical support, distribution and service contracts. Josero is an authorised partner for Agfa, Mimaki and Ricoh large format printers along with exclusivity for Triangle inks, the Bubblefree applicator tables and Comagrav Digi cutting tables.

MACTAC UK LTD

Room 232, Victory House, 400 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, Northampton NN4 7PA
Tel: 01604 644697
www.mactacgraphics.eu
Mactac is a global manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for wide-format digital printing (solvent, eco-solvent, latex & UV), with ICC profiles for the highest printed quality. Our innovative products help you to express your talents, across applications that include interior decoration, commercial architecture and visual communications – on buildings, windows, points of sale, vehicles & boats.

DIGITAL SIGNAGE

SCREENSPACE DIGITAL SIGNAGE

107 Brighton Junction, 1a Isetta Square, 35 New England Street Brighton BN1 4GQ
Tel: 01932 769 962
hello@screenspace.live
www.screenspace.live
Screenspace is built around a small low-cost device that when plugged into any screen or TV, can in 5 minutes, turn that screen into a smart digital sign, capable of displaying your customers own adverts that can contain text, images or videos. When the device is connected to Wi-Fi these adverts can be scheduled, edited or updated instantly and sent to a screen, anywhere in the world.

DOMES & DISHES

PROJECT PLASTICS LTD

Unit 7 Grange Way Business Park, Whitehill Industrial Estate, Colchester, Essex CO2 8HF
Tel: 01206 868 696
sales@projectplastics.co.uk
www.projectplastics.co.uk
Manufacturing and stocking clear acrylic domes and dishes in over 30 sizes and all produced on site at our factory in Colchester. We also stock over 170 different size blowing rings for other shapes and weird and wonderful diameters. Pans, dishes, squares, oblong and ovals are our speciality.

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225 Long Lane, Finchley London N3 2RL
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sales@talbotdesigns.co.uk
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With 70 years of making Domes & Dishes, our Teedy Domes have set the standard. With our vast range of tooling we can make almost any size – so just ask. We are now the first to offer unbreakable Polycarbonate Domes.

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Britannia House, Granville Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ
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www.signtradesupplies.co.uk
Sign Trade Supplies has a wide range of double sided tapes and adhesives designed specifically for the sign making industry. The Stykra branded products provide unrivalled performance at an excellent price point. Our range of tapes include Structural bonding tapes, Toffee Tape, Banner Hemming Tape, Single Sided Banner Tape, 1mm Foam Tape, POS tape, Hook & Loop Tape and many more.

ENGRAVING

AES SIGNS LTD

(EST. 1972)
The Old Laundry, 15 Barratt street, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6DE
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The complete sign service Engraved / Etched & Screen Printed signs Nameplates etc. in all materials. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality, full design service, prompt response to all enquiries

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

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Tel: 01322 340 194
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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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www.firstsignsandlabels.co.uk
We manufacture and engrave nameplates, Labels, Tags, Switchplates, Mimics, Brass Plates, Components, Warning labels, Plaques, Logo's and Signs. We also produce printed fire & Safety Signs & Vinyl Graphics.

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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

VISION LIGHTING LTD

Unit 1 Wortley Moor Lane, Leeds, LS12 4JD

Tel: 0113 279 9745

sales@vision-lighting.co.uk

www.vision-lighting.co.uk

Vision Lighting's Signtrim aluminium sign frame extrusion is ideal for fabricating sign frames for non-illuminated sign panels 5 to 6mm in thickness. Signtrim is widely used on convenience stores to create external displays where window graphics are note possible. Signtrim can be supplied in mill finish or painted to the required RAL colour on a short lead time.

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 Sign Locators, Wall Fixing Standoffs 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.

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.isptrade.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
We specialise in sign surveying to the trade, with over 35 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
As confidential signage TRADE only suppliers, Applelec have the vision, experience & craftsmanship to help bring your project to life. Our in-house manufacturing facilities allow us to offer a vast array of signage & LED lighting options as well as respond to your needs without compromising on quality. Whilst our knowledgeable sales & production teams are there to support you all the way.

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

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852888
contactus@signscape.co.uk
www.sasl.co.uk
We're a leading sign trade manufacturer providing services in letter boards since 1973. Our products are made to order and are tailored to suit your specific branding and display location requirements. We offer a wide choice of design styles, frames, colours, and branding options, to ensure your message communicated is consistent and engaging. Contact us for a free consult.

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Tel: 01833 694700
info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk
www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk
Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only manufacturer of Commercial and CE Marked Traffic Signage, plus Chapter 8 Chevron Kits.

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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.

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.

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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

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Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,
Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk
Manufactured inhouse for the TRADE signage industry, Applelec can create all styles of trays & fascia signs according to design specification. Available in metal or Dibond, trays can be flat face, curved or a bespoke shape. Back trays can be accessorised in a variety of ways with the addition of built-up, flat cut or vinyl letters & logos as well as LED illumination.

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.

TROUGH LIGHTING

VISION LIGHTING LTD

Unit 1 Wortley Moor Lane, Leeds,
LS12 4JD
Tel: 0113 279 9745
sales@vision-lighting.co.uk
www.vision-lighting.co.uk
Vision Lighting is a leading supplier of LED sign lighting products including Nanolight, a slim, modern trough light, unrivalled in brightness and efficiency. Nanolight is the most waterproof trough light available in the UK, rated IP66. We guarantee quality with high quality components, a 5 year parts warranty and our ISO 9001, UKAS accredited certification for Quality Management.

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FREELANCE GRAPHICS INSTALLER

London area / M25 / Kent / Surrey
Mob: 0756 4057 343
graphicsfitters@gmail.com
With 28 years experience in the industry, specialising in the installation of office manifestations, window films, office graphics, general signage, vehicle graphics, I can work as an additional member of your team on larger projects, or where there is a tight deadline, can also work on my own initiative. Available by the day or the by the job, flexible approach to work hours.

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH
Tel: 01302 800 250
sales@visual-group.co.uk
visual-group.co.uk
Our highly skilled craftsmen with over 30 years' experience within the industry, use traditional and modern manufacturing techniques with the latest technologies on hand. Visual Group can offer a variety of materials for creative office wall graphics to informative branded interior signage. We can create anything from vinyl window graphics to flat cut letters with LED illumination plus much more.

VINYL SUPPLIES

APA (UK) LTD

Unit 10 Capital Ind. Est., Crabtree
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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

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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.

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Grafitack House, 103 Mariner,
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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.

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Tel: 01262 602 222

sales@gmcrafts.co.uk

www.gmcrafts.co.uk

One of the UK's Largest selections of self adhesive vinyl & heat transfer vinyl. Also supplying Graphtec CE7000 plotters, custom printing available on self-adhesive and heat transfer vinyl plus other medias.

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 1 Magazine Point, Riverbank
Road, Bromborough, Wirral, CH62
3JP

Tel: 0151 272 1234

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.

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.

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

contactus@signscape.co.uk

www.sasl.co.uk

We're a leading sign trade manufacturer providing services in wayfinding sign systems since 1973. Our products remain the system of choice for many sign makers and wayfinding specialists; including post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs, office signage, indoor/outdoor wall directories, paper insert, directional, and projecting signs, lectern and suspended signs, totems, fingerposts.

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH

Tel: 01302 800 250

sales@visual-group.co.uk

visual-group.co.uk

At Visual Group we understand visual representation and the importance of a stylish, high quality, well-made product which cannot be underestimated. We aim to manufacture to the highest level enabling complete satisfaction. Our highly skilled craftsmen with over 30 years' experience within the industry, use traditional and modern manufacturing techniques and have the latest technologies on hand.

WIDE FORMAT PRINTING

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH

Tel: 01302 800 250

sales@visual-group.co.uk

visual-group.co.uk

At Visual Group we understand visual representation and the importance of a stylish, high quality, well-made product which cannot be underestimated. We aim to manufacture to the highest level enabling complete satisfaction. Our highly skilled craftsmen with over 30 years' experience within the industry, use traditional and modern manufacturing techniques with the latest technologies on hand.

WIDE FORMAT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

DISCOUNT DISPLAYS

31-35 Wortley Road, Croydon CR0
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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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