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built up letters on rail for suspended fixing

resh Ground



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"Helped us as a business massively, our production time and finishing time is probably done in half the time now so this gives us a great flexibility to take on more work without having to worry about getting more staff to meet the high demands etc" Josh Ainsley, Ainsley Signs

"Having looked at other tables we felt the build quality far exceeded what was on the offer on the market' Simon Platt, Pumpkin Sign & Display

> "The accuracy of the application is very consistent even across hundreds of 8 x 4 boards"

James Clarke, EP Cowen Signs

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# WELCOME Page

## Signs of Summer

Normally around this time of year the country is preparing itself to see exactly how England won't win the World Cup. Whether it's penalties or red cards, extraordinary bad luck or a criminal VAR decision, that inevitable moment when everyone realises it isn't coming home usually happens around the time this issue hits your door mat. It is also the time that all that lovely signage has to come down!

This year of course, that particular source of revenue has moved to the pre-Christmas months and how this will affect the demand for signage remains to be seen. But what will fill the gap this summer? I suspect there will be even more emphasis on those big outdoor sporting events that we missed out on over the last couple of years.

The market needs as many boosts as it can get of course with so many other difficulties to overcome. The general rise in the cost of living, particularly fuel, will have a sizeable impact on our industry and could well lead to price rises that the end user will need to face. In this environment – the budget providers could do well, but as we will see in our two main features this month – Sign Fittings and Vehicle Graphics, there is a real argument that paying a premium for better quality and service will provide to be more sustainable in the long term.

One project that was covered in this issue that particularly interested us, was a 'barn find' vehicle wrap (pages 30 and 31). It looks truely awesome in the photo's, even when you look at the close up images, but I can't help thinking that perhaps it won't be as convincing in real life.

Enjoy the summer and let's remain optimistic. If not for the football, then for some global stability that will help see all of us through what could be a tricky financial year.

Jack



# signs<sup>2</sup> signs







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# **PRODUCT** News

# Brett Martin launches sustainable Marlon BioPlus Polycarbonate sheet options

Brett Martin, the UK's largest producer of polycarbonate sheet materials has launched new, more sustainable Marlon BioPlus Polycarbonate sheet options, which represent a quantum shift towards climate neutral plastic sheets produced from a certified mass balanced source with bio-based feedstock.

This new development is the result of Brett Martin's partnership with Covestro, one of the World's leading polymer producers. Their Makrolon® RE replaces 71% of the fossil based raw materials with bio-circular attributed material (via mass balance approach), e.g. from used cooking oils. In addition, a further reduction in carbon is achieved through the use of green energy in the production of the raw material.

Commenting on the development, Barbara Giershausen, Sales Manager, Covestro said: "On our journey to become fully circular, we support our industry partners in meeting their sustainability targets. With our Makrolon RE portfolio, customers like Brett Martin have exactly the same quality and performance as fossil-based Makrolon without the need to change existing production processes."

Covestro adopts a mass balancing approach via ISCC PLUS (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification) to achieve the allocation of this low carbon material to Brett Martin, enabling Brett Martin to provide complete assurance to customers for the new sheet options.

The partial move away from fossil based raw materials and the benefits of



providing a secondary use for the biocircular attributed feedstock enables the process to achieve an 84% reduction in carbon footprint during the production of the Makrolon RE. This saving is further enhanced during the extrusion of the Marlon BioPlus sheet which uses 100% renewable electricity, generated directly through Brett Martin's own dedicated wind and solar facilities.

The mass balancing approach delivers both practicality and certified assurance for users of the Marlon BioPlus ranges in Flat, Multiwall and Corrugated polycarbonate sheet formats. This opens new doors for specifiers, processors and fabricators to choose a more sustainable polycarbonate from renewable sources and with a low carbon impact.

William Martin, Director at Brett Martin commented "The drive for sustainable, carbon neutral plastic materials is progressing well and now our introduction of Makrolon RE from a mass balanced and certified source of bio-circular attributed feed-stock is taking this to the next level".

www.brettmartin.com



# WE'RE EXHIBITING AT THE PRINT SHOW VISIT US ON STAND CO5





# **PRODUCT** News

# **New PVC alternatives added** to Antalis' portfolio

Antalis has added three PVC-free materials to its ever-growing sustainable range, helping customers to use visual communication products that are kinder to the environment.

In 2021, Antalis outlined its sustainability commitment that aims for 75% of all visual communications products sold to be rated Green Star 3 or higher by 2030. Antalis' Green Star System™ makes it easy for customers to identify sustainable products based upon the raw materials used in manufacture and their recyclability at end

Exten Opaque Polypropylene (Green Star rating: 3) is a PVC-free alternative for the production of POS and display, cards, tags, labels, stationery and much more. 35% lighter than PVC equivalents, it is 100% recyclable and at end of life can be burnt without risk of toxic emissions. The products are coated in a unique primer that extends shelf life beyond that of standard corona treated polypropylene; it also offers significantly greater opacity, making it suitable for two-sided printing using UV Offset, Digital and Screen print

machines. It is available in two large format sheet variants:

Exten Opaque 99 - gloss and satin, sheets from 400 to 850 microns

Exten Opaque 100 - satin, has a black core for 100% block-out in a thickness of 220 microns

Mondo PET-GAG (Green Star rating: 4) is a range of high quality, clear polyester sheets, that offer an environmentally friendly alternative to thin-gauge PVC. The sheet is made up of three layers: two G-PET outer layers and an 85% postconsumer waste recycled PET inner layer. It is 100% recyclable and chemically inert.

The premium surface of Mondo PET-GAG is ideal for UV Offset, Digital and Screen printing; die-cutting; and finishing. Available in sheets from 200 to 600 microns, it is suitable for a range of POS and display applications.

**Product Manager for Visual** Communications at Antalis. Paul Neale. comments: "The introduction of Exten

Opaque and Mondo PET-GAG gives customers even greater choice when making product selections that will reduce their impact on the environment, without compromising performance or quality. Improving our range of sign and display materials with a Green Star System™ rating of 3 or more is a key focus for us, and we are looking forward to announcing more additions to our range over the coming months".

www.antalis.co.uk



## Nazdar announces 205 Series inks for Roland TrueVIS SG2 and VG2

Nazdar Ink Technologies, a leading manufacturer of UV, water-based and solvent-based wide-format digital inkjet, screen-printing and flexographic ink products, has announced the launch of the Nazdar 205 Series. The new inks have been designed specifically for use in Roland TrueVIS SG2 and VG2 Series wide format digital printers running Roland TrueVIS TR2 inks.

Featuring plug-and-play capabilities and consistent high-speed printing performance, users can simply replace the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) ink as it runs out with the 205 Series ink, producing high-impact, high-intensity colours comparable to the original ink set. They are also suitable for use in a wide range of environments without the need for specialised ventilation.

Nazdar 205 Series inks are available in CMYK plus light cyan, light magenta and light black and can be used to print on



all commonly used graphics substrates such as banner material, flexible and pressure-sensitive vinyl, blue back paper and backed mesh, opening up all sorts of projects to users.

"The new Nazdar 205 Series inks offer a closely colour-matched and chemically compatible alternative for Roland TrueVIS SG2 and VG2 Series printers running TrueVIS TR2 inks. They deliver consistent and reliable print performance, even at high-speed print modes," says Stephen Woodall, Market Segment Manager -Agueous & Solvent Digital at Nazdar Ink Technologies. "The performance of the 205 Series is equivalent to - or even superior to - the original OEM inks."

www.nazdar.com

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# **PRODUCT** News

# Avery Dennison launch new sustainable print film SP 3523 opaque matt

Avery Dennison is certain to make waves in the industry with this latest product launch. SP 3523 Opaque Matt is being introduced as part of the Sustainable Print portfolio and is designed to provide a more sustainable alternative in a market primarily dominated by PVC products.

SP 3523 is a matt white, self-adhesive polyolefin, with grey permanent adhesive for overposting needs. It is optimised for short-term applications with promotional graphics being the most appropriate use.

The film allows for more sustainable

digital printing compared to standard options due to it being non-PVC. It contains no chlorine, phthalates, or other halogens. This vastly reduces the emissions of volatile organic components (VOCs). It also features a solvent-free, water-based adhesive. It is the ideal product for those seeking to improve their environmental footprint and a welcome step towards providing more sustainable options across the current market.

Other features of the product include excellent printability and handling with selected printers, easy cutting and application on a variety of substrates, and good opacity due to the grey adhesive system, vastly improving overposting possibilities.

Digital print compatibility makes it easy to achieve maximum visual impact with both UV and latex. The material also comes with full fire-resistance certification.

SP 3523 Opaque Matt offers 3 years vertical, unprinted durability, ideal for temporary promotional and point of sale advertisements in stores, events, and other indoor locations.

Avery Dennison SP 3523 Opaque Matt is in stock now at William Smith.

www.williamsmith.co.uk



# HP launches interactive platform The Print Hub for HP Latex customers

HP is delighted to announce the launch of The Print Hub, an interactive platform specifically developed to support HP Latex users and help them get the best out of their printers.

The Print Hub offers personalised content covering all topics related to HP Latex, allowing users to explore a wide range of exclusive and specialist information dedicated to the HP Latex range of print technology.

Customers – both existing and potential – can explore insightful and informative content such as webinars, videos and expertly written articles, as well as access in-depth technical information about HP Latex printers and the applications they can be used for.

Visitors will enjoy a personalised experience when browsing content on The Print Hub based on their navigation history and asset clicks. The 'Recommended for You' feature suggests content that may be of interest to each individual visitor, while

the 'Continue Watching' option allows users to pick up from their last visit.

Another stand-out feature on the interactive platform is the 'Printer Selection Tool', whereby users can select certain criteria to help them identify the most suitable printer for their business and proposed applications.



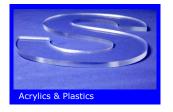
The Print Hub offers personalised content covering all topics related to HP Latex, allowing users to explore a wide range of exclusive and specialist information dedicated to the HP Latex range of print technology.

"From its beginnings, when it was branded 'Possibility City' and used as a means to replace physical shows during the pandemic, the interactive site showed great promise. The HP Large Format team soon realised that the platform was fast becoming an essential – and 24/7 accessible – resource for customers wanting to research and explore content and learn about HP's offerings in the Latex technology space," says Isabella Jelinek, Large Format Marketing Manager UK&I at HP.

"Subsequently, we optimised and improved the platform's functionality. We added more content to offer customers a rich, personalised experience, curated with exactly what they want to read, see and do – all in one place – and The Print Hub was born."

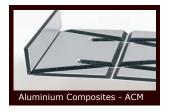
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# SIGN FABRICATION

### PRICE LIST

### ACRYLIC PERSPEX Colours - add 10% for Gold & Silver

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	5.69	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

### MILL FINISH ALLIMINILIM

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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# Sign Fittings

# A wide range of fittings from FK Moore

Fixings are at the forefront of sign industries. An experienced fitter will know the best fixing to use from the outset, however on occasion the fixing decision could be overlooked, and the customer may require assistance. A professional fixing supplier can use analytical thinking and expertise to find the appropriate solution for the project.

Paul Farrant, Director of FK Moore, tells us, "At FK Moore we can also offer a bespoke service to supply a custom solution suited to a particular specification. We would always suggest that when planning your signage, it is advantageous to know how you would like to fix the sign from the beginning. Although this would be most helpful in an ideal world, we are fully aware that occasionally a customer might require steering towards a particular product that we feel may be better suited to their requirements."

A wide and comprehensive range starts with the sign locator fixing, a mechanical fitting. This traditional fixing is easily installed, discrete, an extremely durable and reliable product for use internally or on external signage. There are several types, sizes, and styles of this fixing available to be used on a variety of materials (including wood, Perspex, or metal signs), allowing complete flexibility.

### **Time-savers**

"Nylon locators are a popular choice for adhering on internal applications," says Paul, adding, "These fixings are cost and time-effective and can be easily installed. This fixing is suitable for internal use only and when purchasing it is integral to use the same brand (always speak with us so that we can advise on this)."

He continues, "Sign hangers for suspending signs from heights are mostly used in a retail setting or for safety signs. Available in a wide variety of options such as a cable hanger with a choice of bullet or snap hook ceiling fixing, or traditional strap hanger

and wire hangers. We also offer Cable display systems that are used for hanging panelled displays floor to ceiling. This is a multi-functioning display system with a choice of both single or double vertical fixings, single horizontal fixing and even a face fixing to compliment the look in a very sleek satin chrome finish. These are manufactured from brass material for durability."

"Wall fixing stand offs are for projecting signs from masonry, these two-part fixings are extremely popular for both internal and external use. Assorted sizes, styles and finishes are available and can be used on both large and smaller work with matching caps to complete a streamlined look. These are both contemporary and elegant in style when used with signage. The increasingly popular three-part fixing that is also available in satin chrome on brass. These are applied in a comparable way to the wall fixing, but have an additional brass part that affixes to the wall first. These are an excellent choice for smaller

applications as they have a finer thread, whilst the collar allows for the location to be set to the wall before applying the barrel. We also have the panel clamp for the vertical or horizontal installation of panels."

"Externally and internally threaded cover heads are the ideal flush fitting to be used on wayfinding signs, smaller signs, or poster signs. These fixings are very versatile with lots of styles, sizes and finishes available to compliment any sign. The internally threaded range compliments our stand offs for a contemporary and streamlined look. These can be used with our range of brass spacers for the projection of smaller panels that mimic the look of a wall fixing stand off. The internally threaded cover head is a twopart fixing ideally used with pozi-drive stainless steel screws which have become increasingly popular with fitters as they are extremely time effective."

Paul Farrant concludes, "FK Moore is one of the longest operating UK based hardware fitting companies offering complete staff dedication to all customers. Our products offer flawless finishes and longevity paired with durability and excellent value. With everchanging trends, many of our products can be customised or colour matched to the RAL colour chart."

www.fkmoore.com







FK Moore is one of the longest operating hardware fitting companies











FK Moore's huge range of fixings are very versatile with lots of styles, sizes and finishes available to compliment any sign

# **Pole Fixings for Banners and Boards**

Signgeer provides a range of solutions for sign fittings and fixings. Here we take a look at their range specifically for banners and boards.

The Metro Airow is a compact, adjustable system for mounting banners to posts and walls. It keeps your banner taught and can deal with expansion of PVC due to wind and heat.

Due to its unique canted banner arm design - top arm is canted up, bottom arm is canted down, when the banner is installed, the canted arms put the banner under tension to transfer wind force to the fibreglass pole producing a taut, tight and trim banner appearance with no sagging. It has been specifically designed for straight, fluted or tapered pole diameters 76mm and over.

Tested to withstand up to 120mph the Metro Airow can also be wall mounted using pre-drilled holes within its bracket. If EN40 compliance is required, you will need to use the Euro Chieftain System.

The Euro Chieftain system complies fully with the all-important Government Regulation EN40 which dictates the maximum wind load that any type of signage is allowed to exert onto a standard street lighting column. This is often a general requirement for local authority and county council tenders. Suitable for lamp post columns and posts from 76mm

ATMABLE DON

Metro Airow keeps your banner taught and can deal with expansion of PVC due to wind and heat

diameter upwards, whether straight, fluted or tapered. It can also be used for wall mounting using the pre-drilled holes within its bracket.

Signgeer also stock a wide range of aluminium sign poles ,channel and clips for making and fixing aluminium and composite sign panels with channel on the back for fixing to posts (they also make and stock blank sign panels with riveted channel (traditionally known as boloff). The sign channel can be bonded to panels using their Epic sign channel tape.

## **Eyepro Banner Eyeletting Machine**

If banners are part of your arsenal, then Signgeer's recently upgraded heavy duty hand operated eyeletting machine has been hailed as the 'The best Eyeletting machine I've ever used. Strong and effortless'. The Eyepro's unique design eliminates the common problem of eyelets not self-piercing. With interchangeable dies for using various sized metal eyelets, the Eyepro can be bench mounted or free standing and is

perfect for eyeletting correx as well as



banners.

Signgeer offer an extensive range of sign fixings, many of which are supplied in handy starter kits. They are approved stockists of Timco screws and fasteners. a brand renowned for cost effective quality fixings. Concrete anchor bolts, thunderbolts, expanding sleeve anchors and expansion bolts, along with resin/ chemical anchors for heavier loads such as projecting sign brackets. Plasterboard fixings for when conventional wall plugs and screws won't hold...Signgeer carry a wide range of colour headed self tapping and self drilling screws to compliment your signs, as well as Snapcap, Stemfix and hinged screw caps and hexhead cover

New to the range is POLYTOPS® screws - a simple one piece fixing with an innovative encapsulated polymer head. This decorative fixing provides a neat and aesthetically pleasing finish in one quick and simple step with no maintenance needed with its corrosion resistance. Available in a choice of colours.

Signgeer's recently upgraded heavy duty hand operated eyeletting machine has been hailed as the 'The best Eyeletting machine I've ever used



www.signgeer.com



Signgeer's new POLYTOPS range of screws have an innovative polymer head



# Sign Fittings

# Don't get your shackles in a twist

Fixings can often come as an afterthought when designing signage with clients. Branding guidelines, Pantone references and budgets take centre stage, and the somewhat less exciting mechanical fixings do not make it into conversation. The sign maker is then left to go out in search of the 'silver bullet' fixing to help deliver the sign package to their expecting client.

Harry Clarke, Product Development Manager of Sign Trade Supplies Ltd, says, "We pride ourselves on stocking a vast array of sign fixing hardware to help bring these projects to life, below are some of our top picks to include in your workshop or kit bag."

## Torx Self-Coloured Security Screws

Manufactured from stainless steel with a tough powder coat finish, the Torx screws offer a clean minimal aesthetic with the added layer of security of needing a Torx 20 driver bit to remove. Available in 11 standard RAL colours these screws are a great option for face fixing into coloured ACM panels on fascias & folded aluminium tray signs



### **Swing Sign Brackets**

Swing signs are a favourite among high street shops, restaurants and pubs however sourcing the correct bracket can sometimes be a challenge. Our top tip would be to design your swing sign panel around standard pre-made bracket. This will improve the turn-around time and cut down on custom bracket fabrication costs. Our swing sign brackets are manufactured from mild steel with a gloss black powdercoat finish with pre-drilled fixing holes ready for installation.

## Eyebolts, Shackles & Diamond Plates

Traditional Ironmongery choices for the sign industry are always handy to keep in mind. Eyebolts, diamond plates and shackles can be used when hanging, suspending and anchoring signs. Our marine grade 316 Stainless Steel options are suitable for exterior use and will

withstand the test of time. Quality fixings really add that peace of mind when walking away from an installation, knowing your sign is safe and secure should always be top priority.



Quality fixings really add that peace of mind when walking away from an installation

### **Wall Mounts**

Never underestimate the humble acrylic wall mount! Now available in a wide variety of sizes and finishes these simple fixings are cost-effective and the perfect finishing touch to all manner of sign installations. From heavy duty stainless steel to lightweight aluminium, wall mounts can be a utilised both internally and externally to fix signage to walls of almost any material.

### **Snapfix & Simplefix Locators**

Hidden and discreet fixings such as Snapfix and Simplefix locators are typically used for mounting flat cut acrylic letters to sign fascias, however they can be very useful for creating minimalist sign installations without a visible fixing point. Using a 2-part methacrylate adhesive such as Stykra 1000, the male locators can be bonded to a number of standard sign materials and then the female cups can be screwed onto the final sign location. The sign can then be popped into place providing a firm but removable installation.



Snapfix fasteners are perfect for fixing fabricated or flat acrylic letters to a surface





# www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

### **Anti-rotational Post clips**

Although not the most exciting or aesthetically pleasing fixing, the antirotational sign clip is without doubt the most widely used sign fixing throughout the United Kingdom. The stainless-steel U shape clips are the tried, tested and approved option for national highway signs and help us all navigate our way around the roads of the UK. These fixings are not only suitable for highways signs, they are used extensively in the private industrial sector. The universal aluminium sign channel is bonded to ACM & aluminium sign blanks and then the sign clips hold the sign onto the post.

Sign Trade Supplies stocks a huge range of sign post clips each designed for a specific post or rail diameter. With a choice ranging from 13mm - 273mm diameter the standard clips are a go to hardware option for post mounted signage.

Harry concludes, "Sign Trade Supplies aims to be the first in mind when it comes to sign fixings and currently holds thousands of items in-stock ready for despatch across the UK. Our solution orientated mindset allows us to work together with sign makers to provide creative solutions to the dynamic fixing requirements the sign industry requires."

Signtradesupplies.co.uk





# Sign Fittings

## I Spy great fittings

iSpi Trade is a company with its roots and knowledge firmly in the sign industry. With over 25 years of experience, from the early days as installers to trusted sign trade suppliers, they are the first choice for many of the UK's signage companies.

Company Director Stephen Ferrie says, "We have focused on supplying quality sign industry products, rather than trying to offer a huge range of items to serve multiple sectors. This has allowed us to remain competitive and maintain our status as the sign industry's trusted trade supplier."

## Classic product range - the sign installers go-to product

iSpi Trade's main product has always been brass flat head sign standoffs, suitable for a wide and varied range of projects. With options of sizes and projections, they work with several substrates from acrylic to brass and wood, giving a high-quality finish to any sign installation, both indoor and outdoor.

Stephen explains, "The classic standoff is always the go-to product for sign installers. We offer barrel sizes from 13mm - 75mm and in three different finishes, chrome, satin chrome and gold, to create that quality finish on interior and exterior signage."



Aluminium sign fittings poularity has grown over the years and is now an essential part of iSpi's product range

### Top tip

Sign standoffs are the perfect solution for uneven or textured surfaces as the projection will lift the substrate away from the wall, ensuring a professional finish."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.

### Adding colour and finish

The popularity of iSpi Trade's aluminium sign fittings range of products has grown over the years and continues to be part of their essential products range. There are seven finishes and colours, including satin, glossy, black, blue and red-a costeffective solution which offers a contrasting finish to a wide range of signage projects. One of iSpi Trade's customers used the gloss aluminium fixings to great effect on a recent interior display project. The floor covering superstore had recently revamped its flooring display area and decided to use clear flame polished acrylic with printed product details and secured to the floor samples using sign fixings.

Direct Flooring comments, "We spoke to iSpi Trade to discuss several products, including LED window displays and get some advice on fixing our flooring sample descriptions. iSpi Trade took the time to listen and ask questions. The gloss sign fixings they recommended are great and make it easy for us to change the signs if required."

### Specialist sign installations

Standard sign fixings sometimes won't meet the requirements for specific jobs and need a specialist solution. ISpi Trade stock a range of non-standard fixings, including Signalite, which are fixings with a ring of LED lights. These need to be wired into the mains supply but are great for hotel lowlight hallways to help guide guests to their rooms.

Another great option if you install signage in coastal areas is 316 Marine Grade Stainless Steel fixings offering a hardwearing solution in locations where weather can be extreme and where salt corrosion is a problem. Stephen continues, "Many sign installers shy away from Signalite fixings because they require a qualified electrician, but the finished look is excellent; they come with a remote control to change the colour and settings."

### New trends in sign fixings?

Stephen concludes, "We constantly get asked for certain types of products, but we need to be sure there is a market for them so we can offer competitive prices. We started to get a few enquiries about Clear Acrylic Sign Fixings and decided we could supply them to our customers at a reasonable price; they are now one of our top sellers. The clear acrylic fixings give the signs an enhanced hidden fixing effect as they are almost invisible from a distance."

ispitrade.com





Acrylic sign fixings are now a top seller. They give the signs an enhanced hidden fixing effect as they are almost invisible from a distance

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# **PRODUCT** Choice

# A confident approach to matching colours efficiently

Large format print business VGL is a technology-driven company that required a more mature and streamlined approach to colour. Particularly across their retail and transport work, they needed the confidence that colour would be reproduced accurately as well as consistently over time. That's why they turned to GMG ColorServer Digital to keep colours consistent across a dozen large format digital devices as well as a small format SRA3-size Indigo.

Founded in 1976, VGL is located across three sites in Reading, where their digital and screen-printing operations produce print for applications including retail, transport, outdoor media and display. The GMG software is used at their two digital printing sites at Elgar Road and Smallmead. The initial driver for VGL to install GMG was colour control, with VGL Managing Director, Daniel Field, referring to GMG as "a brand respected for decades in colour". It soon became apparent to VGL that the software would also make them more efficient, both in terms of time and process waste.

Daniel Field comments further: "Consistency over time of brand reproduction is essential for us across all the sectors we deal in. When you're recreating retail brands, you're a custodian of those brand colours, and the ability to produce them accurately time and time again is paramount. With commercial fleet, you have multiple vehicles that all need to be uniform in colour". VGL has several rollto-roll machines printing transport vinyl, which all run the same jobs on the same materials, making this a focus area for colour consistency, with other applications being fabrics, dye sublimation and flatbeds using rigid boards.

When reprinting damaged fleet graphics, VGL previously found it more difficult and time-consuming to achieve consistent colours to the original print job. GMG ColorServer has not only sped up the process, but it's also made results more consistent, providing complete confidence with replacement panel production. That's because the built-in and accurate calibration function from GMG SmartProfiler allows VGL to quickly and easily recalibrate to a reference condition for stable print behaviour, and to compensate colour drifts for variations of substrate colour/white points and different print modes.



With their retail POS print, VGL's production spans different processes, presses and, crucially, multiple materials - including cards, plastics and recycled boards. VGL's Technical Director, Rupert Dadd explains why they needed to manage colour and automate the process in this area: "The old way of doing it before GMG was to run test prints for presses you're printing similar materials on and make manual adjustments for each of those machines to get them all aligned. Whereas GMG does all that work beforehand, so it doesn't need to be done on every single job. The GMG system is easier to use with fewer steps to create a profile; Traditionally, you'd be losing a machine for significant periods, whereas with GMG, it's undertaken at speed." The majority of jobs print within VGL's 1 Delta E target tolerance first time, presenting substantial time and cost savings.

Using GMG ColorServer has delivered significant efficiencies in prepress for VGL.

When any changes are made to the file input data, GMG ColorServer automatically converts RGB, CMYK, spot colours and mixed data for all presses and profiles, without VGL's prepress team having to manually tweak colour data. Built-in spectral profiling from GMG OpenColor also provides superior spot colour separations and allows for precise prediction and optimised test charts for the business' digital printing.

On working with GMG, Daniel Field summarises: "From the first conversation to the point of implementation, training and aftercare, it's been an effortless relationship. The GMG team showed confidence in the products and offered them on a sale-by-results basis. Very early on, we knew GMG were going to completely deliver against the brief we'd provided."

GMG Sales Manager, Paul Williams, was the main contact for VGL's implementation of GMG software. He comments: "We were introduced to VGL as they'd been asked to match to FOGRA39 print conditions. It soon became apparent that they would also benefit from matching colour across devices and substrates, and that ColorServer Digital would solve both challenges. It's been a pleasure helping VGL to achieve their colour goals."

www.gmgcolor.com www.vgl.co.uk





## 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.



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.



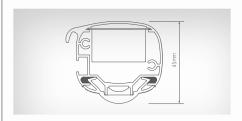
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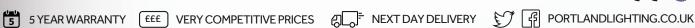
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# **PRODUCT** Choice

## Format Graphics a new customer for Agfa

Agfa UK has gained a new customer in Milton Keynes, Format Graphics Ltd., who have installed an Avinci CX3200 dye sublimation printer to satisfy their growing soft signage requirements.

Format Graphics, formed in 2012, specialise in large format printing, mainly in the form of signage and point of sale, for exhibitions and events. They complete many bespoke projects for head office refits and museums too, but their core customer base is made up of exhibition companies and design agencies. Their turnover is around £2m per year.

Format Graphics employ 16 people at their facility in Stonebridge, Milton Keynes which they purchased four years ago. They work across administration, production and finishing, including full time fitters who install the POS for their clients. In production their two main hybrid print engines, a 2m and a 3.2m, satisfy their vinyl, Foamex, Dibond and acrylic print requirements but as their demand for soft signage increased, they required a new engine to cope with the volume.

"We purchased a Mimaki JV5 printer six years ago when we first started fabric printing, it always produced quality results, but it's now old technology and too slow for our current demand. We looked at three machines as potential replacements and sent them all test files to assess the quality of print and the results of the Agfa Avinci CX3200 dye sublimation printer was undoubtedly the best, even though it only offers 4 colours." Said Baz Ogle, Owner/Managing Director of Format Graphics.

The business purchased the Agfa Avinci CX3200 roll-to-roll printer that can print both directly to textile and to transfer paper at a speed of up to 270m2 per hour and it was installed at the end of 2021. During 2022 the fabric printing side of the business continues to grow and now represents around 20% of the company's turnover. Soft POS is especially popular in retail where it's easy to fold-up and post out to store in a jiffy bag for staff to affix in an existing frame. Baz confirmed that he has been "blown away" by the quality and reliability of the new printer.

"The installation took two days and by day 3 we were printing live jobs as part of the training. It now takes us less than a day to print the same volume it used to take us a week to produce. The speed, quality and colours are excellent. We kept the old machine as a back-up, but we've had no need to use it in the past 5 months. We've not had to call out anyone from Agfa since

installation and there has been no down time. It's churning through work quickly and it hasn't missed a nozzle on the print heads at all."

"It's not just the printer from Agfa that has been impressive, the finance package offered really helped with the decision to move and the experienced engineers made the installation and training enjoyable too. I must make special mention of Arnas Ceckauskas from Agfa who helped with the installation, we found him to be so knowledgeable in fabric print work and he also helped us pair the Agfa Avinci printer to the Monti Rotary Calender unit quickly and with amazing results."

Whilst the new engine has been busy this year with the current demand for soft signage, Baz is keen to expand into new products with the machine when time allows. As the new Avinci now prints to paper too for transfers, which is important for stretchy fabrics, it will allow the business to enter new markets.

Last word from Baz, "The positive experience we have had moving to Agfa means we will certainly be more open to including them when we scope our new print machine requirements in the future."

www.agfa.com



Baz Ogle, Owner of Format Graphics (left) with Paul Fitch from Agfa (right)









# **PRODUCT** Choice

# Hollywood Monster invests in an EFI VUTEk Q5r from CMYUK

Birmingham-based Hollywood Monster has installed an EFI VUTEk Q5r from CMYUK to cope with demand after a record-breaking four months.

This is the tenth VUTEk printer the company has purchased from CMYUK in a relationship that began almost 17 years ago. It coincides with Hollywood Monster's 30th anniversary, and is the first VUTEk printer the company has purchased without first seeing a demonstration.

"We're buying total quality, a highly engineered product with a good return on investment that we have maximum faith in," says Simon McKenzie, CEO, Hollywood Monster.

The need for the purchase is the result of a buoyant order book for 2022 that includes firm commitment from retailers, supermarkets, and a number of large sporting events. To cope with the volume and speed required, Hollywood Monster needed to replace one of its older 5m printers, an EFI VUTEk GS5000r that has been a tireless workhorse for a decade.

"The GS5000r has output millions of pounds worth of work, so it's definitely earned its keep but it's too slow now," says Simon.

The Q5r was chosen for its phenomenal industrial printing capacity. "We've ordered this printer purely for quality high volume output. We've not added any extras like eight colours or white inks because our HS125 Pros and 5r covers this. We just wanted a 5m printer to reliably keep pumping out high quality print," he says.

## EFI Technology – underpinning company growth

Hollywood Monster bought its first VUTEk printer in 2006 purchasing a QS2000 UV hybrid from CMYUK. Up until this point it had been using NUR and Scitex equipment.

From then to now, Hollywood Monster has remained loyal to EFI, using its technology to underpin its business growth. However, where Simon feels EFI VUTEk really made a great leap forward is with the HS125 Pro 3.2m UV LED flatbed and the high-speed roll-to-roll 5m EFI VUTEK 5r UV LED, which offers a re-engineered printing algorithm for newly developed white printing modes, increased speed and enhanced quality.

"Like the HS125 Pro and the h5, the Q5r really pushes performance. Compared to the generation of GS machines before, it's like chalk and cheese. We're buying the new printer for nearly the same price as we did the old GS but this is more robust, more finely tuned, performs to another level. The price just doesn't reflect this, it's very affordable," he says.

## The staff – lifeblood of the business

At the helm of the family business are three directors, brothers Simon and Andrew McKenzie plus brother-in-law Tim Andrews. Staff turnover is very low, with the average length of service topping 12.5 years per head, with a number of staff racking up over 20 years. While continual investment in technology facilitates the work, Simon insists that it's the production staff that make it all possible, working as one towards a common goal.

The days prior to Lockdown in March 2020 were extremely challenging as the company's exhibitions and events clients in UK and Europe cancelled jobs, wiping off over £1.5m from the order book. Now safely on the other side, Simon says both himself and his fellow directors were immensely proud of how the staff dealt with those unchartered dark days – something they will never forget.

"During Lockdown, our workforce came into its own producing PPE, safety signage, and floor graphics. Staff had been at home for eight weeks – terrified for

their jobs, suffering with their nerves – not to mention their mental health but when we called them back in, they absolutely smashed it. We all did. We produced over £2.5m worth of floor graphics. Who would have foreseen that these printers could have put PPE into offices, travel hubs and the like? It was an amazing use of our equipment, transforming print into an essential service."

### **Future focus**

Hollywood Monster has now recruited several new staff members in line with its primary focus to retain clients and grow with them. Business has never been so good, and Hollywood wants to ensure that its customer service never loses its edge.

Says Simon, "We want to make sure all our customers feel loved and that there's nowhere else they want to go. The new staff are dealing with a 20% increase of client spend which equates to about another £1.8 million in sales. We want to continue to stand out from the crowd. We are here 7 days a week and offer a same day service whether that be a Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday or Wednesday. It's all about trusting that Hollywood Monster can deliver every single time. We're certain that we're talking to the right kind of clients and will grow with them. This confidence has led us to purchase the new EFI VUTEk Q5r, which we believe will help us deliver an even better service."

www.cmyuk.com



Robin East from CMYUK between brothers Simon McKenzie and Andrew McKenzie from Hollywood Monster

# Leading Edge invest in an Agfa Tauro to deliver growth plan

Yorkshire based signage and graphics business, Leading Edge, has invested in an Agfa Tauro S 3.2m wide-format ink jet print engine. The new machine, installed in early March, has provided additional capacity, better quality print at a greater speed and with energy saving benefits too.

Leading Edge Signage & Graphics has been based near Wakefield since it was established 15 years ago. It moved to its larger current site 5 years ago and has continued to grow. This year it is forecast to hit c:£5m turnover, a growth of almost £2m in the past 12 months. The company provides signage and graphics for a broad base of customers including large high street retailers and construction clients. They employ 42 staff including 12 fitting teams travelling across the UK, a fabrication department, graphic production, internal design studio, sales and project managers and even have an in-house laser cutting, powder coating and wet spraying facility. It's a business that offers a truly diverse service to a broad base of customers and it's that flexibility that helped their growth to continue over the recent pandemic period.

"We have provided a total signage and internal graphics/POS solution to a

number of national high street retailer brands for many years." Said Matthew Evans, Founder and Managing Director of Leading Edge. "They prefer a total solution and that's what we are geared up to offer. So, whether we are sending our installation team to up-spec light boxes with LED technology across the UK or sending out service vinyls to individual branches to full external signage and internal POS solutions for a new shop, we can handle it. And I think that the way we are structured to offer flexible support for our clients, helped us to quickly adjust to supplying sneeze screens and covid POS during the pandemic."

The business has continued to invest with over £1 million spent in the past year to keep their capability where it needs to be to service clients. The new Agfa Tauro print engine was part of that investment, explains Graphics Production Manager, Andrew Gallagher.

"The new Tauro comes with all the latest technology, such as UV LED Lamps reducing the heat and energy output and it prints on both roll to roll and rigid materials. But most importantly, it gives us better print quality at a much higher speed

and we are now planning to run the engine 24hours a day, 7 days a week. All the print we used to place on two printers can now be done on the new Tauro and that will increase with the introduction of a night shift "

Andrew confirmed that it was a natural choice to upgrade to another Agfa print engine. When asked about the Agfa USP, he said that aside from producing quality machines, they offer a complete service including the Asanti workflow software solution and a team of established and knowledgeable engineers that respond quickly to any issues. Agfa also offer a financial support package that really assists with any upgrading of a machine, they allow the Agfa customer to lease whilst purchasing on loan periods ranging from 3 to 5 years and with zero deposit options available they are assisting in all areas of the purchase.

"Our plan for the future is all about growth and diversity of product/service offering and we'd ideally like that to be aided by a second Taura print engine at some stage. All positive news for Agfa." Concluded Andrew.

www.agfa.com



Andrew Gallagher Graphics Production Manager (left) at Leading Edge Signs & Graphics with Paul Fitch from Agfa (right)



# **PROJECT** News

# Imageco helps Dr. Martens take a sustainable step forward

Leeds-based wide-format printing and signage specialist Imageco recently used Drytac SpotOn SynTac and ViziPrint Deco + to produce a range of striking POS and window graphics for world-famous footwear brand Dr. Martens at its new test and learn concept store on Carnaby Street in London. All of the graphics were printed using Imageco's HP Latex 800W printer, with its eco-friendly water-based inks.

Imageco was introduced to Dr. Martens by Syn Retail, a local design agency and existing client of Imageco that works with a host of global brands across retail and activations. Syn Retail had been working with Dr. Martens for some time, so when the shoe brand was seeking to create a new test and learn store, Syn Retail recommended Imageco to produce the graphics.

Imageco, which holds the key ISO 14001 environmental standard, leapt at the chance to work with Dr. Martens on the sustainable brief. Armed with its deep knowledge of eco-friendly print solutions, Imageco identified two Drytac products as the best solutions for the project.

SpotOn SynTac, a PVC-free polypropylene wall graphic media, was used to produce

exterior graphics for the front of the store to cover up work during its refurbishment. As SpotOn SynTac does not require any lamination and is easy to both apply and remove after use, it was ideal for the short-term graphics.

Imageco also selected ViziPrint Deco +, a high-quality clear window film, for the production of interior graphics for the store windows. ViziPrint Deco + delivered a high-quality print and allowed natural light to pass through into the store, while the product also met the strict sustainable criteria for the job.

On the usability of the Drytac solutions, Imageco Managing Director Nathan Swinson-Bullough says: "We have been working with Drytac products for some time now. Following the success of this project – and in particular the quality of the final prints and how easy we found the media to work with – this amount of use is about to be elevated."

Imageco deployed its HP Latex 800W printer, supplied by Perfect Colours, to produce all the graphics for the project. This, Nathan said, allowed the company to deliver an even more sustainable service to Dr. Martens. Imageco was one of the first

UK customers to install the HP Latex 800W printer, back in January 2021. The printer offers a suite of features including the whitest white ink that does not yellow over time, enabling print businesses to produce neater outlines and add more contrast.

The HP Latex 800W can print at speeds of up to 36 m2/hr (388 ft2/hr) and delivers vivid colours and finer image details. It also operates using water-based inks delivered in HP Eco Cartons, made from cardboard material, reducing the amount of plastic used by 80%.

"HP Latex inks are water-based, which means they met the job criteria really well. The fact that the ink is also vegan fitted in perfectly with Dr. Martens' range of vegan boot products," Nathan said.

"Add in that the inks also deliver the sharp quality needed for short run POS and internal graphics, and are GOLD GUARD certified and free of VOCs, they proved to be the perfect solution.

"Dr. Martens loved the work and were really appreciative of our efforts. The company is leading by example in how the future of more sustainable retail should look."



Drytac SpotOn SynTac, printed on an HP Latex 800W printer, was used to produce exterior graphics for the front of the Dr. Martens store to cover up work during its refurbishment.

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# **PROJECT** News

# Turner Signs eye-catching wall graphic

Barnsley-based family-run sign-making business Turner Signs used Drytac Polar Street FX outdoor PVC-free aluminium print media, supplied by Signmaster Systems, to create a striking exterior wall graphic for new local Mexican restaurant ICO.

ICO recently opened its doors at a unique location in the city of Wakefield, with the restaurant being based underground in a former bank vault.

Having worked with Turner Signs on several print and signage projects for its other restaurants, ICO once again approached the sign-maker to help raise awareness of its new location and promote its food to the people of Wakefield.

ICO tasked Turner Signs with filling an unusual brick wall space with its Mexican-inspired artwork, but with the additional challenge for the installation to have an authentic Mexican style.

Turner Signs first considered printed aluminium composite board for the job, but after seeing Drytac Polar Street FX on the Drytac Instagram page, it quickly became clear that the Drytac media would be a much better fit for the appearance that ICO desired.



Turner Signs, a long-term user of Drytac products across a wide range of jobs, used its Mimaki CJV-150 to print the unique design onto Drytac Polar Street FX, before applying the graphic to the wall space.

"The customer was absolutely blown away with the final result," Turner Signs' Director Curt Turner said. "We have been working with Drytac media for about four years and know how flexible their products are for jobs like this."

Drytac Polar Street FX is a PVC-free, aluminium media suitable for outdoor floor and wall graphics, without the need for lamination. Boasting several slip-ratings, Polar Street FX has been specifically developed for rough ground or wall surfaces such as brick, concrete, asphalt, or any other low energy surfaces.

Coated on one side with a clear, high tack adhesive, Drytac Polar Street FX is compatible with latex, UV and eco solvent printing technology.

## **Antalis display boards for Ariana Grande**

Antalis supplied its fluted display board and DISPA® for the project in which environmental considerations were paramount.

The environmentally-friendly point of sale solutions were created by London-based print and point of sale specialist POSITIVE+ for Ariana Grande's ethical new fragrance, 'God is a Woman'.

With a constant focus on environmental considerations, POSITIVE+ measures, and aims to reduce, the environmental impact of its design, materials and processes, supply chain, delivery, logistics and end of life. Sourcing eco-friendly substrates for the point of sale solutions was an important factor in meeting the environmental goals of both POSITIVE+ and their client, Designer Parfums.

For the floor standing display units, POSITIVE+ selected sustainably sourced Displayflute E/B Flute corrugated board for the main unit, back panel and tester plinth. An E-flute corrugate was chosen for the tester on display tray, the base and plinth of the countertop unit. As well as being lightweight and strong, Displayflute corrugated boards are biodegradable and easy to recycle after use.

The 'free gift' and perfume bottle plaques on the tester display tray were made from DISPA, an environmentally-friendly alternative to foam boards.

POSITIVE+ had used these sustainable products from Antalis before and selected the materials with confidence in achieving the high-quality finish they were looking for.

POSITIVE+'s Chief Commercial and Sustainability Officer, Tony Dennington, commented: "A lot of our clients are now requesting sustainable solutions, such as cardboard engineering, as an alternative to acrylic fabrication. Antalis offer some great products to deliver sustainable design without compromising on the premium finish that our clients have come to expect."



Visual Communications Director at Antalis, Chris Green, comments: "Sustainability starts with good consultation at the design stage so we were delighted to be able to support POSITIVE+ and their client, Designer Parfums, in selecting display products that would align with their environmental goals and present the new Ariana Grande fragrance in the best possible way."

www.antalis.co.uk

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### Palight PVC Foam

Premium PVC Foam with a pristine white print surface.



### **Marpet-G PETg**

UK manufactured PETg for print and fabrication.

Over 80% of our materials are made in the UK!



# **PROJECT** News

# Novograf uses Soyang Bild Ceramic vinyl to produce duo of stylish applications

Glasgow-based graphics, signage, design, and install business Novograf recently used Soyang Bild Ceramic vinyl from Soyang Europe to complete a series of innovative and eye-catching printed surface projects.

Novograf offers a wide range of services but specialises in commercial fit-outs and surface solutions, working with customers across various markets to transform all kinds of environments through the power of print. As a long-term customer of Soyang Europe, Novograf has used a host of products from the supplier to complete surface-based applications over the past three years.

Two recent projects that have caught the eye were both printed on Soyang Bild vinyl. This clear multi-purpose material can be used for a wide variety of applications such as retail/POP, floor mats, countertop mats, pole wraps, trade show booths, anti-fatigue mats, temporary wall graphics and much more.

For the first project, Novograf produced graphics, custom surfaces and flooring applications for pet store chain Pets at Home, helping transform the look of their shops in locations across the UK. The ongoing relationship includes the supply of floor graphics which have innovative anti-slip features to ensure the safety of customers and staff alike.

These floor graphics are created in a range of sizes and supplied in sections to allow for easy installation in Pets at Home stores. Strong bonding adhesive ensures the graphics remain in place, while the hard-wearing quality of Soyang Bild means the graphics will withstand heavy footfall and retain their sharp printed quality.

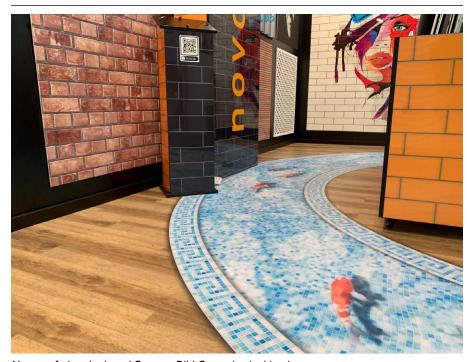
"We have a long-standing relationship with Pets at Home, working with them across all of their UK stores to produce everything from graphics and custom surface solutions to the flooring you see throughout the stores," said Ross Campbell, Digital Business Development Manager at Novograf.

The second project saw Novograf deploy Soyang Bild Ceramic vinyl to showcase its production capabilities at the Surface Design Show, with the aim of expanding its reach into the architect and designer market.

Novograf used the Soyang Europe product to create a custom wood and tile floor with a printed graphic – featuring mosaic



Novograf has produced graphics, custom surfaces and flooring applications for pet store chain Pets at Home, helping transform the look of their shops in locations across the UK.



Novograf also deployed Soyang Bild Ceramic vinyl to showcase its production capabilities at the Surface Design Show.

tiles and fish – giving the impression of a pool running through the floor. This was installed on its stand ready for the event in February and demonstrated the company's excellent attention to detail and the durability of the flooring.

"The way we were able to print on the floor to give depth of design and detail was a

showstopper for attendees," Ross said.
"The graphics were well received by every person who saw them."

Soyang Bild vinyl is available in 1.52m and 3.04m widths in both ceramic and woodgrain emboss.

www.soyang.co.uk

# MacroArt's stunning graphics prove there is such a thing as a Gruffalo!

Twycross Zoo's latest visitor attraction, The Gruffalo Discovery Land, has been brought to life with a stunning range of graphics and signs from leading large format print and installation experts MacroArt.

Collaborating with themed attraction specialists Richard Matthews Associates Ltd. (RMA), MacroArt helped deliver the graphical impact for Twycross Zoo's exciting new themed area. Covering four acres, The Gruffalo Discovery Land brings to life the much-loved characters from the bestselling children's book and aims to inspire children to consider the importance of conservation and the natural world around them.

The team at MacroArt spent more than 40 person-days creating and installing over 850 square metres of graphics for the attraction, working alongside Twycross Zoo's design team to make sure it was ready for the VIP opening event at the end of March.

Gary Baker – Senior Project Manager at MacroArt, oversaw the extensive project, from initially surveying the complex site, carpentry, flooring, and electrical work, to printing more than 80 separate dye sublimated fabrics and fitting them to almost 1.2 km of curved SWAL tracking. In addition, an array of ACM panels and bespoke circular lightboxes were installed around the site, further enhancing the visitor experience.



Due to the nature of different materials used across the site, MacroArt's dyesublimation, UV and bespoke departments worked across the project with the installation team bringing everything together on site.

Sustainability played a key role in the project which used a combination of PVC-free, recyclable materials and reusable panels wherever possible, with all waste materials returned to MacroArt for processing through its accredited waste recycling channels.

Twycross Zoo's graphic designer, Ben Watson, was impressed with the speed and effectiveness of the collaboration; "Bringing a display of this size and complexity to life in such a short time was a real challenge, and I was glad to have the professional team at MacroArt support us in achieving such an impressive result."

Nigel Knight, Managing Director of RMA, added; "We are delighted with The Gruffalo Discovery Land and MacroArt's graphics have played a large part in delivering the impact for this new adventure.

"It was incredibly rewarding to work so effectively with the teams from MacroArt and Twycross Zoo to deliver this project, on time, on spec and to such a high level of quality, especially given the challenging deadlines and very involved installation procedures."

Mike Hamling, MacroArt's Project Lead said; "The whole team at MacroArt provided a seamless delivery of this impressive operation. It was great to see so many of our departments working so well together to achieve a common goal."

The Gruffalo Discovery Land is now open at Twycross Zoo and welcoming visitors.

www.macroart.co.uk





# **PROJECT** News

## Barn find style wraps have arrived



Anyone who'd dedicate the time and effort required to seek out a specialist like Doncaster based Shy Tot Graphics, and engage them to design, develop and apply a wrap, is certain to be happy to be labelled 'an enthusiast.' Where you find one enthusiast, you'll find others of the same persuasion and on-line forums have provided a central point for the really committed to meet.

It'll come as no surprise to hear that Shy Tot's Andrew Atkinson is, himself, an enthusiast and that he's had some very desirable cars of his own. Among the most recent was a BMW M4. Anything from BMW's range wearing a capital 'M' has some serious intent behind its design but, despite that, Andrew recently traded up to a Toyota Yaris. It is, of course, a GR.

Andrew met another GR owner in a forum recently and the conversation veered toward personalising the already rare and highly individual car. Turning the GR into a WRC barn-find didn't just engage the car's owner. He wanted it.

### So began the design process.

Anyone who has wrapped anything will appreciate the deeper levels of complexity that underpin the design of Shy Tots' barn-find wraps. Simply digitising a dirty-looking painted surface and draping it over a car will not yield the result that Shy Tot achieves. For that reason, Shy Tot was set up to extend design services to wrapping companies for barn-finds and indeed other wrap graphics in addition to undertaking its own wrap work.

The design for the GR Yaris is based on a WRC car. To that extent, the graphics represent a perfect facsimile. Layered upon that though is the myriad effects that make the wrap a 'barn find.'

### Prepare for some detail...

For starters, the graphics seek to establish that the paint is white and weathering badly. So, a dulling effect makes it look as though the paint is oxidising. Oxidised paint picks up stains readily when water flows over it after some time and the water,

falling from the sky remember, finds its own route to the floor over the panels. As it does, it leaves 'signature stains.' These stains are perfectly interpreted, imposed on the design, and then printed and applied in Shy Tot's wrap.

Water flowing off a car washes all manner of detritus with it. On the GR, the cills appear to have let the physical matter accumulate and breed. So, what we have is a slimy deposit of green matter that you could wipe away with a finger - or rather you could if it wasn't print.

Graphical elements have taken a real pounding, at least that's how the wrap design contrives to make it look. The graphics represents another paint layer and it has been broken through in places, for example where stones would have sprayed off the front wheels. Rust scabs make an appearance where the virtual damage has found steel.

Rust adds a key design accent to the wraps and makes a big contribution to its authenticity. Strategically located and very faithful to the real-world modes of failure paint would cause, the panel edges in particular really look the part. So does the filler flap.

Crazing is another paint failure type you'd expect to find somewhere on a barn find and you won't look far to find some on the GR Yaris. It's all over the rear bumper and again, very authentically rendered give the plastic



Creating authentic 'signature stains' that immitates rust and oxidising paint, which picks up dirt and stains as water from rain finds it's natural route to the ground, is a challenge.



that's underneath it. It's this level of detail that elevates this wrap beyond the ordinary.

Speaking of tiny detail, this wrap has bought a guest along for a fast lap. It's a pulverised insect - don't know exactly what type of insect it is but most of the anatomy is there, albeit splattered over the virtual paint and crusting over very nicely.

Seen from a distance the barn-find wrap makes a big impression and the immediate thing that most observers want is a closer look. They're not disappointed. The closer you get the better Shy Tot's work looked. Everyone wants to touch it, too - is it real, or printed.

It's printed. On MetaCast MDC as it happens. MDC is Metamark's next generation premium cast wrapping film. It knows how to handle print detail and in expert hand it's capable of really great things. Together with its matching MGC (premium cast overlaminate) it's the total wrapper's package.

Shy Tot Graphics knows how to ask a bit more of a wrapping film and how to get it. It's results are nothing less than brilliant. Let's not forget design though. It's worth remembering that every tiny detail comprising a barn find design has a job to do and it need to be in precisely the right position after the film has landed.

If you fancy having a go at producing a barn find of your own but don't have the appetite to tackle the design - give Shy Tot a call. It's an art they've made their own.





# mercury phillips sign & DISPLAY SOLUTIONS

## 2022 Price List

2022	П	IIC	, <b>C</b>	<b>L</b>	ıΣι															
<b>ACRYL</b>	IC i	PERS	PEX	® Co	lours	add	10% i	for Go	old & :	Silver					£20	+ VAT	minim	um ch	arge +	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
<b>FOAM</b>	PV	C (A	II ava	iilabl	e coloi	ırs - 10	0mm	& 19	mm a	vailab	ole in v	vhite	only)		£20	+ VAT	minim	um ch	arge +	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 A	LU	MI	NII	UN	I CO	MC	PC	SI	TE	(Dibe	ond, A	Mupai	nel)		£20	+ VAT	minim	um ch	arge +	carriage
Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	1	600mm	700mm	800mm	1	
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 FI	INIS	SH	AL	.UI	<b>NIN</b>	IIU	M	(Com	es in i	ts raw	form r	eadv i	for co	atina)	£20	+ VAT	minim	um ch	arae +	carriage
Height	50mm	75mr			125mm	150mm	1			225mm					375mm	425mi			_	700mm
2mm	3.12	4.36	4.	.94	6.60	7.46	8.3	3 9	9.41	10.85	12.06	13.	25 1	14.65	18.19	21.58	30.	88	41.33	53.61
3mm	3.65	5.07	5.	.80	7.13	8.22	9.1	9 1	0.27	11.72	13.11	15.	11 1	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 1	1.61	13.53	15.58	17.	95 2	20.24	26.19	30.21	42.	00	58.21	81.62
<b>EXTERI</b>	OR	M	DF												£20	. VAT	minim	um ch	arao I	carriage
Height	50mm	75mr			125mm	150mm	n 175r	nm 20	00mm	225mm	250mi	m 275ı	mm 3(	00mm	375mm					700mm
6mm	0.55	1.05	-	.83	1.82	2.70	2.8		3.30	3.94	4.54	5.3		5.89	9.73	11.22			17.92	45.39
12mm	0.55	1.81	_	.12	2.95	4.24	4.8	_	5.69	6.40	7.63	9.5		10.48	12.17	14.47			19.70	59.80
18mm		2.57		.25	4.24	5.29	6.4		7.93	8.88	11.02	-		15.16	17.36	21.19			29.88	89.40
						1										1				

### MOULDED ACKYLIC LETTEKING

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

(Includes locators and paper template)

Add 20% for locators and paper template Add 30% for double sided tape Add 30% for 3mm letters Add 20% VAC

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# Vehicle Wrapping and Graphics

# The Case for Vehicle Graphics

Vehicle Graphics have been around for a long time and we wanted to take a closer look at what customers are really looking for now in terms of product quality, service, design and so on. According to Alex Liggett from The Vinyl Guys, "It is clear that over the last 3-4 years, looking at quote requests and orders, what customers really want has evolved quite a bit when it comes to vehicle graphics."

For the larger fleets, there has certainly been a general shift towards "less is more" with minimalist style branding rather than the full wraps and text heavy info panels that many of the bigger companies used to have. You can see this all around with the likes of BT, Cadent and British Gas.

## Social media has changed the landscape

Alex says that now many opt for their logo, website and social logos only. "This is a clear recognition that a large percentage of their potential audience will use socials as their search engine. This is where they will read reviews, contact the company, make purchases or just for general info. They will do this instead of looking for details from several sources or platforms as they did in the past."

He continues, "We always try to explain this to our vehicle graphics customers and emphasise the importance of maintaining consistent branding at all customer touch points, so that brand recognition and the ease with which new customers can discover them on social media

platforms can be improved. Spending time understanding our customers relationship and purchasing journey with their customers is key to advising them correctly on the best vehicle branding solutions because one thing that many of them do want from us (in addition to design, production and installation) is our advice, based on our experience and what we have seen work for previous customers."

However, when it comes to the bottom line; there are always those customers who will want a full wrap for the price of some cut vinyl lettering (thanks to eBay). "In general, my experience is that if we approach the process of quoting a customer in the right way, ie discovering their wants and needs, managing their expectations of the results that are achievable within their budget and informing them a little on materials and processes, then we can minimise the amount of quotes that aren't converted to orders. More importantly, we can find the "right" customers for our business who appreciate the time we put into their job, the materials we use and the processes involved," adds Alex.

### Finding the 'right' customers

He continues, "One major thing that has helped us with finding these "right customers" is using our social media pages to show work in progress, showcase our machinery and explain a little about materials and our processes. We do this so our customers can see the time, care and effort that goes into



The Vinyl Guys emphasise the importance of maintaining consistent branding





Logo, phone and social media, stylishly designed, is best for getting noticed

turning an idea into the finished product. This approach has also helped us win larger fleet contracts and trade work by giving potential customers confidence in the business as they are able to see the investments that we have made (and continue to make) in machinery, staff and training. It also demonstrates that we are thinking long term, which gives them confidence that we will be here to support them and their fleet for many years to come, which I believe is a vital consideration for many customers."

Most of The Vinyl Guys' vehicle graphics customers are fleets of 1-6 vans, "The key question from them these days tends to be around quality, longevity and end of lease removability rather than price. I like to think that because we do what I talk about above (on social media) anyone looking for that "eBay special £90 van graphics package" will look through our content and realise, that's not really what we do. Businesses who care about their branding, want a well thought-out design, quality materials and for them to look fresh for years.....and they understand having a job completed that ticks all of these boxes, comes with a premium over the ebay 'quickie' suppliers."



The best job is the one where you deliver exactly what your customer wants.

# Wraps and decals - how have these markets developed?

Alex explains, "We have done fewer full wraps on commercial vehicles over the last 12/18 months than we ever have. On the face of it, many would say that this is purely down to cost, pandemic related economic issues and general cost of living increases, but I think the reason is deeper than that. The trend towards more minimal "branding" rather than "wrapping" happened before the pandemic."

Alex believes that commercial vehicle owners have come to realise that potential customers could be overwhelmed by images, lists, contact info and the like over every panel of the van and this has led to a shift in attitude. This is very likely as on average you get to see a passing van for 3-6 seconds before it's gone. If that van is full of complex text lists and multiple images, the eye doesn't get chance to focus on everything so may end up not noticing anything.

"The best job is the one where you deliver exactly what your customer wants. Some will be guided by our advice and some will be more certain about what they want. The same solution doesn't work for all businesses but speaking in general terms, I find that a combination of printed work, cut vinyl lettering, and if a customer is looking for a little more impact, then partial wraps or large logos, works well," he says.

"Going back to a point I made earlier; if we spend some time to really discover what our customers want to achieve then we can ensure that we deliver the best solution we can using the appropriate materials."

# How important is sustainability in this market - and what form does it take?

"For the larger fleet managers, this is a question that is being asked more and more, but I still don't think it is high up on the list of priorities for our average day to day vehicle graphics customers. There is still a feeling from end users and print business owners, in my opinion, that a

sustainable solution will be a much more expensive solution," explains Alex.

"Things will no doubt change in the next 6-12 months as the material manufacturers develop their offerings to be "greener" and maybe even get to a truly recyclable product. Once these materials become priced similarly to current materials OR there are incentives for fleets to specify more eco-friendly materials, then I think the demand will increase.

tried to look at our customers' needs and plan our product range around them. When they come to us for their van graphics, they can leave with their van branded, service / contact stickers, site boards, banners and workwear all done to a high standard. They also have had the opportunity to have a look around our premises as their vehicle is being worked on, which means they get the chance to ask us about other projects we can do, such as including custom wall and floor graphics, door wraps, signage, business cards, magnetic vehicle panels and anything else they've been thinking about."

"The main strength of the business is my amazing team. Chris, Carl and Tom really care about the work they put out and take pride in what they do every day. We are available and responsive to messages, calls, texts and social media comments and messages. We try to make it easy for our customers to order and re order, whilst still receiving a personal service. I want our customers to feel like we care about their business and think about how they can use our products to grow their customer base and improve their brand recognition."



I want our customers to feel like we care about their business and think about how they can use our products to grow their customer base and improve their brand recognition.

# What do the Vinyl Guys specialise in and what are your main strengths?

"The core of our business is vehicle branding and a range of products that go hand in hand with that. I have always Alex Liggett concludes, "We do more than sell print, we offer branding solutions designed to support our customers in reaching their business goals."

www.thevinylguys.co.uk



# Vehicle Wrapping and Graphics

# Raring to go: The growing popularity of car wrapping

Car-wrapping has gone from being an underground niche to a well-used technique to spruce up a vehicle without the long-term commitment. Until the late 2000s, car-wrapping was associated with commercial use, the sole purpose being to advertise. But then, around 2008 to 2011, there was boom of colour change wraps for personal use, first across Europe and then in the USA. While paint jobs have been the staple, traditional method of decorating cars, the past few years have seen a huge growth in car-wrapping.

Stripes & Graphics, based in Shropshire (UK), is one such company that has seen a new influx of customers from other industries look towards car wrapping over the past few years after 30 years in the business. In 2020, the company invested in the Mimaki CJV150 printer/cutter to bring the printing process in house. In addition to creating and fitting high-quality, customer vehicle graphics, Stripes & Graphics also handles all the branding and signage across the dealerships.

This wrapping technique is not just resigned to advertising or customising, with PPF (paint protection film), a clear film which protects from chipping and scratches, seeing a surge of popularity in the past few years. For Stripes & Graphics fitting the paint protection film has become a key part of their offering for high-end vehicles to ensure they stay looking as good as when they left the showroom.

Both paint and car wrapping techniques have their pros and cons, and it's undeniable that there needs to be a



While paint jobs have been the staple, traditional method of decorating cars, the past few years have seen a huge growth in car-wrapping.

good paint base to wrap. However. wrapping, with the release of new technologies, materials, and tools, opens almost unlimited possibilities. Duncan Jefferies, Head of Marketing & Business Development at Hybrid Services Ltd. Mimaki's exclusive distributor for UK and Ireland, says, "Printers like Mimaki's CJV150-160Plus and UCJV300 Series can quickly produce an infinite number of vibrant designs on film in a wide range of colours and then, seamlessly, laminate them for longevity - and it's all done so cost-effectively."

These days there are an array of different inks on offer as well, when initially solvent was the only go-to option. UV inks originally cracked in recessed areas, but new developments have meant that

they now can withstand over stretching and extreme recessed areas, without sacrificing consistent colour. UV inks can instantly dry, allowing for a quick turnaround time from printing to laminating without the need for gassing time. Unlike solvent inks, UV creates a slight texture on the film, which can be removed if desired.

Duncan adds, "Certainly, for a big fleet or for when the job needs to be done swiftly, UV or latex are stand-out picks. But for extreme 3D shapes, i.e., bumpers, mirrors, and other recessed areas, are often better served by eco-solvent or Mimaki's LUS200 inks."

There are also a lot of options to choose from when it comes to film, the main three being cast, poly and mono. Cast has remained the most popular choice for car-wrapping, renowned for a highquality finish, but polymer has become more common, with its more conformable qualities.

Duncan Jefferies concludes, "The carwrapping industry seemed to be on the verge of exploding back in January 2020, and that growth has only been amplified over the course of the pandemic. Namely the practical benefits of car-wrapping, primarily the protective layer it creates its popularity. While it requires a lot of physical skill, this changing and rapidly growing industry certainly makes for an exciting venture for those in the Sign

around the car, have also helped boosted Graphics market or considering it."

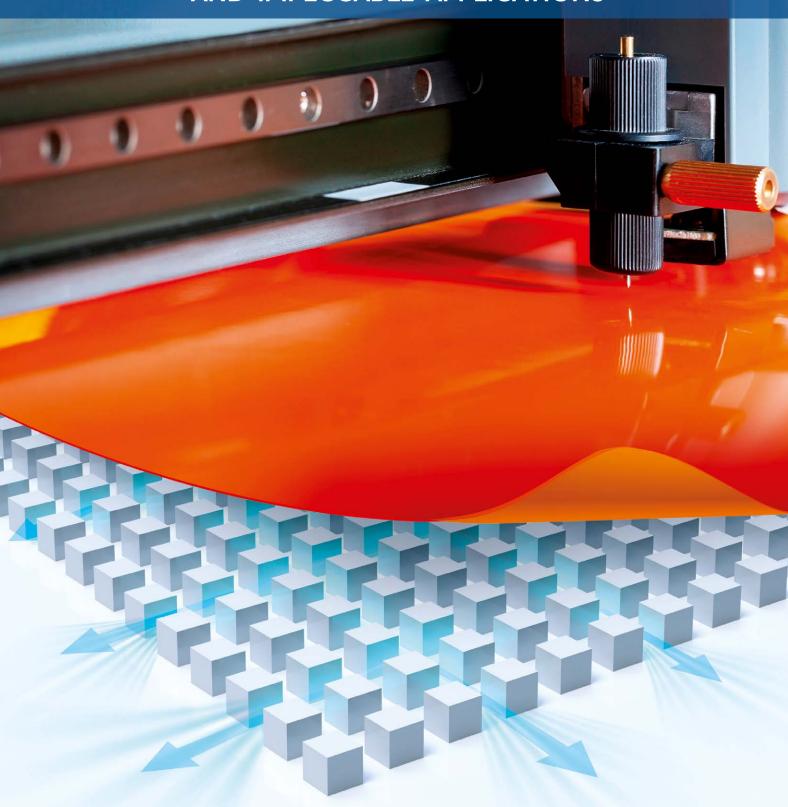


Stripes' & Graphics' Sean Beeston and Robbie Beeston next to a wrapped client vehicle.

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# Vehicle Wrapping and Graphics

# **Driving to the future**

Vehicle graphics is not the most natural direction for sign and print companies to move into. It is viewed, quite rightly, as a specialist skill, requiring the right equipment and people. We spoke to one sign-maker that has embraced vehicle graphics very successfully.

Seymour Sign & Print is a father & son company, owned and operated by father Paul, and son, David Hammond. The Hammond name has roots in the design and print industry spanning over 45 years. Following the sale of Paul's brother Bob's company and his subsequent retirement, David was at a crossroads after leaving the Royal Navy. The timing was right, David

and Paul purchased the wide format print equipment from Uncle Bob, and established Seymour Sign & Print in November 2010.

David says, "We've always enjoyed producing vehicle graphics, and it has formed a large proportion of our sales for many years. During the pandemic, national and local lockdowns, we looked at our business and made the decision to scale back. We sold one van, our small format print machinery and halved our workshop size."

Paul Hammond adds, "David has taken the lead in driving the business forward, particularly by introducing Clarity workflow software, and introducing new, efficient processes behind the business. I'd be lying if I said I didn't have my concerns about his plan to reduce our in-house production and I wouldn't say the transition has been easy. It's taken time and there have been moments where we've questioned the decision. However, in all



Seymour Sign & Print is a father & son company, owned and operated by father Paul, and son, David Hammond

honesty, we haven't looked back and all the evidence seems to suggest we're very much on the right track."

David explains, "It sounds counterintuitive, but crunching the numbers it was evident we were over equipped. We were trying to do be all thing to all men and this was stretching us. With the ease of outsourcing, and the competitive prices available it made sense to outsource some aspects of our production."

"We all enjoyed producing vehicle graphics, so we concentrated on vehicle signage, specifically commercial vehicle signage, including partial wraps. We invested in upgrading our printer with a new Roland VF2-640. This printer's orange and green inks allow us to print vibrant colours previously unachievable, and complementing our Graphtec FC8600-160. We did consider a Latex, but the outgassing times with solvent machines rarely cause us an issue."

#### How do you do it?

David was getting some interesting looks and a few friends in the industry were asking how he can make it work concentrating on vehicles? He found this was easy to answer. "Our target market is concentrated on certain types of customers and types of vehicle signage. It takes an awful lot of budget signs to pay the bills and wages. However, we also don't undertake full wraps, or car wraps. We could do them but we don't enjoy them and we find it a time consuming process that takes us away from servicing our customers' needs."

"Over the past 11 years, we've encountered issues, and problems. We have learned from these mistakes and developed a process that works for us, which minimises the chances of the issues recurring. This step-by-step process is explained very early on to customers, so we're all aware of what to expect. It's a streamlined process that is repeated with each customer."

"We no longer provide free designs, or artwork. Again, I was told people won't pay it, but we rarely encounter issues. As a result, our time is spent dealing with serious paying customers. We're able to deliver a high level of service to these genuine customers, rather than throwing out prospective designs in the hope of winning them, or seeing the design being ripped off by the numerous online supply-only suppliers."







"We've always enjoyed producing vehicle graphics, and it has formed a large proportion of our sales for many years, so we concentrated on vehicle signage, specifically commercial vehicle signage, including partial wraps."

#### Staying on top of costs

David continues, "By having a good understanding of our costs (especially important with the regular increases) we're able to provide accurate price ranges for various sizes and styles vehicle signage. We know the lower value end of the market isn't sustainable for us. We've identified the market we work in, and we're not afraid to decline work from some customers if it doesn't fit our model. I feel there is no shortage of companies filling the budget market, and we know what pays the bills. Using Clarity Software to manage our business we're able to price consistently and accurately quote for work. We can also keep records of materials and colours used and organise historical artwork, which makes accident repair work much easier."

"The other benefits we've found by concentrating on a smaller market is the reduction in the stock we carry! We carry a core choice of Metamark coloured vinyl, ordering in specific colours as required, and their MD5 digital media and laminate, which is suitable for 95% of our work. To a lesser extent we still print banners, posters, labels, but have reduced the stock we carry dramatically. In addition, we're not chasing around conducting surveys or meeting off site. Most vehicles are brought to our workshop for installation, ensuring we can be more responsive our customers."

It seems to be working! Seymour has gained many new customers, small fleets and even local authority work. "We even have local signmakers referring enquiries to us, as they don't have the facilities to accommodate vehicles, or are concentrating on other markets," he adds.

"Unless you've been living in a cave, you can't fail to notice that costs of everything have increased. Commercial vehicles are no exception. compounded by the 'chip' shortage, and huge delays on commercial vehicles. This was exacerbated further being Manchester based and the 'clean air zone' that was

"Thanks to Seymour Sign and Print for such an amazing job on my cherry picker. From start to finish the process was straight forward, nice and easy. The van was booked in and dropped off, then I picked up a fully signed up van!!!...nice and simple, can't recommend them enough for such a cracking job, well pleased with the end result thanks to Dave and Paul"



This customer bought a brand new boxer van and converted it to a camper at significant expense. They brought it to Seymour for the graphics, looking for something different and unique

"Dave and Paul just completed the graphics/decals on my new Peugeot Boxer campervan. What a difference - it looks absolutely amazing. They helped with the design and were incredibly patient when my wife kept tweaking the design."

due to be rolled out. Customers found themselves investing significant and somewhat inflated amounts of money on new vehicles, with every intention of keeping them running for as long as possible. We noticed that many customers were then looking to invest in higher quality signage. After all - you don't wear Primark shoes with a designer dress."

David Hammond concludes, "I encourage all small sign companies to find their niche, especially if you enjoy something in particular and are really good at it. There are companies thriving who just produce stickers, this is something that wouldn't be for us. Others are branding office spaces to high standards and so marketing is an important part of their success. We have certainly been successful by making big decisions and seeing them through. We have been fortunate to have several trusted friends within the industry who we could call upon for advice and run ideas past. They probably don't realise it but they've been invaluable."

www.seymoursignandprint.co.uk



# Vehicle Wrapping and Graphics

# Vehicle variety

One of the elements that makes vehicle wrapping such a popular market is the huge variety of work on offer. No job is the same, with printers and sign-makers constantly being challenged by customers to create eye-catching, high-quality wraps.

The explosion in popularity of vehicle wraps has led to an influx of companies into the market, with competition for work now at an all-time high. As such, it is critical for printers and sign-makers to differentiate their service to ensure they stand out.

Isabella Jelinek, Large Format Printing Marketing UK&I for HP, says, "One highly effective way of standing out is to ensure you are running high-quality print machinery that will allow you to achieve the best quality printed results. Vehicle wraps are subject to much harsher conditions that many other print applications, so it is important the print performs well in challenging environments and stands the test of time. HP Latex printers allow users to achieve all this, while at the same time delivering significantly more sustainable printed output than many other technologies."

Sustainability has become a core consideration across all areas of the print market with customers demanding more eco-conscious work. "All HP Latex printers run water-based inks, which have a much lower impact on the world around us than solvent, eco-solvent and UV inks, thus significantly improving environmental credentials. HP Latex technology also

delivers striking vehicle graphics that will stand up against the elements and retain their highquality look even years after application," adds Jelinek.

One company that can attest to this is Manchester-based graphics and fabric printing specialist MediaCo, which counts vehicle wraps among its wide range of services. MediaCo has a long-standing commitment to the environment and since 2008, has reduced 100% solvent ink use to just 5%, while UK inks account for 50% of usage and water-based 45%.

The use of water-based inks has rocketed in the last two years following investment in two HP Latex 3600 printers from Papergraphics, alongside a HP Stitch S1000 printer from RA Smart.

"The two Latex printers we feel offer excellent sustainability benefits as both machines run on water-based inks which have a significantly lower impact on the environment compared with other ink types," says MediaCo Group Operations Director Stephen Arthur.

"The HP Latex 3600 printers are also very competitive when it comes to initial capital investment on ongoing running costs. All machines are fully integrated within our busy 24hr production operation producing top class display graphics for self-adhesive vehicle wraps, full colour digital wallpapers, window graphics, full



HP Latex technology delivers striking vehicle graphics that will stand up against the elements

colour fabrics and an array of high-quality display collateral.

"The HP Latex machines have been put to work on some astounding projects. We took a strategic decision to add HP water-based printers to our production capabilities, which now totals three machines – a trend we see continuing as the print quality and reliability of the machines is excellent and they align perfectly with our sustainability strategy."

Among the many vehicle wrapping projects produced on its HP Latex 3600 printers was a new design for VR Motorsport. The wrapped Praga R1 racing car featured a design commissioned by Motorsport Woman to call attention to female drivers.

Dubbed the 'art car', the wrap was based on a 2D piece by artist Cain Caser that was transformed into a 3D wrap by MediaCo. The uniformity of finish and colour were important to replicate the artist's original painting, in particular the intricate brushwork.

As it was not possible to scan the painting, MediaCo's graphic artists worked from hundreds of photographs to render the image, with the whole project completed in just one week.

"HP Latex inks don't affect the surface of the material you're printing on, so if you're using glossy film for a vehicle wrap then it will stay glossy," said Vincent Randall, a former sidecar racer who launched VR Motorsport 12 years ago. "The inks are also very flexible, which is essential for wrapping cars like the Praga R1 which has a distinctive contoured chassis."

www.hp.co.uk



This wrap was based on a 2D piece by artist Cain Caser that was transformed into a 3D wrap by MediaCo.







# Vehicle Wrapping and Graphics

# Origins of vehicle wrapping

No definitive history records in terms that could be solidly verified who among the signs and graphics industry's practitioners produced the first wrap. Where and when it happened is then a similarly vague concept. What can be said with absolute certainty though is that, whoever first coerced what would have been an uncooperative piece of material over a complex, curved surface, really started something.

Today, wrapping is a market with its own skills, language and dynamics. Sometimes referred to as 'a sign-maker's Everest,' wrapping isn't something that can be learned wholly from immersion in a book or by binging on YouTube content. The skill is more usually acquired from someone who has already summited, and typically learned by those who have the hands for it. Make no mistake, it's a skill and not everyone can claim it.

Materials manufacturers saw the potential latent in wrapping very soon after its Genesis. Great effort and mind-boggling expense was then directed into development efforts to make vinyl films, and the emerging digital media, compliant with the wrapping process. It required not just materials that were more 'stretchy' or elongation-tolerant, it demanded much of the adhesive systems used and improved liner species too. The rewards were hanging tantalisingly in the mid-distance. If wrapping could displace much of what might be called traditional applied graphics on vehicles, each vehicle could consume five or six times more film. That was good for business.

Today, most vinyl manufacturers offer films expressly designed for wrapping applications. Among them, headquartered in the UK together with its manufacturing HQ is Metamark. Metamark is firmly in the vanguard and can claim that it makes, and has on its shelves, every material a modern signs and graphics producer needs to undertake profitably, any job that comes their way. Wraps come thick and fast and so Metamark's portfolio includes materials for the purpose.

Metamark is its own man where development is concerned and it has launched a number of products over the years that have wrapping in their sights. Among them was MetaWrap MD-X which, according to Ian Simister, the company's sales director, "helps make wrapping more profitable for the signmaker, and more attractive for their customer." He adds. "MD-X, like anything with 'MD'



in its nomenclature that Metamark manufactures, can claim to be at the very top of its game in terms of print quality. All MD-Class films deliver quite exceptional results with all the modern ink species."

More recently, Metamark introduced MetaCast MDC. "This film is the very essence of 'premium' though very competitively priced. It's what many signs and graphics producers reach for, or are required to use by their customers, when the application demands the qualities of a premium cast formulation and exceptional print quality," says lan.

Naturally, MDC, and all Metamark materials for wrapping applications, have so-called mechanically-matched laminates available for them. In being identically formulated, the laminates don't materially alter the feel and characteristic 'handle' that's baked into the films they protect during manufacture. That important when you see the world through the eyes of those who have to work handson with a specified material.

"Metamark's materials MD-Class print qualities have another trick to offer the signs and graphics producer routinely producing vehicle wraps. It's this. The MD-Class print qualities the materials all claim mean that, in the hands of capable printers, results achieve a uniform quality across Metamark material types. In practical terms that translates to the ability to use, for example, Metamark MD5 on relatively simple or flat surfaces, and MD-X or MDC on the really curvy stuff. That saves money," he adds.

Wrapping is an application with a very broad base of appeal and some surprisingly novel value. Wraps strongly promote what's printed upon them on the one hand, and on the other, they promote wrapping itself. Countless sign-makers recount experiences of new customers asking for "a wrap like such-and-such." With an alleged six thousand pairs of eyes and hour alighting upon liveried vehicles when they're on the road, that's quite an advertising campaign for wrapping.

Wrapping is popular to the extent the term seems to be creeping up on other applications too. 'Window Wraps' are fast becoming a 'thing' for example and no doubt other areas of the man-made landscape will soon be 'wrapped' rather than 'lettered' or, (RIP) 'graphic'd.'

Wraps today are specified in the main for their promotional potential and by those seeking the ultimate stand-out impact for example on a custom car. All sorts of niches and specialisations have erupted around the core application according to Metamark's Max Somper who heads material development and commercialisation for the company. "Signs and graphics producers are endlessly creative and inventive." he says. "Much of what's becoming or has become fashionable around the core of wrapping is down to signmakers pushing the envelope. We're all ears when that happens, it's how we ensure that the materials we develop and sell reflect a market need."

#### **Changing Colours!**

One such material species that's grown around an application is the Colour-Change film. In Metamark's terms that's not a film that itself changes colour and changing fashion that puts it out of business almost as fast, but rather a coloured film that can change the base colour of a whole vehicle. There is huge and proven potential for a film that makes that job easy, and affordable, and that's just what Metamark claims to offer.

MM-CC films from Metamark are wrapping films that enjoy the benefits of the same DNA that gave the world MD-X, but in a coloured-in-the-mass variant. Using these films, wrappers can take a white van in, and send a blue one out into the wild shortly after. At the end of the van's life or lease, the film comes off to reveal a pristine white vehicle once more. It works wonders for eye-appeal on the road, and fleet managers love what it does for residuals and cost-of-operation.

Protecting the underlaying finish represents a whole area of enquiry that Metamark has explored and the effort culminated in the release of a range of specialist Metamark paint protection films. These films shrug off the otherwise damaging effects of the perpetual bombardment of abrasive and highimpact road debris that vehicles have to sail through. They don't handle like vinyl, because they're not vinyl. Despite that, there's a business in the making for skilled wrappers who'd like to move into the growing market for paint protection, building on skills they've already developed. Many Metamark customers are already alert to the fact that some of the films on offer can be uses to offer extreme protection to vulnerable areas of wraps.

#### Sustainable view

With a huge market like wrapping at the industry's disposal, and the continual consumption exerted upon it by customer demand, it was only a matter of time before the question was asked "what happens to all that film when it's taken out of use?" Finding an answer to the question is something that's exercised the whole industry, and Metamark has developed, and very recently launched, what it feels is the answer.

lain Wallace, who's responsible for the programme and its ongoing commercialisation explains, "You're likely to hear a lot about something called MetaStream now and into the future. It's MetaMark's vision personified for

dealing with production and recovery waste that results from making signs and graphics and, in particular, vehicle liveries. What's got everyone excited is that MetaStream doesn't rely on some otherworldly and unproven material species to do the good job we'll go on to describe, it works with the long proven Metamark materials the industry works with."

MetaStream takes as its input production waste, like liner and vinyl weed, or printed and laminated graphics recovered from vehicle fleets. Its outputs are luxury paper goods made from liner elements, and useful plastic articles like road-furniture all of which can themselves be recycled time and again. Metamark itself uses MetaStream to deal with its own production waste from making the materials. It's a key driver in Metamark's Z2L (Zero To Landfill) initiative.



MetaStream from Metamark recovers production and end-of-life waste from wrapping and recycles it.

The programme is currently available to volume converters wrapping large fleets and this has resulted in leading logistics concerns among others specifying Metamark materials for their fleets. Metamark is trialling the programme with smaller concerns now with the goal of making the programme very widely available. Metamark was keen to point out that the programme only works with qualified materials from its product range but makes the point that it's already keeping what's suddenly become a valuable resource out of landfill and incineration waste streams.

The next announcement due on the MetaStream front is a fully qualified Material System for wrapping trains that's both fully recyclable and that shrugs off graffiti. The material has already been seen in public and was used by Milton Keynes based Charles Rayner to wrap a Hydrogen Powered train that played a starring role at the COP26 Conference in Glasgow.

lan Simister concludes, "Wrapping, as an art, has come a very long way and with innovation led by market influences Metamark is convinced it has a very long, sustainable, and bright future ahead of it yet. Those considering whether they should enter the market will have already noted that it's something market is asking for and the appetite is growing. There's a lot of support out there and Metamark isn't shy in offering it."

www.metamark.co.uk



Metamark has a product catalogue full of wrapping films



# BLOG: Neschen PP wall-grip L-UV

# Make a more sustainable impact with wall coverings

Though increasing in popularity at a rapid rate, when it comes to producing printed wallcovering applications, print service providers are faced with a wide range of challenges that they must overcome in order to deliver high-quality work to customers.

The primary challenge for many printers is ensuring they are working with the right media for the installation surface. In many cases, installers have to deal with several types of surfaces within a single project, such as a retail chain fit out where the same designs are installed across multiple stores.

When combined with the fact that many end-users, brand owners, and government departments are now demanding more sustainable work from their print service provider, you have something of a wallcovering headache. That being the need for a high-quality finished product that will remain on the wall for the desired period and have a limited impact on the environment.

So, what sort of qualities should you be looking for in your media? After all, not all films are suited for surfaces like structured walls, concrete, chipboard, low surface energy plastics, or painted walls.

For certainty regarding the adhesion of wall films, Neschen recommends a shrink-free print film with a high-tack adhesive. Applying printed work to certain surfaces can be a rather tricky business, so it is critical you select a media that guarantees high levels of adhesion, even in challenging outdoor settings.

Swinging back around to one of the toughest challenges printers face in the modern market and the issue of the environment arises. Traditionally, materials widely regarded as being harmful to both the environment and human health have been used for wall coverings.

So, how can you ensure you are working with a media that is more environmentally friendly than the status quo? There are some key factors to keep an eye out for, such as products that are PVC-free, phthalate-free, solvent-free, and can be cleanly incinerated at end of life.

This also goes for the adhesive; often this can be a harmful substance, whereas we are now seeing more solutions coming to market with a water-based adhesive, offering users a much more eco-conscious alternative.

One option that ticks all these boxes is Neschen's new PP wall-grip L-UV PVCfree version, which is billed as a more environmentally friendly alternative for wallcovering applications.

Distributed exclusively in the UK by ArtSystems, a specialist systems distributor and service provider, Neschen PP wall-grip L-UV uses a heavy coat weight, enhanced, high-tack, water-based adhesive. It is one of only a few PVC-free, self-adhesive wall graphics products available on the market. It is also suitable for use both indoors and outside and

offers excellent adhesion to smooth and slightly rough interior walls, smooth and dry concrete, chipboard and other difficult low-energy surfaces like polypropylene containers.

Available in smooth and sand finishes, Neschen PP wall-grip L-UV is a fast drying and tear-resistant film, which significantly reduces the risk of splitting during the application and removal processes.

All of these factors make Neschen PP wall-grip L-UV an ideal solution for all manner of wallcovering jobs including wall décor coverings, exhibition stands, and large-format display applications, and its incredible print quality opens up its use for eye-catching advertising and store designs.

www.artsystems.co.uk





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# **SIGN** News

# Training Academy expansion at William Smith

William Smith's Training Academy is going from strength to strength with the appointment of two additional Trainers this month. Joining the legendary Training & Applications Manager Gill Harrison, we are pleased to announce John Raine and Mike Szwacki will join the team as Training Managers.

John joins the team with 8 years experience within the business and a wealth of product knowledge and practical skills. John will initially look after the majority of the Architextural training portfolio, which covers both 3M DI-NOC and Cover Styl' architectural finishes application techniques.

Mike Szwacki, who has been working with William Smith for a number of years, cements his commitment to growing the success of the Academy. His appointment signifies a new chapter in the successful relationship, as a leading expert within the vehicle wrapping industry. Mike has a glowing reputation with the vehicle wrap world, as a finalist in the prestigious World Wrap Masters after winning the European Wrap Master 2022 at this year's FESPA.

The development and growth of the Academy is also underpinned by the launch of two new courses for 2022, an

Advanced Vehicle Wrap Course and an Architextural Kitchen Wrap Training Course

Demand for a higher level of vehicle wrap training to complement the longstanding Basic Course has grown over the last few years, bringing about the development of the new Advanced Vehicle Wrap Course and a Wrap Room upgrade. This 2-day training option will offer experienced vehicle wrappers a course designed specifically to take their wrapping skills to the next level.

The course jumps straight into advanced vehicle wrap techniques, focusing on door shuts, wing mirrors, door handles and the most difficult wheel arches on the roads right now. Courses are limited to four attendees to ensure each delegate has the time and one-to-one tuition needed to not only learn, but perfect applications. Additional content includes tight corners, trimming techniques, avoiding stretch discolouration and inlays, using a range of branded digital, reflective, coloured and chrome wrap films, from 3M, Avery Dennison and Arlon.

The new Architextural Kitchen Training Course has been added to the 2022 training calendar in response to the



kitchen refurbishment market that flourished over the last two years, especially during lockdown. With a large proportion of the Architextural Installation Network specialising in kitchen wraps, a course dedicated to the intricacies of these specific applications will be beneficial to both new businesses looking to diversify into this market and those wanting to refresh their skills.

The course begins with a morning theory session before moving to the Wrap Room for hands-on practical training using 3M DI-NOC and Cover Styl' kitchen wrap films. Topic areas include preparation, cut and fold / warm and form techniques, worktop joins, a variety of door styles, worktop appliances, repairs and splice joins.

www.williamsmith.co.uk/training/1

# Innotech's Eco Impact Rating Tool

Innotech Digital & Display has created an Eco Impact Rating Tool designed to give printed display producers and users a straightforward and accurate way to evaluate and compare any print material's overall environmental impact. The tool is available online and is very easy to use. Simply enter the information requested about your proposed media and instantly receive a rating from A to E that tells you exactly how sustainable that product is.

The tool uses five key areas of the media that contribute to its carbon footprint. These are production, transportation, how long it can be used for, recyclability and packaging. The information requested is non-sensitive and can be obtained from the supplier. The rating generated comes

with a detailed description of what the rating means.

Kieran Dallow, Marketing Manager for Innotech Digital, says, "Our industry has seen a really fast transition to sustainable materials, and for many printers and consumers there has been a steep learning curve. There are some bold



statements made by suppliers and we wanted to give printers the chance to make more accurate decisions based on pure facts. Our Eco Impact Tool can be used by anyone with access to the relevant information, generating a consistent rating that compares media products on a like-for-like basis."

He adds, "We think the launch of this tool is a big moment in the transition to sustainable print materials. It makes a complex job of picking the right material a simple one."

The Innotech Eco Impact Rating Tool is available free to all users.

innotechdigital.com/eco-impact-rating-tool

# Over 4,500 attend the Unmissable Reunion

After more than two years away, Printwear & Promotion LIVE! returned to the NEC in Birmingham with yet another successful exhibition for both visitors and exhibitors.

More than 4,500 visitors attended the exhibition across the three days to receive inspiration and advice, with many commenting on social media that they can't wait to get back to the day job to put their fresh ideas into action.

Regular visitor, Shinda Gill of Alpha Omega Apparel said: "We come every year to see what's new in the garment decoration market. There's always plenty of variety and we just love visiting year on year. This year's show in particular met our needs as we launch a new clothing brand and we will definitely be coming back!"



P&P LIVE! offered visitors in a post-COVID world the opportunity to meet with their suppliers and discover new ones, see live demonstrations of new-to-the-market embroidery machines and direct to film printers, plus receive expert advice from industry professionals.

There was a real buzz on the exhibition floor with both visitors and exhibitors delighted to be back together at the UK's only dedicated exhibition for the garment decoration industry.

First time exhibitor, Alex Cunliffe of Inkthreadable said: "Printwear & Promotion LIVE! 2022 was our first exhibition as a company and was a huge success for us. We met some great people and companies during the event and have





a list of promising business opportunities as a result. We received a lot of support and wisdom from other experienced exhibitors which we're grateful for and share a huge thanks to all of the visitors that came to speak with us."

Tony Gardner, event director, commented: "The consensus from all in attendance was that it was so good to be back at the show, to be able to touch, see and interact in person! For our first exhibition after COVID it was always going to be difficult to predict the effect on visitor numbers and although down on previous years, the overwhelming feedback from our exhibitors was that the visitors were there with intention and purpose.

"As organisers, we can sometimes become too focused on visitor numbers, so it was good to have so much positivity from our exhibitors on the quality of visitors, the business conducted and the opportunities created at the show. We would like to thank all who attended for making the show such a success and look forward to getting the industry back together again in February 2023."

Printwear & Promotion LIVE! will return in 2023 to Hall 20 at the NEC in Birmingham from Sunday, February 26 to Tuesday, February 28 – see you next year!

# Eurobond announces prize draw winner

Eurobond Adhesives' lucky prize draw winner Leigh Smith took to the skies last Friday for an exhilarating first ever flying lesson. Leigh, a Director of Leicester based manufacturer of bespoke point of sale units SOLSTAR, was the winner of the Eurobond grand prize draw at the recent Sign & Digital exhibition. Leigh taking controls of a Piper PA28-R light aircraft, under the supervision of Donair Flying School, took off from East Midlands Airport last Friday.

"Flying a plane around the beautiful Leicestershire countryside was an absolutely amazing experience" said Leigh. "The weather was fabulous and



Leigh Smith - Lucky prize draw winner

the views of the countryside around my home and our factory were stunning from the air. It gave me a whole new perspective of where we live and work, which you can't fully appreciate from the

After a safe touch down Leigh was met by Eurobond's Andy Sabine ready with a bottle of Champagne to celebrate his achievement. Leigh said "I may have just found a new hobby and I might be tempted to continue flying and gain my private pilot's licence. Thank You Eurobond Adhesives for an amazing experience."

www.eurobond-adhesives.co.uk



# **SIGN** News

# The Signs Express Sign Awards a great success

In March, Signs Express hosted their annual Sign Awards at The Genting hotel in Birmingham.

Following a day at Sign & Digital UK, members of the Signs Express network, valued suppliers and the team at the Franchise Support Centre attended a gala dinner and awards ceremony.

Hosted by Managing Director Jonathan Bean, the evening was the first opportunity in over two years that Signs Express have been able to host the event in person.



The Signs Express winners of the 2021 Sign Awards

The winners of the 2021 Sign Awards, voted for by the Signs Express network, were as follows:

- **Best Interior Sign** Signs Express (Glasgow) for The Hanging Gantry
- Best Exterior Sign Signs Express (Harlow) for Plush
- Best Vehicle Graphics Signs Express (Leeds) for Rock of Ages
- Best Sign Project (sponsored by SignElite) Signs Express (Stoke)
- Most Striking Design (sponsored by Metamark) – Signs Express (Glasgow) for Coldplay Music of the Spheres Tour

Also announced on the night was the winner of the Employee of the Year category, which was awarded to Paul Morris at Signs Express (Central Lancashire).

Supplier of the Year was awarded to Metamark for the fifth consecutive year.

The coveted Franchise Awards were also announced on the night with the top

award Franchisee of the Year, sponsored by HSBC UK, being awarded to Paul Glover at Signs Express (Nottingham). Paul has made a big difference to the business since 2018, bringing a wealth of commercial experience together with a driven and ambitious mindset Paul has supported, developed, and created an energetic and engaging team that are truly invested in the business.

Managing Director Jonathan Bean said of the evening:

'The Sign Awards are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the projects completed around the network and I must say this year we have seen some incredible entries. Following last year's virtual event it was so refreshing to get together for the gala dinner and award ceremony. Being able to have meaningful conversations and engage with colleagues and suppliers is so valuable, I can't wait to hold more events over the course of the year.'

www.signs-express.co.uk

# Roland DG becomes Brett Martin's newest approved partner

Brett Martin is pleased to announce that leading manufacturer of wide-format printers, Roland DG, is the latest company to acquire Approved Partner status. Roland DG has been awarded this accolade following the successful testing of a wide range of Brett Martin's materials on Roland's VersaUV LEC2 S-Series UV printer and IU-1000F Large Format Flatbed UV printer.

The LEC2 S-Series Flatbed Printers offer the ultimate versatility, printing effortlessly onto a vast array of substrates making it the ideal solution for sign-makers, personalisation houses, industrial printers, and packaging experts. While the IU-1000F, which prints at speeds of up to 116 sqm per hour1, is designed to meet the diverse needs of busy print service providers and commercial printers with unsurpassed performance. During extensive testing, both machines performed well with a vast array of Brett Martin substrates including the Foamalux, Marcryl FS, Marpet-g FS and Marlon FS materials, all of which are ideal options for sign and display applications.

Marc Artigas, EMEA Sales Director for Roland DG says: "Our recent experience printing onto Brett Martin's materials using our UV flatbed printers was a great success. The high quality of the material, combined with the genuine Roland UV inks, delivered outputs of excellent quality. We're delighted to now be Approved Partners with Brett Martin across multiple European markets, including the UK & Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Scandinavia."

Brett Martin's Approved Partner Programme sees the Northern Ireland based plastics manufacturer work closely with a number of renowned printing, cutting and now thermoforming machine manufacturers to test and showcase the capabilities of its semi-finished product portfolio.

Duncan Smith, Sales Director for Brett Martin explains, "It is important for us to work alongside companies such as Roland DG. We need to ensure that our products can be successfully printed on the equipment which the market uses. By collaborating with the world's top

manufacturers of processing equipment we can ensure that our products are continuously evolving and performing to the highest standards and kept up to date with the latest technology advances."

www.brettmartin.co.uk



Gillian Fraser, Brand Manager, Brett Martin and Dan Lathall, Field Service Engineer, Brett Martin at Sign and Digital UK

# Soyang Europe acquires Josero in

'match made in heaven!'

Soyang Europe, a leading manufacturer and distributor of digitally printable wide-format and superwide-format media and surface coverings has announced its acquisition of Josero.

By joining forces, the two companies will cement their positions within the print industry and enhance their offerings to the UK market. With the ability to provide both hardware – from leading manufacturers including Agfa, Ricoh, Mimaki and Fujifilm – alongside a wide range of compatible media solutions in widths of up to 5m, the partnership will lead to expanded sales, distribution, technical and service support for both Soyang and Josero customers.

Under the buyout agreement, Mark Mashiter will remain as Managing Director of Soyang Europe, while Sarah Winterbottom, formerly Managing Director of Josero, will assume the role of Group Sales Director for the Soyang/Josero partnership.

Meanwhile, Loic Delor, the former Director/ Owner of Josero, will assume the role of Operations Manager of Josero Ltd. and remain within the business for the foreseeable future to ensure a smooth transition

Andrew Simmons, who previously held the role of Sales Director at Soyang Europe, has been appointed to the new role of Product Development Director.

On the deal, Mark Mashiter, Managing Director of Soyang Europe, comments: "From Soyang's perspective, the acquisition of Josero provides us with a quick and proven entry into the print hardware market.

"We already have a strong reputation with regards to the provision of wide and superwide-format media, and plan to build on this expertise within the hardware space with support from Josero's specialist team."

Loic Delor adds: "Through many years of hard work, we've developed Josero into one of the key players within the UK wide format print industry. The integration of the Josero business into Soyang Europe makes complete sense; Soyang will



drive Josero's growth plans, while Josero provides Soyang with the diversification and expertise needed for the hardware segment. It's a match made in heaven!

"On a personal level, the Soyang management team have very similar backgrounds to the Josero team, and we share common business values. I am delighted with the agreement and look forward to supporting the group as it continues on its successful business journey."

The deal was completed on Friday 27th May 2022. The exact terms of the deal are undisclosed.

This news follows hot on the heels of the announcement that Fujifilm has agreed a partnership with Soyang to sell the Acuity Ultra R2 in the UK market.

www.soyang.co.uk

# Avery Dennison and Mactac focus on sustainable solutions

Avery Dennison Graphics Solutions EMENA is continuing its increased focus on sustainability with the launch of new Sustainable Graphics Solutions product portfolios for both the Avery Dennison and the Mactac brands. The Sustainable Graphics Solutions product portfolios give installers even easier and wider access to more sustainable graphics materials, with a new generation of products.

Avery Dennison's global focus on sustainability has evolved over many years, setting some of the boldest goals in the industry to advance environmental and social sustainability commitments. Alongside ambitious 2025 sustainability goals are recently introduced 2030 sustainability goals. These align with seven of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and they were developed based on careful analysis of what is most important for the business and stakeholders.

Elizabeth Park (director innovation and marketing excellence, Graphics EMENA) said that sustainability is now the starting point for many innovations: "When designing Avery Dennison or Mactac products, sourcing our raw materials, and setting up manufacturing, one of the first questions we ask as a corporation is simple: 'is it sustainable?' This is the foundation for how we meet our customer's needs within our commercial teams."



Products in the portfolio meet one or more strictly defined sustainable criteria - part of the ongoing drive to make sure that our customers have more sustainable options. These latest innovations include Avery Dennison Organoid Natural Surfaces, made using renewable materials, along with the newly launched premium PVCfree digitally printable wrapping film, SP 1504 Easy Apply™. The Mactac portfolio offers PVC-free Squid® Window Textile films as well as paper based products within the WallWrap Series, such as WW Linen Paper, which are sourced from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certified suppliers. These products are a key part of the transition to Sustainable Graphics Solutions.

graphics.averydennison.eu www.mactacgraphics.eu



# **SIGN** News

# Mimaki announces significant year on year growth, and strong market Position

Mimaki Europe, the leading manufacturer of inkjet printing and cutting technologies, has on 31st May unveiled an increase in market share across the different sectors it operates in, confirming the company's impressive and continued leadership position. Mimaki's management team attribute this success to the company's commitment to technology innovations, putting their customers at the forefront, and its ability to anticipate and adapt to market trends.

Mimaki's customer base spans four key sectors – Sign Graphics, Industrial, Textiles, and Full Colour 3D Printing. The numbers revealed that Mimaki currently holds the second largest market share in the Sign Graphics sector with sales exceeding results from 2019. The renowned flexibility, quality and reliability of Mimaki's extensive and innovative technology portfolio has long been acknowledged as the reasons so many sign-makers invest in Mimaki products, even during the recent challenging economic climates.

Arjen Evertse, General Manager Sales EMEA, explains, "We're extremely pleased to hold such a high position in this field, and we must also credit the ingenuity and creativity of our customers with this success. They push the boundaries of what is achievable with our technology and always challenge us to deliver more and more, a challenge we happily accept. Of course, it goes without saying that we always strive to be number one! There was a requirement for a Mimaki solution that delivered high productivity in this sector, and we have now answered this need with the launch of the 330 Series,

specifically the CJV330-160 and JV330-160, which offer high-end yet cost effective Sign Graphics application printing. With these new machines now available we are confident that 2022 will be an even stronger year for Mimaki."

Making their international tradeshow debut at FESPA 2022, the print-only JV330-160 and the integrated printer and cutter CJV330-160 deliver higher productivity while setting new standards in print quality. With workflow efficiency at the top of Mimaki's and its customers' agenda, inbuilt cleaning mechanisms and monitoring features ensure seamless production and allow for longer running times. Both models also feature a newly designed unwinding system that allows three rolls of media to be loaded simultaneously, greatly reducing the time and manpower required to change print media. 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 rough cutting from the workflow, helping printers to significantly speed up and streamline the post-process, with less interference needed

For the Industrial and Textiles markets, Mimaki has maintained their position as market leaders in 2021. The Industrial portfolio consists of Mimaki's UV flatbed printers and, although a significant percentage of this install base are used to produce applications associated with tourism and merchandising, sales in 2021 were very similar to 2019. This is due to the fact that a growing number of industrial applications are being produced with Mimaki's UJF and JFX series. While

# **Mimaki**

the tourism and merchandising sectors are expected to recover from downturn that resulted from the pandemic, Mimaki has been focused on increasing workflow optimisation and automation to support this growing demand for industrial and manufacturing applications. The latest additions to this product line include the UJF-MkII e Series and UJF-7151 plusII. These high-speed, high-quality direct-to-object UV LED inkjet printers have been designed with performance and creativity in mind, while also fitting seamlessly into an automated production environment.

The release of TS100-1600 entry-level textile printer greatly contributed to Mimaki's substantial growth in the Textile market. The trend towards on-demand, bespoke textiles for fashion and interiors has led to many companies investing in the TS100-1600 as their first digital printing solution. The new TS330-1600 will enable textile printing companies to take their productivity to the next level, with many new and innovative features to improve stability and add-ons for exceptional efficiency, such as a mini jumbo roll unit that can be added to load long transfer paper and further reduce running costs.

3D Printing is a newer market for Mimaki, but the company is making notable strides forward with their ground-breaking solutions for full colour, highly accurate 3D model making. The launch of its brandnew pure clear material, MH-110PCL, designed for Mimaki's flagship UV curable, full colour 3D printer, the 3DUJ-553, is the latest example of Mimaki's commitment to furthering adoption of this pioneering technology.

"2021 has been an exceptional year for Mimaki and we're very proud to have been able and support our customers with their new and existing Mimaki solutions, as they continue to succeed across a diverse range of growing markets. With numerous new additions to our portfolio, many of which were on show at FESPA, we aim to bring even further benefits and new opportunities to the markets we serve, and as such, we are extremely excited to see what the rest of 2022 will bring," concluded Arjen Evertse.

www.mimakieurope.com



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.

# ArtSystems becomes UK & Ireland distributor for Vanguard Digital Printing Systems

ArtSystems has become the UK & Ireland official partner for Vanguard Digital Printing Systems, part of the Durst Group. The agreement between Durst UK & Ireland and ArtSystems, the specialist UK & Ireland distributor, covers distribution, service, ink supply and sales support.

Vanguard, with its printing systems for signage, decoration, business equipment, industry and packaging, has been part of the Durst Group - manufacturer of advanced digital printing and production technologies - since 2020. It has its headquarters in Lawrenceville, Georgia, USA, and a European branch close to the Durst Group headquarters in Brixen, Italy.

ArtSystems will be working with a selected reseller channel providing a UK-based demonstration centre for resellers to bring their users to see the speed and quality of the Vanguard range. ArtSystems is the leading distributor in the wide format market and is able to support resellers channels with dedicated sales, training, support and channel marketing teams.

"This is a significant step forward as we continue to establish our presence in new markets," said Peter Bray, Managing Director of Durst UK & Ireland that will also act on behalf of Vanguard Europe in the UK. "We are delighted to have a partner with such a strong service and support background. ArtSystems has been established for many years and has an unrivalled knowledge within the markets in which they will distribute and service the Vanguard products. It is an extremely strong fit between two major industry players. Vanguard's printing systems have achieved significant global growth - and I am sure our partnership with ArtSystems will mirror that in the UK & Ireland."

Mark Lambert, Technical Director of Nottingham-based Art Systems Ltd, said: "Durst and Vanguard are highly respected





within the wide-format printing industries. This agreement will have many benefits for all parties. Building successful reseller channels and supporting them with effective, reliable service drives our entire business. Our long experience in the field in which Vanguard operates has enabled us to build a highly motivated channel of reseller partners, which we feel certain will translate to a highly successful Vanguard channel. We invest heavily in pre-sales consultancy, technical support, and both reseller and user training. This will support the new Vanguard resellers to enable them to put this superb range of printers in front of their customers with total confidence."

www.artsystems.co.uk

# How to build sustainability into large format printing – New eBook available

Innotech Digital has published a comprehensive eBook covering the realities of being sustainable in the large format printing industry. The eBook is a guide to help printing companies navigate the challenges of becoming more sustainable throughout their operations.



Sustainability has become a crucial element of just about every business and industry in the world. Hardly surprising when there is an island of plastic twice the size of Texas floating in the Pacific Ocean. Global carbon emissions are at an all-time high, and over 30,000 deaths per year are caused by local air pollution in the UK alone.

Sustainability in large format printing doesn't sound like it can make a difference to these grand problems, but everyone needs to play their part and Innotech's guide will help print companies make key changes to their business that can make their operations more sustainable and profitable at the same time.

Printing requires materials, energy, labour, and transport all of which produces carbon. While this is inescapable, there are several ways to build sustainability into printing that can tip the balance in favour of eco-friendliness.

Building sustainability into a large format printing business is clearly worthwhile and the Innotech eBook explains how this can reduce waste disposal costs, increase efficiency, attract new customers, boost bottom line profitability and enhance reputation.

Kieran Dallow, Marketing Manager for Innotech Digital, says, "Most printers are keen to find out ways to become more green in their operations, but a lot don't know where to start. There is an awful lot of 'talking-the-talk' going on in the industry and our guide is designed to show how to really do something, with actionable insights on how to help make small steps to being more green."

Download the Innotech eBook – "How to Build Sustainability into Large Format Printing" at:

innotechdigital.com/blog



# **SIGN** News

# **CMYUK** appoints Material Solutions as

# its distributor in Ireland

CMYUK has appointed Material Solutions as its distributor in Ireland. This strategic partnership will ensure that supply of CMYUK's materials to its buoyant Irish customer base continues without logistical compromises caused by Brexit.

CMYUK regards itself as the premier digital print-ready materials supplier for the wide format digital print industry in the UK and Ireland. It partners exclusively with world-leading manufacturing brands such as PONGS®, Kavalan, and UFabrik to bring high quality, innovative, and sustainable materials to market.

Dublin-based Material Solutions has an impressive pedigree with over 80 years-experience in supplying materials to the Print & Signage industry in Ireland. It offers the largest range of print-ready materials and provides a comprehensive service supported by a dedicated and committed team, whose knowledge and expertise in the industry is second to none.

"We are delighted to partner with Material Solutions in Ireland. This is a commercial decision that has arisen because many of our Irish customers wish to continue working with CMYUK and the exclusive brands we offer, despite the complications of Brexit

"Material Solutions is a perfect distribution partner for CMYUK in facilitating our exclusive ranges from PONGS®, UFabrik, Kavalan, plus many new additions with our current and new customers. It has a long-held reputation for introducing new products into the Irish market, and like CMYUK, places customer service at the centre of its operations. Its well-established infrastructure will allow for the fulfilment of next day delivery on all our products, a service which CMYUK customers have come to expect," said Joel Willcock, Commercial Director, CMYUK.

lan Scouler, Managing Director, Material Solutions said, "CMYUK is the best-qualified partner in the UK's digital printed textile industry. Its knowledge and experience within the PVC-free banner and mesh industry is outstanding. We are seeking a fresh start in our textile portfolio and by working with CMYUK, we will deliver cutting edge eco solutions to the Irish market."

Stephen Hudson, Owner, and MD of Printroom, one of CMYUK's largest customers in Ireland said, "When supply, freight times, and new documentation became more complex following Brexit, it was clear that a long-term solution was required for us to continue to purchase



L to R: Joel Willock, CMYUK; Paddy Slevin, Material Solutions; Sebastian Tens, PONGS®; Naue Tunes, Material Solutions; Dermot McCaley, Material Solutions; David Ryan, Material Solutions; Mick Crook, CMYUK.

important brands from CMYUK. I was relieved when Joel confirmed that the company would explore all options to ensure large stockholdings of PONGS®, UFabrik, and Kavalan products in Ireland for next day access.

"Material Solutions is also a great longterm supplier to our business, so this new partnership not only adds significant value to us but allows for the overall development and supply of super-wide materials within Ireland."

www.cmyuk.com

# Ricoh revamps customer experience centre

Ricoh has announced that its newly revamped Customer Experience Centre is now open for business. Based in Telford, the major transformation project saw Ricoh work with adhesive science solutions expert Drytac to overhaul the look of the facility.

Ricoh's new Customer Experience Centre, which is adjacent to Ricoh's Smart Factory and R&D facilities, allows visitors to explore the latest innovations in Ricoh's printing solutions and speak with experts about how they can utilise this technology to grow their business. The venue also serves as a proof of concept and test centre for software workflows and digital front ends, ensuring visitors are getting the most out of their Ricoh machines.

Ricoh and Drytac collaborated to bring a fresh look to the facility, with the aim of offering customers an even more inspirational and stimulating experience during their visit, allowing them to go away with a whole range of new application and business ideas.

The revamped facility in Shropshire features a host of bright and eye-catching graphics, all of which were printed on Drytac material using a Ricoh Pro L5160 at the Drytac Academy in Bristol.

More than 40 new graphics applications were installed throughout the Customer Experience Centre, the largest of which measured more than 11.5m wide. When printing the graphics, Drytac utilised three of its core products: ReTac Smooth 150, ReTac Textures Canvas and ReTac Texture Linen.

The ReTac products were quickly identified as the perfect solution for the project as they are 'permanently peelable' and will not damage the surface when it is time to remove or update the graphics, even years after application.

The graphics took just one week to install, with the end result being a revamped facility that offers Ricoh customers the inspiration and motivation to expand into exciting new areas and develop their businesses.



The revamped facility in Shropshire features a host of bright and eye-catching graphics, all of which were printed on Drytac material using a Ricoh Pro L5160 at the Drytac Academy in Bristol.

# Spandex unifies group under a single refreshed brand

Spandex, the one-stop supplier of innovative solutions to the sign, graphics, architectural and automotive markets, is introducing a new logo to reflect the evolution of the business while also unifying its brand across all group companies in Europe and Australia with effect from May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022.

The new logo features partially open concentric circles, a reference to the rolls of self-adhesive vinyl that are at the core of the Spandex portfolio, while also conveying the company's evolving offering and expertise, global reach and expansion into new applications and markets. The circles also denote Spandex's aspirations towards a circular economy and to create a positive 'ripple effect' in the visual communications sector by helping customers to unlock new commercial opportunities.

Andrew Coulsen, Spandex CEO explains: "Spandex today serves 40000 customers in 20 countries with more than 35000 products. Looking to the future, we want our brand to clearly communicate all the attributes of our business, and our mission to help customers push their creative boundaries, supported by performance products, specialist knowledge and real-world application expertise."

This ambition is reflected in the new strapline, 'Inspiring Creativity', which celebrates the diverse Spandex customer community, including sign-makers, graphics producers, wrappers, visual communicators, print service providers, installers, interior designers and architects.

The new brand identity will now be extended to all Spandex distribution companies in Europe and Australia and will become visible across all Spandex customer-facing communications over the course of 2022. Branding of Spandex Group businesses in North America will be reviewed at a later date.

Andrew Coulsen adds: "Over the last decade, the Spandex Group has acquired many independent companies worldwide\*, and we continue to look actively for acquisition opportunities in all regions. The integration of these businesses has added layers of specialist expertise, particularly in rigid media, textiles and architectural products, while expanding our range, distribution infrastructure, geographical reach and customer base. Many of these businesses have continued until now to trade under their original name, which preserved existing loyalty and brand awareness, while still helping their customers benefit from access to a



New logo reflects core values and growth ambitions

larger international operation. That focus on the customer doesn't change, but now everyone will know us by the name Spandex."

# **Enhanced online experience for Spandex customers**

Coinciding with the rebrand, Spandex has enhanced its website to speed up and improve the overall user experience. Registration is faster and easier, and customers can find the products they need more quickly, supported by new options to search by colour name and check if products are available for immediate dispatch. Advanced user management options give administrators greater control over ordering across their organisation, with clearer visibility of order status. A new web-based app makes it just as easy to browse and order products on the move as from a desktop.

www.spandex.co.uk

# Antalis sponsors the Global Car Wrapper Awards

Antalis, a European leading distributor of Visual Communication substrates, announces its exclusive sponsorship of the Global Car Wrapper Awards 2022 (GCWA), the global competition for car wrapping.

GCWA is a live global showcase of wrap installers' work and offers the perfect opportunity for vehicle wrappers to show, and share, their expertise without limitations of distance, time zones or years of experience.

The 2022 awards have been updated and renewed, with 11 wrap install categories now available. The awards are open for entries until 30th November 2022.

"This contest is a great opportunity for wrapping experts to show both their professionalism and creative art, in a friendly atmosphere. I encourage everyone to register and enjoy the Antalis-sponsored GCWA experience!", states Mike Collins, Antalis Product Manager for Visual Communications.

The events of the contest can be followed, and candidates can submit wrap entries, via the Car Wrapper 3D mobile application, which can be found via links on the Car Wrapper 3D Facebook page (www.facebook.com/carwrapper3d/) and on the GCWA web page (www.carwrapper.com).

The app's calendar has details of live wrap streams and #wraptour events.

Mike adds, "Antalis has recently invested in the car wrapping market by reaching a pan-European distribution agreement with Arlon, a range we're excited to launch in the UK and Ireland later this year. Arlon



materials will enhance our product offering in this area, with agreements already in place with Avery, 3M and Orafol in many Antalis countries. Our sponsorship of the GCWA shows Antalis' support and commitment to contributing to a vibrant car wrapping community."

With the expert judges selecting a winner for each of the 11 categories, and presenting 3 special recognition awards in addition, GCWA offers much opportunity for worldwide recognition and exposure within the industry. Finalists will be announced on 8th December and an awards ceremony will take place on 15th December.

For more information, please get in touch at contact@antalis.co.uk

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

# USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE ADVERTISED FREE

Mimaki UJV55-320 3.2m printer with twin roll capability of 2 x 1.52m - Hampshire	£19,995
HP FB750 Flatbed printer with optional roll feed attachment - Nottinghamshire	£30,000
Gerber 1370mm vinyl cutter with optical sensor - Oxfordshire	£900
HP Latex 115, hardly used. Needs new ink cartridges and heads - Oxfordshire	£1,000
Mimaki JV33-160, fully refurbished and runs perfectly - Berkshire	£4,500
Roland VersaCaam SP-540i - 7 years old - Scotland	Offers
HP Latex 360 - recent maintenance - South West London	£4,500
Duster 3000 by Island Clean Air, 2 available - Oxfordshire	£900
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# www.applied-image.com

#### **HP FB750**



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Owner is trying to retire but willing to stay on part-time to help the transition into the lifestyle you deserve and get you acquainted with the regular customers.

3 Full time staff are also here to help organise the workflow and production. The Working atmosphere is Fantastic

Over 30 years established with Full wide format digital print capabilities.

Ideally suited to a hands-on person that enjoys meeting people and is not afraid of hard but enjoyable work. Only 10 min from the coast with beautiful beaches and sailing centres.

This business has grown over the years and is ready to have new blood to either run it or to help run it.

Very healthy cashflow and no debts.

Turnover between €350k to €400k ( Offers in excess of €185k considered )

info@signstudiocork.com

## JOB VACANCIES

# Greater Manchester

Bolton Sign are looking to recruit for the 2 positions below. We pride ourselves on combining the experience and ability to manage large nationwide projects with the customer service and values of a family run business. We supply a full range of services across the UK from vehicle wrapping to corporate signage. As well as company rebranding including logo design, vehicle re-livery and internal and external site signage.

#### **Experienced Vinyl Operative**

- Demonstrate experience with all aspects of graphic and print applications including on site installation and direct to substrate

- huge bonus

  Experience with Rowland Solvent Printer, Suma Plotter and heated laminator

  Confident with programmes such as Flexi Sign, Adobe Illustrator, Versa Works

  Ability to work consistently to a very high standard

  Able to work on own initiative and meet deadlines

  Full UK driving licence desirable with confidence driving LWB vans

  Possession of CSCS, IPAF, PASMA cards are beneficial but can be worked towards

  As a member of our manufacturing team you will be expected to assist in other areas of the workshop when required and will be provided with training on the relevant machines and processes for example LED, CNC Router operating, general assembly.

- Salary: £9.50-£15.00 per hour (Full-time, Contract, Permanent)

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- Fabrication of signs and displays from a wide range of metals including aluminium, Steel, Brass, Copper, Zinc.
   Tig and Mig welding experience required as well as Soldering.
   Manufacture of components from engineering drawings
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   Maintain good working practice and housekeeping.

- Maintain good working practice and housekeeping Use equipment correctly and ensuring such equipment is in a satisfactory condition Ensuring completed tasks are progressed/available for the next operation Working as part of a team to contribute to improving workshop processes Achieve high standards of quality in line with targeted levels of output. As a member of our manufacturing team you will be expected to assist in other areas of the workshop when required and will be provided with training on the relevant machines and processes for example LED, CNC Router operating, general assembly

Salary: £25,000.00-£30,000.00 per year (Full-time, Permanent)

Please apply with details to holly@boltonsign.co.uk



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**Essential Skills: CSCS, IPAF, PASMA** 

Working with: Aluminium sign trays, tensioned flex face systems, LED illumination,

built-up lettering, vinyl graphics & more.

#### THE FULL STORY:

We're a sign and graphic contractor based in the North West, in Greater Manchester, due to our continued growth we need to expand our fitting capacity.

We do our own in-house manufacturing to keep our quality high, and need to increase our skilled installation crews on the same basis.

We predominantly work with fabricated tray signs, LED illumination, digitally printed vinyl graphics and stand-off lettering.

The role involves travelling nationally installing signs and graphics for many well known high street, grocery and bespoke brands. Previous experience and a practical mind, as always, are essential.

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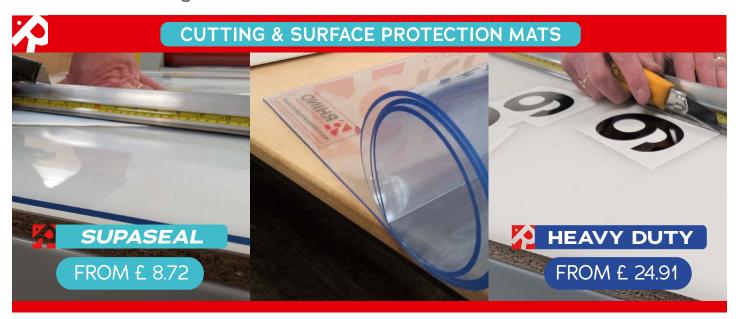






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Tel: 07979 944 418 www.focusledltd.co.uk Specialise in LED Lighting for Signs & Shop fitting, Kitchens, Restaurants, Commerical & Domestic Lighting. Quality & Professional Lighting to get your job done by giving you our best advises, there is no job too small. You only pay for quality products at Focus LED. Check out our gallery to see how we helped others to achieve their projects.

#### LED NEON

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sales@applelec.co.uk www.applelec.co.uk Get that sort after neon look with all the advantages of modern signage. Robust, easy to install, low voltage & safe to touch, LED Neon removes all the risks associated with traditional neon signs without compromising on look & quality. Available to the TRADE signage industry, our LED neon styles range from fun to sophisticated & offer the perfect alternative to traditional

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Tel: 08085 456700 sales@signtrade.co.uk www.signtrade.co.uk Chromasign launched at Sign UK. We offer a complete range of ChromaForm Letters with Halo Lighting not available anywhere else. Ring Susan or Lesley for details and samples.

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Tel: 08085 456700 sales@signtrade.co.uk www.signtrade.co.uk Moulded letters are our speciality with stock of 20 fonts 8 letter heights in coloured Perspex and 1000's of flat cut letters as well. Your own font or logo is made by our own toolmakers. With over 60 years of experience to call on.

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Tel: 020 8646 9886 enquiry@a1designs.co.uk www.a1designs.co.uk Neon & Cold Cathode Manufacturers to the Trade. Fast turnaround & Delivery, Quick repair service. Installation, Fault diagnosis, Repairs & Maintenance. Confidential Service. All neon accessories, Transformers, Cable, Tube supports etc.

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were a leading sight trade manufacturer providing services in notice boards and information display products since 1973. All products are made to order as we specialise in tailoring solutions to suit each client, location, and application. Our exterior notice board options include wall, rail, post and stand mountings, mains/solar illumination, and custom graphics.

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

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

# TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

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

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

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sign fixings and aluminium extrusions
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also provide trade manufacturing
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# TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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www.applelec.co.uk
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suppliers, Applelec have the vision,
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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.

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#### VISION LIGHTING LTD Unit 1 Wortley Moor Lane, Leeds, LS12 4JD

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London area / M25 / Kent / Surrey

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#### ATC LTD

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

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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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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 manufacturer 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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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.

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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**

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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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