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WELCOME Page

signs² signs

Recognising and Celebrating all that is good in our Industry

It's been a tough few years for many people, and it looks like further challenging times to come. However, here in the sign industry, we are a resilient lot, and there are times when we need to take a step back, admire what we've done and share it with the world.

The recent UK Graphic Awards showed how much talent and creativity there is in the large format printing area of the industry. There were some amazing projects and people who have worked so hard to deliver the very best for their clients, and it was an honour to be able to celebrate what they have done. We have a major report on the awards celebration and are also delighted to announce Sign Update will be a media partner for The Sign Awards, which will take place next March during Sign and Digital UK week.

Talking of Sign and Digital UK, we are also very excited to announce that Sign Update will be the Premier Media Partner for the show next year. This means we will be bringing you all the big news and exciting new announcements from the UK's top event for the sign industry, both in the magazine and online, all the way up to and beyond the show itself.

For more than 30 years, SDUK has been the big celebration of our industry and a time when we can properly get together to see in person all that is new. It is also a great opportunity to catch up with customers, suppliers and some old friends. We are delighted to support them and look forward to seeing you at the show. Registration is now open at signuk.com!

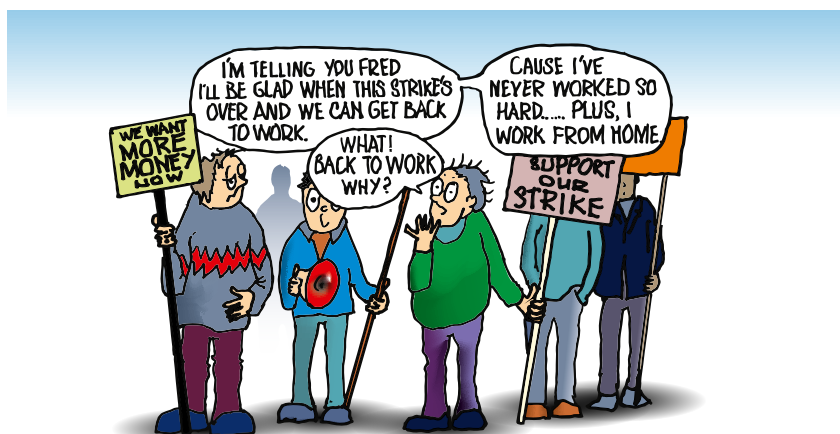
It's another packed issue with lots of features, industry views, product news and case studies. We take a special look at roll-to-roll printing, substrate tensioning systems and building wraps in our features.

We have new columnists! Aimee Davies from sign consultancy, Make it Happen, has taken up the role of 'Sustainability Guru'. Matthew Hanley of M-TWO gives us his insights into the hugely important area of recruitment. Colin McDermott – the Online Printing Coach, gives great advice on how to succeed in print. Tony Baxter of Voodoo Design provides insight into the importance of great design and Liam Hodson of LKH Tools has started a series on how to get the most from your router.


Next month we are looking at sustainability in more detail and would love to receive your questions that we can put to the key players in the market. Drop me a line at editor@signupdate.co.uk with anything you would like to ask about how to incorporate greener working practices into your business without breaking the bank. Please also use this email for any other questions or comments you may have.

Thanks for reading and Happy Signing!

Jack



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Sign & Digital UK announces REGISTRATION OPEN for the 2023 show

SIGN & DIGITAL UK

21-23 MARCH 2023 NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Registration for Sign & Digital UK (SDUK) is open for its annual return to the NEC, Birmingham. Roland DG, Epson UK, Premier, Hexis UK, The Magic Touch, Tecna UK, Vivid Laminating Technologies and swissQprint are amongst the brands already confirmed for the show.

The exhibition, taking place 21-23 March 2023, sees many returning exhibitors upgrading their stands. Supersizing exhibitors include Morgana Systems, Soyang Europe, Trotec Laser, Graphtec GB, WorksThing, Very Displays, Automatic Letter Bender UK, TT Market Elektronik, Boxford Holdings, Ex-Cel Plastics, HPC Laser, Stanford Marsh I Plot-IT and Amaya Sales UK.

On rebooking Peter Wright, managing director, Amaya said: "After the huge success of SDUK22 we took the decision to upsize; to take more space to demo and display our kit and solutions. In fact it's the biggest stand we've ever had at the show. SDUK is all about connecting with our customers and meeting new ones, and we wouldn't miss it".

Other exhibitors already confirmed to exhibit include D&K Europe, Global Erecting Sign Services, ITC, XYZ Automation, Marabu UK, Clarity Software, and many more.

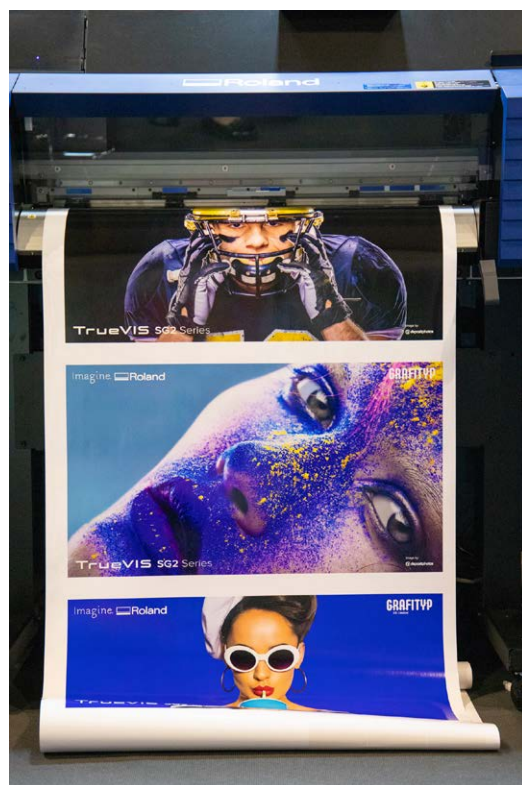
Jenny Matthew, Sign & Digital UK event director, said: "After a challenging few years, it's time to get back to doing what SDUK does best; creating a marketplace

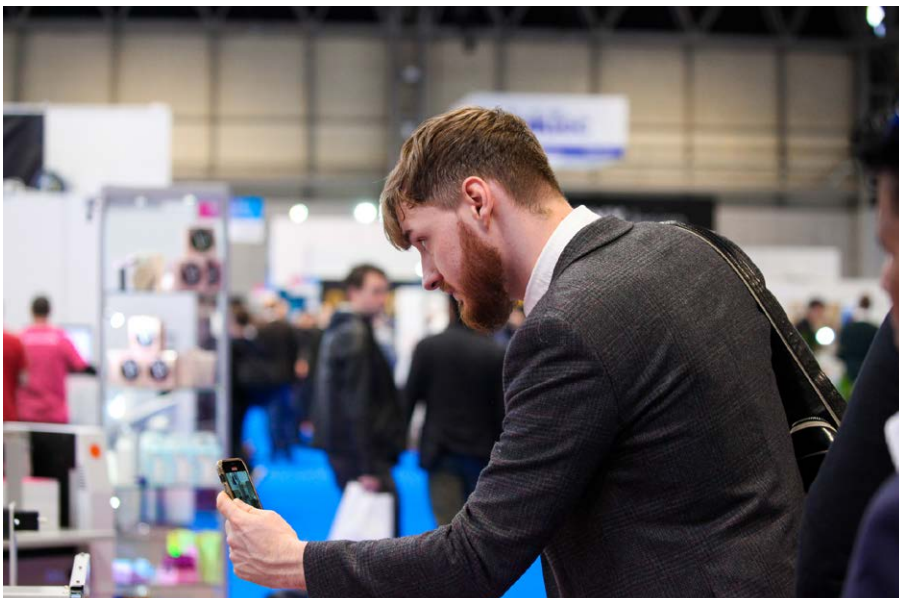
in which buyers and sellers can connect, learn and do business."

"Getting the right exhibitors onboard is critical to delivering that, and with so many returning and new exhibitors signed up - we're already making plans to expand the floorplan for 2023. More space for the latest demos and new features designed to help our audience grow and future-proof their business."

Registration is open, and anyone working in sign-making, display solutions or digital printing should secure their free ticket. SDUK 23 is going to be a memorable one - watch this space for all the updates.

Sign & Digital UK will take place at the NEC, Birmingham from 21-23 March 2023.

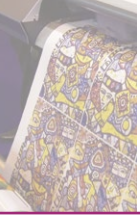




Free to attend for visitors

To enquire about exhibiting please contact the show team on 07968 301 374, or email signanddigitaluk@fav-house.com

www.signuk.com



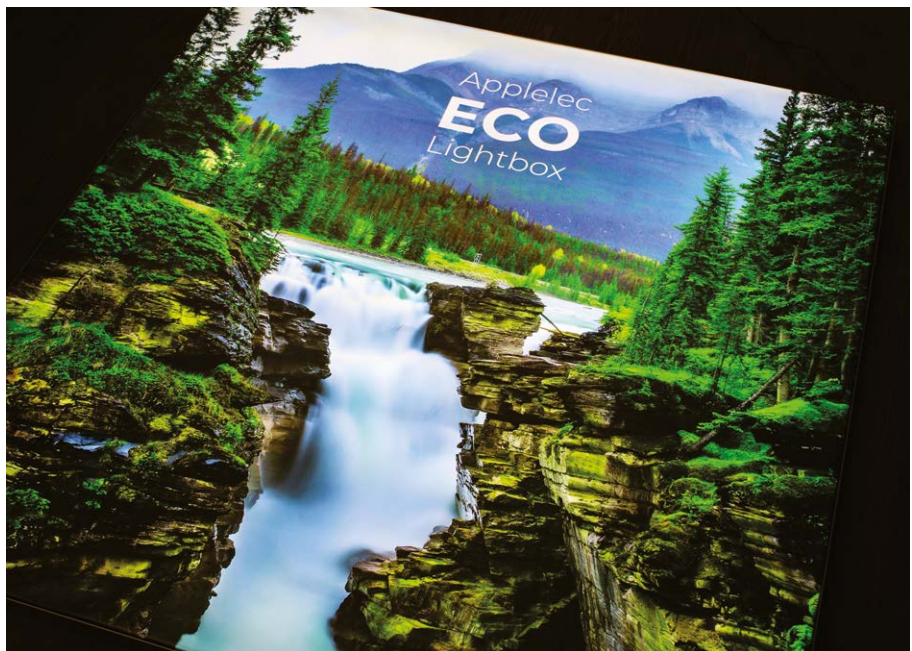
New Applelec Eco Box adds sustainability

Applelec has launched a new ECO Lightbox system that is ideal for retail environments.

Michael Crotch, Applelec's Head of Signage, says, "We are offering our customers a similar quality signage product with a lower impact on the environment. With this new ECO Lightbox, we have eco-engineered another signage staple to add to our growing eco-signage range. The product has been designed for disassembly and ease of recycling at end of life and is our most sustainable product to date."

Recycled bottle backlit skin

Printed with water-based, non-toxic, inks, the Applelec ECO Lightbox has a recyclable, interchangeable, skin that is made from 100% recycled PET plastic bottle waste (2 bottles per square metre), whilst still maintaining print quality and vibrancy.



Wood-pulp backing

Replacing the standard rigid plastic backing Applelec has selected a lightweight, rigid, fibre based, wood pulp backing that is made from locally sourced PEFC wood. It is 100% recyclable and withstands common in-store conditions such as temperature and humidity.



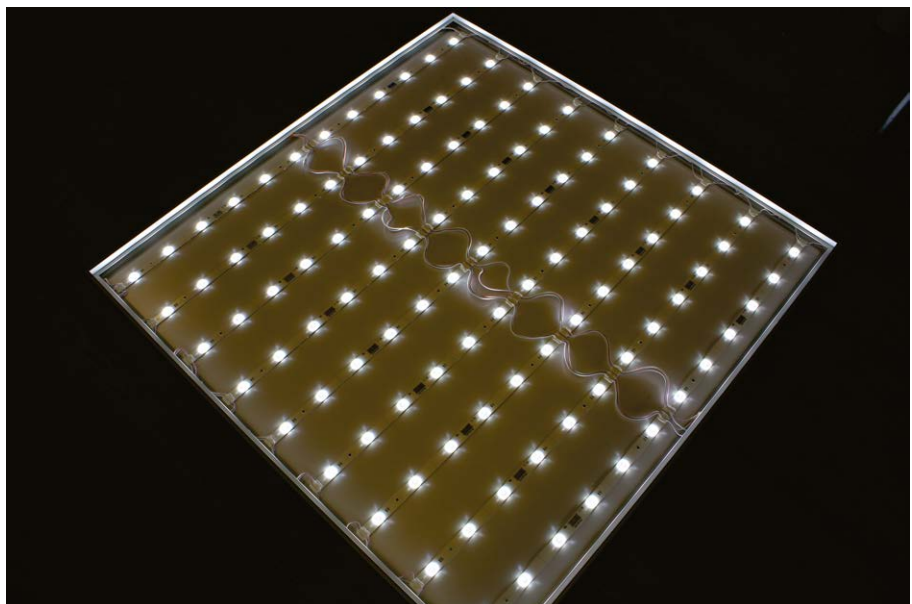
Recycled and recyclable frame

The box has a 32mm slimline profile, which is 100% recyclable. Applelec say it is its lightest lightbox to date at just 4.2kg per square metre, which is just over half the weight of its standard lightbox.

Bright, highly energy efficient LEDs

Bright illumination is achieved through the energy efficient, high output SloanLED BrightLINE 2 LP LEDs, which provide improved longevity, output, efficiency and brightness and comes with a 5-year parts and labour warranty.

"For every Applelec ECO Lightbox order, Applelec has promised to plant a tree through our partnership with JUST ONE Tree. This is another example of how we are being a responsible manufacturer, despite operating in a sector with high waste material. We are committed to finding ways to be more sustainable, both as a company and in the products we supply to the signage industry," concludes Michael.



www.applelecsign.co.uk

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Our STA range of 180 single flute routers have had an upgrade! Designed for use on Aluminium and Dibond/ACM, they now come with material-specific coatings to give exceptional surface finish and prolong tool life even further. Want to try it for yourself? **Give us a call today to arrange your trial.**



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New Solimar system for PDF optimisation

Solimar Systems, provider of workflow software solutions for print production and digital communications, has announced the release of version 9.2 of its PDF optimisation solution, ReadyPDF® Prepress Server™.

ReadyPDF 9.2 offers many enhancements, including a streamlined configuration, additional discard object options, ReadyPDF job property variables, expanded optimisation settings, pre-defined modes for various activities, greater optimisation report functionality, and the addition of a new preflight mode.

Jamie Walsh, EMEA and APAC Sales Manager for Solimar, says, "In a typical design studio, customers regularly submit PDF files to the print company. PDFs are an accepted standard, and everyone has the ability to make them. However, not everyone has the in-depth knowledge and understanding of how to design a PDF correctly for the output device. This can be a problem because if what is printed isn't what is expected, it is likely to cost time, money and resources."

He continues, "ReadyPDF solves this problem by leveraging Solimar expertise

and automation. Our solution takes on board all the structural, font, image and colour space issues and automatically corrects them to create a standardised PDF with a detailed report of changes. It does this through optimised workflows, which take the files the customer provides and ensures they are ready and accurate for print or other presentation. ReadyPDF can take huge files, 1Gb and more and reduce them to a size that systems can handle more effectively. Having properly optimised PDF files and automated processes are massive time-savers and something that is a huge benefit to designers and printers."

One Solimar customer reaping the rewards of these new features is DataProse. "With ReadyPDF, we are able to reduce file sizes by 95%, which streamlines our print output but also creates an optimised file for presenting online," shares Brian Ray, Chief Technology Officer, DataProse.

A key component of the ReadyPDF success at DataProse is the ability for users to interact with a graphical user interface without having to be experts in PDF or other workflow file formats. Additionally, by using templates, most

optimisations require a one-time setup and are usable for repeatable like work.

"We're thrilled with the benefits our customers realise with the latest version of our ReadyPDF Prepress Server," says Mary Ann Rowan, Chief Experience Officer at Solimar Systems. "Along with correcting fonts, images, colour and structural issues in PDFs, ReadyPDF creates clean live data and provides detailed before and after optimisation reports that can boost overall workflow productivity processes."

www.solimarsystems.com



Architextural expands portfolio with new sustainable Decal All Decor 2d range

Architextural, part of William Smith Group 1832, has announced a new partnership with Decal with the introduction of their PVC-free All Decor 2d range.

The range includes 15 natural and realistic finishes that combine aesthetics and design with effectiveness and functionality. A textured non-PVC architectural film, this decorative polypropylene (PP) film's formulation is free of halogen, plasticizers and formaldehyde components, perfect for applications where sustainability is key.

The new films can be used to create a new ambience with versatile design options in a range of wood grain, metallic and stone finishes. The Decal All Decor 2d range also provides the option for unique personalisation through UV LED and latex printing technologies.

Produced using an abrasion and scratch-resistant transparent thermoset varnish topcoat and primer adhesive for easy application. It's resistance to water, humidity, and mould, as well as resistance to light and ease of cleaning.

Decal All Decor 2d is suitable for application onto interior flat and simple curved surfaces such as ceilings, walls, doors, furniture, and other design elements, in areas that require a balance between durability with advanced design. The range also boasts 10-year minimum durability for interior applications.

www.architextural.co.uk

The range includes 15 natural and realistic finishes





By James Lawton,
LED Sales
Exec. Scanlite

Scanlite started providing rentals of large-scale digital signage to businesses to help deliver them a unique way of enhancing their brand at a low cost. There have been a lot of historic events over the last 12 months, and with the World Cup fast approaching, Scanlite offers a range of trailers and displays bespoke to sign-makers and their clients.

With more and more businesses tightening their belts in recent years, many crucial aspects of business have been scaled back or shelved completely. The ability to rent digital signage allows consumers to broadcast their message to the masses at a manageable monthly cost, increasing cash flow, sales, and footfall through stores. Our packages give clients the ability to rent displays for a period of time and then choose to upgrade, retain or remove their signs.

Where are these products most likely to be used?

Our rental packages are used by clients nationwide, everything from Petrol garages to restaurants, to West End theatres. All of these and more can take advantage of our unique, affordable, and customisable rental packages.

Is it more cost-effective to rent rather than purchase?

LED displays are no longer reserved for the big companies, and we are helping to bring digital to more and more people and businesses. Renting allows SMEs to broadcast their message in clear, eye-catching content in a way they simply couldn't afford if they had to purchase the equipment.

Besides the amazing features of instantly updateable content, increased footfall, and bespoke solutions, renting a digital display with Scanlite, also has incredible financial benefits – which can give users a tax-deductible way, to increase their profits.

What are the benefits to the sign-maker/specifier of renting?

Being able to provide your clients with a cost-effective, bespoke digital system can

What are the advantages of renting digital signage?

easily open the doors to other signage work, as well as adding another product to your range. Scanlite is happy to work on a split basis or a white-label basis.

How much flexibility can be built into the rental agreement?

Our rental agreements are flexible to the client's requirements, needs and budgets. With short- or long-term arrangements, our signs can be offered from 6 to 60 months, giving you and your customers total flexibility.

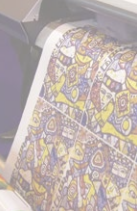
"Renting the display from Scanlite has allowed me to spend my cash where its needed, all whilst drawing in new custom, informing clients, and displaying adverts at my petrol station, which is increasing revenue, footfalls, and traffic on the forecourt!"

J Cunliffe, Director. Forecourt Digital Media

You can speak to James on 07879 573640 or email james.lawton@scanlite.co.uk

www.scanlite.co.uk





Vivid Laminating's VeloTaper Taping System wins top award

The VeloTaper system has won the prestigious 2022 Pinnacle InterTech Award for Best Technology and is a patented innovation designed and developed in-house by Vivid.

Vivid's VeloBlade range of digital die-cutting systems can be equipped with the innovative and now award-winning automatic tape applicator called the VeloTaper. The product has picked up the Pinnacle InterTech Award for Best Technology.

VeloTaper is a fully automated flatbed taping system that applies double-sided tape accurately onto a variety of media and or substrates automatically in the designated spots. The result is a finished cut and creased product immediately ready for assembling.

"The VeloTaper is a patented innovation, designed and developed in-house by Vivid and a solution that can save a huge amount of time over manual hand application and costs. By using the fully automatic tape applicator, you can reduce operator dependency, eliminate tape waste and increase productivity. The VeloTaper system is compatible with all Veloblade Volta+ models," says Michael Conti, Marketing Manager of Vivid Laminating.

A number of scenarios require double-sided tape to be laid onto sheet or roll materials to allow for later assembly or fixing. Traditionally this would be a manual

and time-consuming task and one that is subject to the inconsistencies typical of manual positioning. VeloTaper is a fully automated flatbed taping system that applies double-sided tape accurately onto a variety of media and or substrates automatically in the designated spots. The result is a finished cut and creased product immediately ready for assembling.

The VeloTaper automated flatbed taping system makes light work of this task, and taping can be performed at the same time as other processes, such as cutting and creasing, for ready-to-assemble displays, for example.

The tape applicator is capable of automatically placing and cutting a range of double-sided tapes up to 22mm in width precisely along the X and Y axis. It allows the user to automatically cut, crease and tape all in one pass, freeing up the operator to complete other work.

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Time to Move On Up with great deals from Mimaki

Hybrid Services, Mimaki's exclusive UK and Ireland distributor, have put together a host of special deals and offers to help sign-makers make the crucial step up to a new large format printing solution.

With Mimaki's SS21 inkset that remains hugely popular 15 years after being launched, this also means that many of the company's former flagship large format printers are still in use. Upgrading to newer machines can be a daunting prospect, but Hybrid is doing its very best to help customers Move On Up.

Duncan Jefferies, Hybrid Services' Head of Marketing and Business Development, says, "Investment in a new machine offers great potential for many companies. New hardware offers the benefits of using the latest technologies, the highest quality, the fastest speed and the lowest cost of ownership. A new printer is also a more sustainable option than a printer that is 10+ years old. We're keen to help sign-makers make the step up to a new Mimaki solvent printer by offering a £2,000 no questions asked cashback for any large format printer the customer has, and if it's a Mimaki printer they're trading in, then we'll increase the instant cashback to £3,000."

The offer applies to the Mimaki JV100-160, which costs just £10,645 + VAT after cashback, when trading in an old Mimaki. Valid trade-in machines are any solvent, latex or UV printer of any size.

Take Two Offer

An alternative offer, as revealed on the cover of this month's issue of Sign Update, is the opportunity to benefit from a free vinyl cutter with the UJV100-160 UV-curable roll-to-roll printer. This provides fantastic print-and-cut solutions for just £16,795, with both machines enjoying a 2 year warranty.

The UJV100-160 is compatible with a wide variety of media, including vinyl, paper, metallic effect material, textile lightbox fabric and uncoated products, enabling sign makers to produce a diverse range of high-value applications, such as posters, point of sale, soft signage, stickers and window decoration. The printer features two newly developed printheads and the new DAS (Dot Adjustment System) feature. DAS automates conventional dot placement (dot position and feeding correction) for maximum image quality, saving operators time and reducing manual errors.

Duncan concludes, "While we are proud that there are still many thousands of customers using our printers, some of which may well have been purchased more than ten years ago, we are also keen that they enjoy all the benefits of the latest technologies. That's why we have put together these fantastic offers, and we are delighted to say they have been positively welcomed by resellers, sign-makers and print providers."

www.hybridservices.co.uk



The Mimaki CG-AR Series cuts coloured vinyl as well as printed output



Clear ink adds to the Mimaki UJV's creative potential

William Smith Training Academy launches Kitchen Application course

William Smith has announced the expansion of its Training Academy with the introduction of the newest course, Kitchen Application Training.

The first course was launched last week and proved to be a huge success. It has been carefully designed with the purpose of training complete beginners and relatively new installers looking to venture into the kitchen wrap market. The market for kitchen wraps has been escalating at an immeasurable pace over the past few years, and it's difficult to ignore the potential that awaits.

Kitchens can pose a whole range of common and uncommon problems for installers to overcome, and so the course content has been carefully selected to expose delegates to all levels of both simple and complex issues found in a kitchen environment.

William Smith's expert trainers, Gill Harrison and John Raine, Training and Application Managers at William Smith, and Phil Moran, Owner of Wrapture Architectural Wraps, have a wealth of experience between them and will be available every step of the way to assist and advise attendees on the best ways to approach any given situation. William Smith guarantees attendees will leave satisfied with the training they have received, with a whole host of new skills and intuitive ways to assist their approach towards future projects.

The theory section of the course, covered on the first morning of training, includes sections on marketing, budgeting, sustainability, design potential, managing expectations, the dos and don'ts, pros and cons, preparation, primers, and advice on the best tools and accessories to use.

The practical side of the course, which makes up the bulk of training, begins with basic application techniques, including flat panels and the cut-and-fold technique, before moving on to more challenging applications, such as how to deal with shaker doors and J-handles. Trainers will also demonstrate how to approach a variety of challenging sink applications and the best ways to successfully navigate around them. Worktops, splice joints



With small class sizes and three trainers on hand to assist, there is plenty of time allocated for one-to-one guidance.

and repairs will also be covered over the course of the two days.

Feedback from the first course has been overwhelmingly positive, with one attendee stating that "as a complete beginner with no previous wrapping experience, I was slightly concerned about how I might find the course. It was clear right from the start that there was no reason to worry. The instructors were extremely welcoming, knowledgeable, and helpful every step of the way. The content was extremely detailed, and all techniques were clearly explained and demonstrated. It has provided me with a lot of confidence going forward, and I would thoroughly recommend this course to anyone just starting out or looking to improve."

To find out more, email info@williamsmith.co.uk or call the sales office on 01833 690305



Phil Moran, Kitchen Course Trainer and Gill Harrison, Training and Applications Manager

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Epson launches two new dye sublimation textile printers

Epson has launched two new 44-inch dye-sublimation products. Designed for low to medium-volume printing, the SureColor SC-F6400 4-colour and SureColor SC-F6400H 6-colour are suited for applications that include textile production, personalised products, and high-end photo reproduction. Epson says the printers offer a range of significant improvements, including increased productivity and reduced wastage.

Based on Epson's Micro TFP PrecisionCore technology, which is designed to increase image quality, both printers offer different advantages, depending on the needs of the user. The SC-F6400 increases productivity by 20% compared to its predecessor, the SC-F6300.

The SC-F6400H provides an extended colour gamut by offering the use of CMYK, plus a choice of either Fluorescent Pink and Fluorescent Yellow, Light Cyan and Light Magenta or Orange and Violet. This means that, as Epson's first 6-colour 44-inch dye-sublimation printer, the SC-F6400H opens the door to an expanded range of potential applications for both textile and rigid substrates. Users in the production of fashion, homewear, sportswear, soft signage and promotional items will find this enhancement of particular interest.

Tom Owers, Product Manager at Epson says, "I think the 6-colour product will be of particular interest to commercial print providers and sign-makers because of the different applications and versatility it offers. If adding light cyan and magenta reduces graininess, making them ideal for promotional items that require detailed photographic reproduction. The fluorescent inks are great for sportswear and soft signage, helping you achieve colours you can't normally hit. Orange and violet open up the fashion and retail point of sale/internal soft signage markets with their greater colour range."

The SC-F6400 and SC-F6400H offer several other advantages to business users, including new, higher-capacity ink packs that contain 45%* more ink (1.6L), reducing replacement frequency and waste. The ink packs only need to be

shaken and inserted. No more pouring and stirring, which can create mess. The printers also feature a new 4.3-inch touch screen which is 30% larger than the previous model.

Simplified maintenance routines minimise downtime, and software bundles are included to help businesses run more efficiently and better analyse costing and profitability. Both products offer users a complete solution including hardware, software, printhead, ink, sublimation papers, and warranty, plus the SC-F6400H includes a bundled take-up reel.

"With a high market share, Epson has built a strong reputation for supporting business with true end-to-end printing solutions that offer the highest levels of quality, flexibility and cost-efficiency," says Tom. "These new printers are perfect examples of our commitment to listening to market needs and delivering effective solutions."

He concludes, "Sign-makers looking to take more print services in-house and achieve greater revenue through soft signage and promotional items have a great opportunity to acquire a powerful machine at a very affordable cost. Epson is keen to reignite sign-makers about possibilities, and potential dye-sublimation printing can open up for them. These machines are not so different to the large format printers they might already have, and we are always happy to support them as they take the step into this exciting technology area."

www.epson.eu



New SureColor printers extend market opportunities for customers and provide higher levels of productivity, flexibility and efficiency



The Sign Group offers 3 year warranty for Neonplus® Installations

The Sign Group has increased the standard warranty period for Neonplus® from 1 year to 3 years. This is positive news for end users, including retailers, who are looking to reduce spending whilst maintaining a good look.

Grey Hoole, director of the Sign Group explains how, "We know that our customers recognise the energy saving benefits of Neonplus®. By increasing the warranty period they can now plan for an installation for two more years with complete confidence. Using elements for a longer period will help keep costs down, while the customer knows they are buying the 'Industry Benchmark' product that will last the lifetime of their project."

NeonPlus® is an innovative, low voltage faux neon product for sign companies, architects, shop owners, design agencies, shopfitters, display companies, retailers and visual merchandisers. Each custom LED sign is made to order and machined by The Sign Group's sign-makers to guarantee brand accuracy and performance. Neonplus®' faux neon signs use environmentally friendly LEDs to illuminate and display in shapes and colours impossible with a traditional neon sign.

The warranty covers all internal letters/shapes from the NP1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 ranges whether supplied loose or when fixed to a panel/tray.

Grey continues, "This is a premium product which deserves a premium warranty. We have offered a 3 year and 5 year warranty for many years, but only as an 'extended warranty' option, so we're delighted to be able to provide this as standard from now on, which provides customers with another significant cost saving. Other people are manufacturing similar things, but none of them compares to the range, quality and service we can offer. That's why Neonplus® is the No.1 faux neon and LED block acrylic sign choice."

www.thesigngroup.co.uk



NeonPlus® is an innovative, low voltage faux neon product for sign companies



Each custom LED sign is made to order



PORTLAND LIGHTING

PRESENTS

HOSPITALITY BARRIER LIGHT

FOR CAFÉ BARRIERS & OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS

The superb new Hospitality Barrier Light is the lighting system for all outdoor seating areas, making your café, pub, bar or restaurant 'pop' and stand out in the crowded high street, offering a warm and welcoming illumination. The stylish and contemporary light fittings are quickly and easily installed to your pavement barriers, illuminating the advertising signage whilst reaching out and alluring passing customers in an instant.



Perfect for cafés, pubs, bars, restaurants, beer gardens and outdoor seating areas.

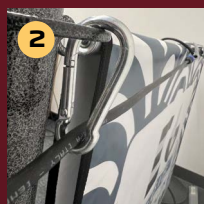


How the Hospitality Barrier Light works

The scheme here shows 9 x 1500mm barriers with a 1000mm gangway. We can advise you on the right combination of equipment to suit your venue perfectly.



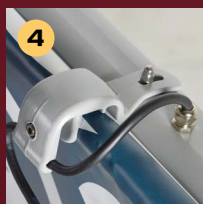
1 Wall box with feed link cable to first barrier



2 4mm carabina clip cable management



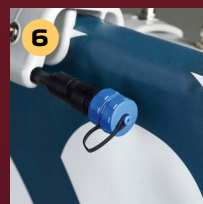
3 Link cable available in various lengths



4 Cable tidy slot on rear of bracket



5 Gangway entrance with floor cable protector



6 End cable waterproof dust cap

Find out more at www.portlandlighting.co.uk/hospitality-barrier-light or speak to a member of our team today to discuss your requirements.
Telephone: +44 (0) 1922 721 133 Email: sales@portlandlighting.co.uk
www.portlandlighting.co.uk



Order Online

ACCREDITATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Portland Lighting Ltd, Unit 2,
Reedswood Park Road, Walsall, WS2 8DQ



It's a Celebration!

The team behind the UK Graphic Awards did the industry proud in October. It was a pleasure to be in a room with hundreds of people from the graphic print, production and sign-making industry who were there to support each other and recognise their fantastic achievements.

An international judging team consisting of wide-format print experts and experienced senior creatives, along with specialists to help with specific categories, had the incredibly difficult job of choosing the winners from an exceptional list of nominees. It wasn't easy, and there were clearly some tough choices.

Right: Kelly Horbacka from Outdoor Logistics enjoying the celebrations. She and her husband, Matt Horbacki were special guests of the organisers for the incredible support they gave in delivering goods and equipment to the Ukraine border earlier this year.

Below: Team Imageco picked up three awards on the night - including best in show for their amazing Sustainability Street Project



Sarah Winterbottom and Mark Mashiter from Soyang Europe, sponsors of the Live Events category



Olena Denysenko, part of the UKGA organiser's team

UK GRAPHIC AWARDS

ITV's Emma Jesson was a fabulous host. Her bubbly and energetic personality was perfect for this event



FaberExposize UK team picked up two awards on the night



Full list of winners

Branded Interiors sponsored by RA Smart

DIS Group with Wolves FC Tunnel

Construction

Embrace Building Wraps with SBQ Queensway Birmingham

Exhibitions sponsored by Liyu UK

ImageCo with Sustainability Street

Leisure and Hospitality

Wild with House of Peroni, Royal Ascot

Live Events sponsored by Soyang

Wild with Manchester City FC Victory Parade

Museums and Galleries

Eastern Exhibitions & Display with Anatomy: A Matter of Death and Life

Printed Signage sponsored by ISA-UK

Astley Signs with Co-op Eco Labstores

Printed Vehicle Wraps sponsored by ADAPT

Epic Media Group with Terberg Kerbloder

Retail Instore sponsored by HP

The Graphical Tree with Halfpenny Pop-up at Harrods

Retail Windows sponsored by the Signage Installation Directory

The Graphical Tree with Harvey Nichols 2021 Christmas Window Scheme

Roll-Out sponsored by Contra Vision

Grapefruit Graphics with Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Rising Star sponsored by MTWO - Matching Talent With Opportunity

Iva Dobрева from FaberExposize UK

Wide-format Print Company of the Year (30+ employees) sponsored by Compass Business Finance

FaberExposize UK

Wide-format Print Company of the Year (under 30 employees) sponsored by Vism

Imageco

The Green Award sponsored by Antalis

The Delta Group with Delta Net Zero - 12 months to carbon offsetting

The Innovation Awards

GES with Show Ready

Best in Show sponsored by Agfa

Imageco with the Sustainability Street Project



*Nathan Swinson Bullough
collects Imageco's best
in show award from
Agfa's Paul Fitch*



*Matt Hanley from MTWO
- Matching Talent with
Opportunity sponsored the
Rising Star Award, won by Iva
Dobрева of FaberExposize UK*



The event was a full house with over 300 people from the UK's wide-format print industry



Eddie Tucker from Liyu UK who sponsored the Exhibition category

Show Highlights

Imageco picked up three awards on the night, including Best in Show for its Sustainability Street Project. This project met the brief down to a notch, delivered an impact, was equally creative and complex, and earned the highest score on a sustainability scale. Congratulations team Imageco!

Nathan Swinson Bullough, the Managing Director at Imageco, said, "The award ceremony was fantastic. It was lovely to see so many industry colleagues celebrating the talent we have to offer. I was over the moon with our awards. The best in show and best company under 30 employees means the world to our staff and me. We are a close-knit team at Imageco and take pride in our work. Well done to Dan and all the UK Graphic Awards staff on a hugely successful night."

There was also praise and support from the sponsors on the night, including Soyang's group sales director, Sarah Winterbottom, "Soyang is very proud to have sponsored UK Graphic Awards 2022. It is important to give something back to the industry and support our customers who have supported us for so many years. It is also great to be back to live events and the exact reason we wanted to sponsor the Live Events category. Congratulations to all the Winners and to the Team for organising another amazing evening."

Matt Hanley from MTWO - Matching Talent with Opportunity sponsored the Rising Star Award, won by Iva Dobрева of FaberExposize UK "For me, there was no better award for us to sponsor. It is important that we are not seen as an ageing or exclusive industry, and to have our name against the Rising Star award was a big honour for us and a match made in heaven. We want to celebrate youth and diversity and help encourage people in from outside our industry who have very transferable skills to give them the opportunity to excel. It's great to see the companies in this category recognising this and it is testament to them that this category exists."

Founder and organiser, Dan Tyler said, "This was a fantastic team effort, and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved. We were overwhelmed by the response to the award categories, and the judges had a really tough task selecting all the winners and runners-ups. I am looking forward to seeing all the great new projects the industry is working on at both The Sign Awards and the UK Graphic Awards next year and encourage everyone who has delivered a project they are proud of to let us know and then be part of the celebrations."

www.ukgraphicsawards.com
www.thesignawards.com
 Images - Marcus Rice

Welshpool Printing Group buys a Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX from CMYUK

Welshpool Printing Group (WPG) has purchased a Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX from CMYUK. The need to provide a greater diversity of signage in tandem with faster turnaround times were the twin drivers of this investment.

The new UV flatbed will join the company's existing Mimaki printer that will continue to output graphics in the company's wide format digital printing department.

"We chose this printer because of its quality, and flexibility. We were particularly impressed by the 2.5D textured printing capabilities, the ability to print on all surfaces, the white ink, and spot gloss features," says Paul Jones, joint MD, WPG Group.

Established in 1960, Welshpool Printing Group Ltd is a family run business that has genuine pride in providing high-quality print with excellent levels of customer care. With a comprehensive range of services, the group offers complete print solutions to a wide range of customers including Litho and Digital printing, Banner & Signs, Vehicle Graphics, Promotional Products, Clothing & Workwear, Trophies, and Awards.

Mimaki, the perfect technology partner

The Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX features an 8ft x 4ft table and incorporates several additional features and increased productivity to the JFX200 series. A new print head configuration means the JFX200-2513 EX doubles output speeds when printing with white in all print modes and includes a new draft mode that offers a 280% speed increase. It can automatically detect missing nozzles and perform recovery. It also uses an advanced algorithm to print optimum gradation patterns on each pass, significantly reducing banding effects on the print. A new foot pedal now controls the vacuum table, while Ethernet connectivity allows for remote job messaging and the simultaneous connection of multiple printers.

"We expect the new flatbed to have significant impact on our business. It will give us great new opportunities with design and texture. The high quality and added speed mean that we'll be able to



fulfil orders on an even quicker turnaround and the ability to offer new applications and products. When word gets out of what we can now produce – printing on acrylics, polycarbonates, PVC, glass, aluminium, metal, polyester, foam board, styrene, wood, and stone. We'll be kept very busy," says Paul.

The company has made some slight alterations to its production facility to accommodate the new printer. It has also relocated its Trophies & Awards department to another section of the factory and created a new dedicated zone to its growing clothing and workwear department.

"WPG is no stranger to expansion, since moving to Printing House in Welshpool back in 1998, the factory size has increased greatly as both the company and product range has grown," he says.

The CMYUK touch

Working with local company CMYUK has been a very positive experience.

"CMYUK has been a great company to deal with. We always like to support local businesses where we can, so its

showroom in Shrewsbury was perfect for us. The whole team has been great, and very thorough in setting-up and calibrating the new printer. We take comfort that the support continues as we introduce different materials and experiment with the huge range of abilities this new printer is capable of," says Paul.

The Mimaki JFX 200-2513EX is set to figure significantly in the company's forward momentum. The business is looking to increase work turnover and the flexibility of the new flatbed will enable the company to explore new applications such as direct printing to doors and windows.

Says Paul: "The Mimaki JFX 200-2513 EX impressed us from the start. The speed and quality were exactly what we were looking for plus the flexibility it offers will make it perfect to handle growing demand. We can now print direct to 8 x 4 ft boards which will save us a great deal of time plus the huge choice of materials we can print to opens massive opportunities for even more products."

www.cmyuk.com

Sign Design GB expands with Epson SureColor SC-V7000



Sign Design GB has brought a range of services inhouse, enhanced production capacity and is now exploring further application opportunities following their investment in an Epson SureColor SC-V7000 UV flatbed printer.

Established in 2009, the Tees Valley signage solution specialist works with the construction, retail, education, manufacturing, transport and medical industries. It chose the system to enable greater control over quality consistency, reduce turnaround times and eliminate additional costs.

Ben Kennedy, Commercial Director at Sign Design GB, explains: "We were sub contacting about £80,000 to £100,000 of direct-to-substrate work a year. We decided it was time to bring that in-house so we could ensure consistency, reduce turnaround times, cut our carbon footprint

and also develop that part of the business. Now we have additional capacity and the ability to offer some unique products. We can promote these services more widely, confident in the knowledge we can deliver the desired results. We can also explore other application possibilities, run samples, and show clients what is possible."

He continues: "We looked at what was on the market and chose the Epson system for two reasons. First, ease of use

was very important. We wanted something that was operator friendly and not too complicated to use. Despite its specialist features, there is no need for specialist training and we already have four people confident in running it."

The Epson SureColor SC-V7000 flatbed printer was supplied by Epson reseller Perfect Colours. Ben comments: "The second reason we chose the Epson was because of the support from Perfect Colours. We have bought a number of solutions from them over the years, and they are always very helpful. They provide the right level of technical help and it is good to know they are there even if we don't need them."

The system has been in for just a couple of weeks. "There have been no problems at all", comments Ben. "It is working very well, and we have been running it every

day. It will enable us to continue to grow in the direct-to-substrate sector and develop a more complete and versatile offering for our clients. It will also enable us to employ another apprentice in this area of the business."

He adds, "By completing the work inhouse we can better improve our margins and ensure quality consistency."

Darren Walker, Regional Director at Perfect Colours, adds: "After undertaking a review, Sign Design GB took the considered decision to drive operational growth by investing in Epson technology. It did this knowing it could access ongoing support if it was ever needed. We were delighted to help them make the best investment choice for their requirements and look forward to continuing their journey with them."

The SureColor SC-V7000, Epson's first UV large format printer, allows sign and display makers to expand their portfolio of products. It offers exceptional image quality and the flexibility to print on a wide range of media. It was developed for printing eye-catching retail and outdoor signage, window displays, hoarding panels, packaging, promotional goods, and décor products. It manages a versatile range of applications, which enables companies to expand their product offering and deliver consistently high-quality results. It features Epson's unique UltraChrome UV ink configuration, including red, grey, white and varnish.

www.perfectcolours.com

Epson SureColor SC-F6300 for MaD Chair

Blackburn-based MaD Chair has invested in a dedicated roll-to-roll Epson SureColor SC-F6300 from CMYUK. This 44-inch-wide dye sublimation printer is a replacement for an older Epson printer.

MaD Chair was founded two years ago, when designer/producer Tracy Reed went into business with daughter Remy-Mae Reed. "My daughter and I decided to set up MaD Chair [MaD, an acronym for mother and daughter]. We began designing and printing fabrics for upcycle pieces, which went well, so we started producing new furniture. We're in the process of opening an interiors shop where our products will take pride of place," she says.

"Our older Epson model that we'd had for about eight years was a real workhorse and still working, however the blacks weren't deep enough for us and we were changing the maintenance tank every couple of months. The new model doesn't have these so should save us quite a substantial amount of money over the year, plus the speed of the new one will make a real difference," says Tracy.

The installation of the new Epson printer coincides with the new store opening in Blackburn. Both of which will further drive the business into developing new products. With a real store window to dress, collections will become more structured and co-ordinated rather than the ad-hoc

inspirations of the last two years. Says Tracy: "It's an exciting time for us and our business is going from strength to strength. We're both committed to pushing the brand into new creative avenues and it'll be interesting to see where we land in another two years."

www.cmyuk.com



First UK install of swissQprint's Karibu

swissQprint's roll-to-roll printer, the Karibu, is proving a game-changer for Muraspec Wallcoverings, the UK-based international leader in bespoke and commercial wallcoverings.

The UK's first swissQprint Karibu roll-to-roll printer was installed at Muraspec Wallcoverings in late 2021. Since then, the Muraspec team has found it to be the perfect addition to its wallcoverings print fleet, as the Karibu's flexibility and productivity enables the development of new and enhanced products and services for clients.

Muraspec has a heritage dating back to the 1850s and from its UK facility in Kent, designs and manufactures a wide range of wallcoverings using both traditional gravure and large format digital inkjet printing. The business provides a range of leading clients and brands across the hospitality, healthcare, retail, commercial and residential sectors around the world.

While digital print has been an integral part of Muraspec's 24-hour production for years, the business immediately saw the opportunity that the launch of the Karibu offered. The ability to produce high impact print on a roll-to-roll machine at up to 3.4 meters wide, combined with swissQprint's name for quality and reliability made the decision an easy one.

"swissQprint is well known for the build quality of its flatbed printers," said John Langfield (pictured above), Muraspec's Design Process and Digital Manager. "Therefore, as soon as the Karibu was introduced, I knew that if it was as good as its flatbed cousins, I wouldn't be disappointed."

As an international leader in the luxury bespoke contract and residential wallcoverings industry, Muraspec is constantly exploring the use of new embellishments that can be applied to pre-printed stock patterns. The Karibu's nine



colour channels can be configured with a wide range of speciality inks including bright orange, neon yellow and pink, white and varnish, creating opportunities for a host of new effects and outcomes.

The ability to handle and over-print pre-printed stock patterns with properties and textures is also helping the company win new contracts, as its designers look at new ways of creating more visual impact. In addition, with its X-Control movable beam, the print bed acts like a small flat bed for producing the latest samples or test prints, quickly and easily.

Print product samples are now a breeze with as many 30 samples sent out every day, quickly, efficiently and to the highest print standards.

"Being able to cut a full width piece of material and place it straight onto the print bed, without having to feed a roll, and print off a sample in under a minute was an instant winner. The time saving is incredible!" said John.

With the ability to print up to 212 m²/h, an extended range of colours and the ability to process virtually any roll material quickly and reliably, the 3.4 m wide Karibu has already become the productivity flagship of Muraspec's print fleet.

Commenting on the install, swissQprint's managing director, Erskine Stewart, said: "We are delighted that Muraspec Wallcoverings has become the first UK business to experience the benefits that our Karibu roll-to-roll printer delivers. From its nine colour channels through to its high productivity, the combination of the reliability and quality is making it the roll-to-roll wide format inkjet press of choice."

John added: "From enhanced capabilities and ease of operation to greater productivity and reliability, there are no areas of our business that the Karibu doesn't impact on positively. It is clear that swissQprint understands our industry in a way that few, if any, other brands do."

www.swissqprint.co.uk



"There are no areas of our business that the Karibu doesn't impact on positively."



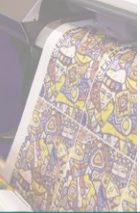
HOLOGRAPHIC

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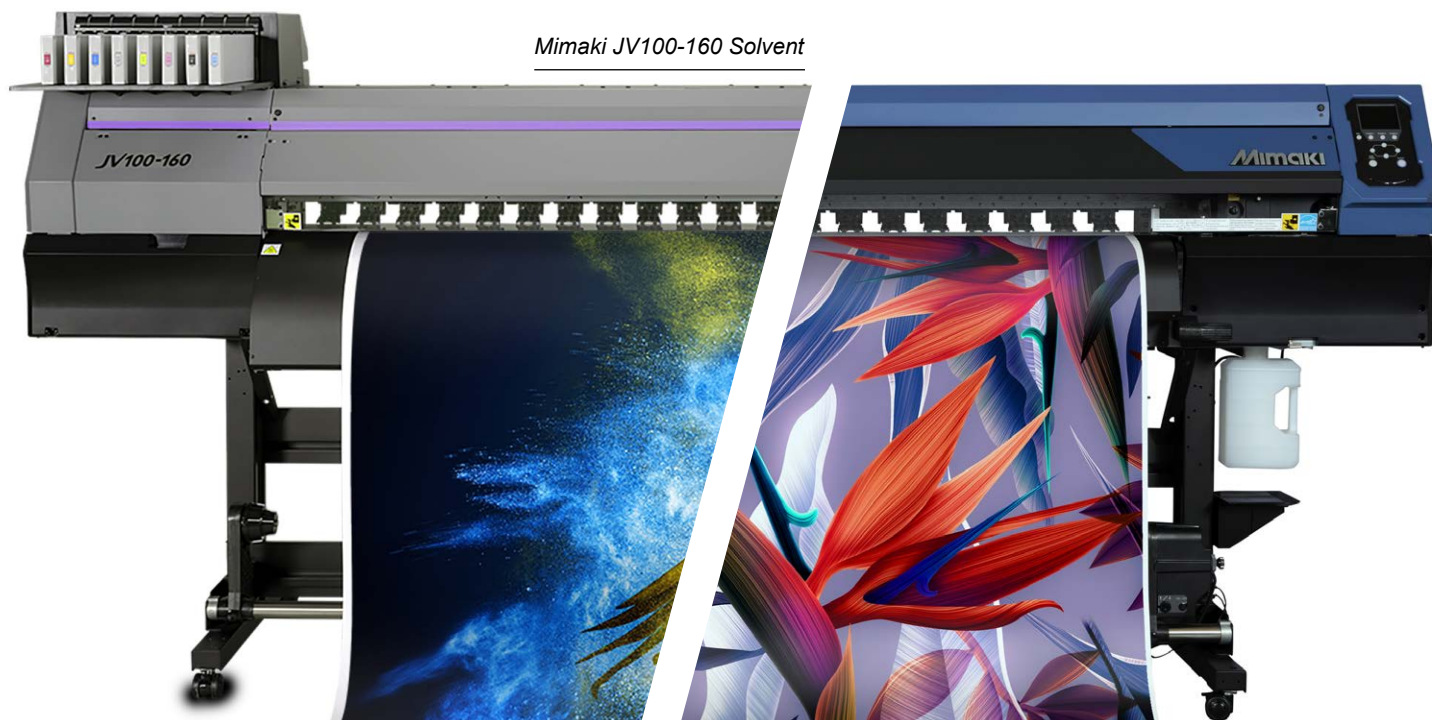
Printable holographic gloss vinyl film
with a very strong adherence,
for plastic parts of motorcycles and karts





Roll to Roll Printing

A fully functional family...



Mimaki JV100-160 Solvent

Mimaki TS100-1600 Dye-sublimation

When it comes to roll-to-roll printing, there are few manufacturers with as much experience and as many products in the market as Mimaki. As well as excellent build quality, Mimaki's SS21 eco-solvent inks are so loved by the industry that they are still the ink of choice for many, even 15 years on from their launch.

The last year or two have been huge for Mimaki, with a host of new machines launched and made available to the market. Mimaki has made the very sensible manufacturing decision of designing their new roll-to-roll printers so that they have the same core platform, which can be adapted for the different ink technologies. This means the new 100 Series and the high-production 330 Series are families of roll-to-roll printers that serve many different applications and markets – but within each Series, the machines come from the same roots.

Duncan Jefferies, Head of Marketing and Business Development at Hybrid Services (Mimaki's exclusive UK and

Ireland distributor), says, "This way of manufacturing the printers is very much in line with other industries, such as automotive, which designs the same essential chassis and then adds the specific elements that make each model different. It saves costs, adds commonality and means key developments can be rolled out across all products much more quickly, easily and efficiently."

The new range of machines in the Mimaki 100 Series is a great example of this strategy in action. The family includes the Mimaki JV100-160 Solvent printer, the UJV100-160 UV roll-to-roll printer and the TS100-1600 dye-sublimation textile printer.

Each of these printers shares some common benefits thanks to Mimaki's manufacturing strategy. This means that features such as the Mimaki Advanced Pass System, which utilises an advanced algorithm pattern to reduce banding and ensures prints look spectacular even at higher speeds, are available to all machines in the family.



...the Mimaki 100 Series

Other features across the board include the new Dot Adjustment System (DAS), which automatically performs two adjustments: the bi-directional adjustment and the media feed adjustment. The Nozzle Check Unit and Nozzle Recovery System have been developed to add even greater reliability to the printers when left printing unattended. The NCU automatically checks nozzles and cleans them if required, and the NRS substitutes defective nozzles giving uninterrupted operation.

Another common feature worth mentioning is Waveform Control Technology. With standard inkjet technology, drops can be fired irregularly, and misshapen, with WCT Mimaki, has enabled finely tuned frequencies for each ink's specific gravity and viscosity to precisely shape and place individual drops. This means images are optimised even at lower resolutions.

Mimaki JV100-160 Solvent

The Mimaki JV100 provides unattended, continuous printing combined with the very highest image quality. These are the hallmarks that make it a great value printer with low initial cost and high returns.

Duncan says, "This machine comes at a low initial cost and delivers the best print performance at the lowest running costs compared to other solvent printers in the sign printing market. The proven technology featured in this new printer makes it easy to use, and with up to 8 different colours, high-definition colour reproduction comes standard."

Mimaki's popular SS21 ink set is available in 8 colours, including Light Black and Orange. The inclusion of the spot orange significantly improves the colour gamut, covering approximately 94.8% of the PANTONE-coated colour chart.

Hybrid Services pioneered its "Let's Do More" solvent cartridge recycling scheme way back in 2008, and it continues today, offering Mimaki users a rebate-linked scheme that not only benefits them financially but also significantly assists with their print waste management. "Hybrid recycles the used Mimaki solvent ink cartridges, responsibly disposes of any waste and re-purposes any materials that we're able to, all at our cost," Duncan continues. "Any sign maker using Mimaki

SS21 ink can register for the scheme for free by visiting www.letsdomore.co.uk. They simply have to retain the spent cartridges, and on request, Hybrid will arrange collection, and for every 45 we collect, we'll supply a free one in return to say thanks for being part of the programme."

Mimaki UJV100-160

The Mimaki UJV100-160 UV-curable print process provides instantly dry prints, which allows you to 'print and apply' or immediately 'print and ship'. This brings with it the key benefits of both time and control. If you are printing banners for trimming, prints for laminating or jobs for immediately rolling up into a tube to send out, this is the machine for you.

Another key development with this printer is its performance when running white ink alongside the process colours. Hybrid's Reseller Account Manager, Martin Southworth, explains, "Mimaki has been at the forefront of the development of white UV cured inks for a decade and a half, and this experience shows in the print quality, opacity and brightness of the new LUS-190 white along with the speed at which the printer can produce a two-layer print onto either clear material or a coloured substrate. This makes the UJV100-160 an ideal solution for printing window graphics, with a reverse colour print backed up with the opaque white produced in a fast, single process that's instantly dry and ready to trim and install.

Martin adds, "The printer is a solution that really helps our sign-maker and print provider customers win more business. Because of its ability to offer up such a range of applications, it's the ideal tool for companies that are looking to achieve flexibility and diversity in their end-product offering. Be it a textile lightbox, recycled PVC banner, polyester pop-up, paper, or even canvas. It's a remarkably adept and adaptable solution."

He continues, "Equally, because of its capabilities, the UJV100 could just as easily fit into a more specialist operation that requires the printer to perform consistently on one specific material. For example, within a manufacturing environment where the instantly dry inks enable the artwork to be printed without holding up the whole process, waiting for it to dry. Of course, this impressive trait is of huge benefit to sign-makers and print providers, with the need to be able to speedily "print and apply" or instantly "print and ship", continuing to heap pressure on digital workflows."

Mimaki TS100-1600

The final member of the very functional Mimaki family is the dye-sublimation printer – the TS100. This machine uses Mimaki's high-quality Sb610 dye sublimation ink in a 4-colour configuration. Sb610 ink, known for its rub-fastness, durability and colour intensity, will contribute to the range of applications you are able to print and is available in convenient 1-litre bottles.

Conclusion

Mimaki's latest printer ranges offer great opportunity for sign and graphics companies looking to invest in competitively priced and fully featured wide format solutions. The choice of ink technologies offers an unrivalled potential and with Mimaki's heritage in supplying standout technology it's a strong investment for companies to make.

www.hybridservices.co.uk

Mimaki UJV100-160 UV-curable





Roll to Roll Printing

What's new with roll-to-roll printers, and why should sign-makers be interested?

UV LED roll-to-roll printers present a compelling proposition to Signmakers as they offer access to the proliferating trend for digitally printed textiles. When used in conjunction with the myriad of Tension Frame Systems (TFS) now available in the market, digitally printed tensioned materials offer high impact dynamic displays particularly when back or frontlit.

The advantages of using soft signage are well understood. However, a new generation of eco textiles and LED UV ink technology now allow Signmakers to offer green solutions to their customers. Increasingly environmental accountability is a pre-requisite to winning new work as supply chain partners are expected to demonstrate and meet sustainability targets.



PVC-free Kavalan is the proven replacement for all traditional PVC banner work inside and out. It has all the advantages of PVC but none of its malignance. It has the same look, feel, tensile strength and the ability to hold a weld to the same performance. Kavalan is polyester-based and recyclable, and unlike traditional PVC banner material can be diverted into waste-to-energy processes without harmful emissions. Up to 50% lighter than traditional PVC banner, Kavalan also has a lower carbon footprint. It can be used for both internal and external applications the latter of which now includes frontlit all-weather Flex Face systems.

CMYUK's current popular affordable industrial roll-to-roll UV LED printers include the following:

Canon Colorado 1650

The 1.6m wide Canon Colorado 1650 is a very attractive printer for signmakers too. Perfect for a range of materials including textiles and sustainable vinyl, it provides solvent quality but uses far more environmentally friendly UVgel LED cured inks. This printer allows you to switch between gloss and matt modes, while the new FX mode lays down matt and gloss in the same display image. Rated highly for its colour stability and speed, the Colorado can be left for optimal overnight printing.

Mimaki UCJV300-160

The UCJV150-160 is a 1.6m wide UV LED printer that features an integrated Print & Cut facility. It offers four-layer printing that allows designers to build layered, transformative graphics for backlit applications. This gives Signmakers the opportunity to offer something unique – a dynamic graphic that 'morphs' its image or colour scheme depending on the light source.

The integrated cut functionality enables volume production of labels, decals, window clings, floor graphics, POP displays, vehicle markings, packaging, prototypes and more in a single unit. For many jobs, instant drying, high scratch resistant UV LED printing can also eliminate the need for additional finishing like laminating, reducing cycle times and saving money.



EFI VUTEk Pro 32r+.

This 3.2m UV LED printer is designed for competitiveness and increased profitability. It eliminates the need for outsourcing, achieves faster production, and commits to larger capacity runs. A four-colour printer, it extends the range of supported substrates that can be used including lower cost and added-value specialty material. It's a dab hand with thinner substrates thanks to cool UV curing. Value added extras include white printing, slitters, automatic blackout, and manual backlit. Another big plus of this printer is that it drives down operating costs using significantly less energy consumption (1.8kw instead of 10 kw) and fewer consumable parts.

Mimaki UJV55-320

This 3.32m UV LED printer delivers a unique combination of high quality super wide output for volume production of soft signage textiles, banners, retail, exhibition, window graphics and more. Product highlights include the added versatility of twin-roll simultaneous printing, high-quality UV LED output up to 110 m2 per hour, 1200 dpi resolution, inline LED lightbox for 'on the fly' backlit print inspection, automatic nozzle checking system, and a take-up unit.



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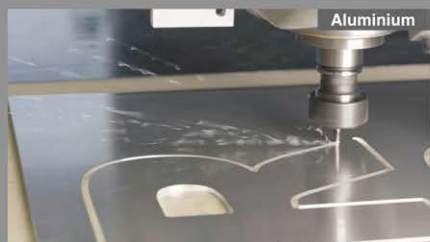
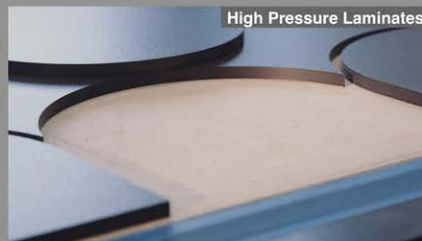
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Roll to Roll Printing

Designed by perfectionists...



...for perfectionists

VersaUV
LEC2-330/640

From outstanding print quality to wide-ranging substrate compatibility, the roll-to-roll printing method is a go-to for industrial printers, sign makers to packaging experts for its flexibility, speed, and cost-effectiveness.

And innovation in this category continues to make it an even more attractive option, with the VersaUV LEC2 Series, Roland DG's most advanced roll-to-roll UV printer/cutter, with integrated cutting capabilities that appeal to those looking for an all-in-one production solution.

A highly versatile LED-UV roll-to-roll print and cut machine, the machine is available in both a 30- and 64-inch width. The printer's focus is optimising print quality and expanding media compatibility, delivering a genuinely comprehensive UV printing solution for a wide spectrum of print professionals.

Pushing the boundaries of UV printing

We are firm believers in UV printing methods. By using UV light to cure ink, adhesives or coatings almost as soon as it's hit the substrate, be it paper, aluminium or many other materials in between, this technique takes digital printing to the next level.

Indeed, print businesses are deriving significant commercial value from the speed, simplicity and short print runs that UV enables.

The VersaUV LEC2 Series provides even greater revenue opportunities by broadening roll-to-roll and semi-rigid media customers can print on.

We have also sharpened the quality of output. Using the latest printhead technology with high resolution and smaller dot size, these models produce a smoother print with enhanced natural colour, greater detail, and improved stability across the whole print area. Thanks to newly designed LED lamps and an optimised ink discharge process, the LEC2-330/640 also prints in a higher density than we've previously achieved.

All of this is possible alongside making savings on inks. Both models are equipped with new EUV5 ink, which offers around a 25% reduction in ink costs compared to our previous generation of roll-to-roll printers. What is more, our EUV5 orange and red UV inks further enhance the colour gamut available and a new UV decal primer enabling PSP to print with more details than traditional print and cut stickers.

The VersaUV LEC2 is now also compatible with EUVS inks, which allows for printing on shrinkable materials without cracking. Such elasticity allows retaining the printing quality on uneven shapes, indentations, corners and curved surfaces.

A versatile solution for indoor and outdoor applications

Crucially, the VersaUV LEC2 Series offers supreme flexibility.

The wider LEC2-640, for example, can be used for a wide range of indoor and outdoor use cases. Its high-opacity white ink makes it possible to print onto transparent materials such as static cling films and produce graphics for window displays and promotions. Meanwhile, those who opt to include clear ink in their configuration can add a series of effects to custom wall coverings and smaller applications like stickers and decals.

The VersaUV LEC2 is fitted with accessories such as the TB-30 tension bar (LEC2-330) and ET-30/64 (LEC2-330/LEC2-640) extension table for printing on challenging substrates. Previously awkward materials, including soft pouches, contour-cut labels and full-build cardboard packaging prototypes, can now be easily printed.

All these features combine to form a roll-to-roll printer series compatible with various print mediums. These include extremely thin and semi-rigid substrates such as foils, PET film, fabrics, window coverings, PVC, and many other highly specialised materials used by sign makers and manufacturers reliant on industrial printing capabilities.

As a category, roll-to-roll printing continues to offer attractive solutions that push the boundaries of what is possible. From packaging mock-ups and premium labelling to exquisite high-end displays, graphics, and signage, never has it been easier for brands and displays to command attention.

www.rolanddg.com



*By Jane Rixon,
Sales & Business
Manager at HP
Large Format
Production UK & I*

HP creates opportunities for sign-makers

In years gone by, commercial print companies have increasingly expanded into sign-related markets to grow their offering. However, in more recent times, the metaphorical shoe is now on the other foot, with sign-makers being offered the chance to move into print-heavy markets and grow their businesses as a result.

Roll-to-roll printers offer sign-makers the opportunity to enter into a whole host of exciting markets, allowing them to access profitable work, which, previously, may have been out of their reach.

As is the case when moving into any new area or upgrading existing printers, it is crucial for sign-makers and print service providers to carry out due diligence and properly research the options available to them. After all, you would not want to invest in an older model and miss out on some of the latest features and techniques available with new printers.

We are constantly looking at ways to improve our print technology to meet the ever-changing needs and requirements of the modern sign-maker and this is related in some of our latest printer models.

Take for example the HP Latex 1500 and HP Latex 3600, both of which are 3.2m-wide devices and offer true dual roll-to-roll capabilities to the user, as well as the ability to print onto textiles. This offers customers the chance to enter the busy textile print market and take on all kinds of work, from T-shirts and other clothing to interior décor pieces.

The HP Latex 1500 is an affordable superwide printer, offering sign-makers a realistic option if they are investing in this sort of machine for the first time or looking to keep costs low if expanding their existing offering.

In terms of the HP Latex 3600, this is also a highly affordable solution, but this time for more industrial work, offering the user market-leading jumbo roll capabilities, which again opens up a whole range of markets that would not be achievable with smaller printer models.

Both models are also able to operate unattended, 24 hours a day, making them highly productive solutions for any print service provider.

However, what is perhaps most unique about these two machines is that they are neither solvent nor UV, and in fact are the only two 3.2m Latex printers available to the market. As to why this is so important to the modern sign-maker, the answer is simple: their impact on the environment.

All businesses, be it signage, print, or otherwise, are all too aware of the pressures of being eco-conscious in the modern market. Simply put, if you are not able to offer customers an environmentally friendly service, then the chances are you will miss out on valuable work, with clients included to reach out to those companies with higher environmental credentials.

Moving to inks, HP Latex Ink technology is water-based,

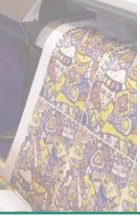
meaning it has a significantly lower impact on the world around us than solvent, eco-solvent and UV inks. This not only reduces the footprint of your own business, but that of the end customer, with you as a sign-maker being able to promote these eco-credentials to clients.

Building on this, another exciting aspect of working with HP Latex printers is HP Thermal Inkjet Technology. Together, HP Latex Inks and HP Thermal Inkjet Technology provide durable, odourless prints; sharp, vivid image quality; application versatility; and high productivity – all of which enable users to increase their print capacity and grow their businesses while reducing the total impact of printing on the environment.

Add in the fact that customers can replace and change print heads without the need to call out HP service engineers, and this technology not only improves quality, but reduces downtime and allows sign-makers and print service providers to get on with what they do best – produce high quality print.

www.digitalprinting.hp.com





Roll to Roll Printing



By Shaun Holdom,
Marketing
Manager, Fujifilm

Thanks to their versatility, roll-to-roll presses are helping sign and display print businesses to get maximum ROI across a range of applications.

As inkjet technology grew to become the dominant force in wide format printing during the early years of the 21st century, significant increases in both speed and quality became the norm. In more recent years, with overall speed and quality standards so high generally, that focus has shifted to other ways of maximising return on investment. Print companies are increasingly looking for a machine that suits their specific requirements rather than necessarily having every whistle and bell, and they are also looking to maximise flexibility, with reliable machines that can be turned to multiple applications. More value than ever before is being placed on versatility; it is key.

Applications

Whether producing banners, posters, trade show artwork, wallpaper, murals, truck livery, backdrops for theatrical and media sets, or adhesives for floor, wall and window graphics, roll-to-roll presses are suitable for use in such a wide variety of applications – and across such a wide range of substrates – that the best of them deliver huge ROI.

As the world becomes more connected and technologically advanced, and the supply chain becomes more digitised, there is also

Maximising ROI with roll-to-roll

increasing potential for roll-to-roll printing to be used to generate revenue from consumers who create designs online, and then need them printing. For example, personalised wallpaper, billboards or posters.

In the retail display sector, roll-to-roll printers are now enabling PSPs to print onto flexible materials, facilitating a move away from rigid cardboard and board displays, and increasing demand for flexible ones, such as fabric-covered lightboxes. Displays like this not only look nice and bright, but they are far easier to transport than board displays due to the printed material (ie – textiles) being so flexible. A cost-effective benefit of these displays is that they do not require heavy duty installation and they can be fitted by anyone at no extra cost. Additionally, thanks to advancements in inks, particularly white ink, fabric-covered lightboxes can be effectively backlit – either by adding a white to the back or the front of the printed material. Backlit lightboxes are particularly effective when depicting skin tones in images.

Production speeds with roll-to-roll printing can also be maximised, for example, by printing on two rolls at the same time.

Acuity Ultra R2

The award winning Acuity Ultra R2 is a roll-fed press that is suitable for use in a wide variety of applications within the graphics sector. Released in mid-2021 as a successor of the Acuity Ultra, the affordable digital press offers versatility in high speed production due to it being available in two width configurations (3.2m and 5m) and capable of printing on two rolls at the same time, as well as producing high quality output. The machine also lays down ink drops as small as 3.5 picolitres, resulting in lower ink consumption and ultimately higher profit per print.

Capitalise on growth

Looking ahead, the revenue-generating potential for roll-to-roll printing is set to increase. According to Persistence Market Research, revenues generated by the global roll-to-roll printing market is anticipated to increase from US\$9.4 billion in 2020 to US\$ 62 billion in by 2031. Now is the time to invest.

<https://www.fujifilm.com/uk/en>





By Phil McMullin,
Pro Graphics
Head of Sales,
Epson (UK) Ltd

Epson inks are fine-tuned for their printers

Unlike many printer manufacturers, Epson creates all the ink technology utilised by its printers. This means that all inks are fine-tuned for the specific print head technology, leaving customers with optimal performance as well as minimal maintenance requirements.

This also allows the development of inks to support new technologies and a broader range of applications. For example, the roll-to-roll SureColor SC-R5000 launched by Epson to expand its signage printer line-up features a resin ink solution. It was designed to offer print service providers and creative design agencies the ability to produce a wide range of signage and high value applications with environmentally friendly, outstanding results.

The SureColor SC-R5000 is configured with Epson's UltraChrome RS water-based resin ink set. Created as a complementary ink technology to Epson's range of commercial inks, it supports high performance on a wide range of sign, display and decor medias, particularly uncoated stocks. The quick drying ink supports application flexibility as it is suitable for printing traditional signage

applications including vinyl and banner, decor medias, as well as a broader range of substrates like uncoated papers, wallpapers, and textiles. Instant lamination and high scratch resistance lends itself to both the vehicle livery market for fast turnaround and application, and the POS market, where users may want to avoid laminating to reduce costs.

It offers sustainable solutions to customers and brands, too, as it is completely water based and has significantly lower curing temperatures. The eco-friendly and odourless prints can be used in sensitive environments such as schools and hospitals. Printed output on non-PVC media can be fully recycled.

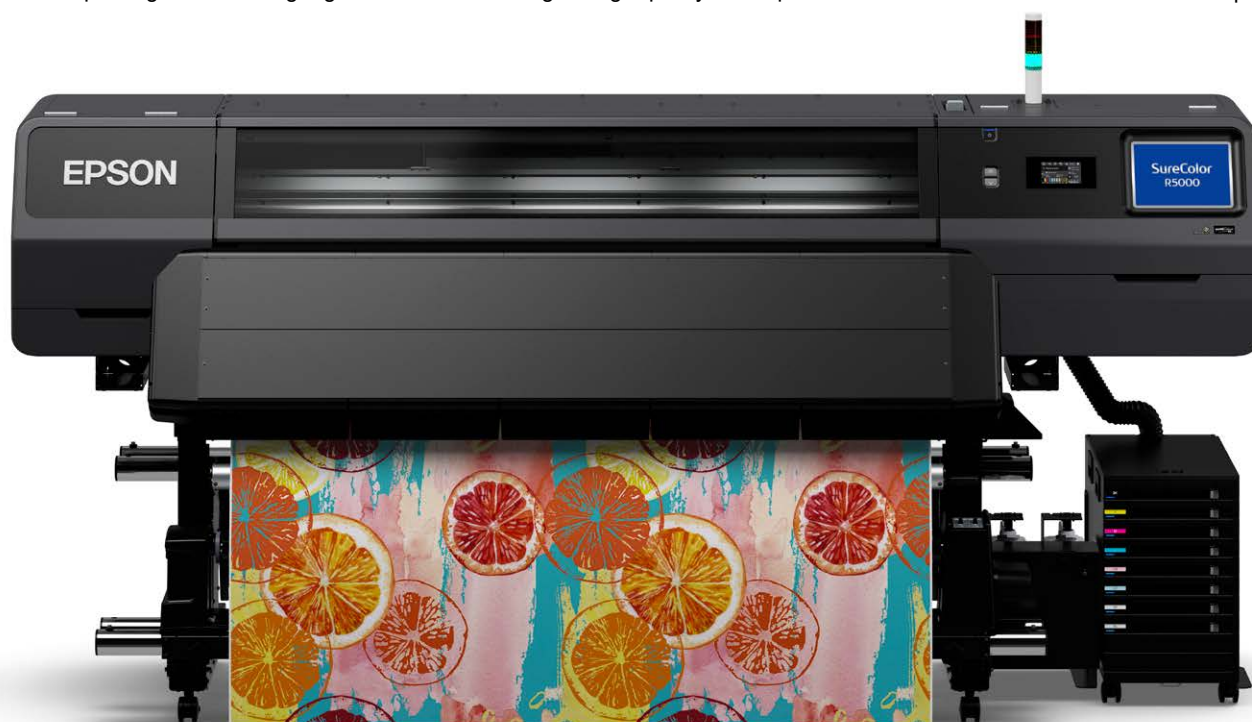
The 6-colour ink set comprises CMYK plus light cyan and light magenta to reduce graininess, and Epson Precision Dot technology delivers unique image quality. It was developed in tandem with Epson's renowned print head expertise to deliver elevated levels of print performance and an expanded choice of applications, all from a water-based ink. The SC-R5000 delivers outstandingly vibrant, consistent colour, even on heat sensitive media. It delivers high image quality and repeatable

colour. Both are achieved by Epson's unique three-stage curing process, long-life printhead, repeat accuracy of dot placements and consistent droplet size, job after job.

Also supporting the production of a wide range of items from fabrics and garments to signage and décor, in systems such as the SureColor SC-F10000H 76-inch dye sub printer, is Epson's UltraChrome DS Ink. It adheres quickly, transfers smoothly and provides excellent light and wash fastness. The addition of Fluorescent Yellow and Pink ink delivers enhanced brightness and reflectivity. They can be applied as a spot colour or as a process colour using a specially developed fluorescent colour-space and Epson Edge Print.

With Epson there is a choice of roll-to-roll systems and inks that allow for a wide range of application criteria to be met. They deliver a broad range of flexibility that support printing operations as they expand their services and portfolios in response to market demands.

www.epson.co.uk





Roll to Roll Printing



By Erskine
Stewart,
Managing Director
of swissQprint UK

Reliability, efficiency, and agility on a roll



If there is one vital skill that today's sign-making sector must embrace daily, it is agility. The range of materials required to meet customers' needs is becoming ever more extensive and diverse. From wood, vinyl and rigid board to soft signage and textiles, the production techniques dictated by each present huge challenges. Having machines capable of accommodating all these materials is key.

Our mission has ensured that each feature on a swissQprint machine is borne out of the desire to fulfil customers' needs, not simply to deliver clever technical innovation that may or may not have a practical application in the day-to-day business of sign makers.

That is why every swissQprint flatbed or roll-to-roll printer is made ready for reliable multi-shift operation. With swissQprint, uptime is exceptional, requiring minimal maintenance. Changing from job to job is achieved in next to no time to maximise efficiency and deliver the ease of use demanded by operators.



For example, the Karibu roll-to-roll printer has usability at its core. Its cassette system provides fast loading and changing of rolls, and with the built-in lightbox, the print quality of backlights can be controlled on the fly. It can handle rolls up to 180 kg in weight and 360 mm in diameter, with the ability to add a dual roll capability just an option away. Additionally, the integrated Mesh Kit delivers clean and easy printing of permeable material as well as full-bleed printing.

Thus, one machine can be configured to serve a variety of production requirements, avoiding the need for further investment.

Every operation is optimised for speedy production, with features such as swissQprint's unique Tip Switch Vacuum, which makes setting the print bed vacuum child's play. It makes masking a thing of the past, as you can switch the vacuum on or off in small segments to avoid leaks. This facility even works between the two rolls on the dual roll operation.

In the ever-competitive world of commercial print, the search for solutions that meet such a wide array of requirements – productivity, efficiency, reliability, agility, profitability, and environmental friendliness – is as time-consuming as it is complex. Print business owners are always looking to maximise productivity from each item of equipment, seeking out machinery that can undertake a variety of operations. Recent developments in flatbed

technology have produced machines that can be adapted from simple flatbed operation to roll-to-roll usage.

This roll-to-roll option converts the Oryx, Impala and Nyala flatbed machines seamlessly, with the ability to unwind and wind up rolls with up to 180 kg in weight and 360 mm in diameter. Be it film, tarpaulin, mesh, or other roll stock, all can be handled – even the heat-sensitive ones – thanks to LED curing.

Whether traditional roll-to-roll machine or a flatbed, energy efficiency is an issue no sign maker can ignore. swissQprint's LED systems are all proven to be highly energy efficient (evidenced by their ISO 20690:2018 certification), minimising operating costs and conserving valuable resources. With 3 kWh, the Nyala prints 200 square metres, the area of a tennis court.

For over 15 years, swissQprint has listened to and learned from customers, developing solutions that offer real-life answers to real-life production challenges, meeting the practical, day-to-day demands of their industry.

This pragmatic and highly collaborative approach, when allied to the world-renowned Swiss dedication to unrivalled quality, reliability, and cost-effectiveness, ensures that swissQprint roll-to-roll and flatbed printers deliver true value across all areas of business for sign makers worldwide.

www.swissqprint.com



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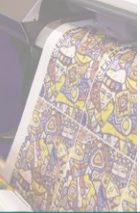
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Roll to Roll Printing

Liyu adds more roll-to-roll choice for sign-makers

Liyu UK is gaining traction in the UK market for its technically and aesthetically impressive Platinum printers, and its roll-to-roll solutions are no exception. For one thing, the Platinum QR5 can hardly be missed. Measuring a considerable 8.7 metres and printing up to 5.3-metre widths, it is perfectly formulated to create eye-catching, enormous prints with speed and accuracy.

The QR5 boasts features to assist operators in overcoming traditional challenges associated with producing large graphics, such as its hydraulic pressure system that makes sure that pressure is applied evenly to the media where required, and media quality checks are simple thanks to the integrated LED light box for monitoring media as it rolls up on to the take-up unit.

With operating costs as well as sustainable production both front-of-mind issues for today's sign-makers, businesses investing in a Platinum QR5 can be assured that energy consumption is low and Platinum UV printing inks are now GREENGUARD Gold certified, a prestigious certification granted to products that meet some of the world's most rigorous chemical emissions standards.

For signage businesses looking for the same great print quality, low operating costs, and versatility of applications of the Platinum QR5 at a 3.2m configuration, the QR3 may be a perfect choice. This model offers the same efficient features such as intelligent media monitoring, speed and reliability assured by Konica Minolta KM series printheads, and environmental advantages as its big brother, ideal for a range of desirable applications including banners, flooring, wallpaper, textile, and canvas.

Rounding off Liyu UK's roll-to-roll offerings is the Platinum PCT. This LED 3.2m machine is a wide-format workhorse, minimising downtime with its reliability and high-productivity. A large, efficient model like the PCT may give cost-conscious sign businesses concerned with the balance sheet pause for thought in these tough economic times, but the PCT keeps running costs and energy consumption low, with liquid-cooled UV lamp units and

compatibility with Ricoh Gen6 printheads for lower ink usage.

As with the QR models, the PCT design focuses on reducing traditional headaches that come with wide-format production, with an expanding anti-wrinkle roller on the back to guarantee media is flat before entering the machine, reducing the risk of printhead crashes. Just in case, the PCT also has a quick stop crash system for that eventuality.

Liyu UK Managing Director Eddie Tucker comments: "It's a great time for traditional

signage businesses to be looking at new opportunities and expanding their application capabilities, but what they don't want is to be saddled with a lot of new expenses, particularly now as we're all monitoring our outgoings even more closely. That's why Liyu UK's roll-to-roll solutions are such a great investment; you're getting state-of-the-art technology and intuitive, automated operation, with really economical running and remarkably low energy consumption for machines of this size and spec – it's a win-win!"

www.liyu.co.uk



Options from Josero provide versatility

For signage businesses looking for a way to offer a wider variety of graphics applications to customers across sign-making, wrapping, and other wide-format services, investing in a roll-to-roll solution is an ideal addition to the shop floor. Particularly if they are dipping a toe into the waters of new applications and services, an entry-level machine is an advisable route.

Sarah Winterbottom, Group Sales Director at wide-format equipment supplier Josero's parent company Soyang Group, comments: "Versatility is a key advantage of wide-format roll-to-roll equipment. Sign-makers are increasingly looking to diversify without sinking wasted time, effort, and costs into the wrong solutions. That's why Josero's range of roll-to-roll machines is such a great line-up, particularly now that we are part of the Soyang Group, which now offers the Fujifilm Acuity Ultra R2 in the UK market – there is something for everyone!"

Josero offers a range of roll-to-roll solutions from Mimaki, starting in the entry-level bracket with the Mimaki JV100-160 roll-to-roll eco-solvent inkjet printer, which offers the productivity and print quality needed to explore these new revenue streams at an entry-level price

point, even for businesses new to the world of wide-format.

The UJV100-160 offers the same snappy output but with LED-UV curing, a boon for sign-makers who are looking at lowering energy consumption, as many will likely be in the current climate. Other JV models from Josero include the JV150, JV300, and JV300 PLUS. At a time when minimising downtime and saving on operational costs is more important than ever, Mimaki's roll-to-roll machines are equipped to keep production on track with automated features that include the Nozzle Check Unit, Nozzle Recovery System, and Mimaki Advanced Pass System4, as well as a Dot Adjustment System, replacing formerly manual tasks that can disrupt workflow and increase the operator's workload.

Roll-to-roll print and cut equipment can be a beneficial investment for sign-makers looking to take advantage of roll-to-roll's application versatility with a reduced initial cost thanks to the single-machine purchase, as well as those with limited floor space. On the print and cut side, Josero offers the UCJV300, another LED UV solution with efficient cutting functionality, the CJV150 series for cost-effective photo quality prints, and the

CJV300 and CJV300 PLUS for application and ink versatility.

The latest addition to Josero's roll-to-roll portfolio takes size up a gear. In October 2022, the company announced its partnership with InkTec Europe to distribute the new JETRIX LXiR320 in the UK and Ireland. The JETRIX LXiR320 large format roll-to-roll digital UV LED inkjet printer handles prints up to 320cm with printhead speeds that can reach 120 sqm/hour and can print on up to three rolls simultaneously. Equipped with low energy consumption LED lamps and Eco Green inks, the LXiR320 makes another strong case for cutting back on operating costs without compromising on print quality.

Winterbottom adds: "The JETRIX LXiR320 is the perfect addition as we grow our equipment offering and look for new ways to ensure our customers have access to the best solutions available. For businesses pursuing opportunities in new markets, this reliable, consistent, economical solution is ideal, and we can't wait to start showing our existing customers and other interested parties what the LXiR320 is made of!"

www.josero.com





Substrate Tensioning Systems

What to consider when installing a Flex-Face sign

Tensioning systems have an increasingly important role in the sign-maker's armoury. They are an ideal alternative to sign trays where the requirement is large enough that it would require panel joints in the tray. In this instance, the tensioning – or flex-face – system means you won't need to compromise your customers' brand by having to have a line smack through the middle of it.

According to Sam Armstrong, Make it Happen's marketing consultant for SignFab, "The size of the system is dependent mainly on printing capabilities. The biggest printers are up to 5m, but if you need something wider than your printer can produce, you will then need to join them together, which creates a seam. Signs that big are usually high up, so this is not such an issue, especially with smart use of colour."

Lighting your flex-face

Adding light to a flex face system comes with its own set of challenges, and there are a number of options. There is a single strike option, which means there

is a single layer of print which can be illuminated at night using external lighting, such as trough lights. Double strike is the most popular system for self-illuminated flex faces. Ink is printed at 200% to ensure that colours remain vibrant when illuminated and appear darker when not illuminated.

Day and night, also known as colour-enhanced, is the best solution for illuminated flex-faces where brand colour is really important. During the printing process, you lay down a triple layer of print with the same design on either side of a layer of white ink. This print 'sandwich' ensures that colours will look almost the same whether illuminated or not.

Finally, there is block-out printing, which looks similar to stencil cut panels. This is ideal for dark backgrounds with white lettering and logos where part of the image needs to be partially or fully blocked out from illumination. This is done by creating layers of ink, including a dense black, to do the blocking.

Another important consideration is how you illuminate the flex-face sign. "Despite

the energy efficiency of modern LEDs, with the cost of power these days, it is still key to minimise the amount of time the sign is illuminated. During daylight, it is simply a waste. After around 10 pm are people still looking?"

Sam adds, "SignComp's flex system with black clip fitters to create the tension in the sign is a great choice and is the preferred system here at SignFab. It allows the flex-face sign to be huge – up to 25m or more in length – and it can be held in place and protected from extreme weather."

"The choice of flex-face system will be very much based on the requirements of your client and the available budget," concludes Sam, "I always say that your role as sign-maker is one of a consultant to your customers. They know what they want in terms of needing a sign, but they are relying on you to know what will actually deliver that. You are the one that can tell them how it will look and what needs to be done to make sure it stays up. There is no point scrimping on the budget if you don't deliver a sign that is fit for purpose."



Despite the energy efficiency of modern LEDs, with the cost of power these days, it is important to minimise the amount of time the sign is illuminated

Considering cladding

For the really big signs, those over 4m in height, Sam recommends using Hauser Wire, which helps the skin not to bow inwards onto the LEDs. Additional mild steel strengthening brackets are also advised.

Many flex-face signs are being fitted onto cladded buildings, and this presents further challenges. "The way modern buildings are cladded is changing rapidly," explains Sam. "In many cases, there is 1-2mm planting, and then behind that is about 50mm of foam. As a sign-fitter, this means you need to understand where the purlins are in the building, as this is what you need to fit the sign onto. Fittings go through into the purlin and are then plated from the inside."

She continues, "We have seen some experienced sign-makers install flex-faces who haven't come across this new cladding and their signs have come down because they weren't fitted correctly. The flex-faces have a thin layer of tin foil-like Stucco at the back of the box to help reflect light. When fitting you have to go through the braces, not through the Stucco. You then have to make sure you fit correctly to the cladded building."

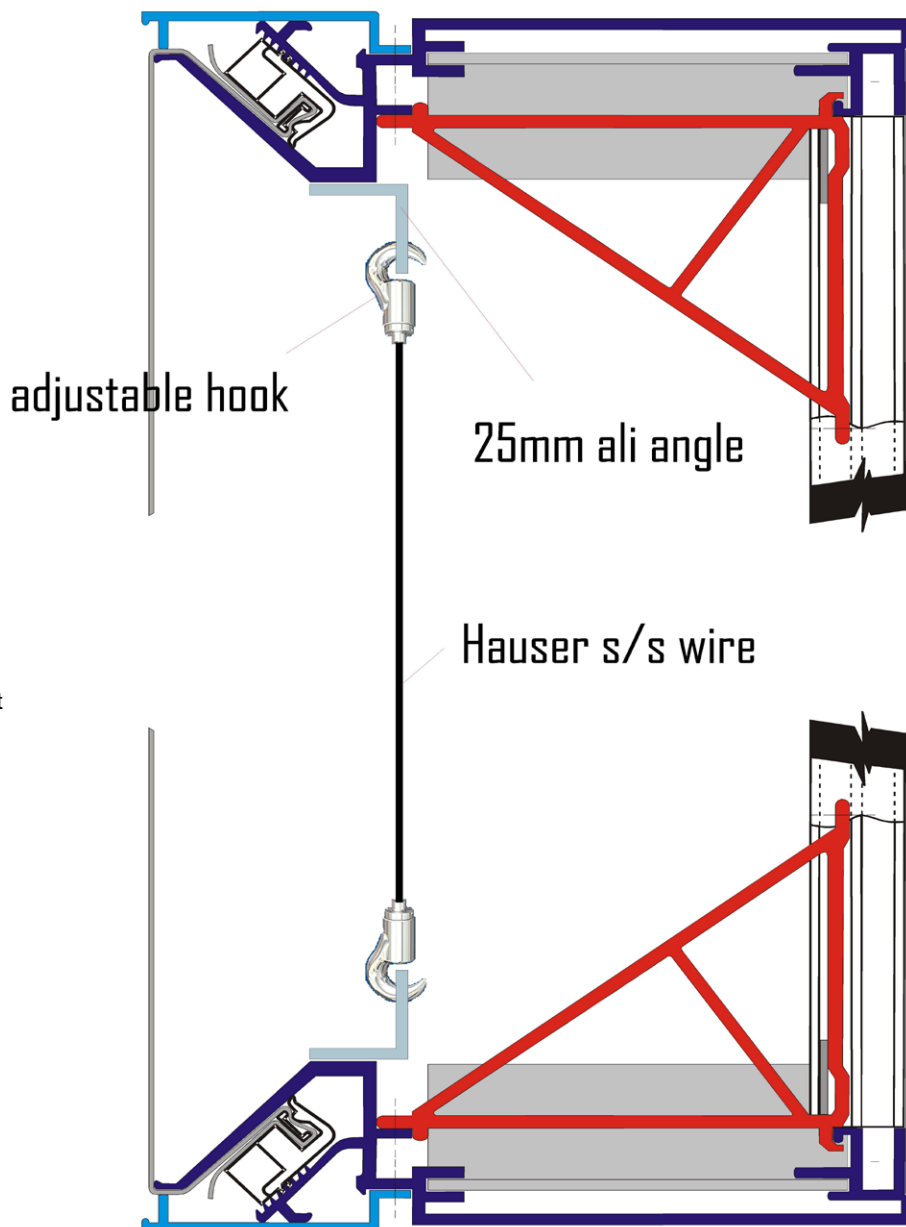
Tension is a good thing

Luke Droган, director at Super-Wide Digital says, "The core objective of flex-face systems is to create single-piece signage solutions that are taut like a drum skin within a tension frame. The key to these systems is in the tensioning. If this is not tensioned properly, then you can see the graphics go slack or flex and shake in the wind. When installed properly, they shouldn't lose tension."

One of the systems Superwide uses is SignComp Europe's Clip System. Tomas Purton, Managing Director of SignComp Europe explains, "Flex-face is growing by leaps and bounds as brands want to be bigger and bolder. If you want a big, seamless sign to catch the eye of your potential customers, then flex-face is the best option." He adds, "The main benefit to SignComp's flex-face system is that there is no need to fabricate your vinyl - No sewing, no eyelets, no rods, no clamps, and no springs. It can help you save time, save money and save on hassle. Beyond that, be rest assured that without a single failure throughout the history of the system, you can use our system with complete peace of mind."

Often referred to as the 'Black-Clip System', Purton says the success of

Installers need to ensure greater strength and support when installing signage systems to buildings with modern cladding



the SignComp Clip System is directly attributed to the unique method of tensioning. "By 'clipping' the vinyl and then inserting the clip within one of our flex-face systems, you end up with a great finish without any fabrication of your print. On top of this, the larger tolerances and easily adjustable clips mean installation is a breeze and you are guaranteed a perfect finish every time."

Luke concludes, "From a production perspective, SignComp's Black Clip system is a great solution. We can simply print and cut the printed skin to the

correct size and then add the clips to the perimeter at 150mm centres. There are other excellent systems that we prepare graphics for, but they require additional processes, such as welding, stitching or adding a keder strip. The other advantage of the black clip system is that you are able to adjust clips onsite for additional tension if necessary."

www.signcompeurope.com
www.signfab.co.uk
www.super-wide.digital



Substrate Tensioning Systems

An overview of SignComp's Flex-Face profiles

Brad Robinson, Sales & Marketing manager, of Hull-based Brownings, talks us through of The SignComp flex-face profiles.

Flex-face signage has been a staple of the Brownings product range since the early 90's. It is what we have become renowned for in the signage industry. We are a trade-only sign manufacturer, and anonymity is our speciality. We supply most of the well and lesser-known retail stores throughout the high street. Along with the leisure and hospitality sector, although the end-user has never heard of us. We utilise the SignComp suite of flex-face products, and we manufacture in-house. They are several different variants in the SignComp range:

The Econoflex range: The standard illuminated flex face sign. Depths include 135mm, 170mm, 196mm, and a double-sided version at 220mm.

Glowline: The Econoflex with a make-over. An acrylic diffuser has been introduced to the underside of the box. This enables light to shine through and illuminate below. Commonly used to illuminate; shop fronts, petrol forecourts, or as a security feature above ATMs.

Wrap around Econoflex: For buildings with 2 fascia. We can create a flex-face sign that mitres and meets on the corner rather than 2 independent boxes. For the corner, we weld the frame mitre profile inside the box. Which allows each side of the sign to take its own PVC skin.

Curved Backbox and Retro frame: Commonly seen in retail parks. Where the sign needs to match the structural design of the retail park. We create convex signs by fabricating a curved back box and welding the Retro frame to the face.

The Retro frame: Non-illuminated and only 89mm deep. The Retro frame comes with internal supports within the frame. These take the tension of the skin, taking the load of the fixings. Making the frame suitable for cladded fascia.

The Fascia frame: The slimmest profile we offer at 30mm deep. The Fascia frame runs around the perimeter of the sign (no internal supports). Meaning you need to be able to get good strong fixings, as these will take the tension of the skin.



Example of Glowline by Ashleigh Signs



Example of Econoflex

As well as the above, it is also possible to manufacture shaped flex-face signs or flex-face letters. As long as there are no tight radii or very acute angles, we can manipulate the Econoflex and Retro frame to suit your design. This is something that has seen a marked increase over the years as businesses look to make their brand stand out from the crowd.

Flex-face signage has been the go-to solution for large format signs for over 3 decades. This is due to its versatility and ease of maintaining the sign. Also, unlike other rigid substrates, the flex-face sign doesn't need any joins on the face of the sign until it goes over 5m wide. Because of this, we expect the flex-face sign to stay at the forefront of large format signage for years to come.

www.browningsltd.co.uk



Example of Fascia Frame by Sign Services



Example of Retro Frame by Sign Detail



Example of Curved Back Box and Retro Frame by Dyson Signs

How to build a Flex-Face tensioning system

Started in 1992, Northern Signcases in Oldham has been producing bespoke lightboxes of all shapes and sizes for a long time. They are a trade-only business that creates frames for flex-face sign systems using SignComp Europe's Clip System, known as the black clip system.

Dave Crew, director of Northern Signcases, tells us how the process is done from start to finish in their factory. Making signcases for the sign trade is what we do and we do it well. We produce boxes of all shapes and sizes for our and build them at a high quality so they last.

SignComp's patented Tensioning System is ideal for larger signs. It can be used to create non-rectangular shapes and even raised lettering.

(Fig 1.) At a fraction of the cost of conventional alternatives, this unique system is simple, versatile, requires no pocketing or eyelets and drastically cuts maintenance. Re-tensioning takes seconds.

(Fig. 2) This is an example of our 196mm Profile. This was being covered with low tac application tape (masking tape) to keep the profile free of scratches during production.

(Fig 3.) "The profile can be cut in order to create shapes and curves for the cases. This process called notching cuts the profile, enabling it to be bent into shape. Where we are not shaping the profile it is cut on a Double mitre saw to the correct size."

(Fig. 4) A variety of brackets, including back supports and bracing, ensure the system is very strong. It is likely to be installed somewhere high and for a long time, so it needs to be durable.

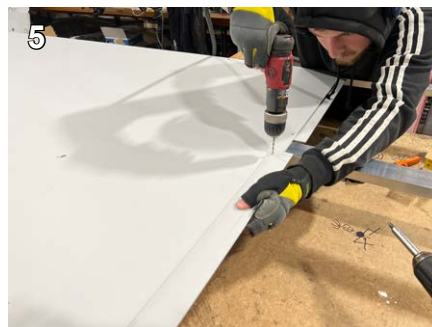
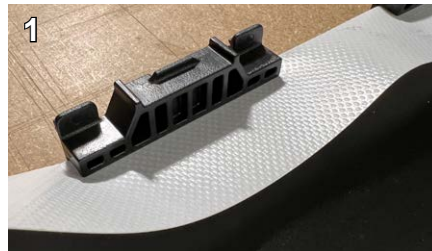
(Fig 5.) Dibond backing is added to the signcase keeps it secure and protected. It is an excellent substrate for mounting LED illumination.

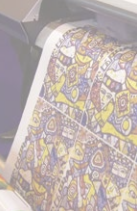
(Fig. 6) LED modules are added. We make it as easy as possible for installers to get lighting set up on site

(Fig. 7) Wrapping the signs properly will avoid any scuffs and other damage during transportation to the installation site.

(Figs. 8 & 9) Some finished examples from Belton Signs, a Northern Signcases customer.

www.northern-signcases.co.uk
www.beltonsigns.com





Substrate Tensioning Systems

A range of flexible signage systems from Nova Aluminium

Nova Aluminium provides high quality aluminium flex face signage systems for both internal and external use.

For larger projects, including national rollouts, we can devise solutions that reduce overall project costs through innovative design.

Lisa Sperring, Sign Sales Manager at Nova Aluminium says "A prime example of our cutting-edge technology is NovaFlex, the only full perimeter tensioning flexible faced system on the market. Tensioned from the front with up to 50mm of adjustment, NovaFlex is a robust system that guarantees wrinkle free skins every time. As the only manufacturer to offer flex boxes with different tensioning procedures, we are well placed to offer a solution for any application."

NovaFlex is ideal for boxes of any size, having recently been produced at 16500

x 5500mm. The high performing nature of the system overcomes limitations found in other products, for example, it's full perimeter tensioning guarantees there will not be any blow outs making it ideally for windy locations in the UK and overseas, including airports.

A broad range of black clip profile solutions

The NovaComp suite of profiles consists of 75mm, 135mm and 200mm deep systems, all of which are tensioned using the black clip method. All three can be supplied illuminated or non-illuminated. The 75mm fascia frame is a great alternative to folded trays, as not only is it cost effective, it eliminates the need for joins in the face.

With two fixing points around the perimeter, the fascia frame can be fitted

to any surface, including cladding. All systems can be supplied with fully printed skins if required, making Nova the ideal "one stop shop".

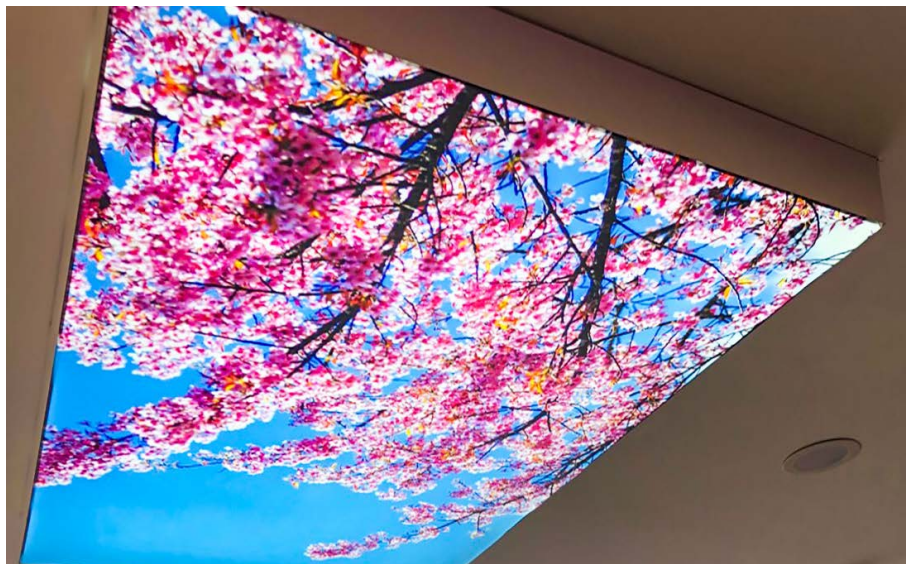
NovaTex is a screw free system that is perfect for retail environments and showrooms to provide striking images, especially when backlit with the very latest in LED technology producing lower energy consumption than existing products on the market. Printed skins are simply pushed into the frames with a thumb, no tools required.

Five depths are available from 18mm-100mm, all of which are completely screw free making them aesthetically ideal for low level signage. Additional internal strengthening prevents distortion, meaning boxes can be fixed to ceilings for extra intrigue. Fabricated using back supports for strength NovaTex is suitable for illuminated displays of almost any size. The printed skins can also be supplied if required.

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www.nova-aluminium.com



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TEXTILE

EASITEX is a patented internal Tension Fabric System that cuts out the need for a silicone strip, saving on costs & speeding up delivery.

LED S

Made to the highest standards whilst offering great warranties and pricing, SignComp distribute various products to cover all of your lighting needs.

DIRECTIONAL

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Visit our website at
signcompeurope.com

SignComp Europe Ltd are a trade-only supplier of signage systems. We offer next-day nationwide delivery if you order before 12.00pm, Monday-Friday.

Our no-obligation quotations are available on all products and can generally be provided within 2 hours. If you would like more information on SignComp and its product range, please contact us:

Visit us at:
www.signcompeurope.com

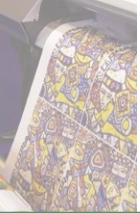


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Substrate Tensioning Systems

REXframe - A Smart Tensioning System

A fortuitous meeting at the SGIA exhibition a few years ago between RA Smart Partner Magnus Mighall and REXframe's CEO and Founder, Rod Peter, saw RA Smart become the exclusive UK and European distributor of REXframe. RA Smart's experience and expertise in the dye-sublimation printing market make this an excellent partnership.

REXframe is ideally suited for indoor displays, exhibition stands and retail systems. The frame is made from lightweight yet sturdy aluminium and is assembled using a simple connector system. It can be custom designed or shaped to fit any space.

RA Smart's textile print specialist, Alex Mighall, explains, "It's the accessories that make REXframe such a versatile system. Within the product range there are lots of clever connectors and parts that allow you to achieve just about anything you set your mind to. There are specific accessories for different shapes, hanging strengths and lighting systems. Each of these accessories can be added and removed quickly and easily using a single Allen key."

Clever lighting

In terms of lighting, REXframe also makes this very simple. "You can run REXframes standardised edge lighting strips through precisely fitting channels in the frame. These throw an even light up to 1.2m, so with lighting top and bottom you can achieve a 2.4m high frame with full light coverage – which is standard for most exhibition stands. And because these lights are supported along the edge, the frame doesn't need a solid back, which helps reduce the cost, weight and flexibility of the overall solution," says Alex.

Textile experience

RA Smart's expertise and experience in textile and dye-sublimation printing come very much into play with REXframe. "These systems are a logical extension of what we already do at RA Smart. It adds another potential revenue stream for our customers, which can move them into new markets as well as offer this as an additional service to existing customers," he says.

The artwork is printed on stretch fabric. The silicone gasket fitted to the fabric border ensures an easy-to-insert, taut finish. The fabric prints have a rubber lip

that is easily inserted into the frame. The elasticity of the fabric ensures a perfect fit, whilst the density or luminosity of the fabric achieves the look you're aiming for.

Alex goes on, "Dye-sub printed fabrics are really easy to transport because they are lighter than banner material, and they can be folded into really small packages without leaving creases or cracking, which can sometimes happen with UV printing. This means you can save time and cost when transporting REXframe to the customer site."

REXframes can be wall-mounted, freestanding, suspended, retrofitted or used to build an entire structure. It can be single-sided, double-sided or cubed; teamed with LED lighting, backlit or spotlight. It can securely support LED TVs or iPads.

Alex concludes, "REXframe is a fantastic, flexible and versatile solution for a range of indoor signage solutions. They look good, and they are quick and easy to install and take down when necessary. It is a truly reusable fabric signage system that is easy to assemble and reassemble time and time again."

www.REXframe.co.uk





By Oliver Mashiter,
Sales Manager
at Soyang

Choosing the right substrate for tensioning systems

The choice of material in signage and related applications is by no means an easy process for sign-makers. Is the media compatible with your printer? Can it be used outdoors? Does it comply with the customer's environmental standards and requests?

These are just some of the questions sign-makers should be asking themselves when it comes to the selection process for a material in signage jobs. However, there is one highly important factor that companies should keep in mind for certain applications – substrate tensioning.

A significant number of signage applications will require some form of tensioning system in order to pull the printed material into place and create the completed signs. Examples of this that come to mind immediately are building wraps; the last thing you want is for the image printed on a substrate to be obscured in any way, but a quality tensioning system will ensure that the image, no matter how large, will appear as intended.

Aside from the look of the final piece, there is obviously a safety aspect with tensioning systems. If the material is not properly held in place, you risk it being torn away from the surface and flapping around or, worse, coming away completely and falling on passers-by walking below.

Of course, you need to ensure the material you are working with can be stretched safely with one of these systems. If you do not make the necessary checks and end up printing on a substrate that is not



suitable for stretching, this could end up being a very costly mistake, with the material likely to tear during the application process, leaving you back at square one and costing you both time and money, not to mention the chance of repeat business.

There are many materials for tension frame systems whether it be PVC, non-PVC or textile. One key thing to keep in mind is that textile products can have varying degrees of stretch, so be sure to pay attention to the specifications before committing to a substrate.

At Soyang Europe, we have a number of solutions well suited for use with tensioning systems. These include our Sotex range, which features Lycra and offers a two-way stretch on dye sublimation textiles for projects such as display stands or acoustic panels that require curves.

Core features of the Sotex products include that they can be printed using UV, dye sublimation, latex and transfer sublimation printers, thus opening up their use to sign-makers running almost any kind of print technology.

Weighing 260gsm and available in widths of up to 3.2m, all products in the Sotex range carry the B1 fire rating. The collection comprises ST-140, ST-142 and ST-216, each of which offers different qualities to the user.

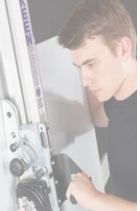
Of particular interest to sign-makers working with tensioning systems will be ST-140, our Power Stretch Fabric that is made from 85% polyester and 15% Lycra. This product offers excellent wrinkle-resistant characteristics and, as its name suggests, can be stretched after printing to create all sorts of signage pieces.

ST-142 is our Light Stretch Fabric, a 100% polyester knitted fabric with suitable stretch. The substrate offers ideal opacity and stretch for applications in the architectural and geometric sectors, with excellent definition on all colours.

Finally, ST-216 is branded as Night-star W/B Backdrops Fabric. This is a 100% warp-knitted polyester fabric with a white surface and a black resin coating backside, making it fully opaque for backdrops. It also has a slight stretch feature, which makes it perfect as a frame and pop-up material.

www.soyang.co.uk





Building Wraps

Kavalan brings a greener solution to building wraps

There is no doubt that the popularity of building wraps is on the rise. Blank, bland surfaces can now easily be replaced by bright, vibrant banners that draw the eye, making a perfect canvas for advertising opportunities, disguising unsightly construction sites, or making a business' premises stand out beyond its signage alone. It is a tricky business, however; there is lots to consider, from crucial durability to fire resistance to the production and installation of such sizeable graphics.

Another increasing challenge is an environmental one. It is common for signage businesses that offer building wraps to work with high-profile retail brands and prestigious construction contractors, all of whom are keen to work with businesses that align with and help them achieve their sustainability goals. These organisations want to ensure that both downstream and upstream, their

partners are keeping environmental targets on track.

On top of this, the sad truth is that despite claims of 'recyclability', most building banners made from PVC, the most harmful plastic, will end their lives in landfill, slowly releasing their deadly toxins into the local environment. PVC-free banner materials developer Kavalan aims to provide a greener solution to traditional PVC banner without customers compromising on the quality, durability, or safety of their products.

Kavalan user Embrace Building Wraps conducted a rigorous evaluation of the material, including heat and vibration welding testing, to ensure it was compatible with their exacting standards. Managing Director Greg Forster commented: "Our materials need to be very hard-working. It can't tear; it needs to be weldable and have Kader edges. We

carry out robust testing, and so we needed to test the Kavalan product to ensure it's going to deliver the same quality of print, manufacture, and longevity as its PVC counterparts."

The project involved the regeneration of The Sandhurst Block on the former army barracks in Bordon, with a vision for an installation that celebrates generations of the future, nature, and community. Embrace planned, printed, and fitted the building wraps on either side of the green living wall and installed ten 18 m2 and two 12m2 PVC-free wraps attached using Kader rail systems. On the left and right building wings are two of the UK's largest digitally printed PVC-free building wraps using Kavalan, both measuring 400 m2. Forster adds: "We were the only organisation to go in there and say, we can offer you a PVC-free product, which paid dividends because they were really happy with the idea, and it helped us secure the project. It's something that's becoming increasingly important to our clients."

Embrace Building Wraps were also responsible for the UK's first PVC-free printed scaffold wrap at Newson's Yard in London's Belgravia for client Grosvenor Estate, and Kavalan was also deployed to conceal refurbishment work on the site of leading independent jeweller Allum and Sidaway in Salisbury.

In early 2022, it was announced that Kavalan Sunlight Weldable Frontlit Banner and Kavalan Spiderweb 300 Mesh Banner both successfully passed the stringent Certifire - TS62 certification programme, a crucial development in the movement to eliminate PVC from large-scale building wrap projects. Kavalan products now bear the CERTIFIRE mark and, once printed, can be used on any scaffolded buildings and construction sites, along with the many other promotional and branding applications for which banner and mesh are used. Rob Karpenko, European Sales Director, Kavalan, commented: "Kavalan is upholding its reputation as a pioneer, setting our products apart by acquiring the respected Warringtonfire CERTIFIRE certification, which will become a mandatory requirement for scaffolding and building wrap projects in the future."

www.kavalan.co.uk





By Oliver Mashiter,
Sales Manager
at Soyang

Selecting the best media for building wraps

Of all the weird and wonderful print applications, there are few more impressive than building wraps. These gigantic prints are sure-fire eye-catchers to anyone passing by and have the ability to completely transform the look of any building, be it something small like a beach hut or skyscrapers towering over the city below.

However, with this comes a host of challenges for the print service providers or sign-makers that are producing the work. First of all, the sheer size of some of these wraps means the piece will need to be printed in parts and sewn or attached together upon application. Then there is the issue of the type of printer and ink you are using; will the image be high enough quality at such a size, and will the ink stand up to the elements?

This brings us on to material choice, which, for an application that will be applied to the exterior of a building, will constantly be exposed to all weathers. Obviously, the wet and windy weather that we all know and “love” in the UK will pose issues such as potential damage to the wrap in terms of rips and tears. But there is also the issue of the sun, which, although spells of which are few and far between in the UK, can damage the look of a print through fading of images and colours.

At Soyang Europe, we have a number of products suitable for building wraps that will not only look the part on day one but serve as a reliable solution throughout the duration that the building wrap is applied, standing strong against the great British weather.

Historically, Soyang Europe has supplied the market with PVC material up to 5m wide, and while this still forms a major part of our offering in this area, in recent years we have seen demand grow for more environmentally friendly solutions. This is primarily due to the end customer seeking to work with sign-makers that share their green goals, and by working with materials with more planet friendly credentials, you are more likely to win work – and repeat business – from these types of clients.



Our range of PVC-free solutions features a whole host of greener products suitable for use in building wrap work. These include Endutex Recytex, a portfolio of 100% recyclable materials suitable for both indoor and outdoor applications such as building wraps. Within this collection are Recytex Banner and Recytex B250 FR, both of which are supplied in 250g/sq m weight, and Recytex F265 FR and the slightly heavier weight of 265g/sq m.

Soyang Europe also offers Polymesh, a resin coated high tenacity polyester scrim that is available in sizes up to 500cm wide and is manufactured using 47% resin and 53% polyester.

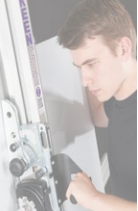
In terms of in house products, Soyang Europe has developed two greener products in the form of Solar Frontlit Standard and Solar Frontlit Premium. Both of these solutions are suitable for outdoor banner work and can be printed using UV, solvent, eco-solvent and latex inks with high image resolution. Importantly, the two products are supplied with excellent waterproof qualities, helping to eliminate concerns over weather damage.

Soyang Europe offers all this and a lot more to sign-makers, with our solutions designed to meet the different needs and requirements of each project. Our team of



knowledgeable experts will be happy to talk you through the Soyang portfolio and recommend the best suited material for the proposed project in hand.

www.soyang.co.uk



Building Wraps

Arkutex surface textiles for the built environment

CMYUK has set up a new Arkutex division to give digital print businesses the opportunity to expand into profitable new applications and market sectors

Arkutex is CMYUK's specialist range of surface textiles for the built environment. These materials enable digital print businesses to offer their existing client base an elevated aesthetic with an array of stunning new solutions that can be produced using their existing digital production technology.

CMYUK also announced that it has retained the services of KSS, an award-winning architectural and design practice, to design a new dedicated Arkutex showroom and contractor training centre in Bloxwich, home to its national logistics and distribution hub.

This D&B construction will showcase multiple environments that simulate all target applications and markets for surface textiles. This facility will also be an innovation exhibit for establishing a nationwide community of specifiers and contractors.

Arkutex materials

Arkutex finishes, techniques, and design possibilities transform a variety of environments including retail, corporate, hospitality, leisure, heritage, events, exhibitions, education, and healthcare amongst others.

Applications include single piece stretch fabrics that simulate solid structures, walls and ceilings, enabling digitally printed designs or plain textiles to fabricate spatial areas, which extend the scope and potential of surface interiors. Paste-up textiles, furniture, exterior facades, projection backdrops, magnetic surfaces, pin walls and more, are all made possible through these materials.

Arkutex products bestow a premium feel to a locality. Vast (up to 5m wide), one-piece, no join surface

coverings impart an imperceptible yet powerful ambience for truly impactful walls and ceilings. They add value to interior spaces too, by incorporating features including backlit walls and panels, while additional elements such as acoustic grade sound management, lighting, H-VAC, and telecoms systems can be safely and easily integrated.

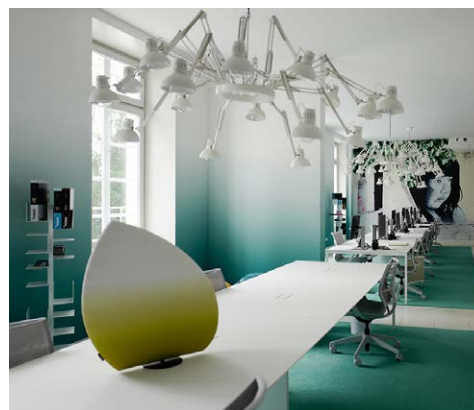
Fabric architecture does away with the inconvenience that traditional fixing and refurbishment demand. Quick and easy to install, mess, disruption and downtime pressures can now be consigned to the past.

This brand meets rigorous health & safety, fire and environmental certifications, and is specification-ready for all your interior and exterior projects.

Mick Crook, CMYUK Business Development Director (Materials) said, "The Arkutex portfolio of surface textiles represents a fully specified opportunity for our clients to access new applications in multiple market sectors. Personalised interiors and décor using environmentally responsible materials is a high growth area and architectural textiles extend this trend even further. Creating new innovations both in design and installation, the scope and versatility that Arkutex offers, provides a compelling narrative with the potential to secure greater profitability and build more resilience into our customers' business operations."

Robin East, Commercial Director, CMYUK Group said, "We are delighted to launch this new specialist division and are particularly excited to be working with KSS to establish a new showroom and fitting training centre. This new facility will showcase the full potential of textile architecture applications that will engage and inspire the high-end architectural/D&B community and associated media."

www.cmyuk.com



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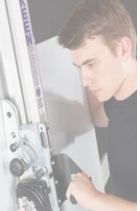
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Building Wraps

Orange Quarter brings idea to life



Dan Todd is the founder and owner of Orange Quarter Ltd, a sign-maker in Huddersfield. He found a proactive way of winning some building wrap business and making some great contacts along the way.

"I saw an Instagram post of a CGI image on a wall. It was a proposal made by the brewery Molson Coors at the Smile bar and Venue. I immediately jumped on the opportunity to offer this as a wall wrap solution. I dashed down to meet the owners (who I now class as friends)."

Up until now, the brewery has used street artists to spray and graffiti the artwork onto the wall. This is a costly and time-consuming process. The artwork for these murals was done by a company called Bonzai Creatives. Dan continues, "They sent me the artwork to print and produce, and we had a team of 3 installers on the job for 3 days. This wall also had half a day's work spent on it for preparation of the surface (jet wash and soap scrub!) Fail to prepare - Prepare to fail!"

The product used for this project is a well-known MacTac media called WW100 pro. This is a 50-micron thick cast vinyl with a very high-tac adhesive. It is purpose-made for brick/wall wraps. The print media is then laminated with an Avery cast matt laminate and has a 5-year manufacturer's warranty.

The product was installed in two phases:

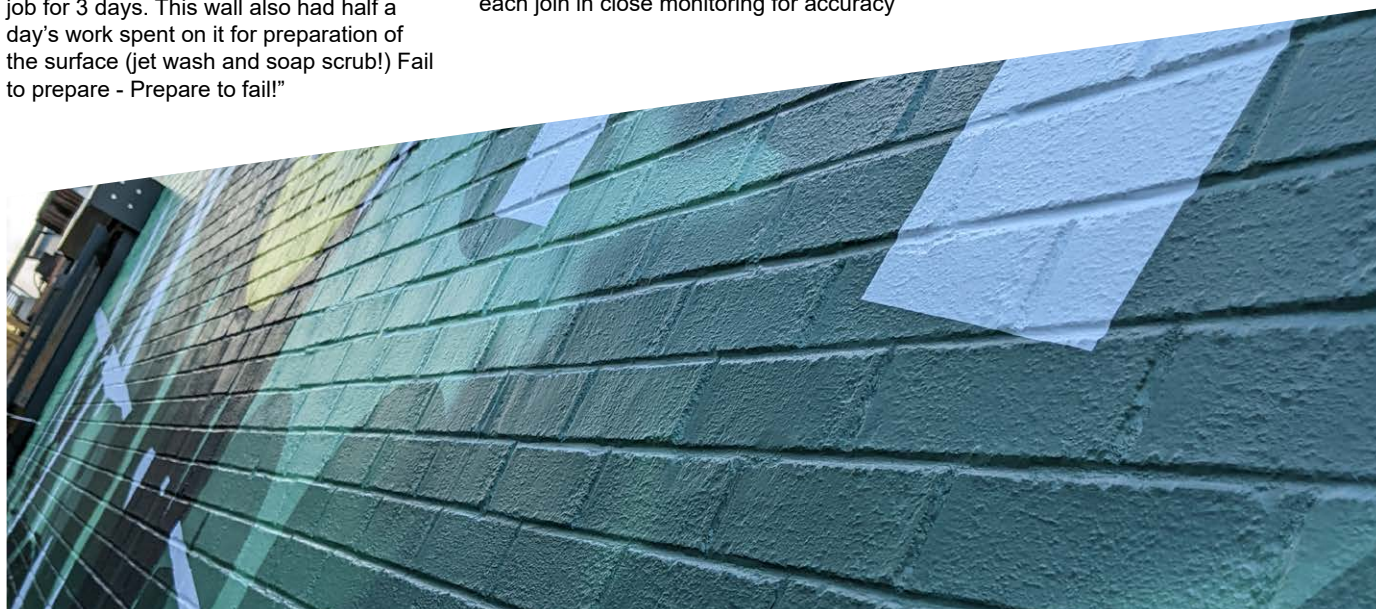
Phase 1 (30% of the job)

Getting the prints on the wall – "This was the easy part," says Dan, adding, "Installing each 1260mm wide drop onto the surface of the brick is fairly straightforward. We were working with a 20mm overlap and keeping registration of each join in close monitoring for accuracy"

Phase 2 (70% of the job)

Heating the product into the recesses – "This is the laborious part! Every square inch of vinyl needs heating into the mortar recesses, nooks and crannies. This is done with a semi-dense foam roller. The print media then needs to be post-heated between 90-100 degrees C with further rolling. This effectively 'resets' the material's memory to eliminate the media from 'popping' out of the recesses further down the line.

www.orangequarter.co.uk



Consider liquid lamination for your substrates

By Derric Landor, Managing
Director of Landor UK

It's all very well printing huge coverings and colourful tension systems, but how do you keep them durable and looking good for longer? In today's market, while inks have vastly improved, many brands also want a finished solution that is sustainable, lasts a long time, and is lightfast. This is the complete solution that many brands are looking for.

Whether printing onto PVC, fabric, banners and certainly when printing outdoors, one way to keep your inks and substrates in pristine condition and durable enough for the long term is a little touch of liquid lamination. This can be achieved with no special machinery or equipment. For many sign companies, this is a situation that you can address this right now for every graphically printed sign. Simply using hand rollers, sprays or paint pads on a wall, or a floor, or a table can pretty much double the life of your print.

However much you are spending to print and install that sign, a touch of liquid laminate is a great investment and will help meet your customers' value and expectations. It will also save you from having to replace those signs that just didn't quite make it!



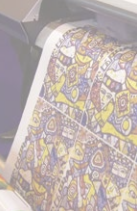
Liquid lamination is one of the easiest possible ways to increase the value of your assets or your customers. You can double the life of the print outdoors, but if the sign remains up while the image ages badly, the fade and deterioration will negatively affect the brand and possibly your reputation.

Fading on the above image compared to the image on the left is typical of what can happen to unprotected images outdoors

Below: Liquid lamination can preserve the colour vibrancy and durability of your prints for much longer than non-coated materials

www.landoruk.com





Sustainability, all the signs point to the need for lasting change

As you will know there is a new buzzword around; Sustainability. You may count yourself as a specialist on the matter, or perhaps it just hasn't trickled down to you yet. However, few can deny that there is something in the air, that something is greenhouse gases!

Whether or not you subscribe to the climate warming science and believe that fossil fuels are turning us all into slow boiling frogs, legislation is set to shape every industry in the UK, including those working in Signage and Display.

In August 2022, the government announced, as part of its 'Ten Point Plan for Green Industrial Revolution' that the sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles would end by 2023. Most can recall the days when the electric car sceptics looked on as visionary car manufacturers took a leap of faith. Many of those early visionaries are now enjoying notoriety and a booming trade in electric cars. This boom has systematically seen a rise in competitive commercial leases and salary sacrifice schemes. Shifting to electric vehicles not only ticks one's 'eco-boxes,' but it has been further encouraged by an offset of 50% off corporation tax and fuel savings.

The advantages of electric vehicles are immediately apparent for small business owners with low mileage. Still, for large manufacturers with nationwide distribution fleets, the costs benefit calculations for switching, current electronic vehicle mileage range, and charging logistics have yet to add up.

Every business in the UK is unique in its operations, and the signage and display industry hold no exception. Adapting business operations to become more sustainable is a new challenge that will only increase as government and consumer pressures increase.

Price and quality will undoubtedly remain decision factors in the print and signage buying chain. However, as organisations and brands publish and promote their 'business for good' sustainability intentions, they start asking new questions about their supply chains. So, it makes sense that they seek partnerships with those seen as kindred spirits on the same journey as them. For the more ruthless out there, this could provide a perfect foot in

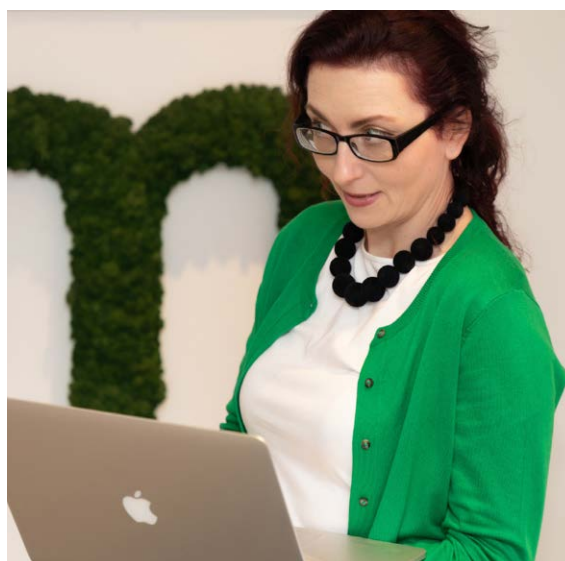
the door and an opportunity to disrupt current supplier relationships.

With concerns over rising overheads on everyone's mind, spurred by the energy crisis, it must be a relief for many to hear that looking at sustainability can provide economic advantages. Diverting waste from landfills can often reduce overheads and give an edge over competitors when targeting green buyers. Further to this, a call for greater producer responsibility has seen supermarkets launch recycling take-back schemes. These schemes could one day extend to industries such as our own, increasing the frequency of client contact, to forge stronger supplier/buyer ties and increasing the likelihood of opportunist sales. Sustainability is increasingly making business and economic sense.

No longer niche and no longer just a fad – sustainability is now the status quo or the new "cool." From tech giants like Google to global food and beverage chains like McDonald's, the shift is gathering momentum and touching all industries. Ten years ago, getting through the door of the likes of Proctor & Gamble to discuss recycling and sustainability was a losing battle. Today those same doors are opening as companies seek increasing awareness on sustainability matters.

Knowledge and collaboration will undoubtedly play their part in our industry when helping savvy business owners adapt and not fall behind the curve. Or rather, in the relatively concise but somewhat stark words of one of our printing's founding fathers, Ben Franklin, "When you're finished changing, you're finished."

www.makeih.co.uk



Aimee Davies is a brand consultant and sustainability lead for Make it Happen Signage Consultancy Ltd. She has a background in marketing, signage and large format print. As the creator of an industry first – the Sustainability Bootcamp – she is a self-confessed eco-nerd who is on a mission to take the overwhelm out of sustainability and offer support to those working in the signage trade.



by Liam Hodson,
owner, LKH Tools.

Top tips to get the best out of your router

With increasing costs in material, tooling, labour and operational costs, it's more important than ever to optimise the use of your CNC router. Rectifying easy to avoid mistakes before they happen can make a big difference on the profit you make from each project. In this series of articles, my aim is to help you prevent having to cut the job twice or adding extra labour to bring the work up to standard. I start by looking at the machine itself...

Machine vacuum bed

The vacuum bed is often overlooked by machine operators. If the spoil board is excessively cut into or not working efficiently, the material - including the parts - will not hold down sufficiently. This will not only give very poor results in the finished product, it will also shorten the life of the router bit. Material vibrating against the side of the tool will cause damage or even snap the tool completely. The chatter marks on the part from this will be very noticeable. It will then require cutting again or additional work to bring it up to standard.

Regular inspection of the vacuum spoil board and pipework from the vacuum pump should be undertaken. If MDF is used as the spoil board then skimming the board will level the table and increase the vacuum hold down effectiveness. Grooves in the MDF board create leakage points and it works at its best with two smooth surfaces.

The edges of the vacuum table can sometimes not be as strong as the rest of the board. It is important to work this out when nesting parts into a sheet.

Extraction System

Regular emptying of the extraction system is a must. This is again missed by operators as it's sometimes hidden away from the machine. If the extraction system isn't set up correctly then it will leave excessive debris on the spoil board. If this isn't cleaned off between offloading and loading it will cause issues with the vacuum hold down. The face of the material can also be scratched with the loose chippings as the extraction foot pushes the debris around on the top of the material.



Top tip - Make sure the extraction system is emptied regularly and the extraction foot is set for the correct material thickness. A clean machine is an efficient machine.



Top Tip - Don't be afraid to use a bit of masking tape to assist the vacuum around the very edges of a sheet, especially if it's very thin. The cost of the tape will be far less than replacing a sheet of material.

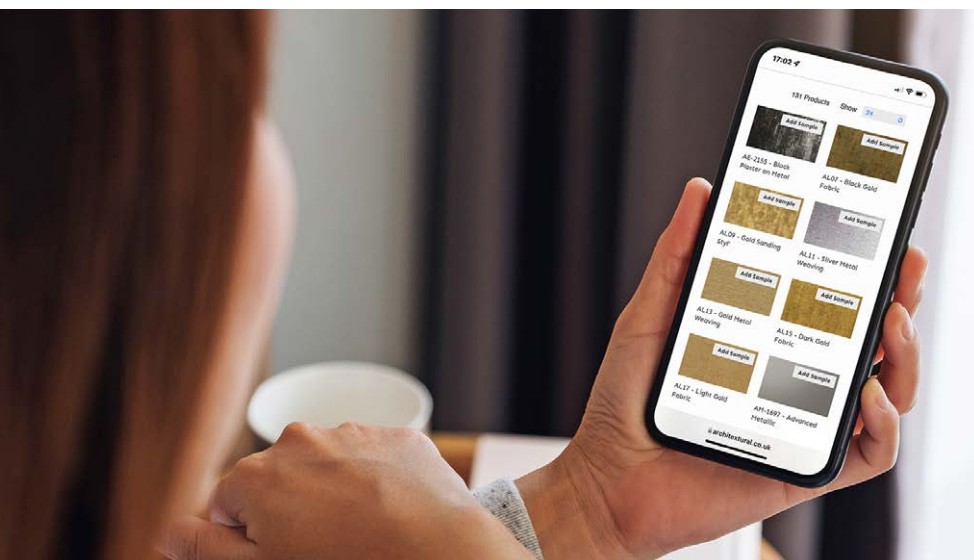
Blowing down the machine bed between cuts seems a good idea to ensure the bed is clean but this pushes the dust and debris into areas such as bearings and the drive system. This can cause issues over time and will require more regular maintenance.

If the debris isn't extracted correctly it can also leave a poor cut on the material especially if multiple passes are required to process thicker materials. The extra heat built up when routing debris and material can shorten the tool life too.

www.lkhtools.co.uk



Industry View



The Essential Guide to Wrapping Tiles

It's one of our most frequently asked questions and the answer is always the same. Yes, architectural film can be used to cover over tiles. With the launch of our new Kitchen Application Course this week, Ryan Taylor from the William Smith marketing team takes a closer look at this slightly lesser-known application.



Depending on the size of the area, a complete wrap could be completed in as little as 2-3 hours.



There are many great benefits to wrapping tiles instead of replacing them, with the most significant reasons being that it is a far quicker and more cost-effective solution. Depending on the size of the area, a complete wrap could be completed in as little as 2-3 hours.

In all honesty, wrapping tiles is fairly straightforward business. There's rarely much complexity involved, with most tiles already being flat, clean surfaces, perfect for wrapping. However, there are a few very important considerations to be aware of before you begin.

First up, you're going to need to know exactly what sort of material you're working with. With thousands of patterns, colours, and finishes to choose from across multiple brands, we know the selection process can sometimes be a bit overwhelming for your clients. Our best advice would be to ask your clients to search for inspiration online if they don't already have a specific look in mind. Websites such as Pinterest or even Instagram are ideal for this.

Once you have a good understanding of what it is they're trying to achieve, get in touch with the Architextural team and request some samples. Our samples come pre-cut at A6 size, so they're perfect for this type of application, where you or your client can temporarily apply them to the tiles and gain an insight into how the final product will look.

Once the decision has been made, you'll want to order the material and pre-cut it to the same size as the tiles. If you're fortunate enough to have access to a plotter, that will make work a lot easier, but there are a few other options if this isn't

the case. If you discuss the project with a member of our sales team and provide us with accurate measurements, we can have the material pre-cut to size before shipping using our guillotine. There is a service charge for this, but it may be worthwhile if it saves you a significant amount of time. Alternatively, you have the option to get creative and make your own stencil using a substrate you can't easily cut through, such as aluminium. Finally, if none of these options are viable, you can always revert to using a knife and ruler, but make sure your measurements and cuts are as accurate as possible so as not to affect the quality of the finish.

So, you've ordered the material and cut it to size. Fortunately, that's the hardest part done. As already mentioned, the actual application stage is pretty simple when compared to other more complex application types. If any raised objects need temporarily removing, such as a sink, then do so as appropriate. Please do not attempt to remove anything you aren't sure about. If you don't know how to disconnect it or put it back in place, then it's best to leave it well alone. It may make the application slightly trickier, but never take unnecessary risks, especially when working for a client.

Once any raised objects have been removed, next it's time to clean the tiles. First, use fine-grit sandpaper to remove any excess grout. Ensure any silicon sealant is removed as the vinyl will not stick to the surface if there is any residue remaining. Next, cover the edges of any remaining raised objects, such as a toilet or bathtub, using masking tape to lower the surface energy of the area. Then, with an appropriate surface cleaner, spray all tiles before wiping them down with a clean

cloth. Make sure all areas are covered and have had enough time to dry. Then identify any high-risk areas and prime them appropriately.

Depending on the type of tiles being wrapped, extra preparation may be required. Smooth ceramic tiles will only require primer around the edges. If the tiles are slightly textured, you should prime the entire area. You can wrap tiles in areas where there is a greater risk of water exposure, such as in a shower cubicle, but it is not advisable unless absolutely necessary. These areas should be treated in the same way and primed all over. Wait 10-15 minutes for the primer to dry before attempting to apply the film.

From there it's just a matter of repetition. Attach the film to the top of the tile, peeling the liner down to around halfway. Run your squeegee from left to right and slowly release the liner until the film is firmly stuck down, overlapping your squeegee strokes as you go. There will likely be points where you need to work around raised objects. Use relief cuts and trim around the edges as accurately as possible. Then continue the process as normal. Fix any raised objects back in place and reapply silicon sealant if required.

Well, there you have it. That's the essential guide to wrapping tiles. When it comes to an application such as this, it's extra important to make sure the area is properly prepared. If you fail to prepare, then prepare to fail. And remember, if you're ever unsure about a specific application, our expert team is always on hand to offer any guidance or advice you may need.

www.architextural.co.uk



By Colin
McDermott
– The Online
Print Coach

Every signage business will have to face the challenge of an unhappy customer wanting a refund. Someone wants their money back because the job was delivered or installed late, maybe the colour is not what they were expecting, perhaps the packaging was damaged, and a part of the job is unusable.

There's no escaping from it. We live in a world where complaints are something that happens frequently, and some of your clients are probably professionals at it. But do you measure the impact this has on your business? How much do you lose each year on giving refunds?

Personally, I think every complaint presents an opportunity, and ultimately the end goal should be to reduce the number of refunds you are giving throughout the year. So, let's focus on flipping those angry customers into brand evangelists!

What you need to do is engage with them with the key focus on working together to come up with a solution they deem acceptable. If you can, give them a few different solutions to ponder. The important thing to remember is that your customer ordered that job from you for a reason, and the chances are they still need it for the same purpose, so it really is in everyone's best interest to try and deliver on your side of the deal.

What Are the Main The Objectives?

You want to stop the customer from going elsewhere, and you want to get the opportunity to fix it. Before you get into a tit-for-tat, he said/she said argument, it's important to acknowledge with your customer that you are sorry they are not happy and that you will do what you can to help them and come up with a solution.

We've all been there. I had a situation with some hotel transport just at the weekend. I went straight into fight or flight mode and was ready for an argument with the hotel staff. However, the situation was very quickly diffused as soon as they said, "We're really sorry. What can we do to help?"

How to avoid giving refunds to unhappy customers

Once you get to that point, we need to establish if they are actually eligible for a refund.

Eligible for a refund

If they are, the customer will hear nothing else until you say they are eligible for a refund. As soon as you make this clear, they will be more receptive to what you have to say.

Remind them that they still require that print job for the purpose they ordered it for, and providing you can fix it within the required timescales for them, explain that you would like the opportunity to put it right.

I've never been a fan of fixing the job for the client AND giving them a discount on the job. There's no guarantee of them coming back to you again. Instead, I prefer to be quite frank with them and explain that it is not your policy, but instead, once you have fixed the job, would like the chance to show them this is not the norm when someone orders from you and give them a discount on their next job. Using this method not only saves your margin on this order, but it's also created a future sales opportunity.

If a client refuses that and says they want the job plus a refund on this order before they give you another chance, don't fall for the carrot on the stick, the chances are they will not be returning anyway. You've done your best to fix the error, but there does need to be some ground met in the middle.

NOT eligible for a refund

If they are not eligible, you need to indicate this right at the start of the conversation. This clarifies the fact that you have a strict and established refund policy. Again, recognise that they still have a purpose for the job they ordered and indicate your willingness to still try and help them in any way you can.

Obviously, it depends on what

the issue was, the type of print job, what margin you are making etc. Let's say the customer has ordered 5,000 A5 Flyers, which you took on and outsourced. They tried to do the artwork themselves, forgot to add bleed, and some of their text fell out of the safe zone. Subsequently, when it's been trimmed down, some of the text has been cut off.

What I'd do in this instance is offer to help the client fix their artwork and offer them a discount on the reprint. If the value is low enough, meet them in the middle but offer something as a gesture of goodwill. The important thing to remember here is that you want to turn their negative experience into a positive one. Remember, you've invested a lot of time, effort and money to likely onboard those customers, and you want them to return time and time again.

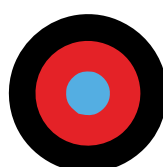
Most of the time, the customer will appreciate this and can often progress to become one of your biggest advocates. For the ones who don't appreciate this, they're probably not worth having anyway.

Measure Refund Saves

If you're not doing this already, put a process in place to do so. Keep a track of who the customer was, what the product was, what solution was offered and what was accepted. This helps you quickly identify trends either from serial complaining customers, which solutions are preferred to recurring issues and use the feedback to recognise potential issues in your production or customer service processes.

You can then track the lifetime value of that customer and see how much you saved by keeping that customer on board and how much difference that makes to your business over time.

www.theonlineprintcoach.com



**THE ONLINE
PRINT COACH**



By Matt Hanley,
Founder of
M-TWO

You have the talent – how do you keep it?

Time and again you see companies choosing to entice new customers with unreal offers that aren't available to loyal, time-served customers. I don't know about you, but to me it feels like a right kick in the teeth.

Attracting and retaining talented employees is very often like this.

If you're promising great packages and loads of stuff to potential new people who want to join you, make sure you spare a thought for all those people who have been serving you so well and have helped get you into a position of growth. They don't miss a thing and if you drop the ball here you could end up losing important staff because they feel undervalued.

People do move and they move for a whole host of reasons. Mostly it's just a business decision, but it is an inescapable fact that when you lose someone to a new opportunity for them, it's a costly process for you to go through. It's costly in time, it's costly in resources and ultimately it is hugely costly in money. These are three critical areas of your business that you always want to avoid difficulties with when you have big ambitions for growth and success.

Fortunately, there are a few things that I think I can share to help reduce the likelihood of losing talent from your business and give you the best chance to increase retention and growth.

Why do people leave?

There are 4 major reasons why people leave a business... In no particular order;

- 1 - Location
- 2 - Opportunity to develop
- 3 - Money / Earning potential
- 4 - Enticement of a new role

When candidates are thinking about moving organisations it always boils down to risk vs reward. What's greater - the reward of staying or the risk of leaving in the hope of even bigger rewards for joining somewhere new? And always remember - people will always try to do what they think is right FOR THEM. Not you, not the recruiter, not the new place. Them.

What can you do about it?

Now each company is different and there will obviously be a host of specific and circumstantial reasons why people leave, but here are some key tips that will help your retention rate.

Recognition – Either by putting them in the spotlight or having a quick chat over a coffee. Let your team know you appreciate them. Thank them for the work they do, the effort they put in, and the lengths they go to. It costs nothing but goes a long, long way.

Transparency - There's nothing worse than people not knowing what's going on

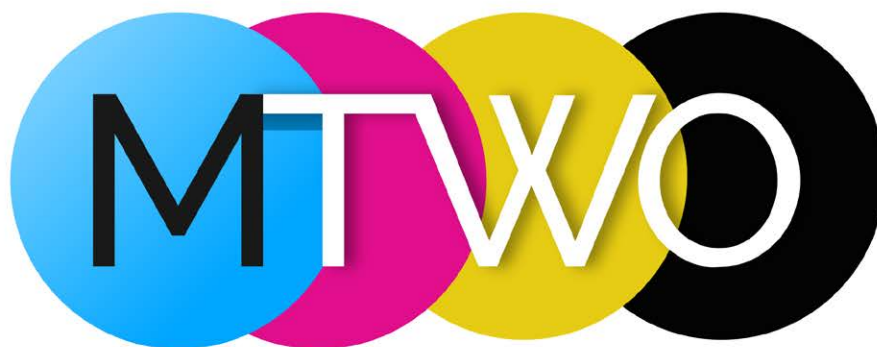
in the business. People going through the motions kills emotion. Keep the message fresh and up to date by communicating regularly. This will help people to feel informed and involved.

Flexibility – Covid changed the way people view work. In many cases so dramatically seasoned professionals slammed on the brakes and took a breather. We've all had time to appreciate life outside of work. Don't be scared to offer a degree of that flexibility (where you can) in a post covid world.

Rewards- Do some research and find out what the market rates are for the salaries, rewards, and benefits for your staff. Don't wait (or not take action) until it's too late. I can tell you from experience, it'll be a much greater cost to the business if you're replacing people rather than rewarding in the first place.

If you do lose people though and need to replace them make sure you have a plan and a strategy. You won't be surprised to hear me say that using an industry recruiter can be a huge help in achieving this. But do make sure it is a good one that is properly vetted and who will work closely with you to understand your requirements and be an extension to your business.

www.m-two.uk



MATCHING TALENT WITH OPPORTUNITY



By Adam Davies,
COG Studio

Consider sign design for the future

When a client approaches you to design and manufacture their new signs, you know exactly how to achieve their vision, but do you currently consider what happens in the future?

As the world advances to a more considered and sustainable outlook, we all have a responsibility to ensure that when we help our clients bring their brands to life, we do so in a way that minimises waste, encourages reuse and has the inherent flexibility to adapt to changes as time passes by.

Personally, when looking at a new project and in the early conversations, I try to influence change in three key areas.

These changes at the design stage can create a solution that still performs its core function, but when it inevitably reaches the end of its lifespan, its overall impact has been minimised, and elements can often be repurposed.

Choosing the right materials

When you provide a solution to a client, you always want it to outlive its required lifespan, but this varies for different project types. Architectural signage, for example, often must perform for many years, whereas temporary event signage may only need to last a few days to a couple of weeks.

So how do you decide what's best? Well, experience is one way. Using proven and well-tested materials is a solid strategy for ensuring a satisfied customer. But are those materials you've been using for

years still the right solution for changing attitudes?

Every project and solution is different. There is no one answer to what is the right material and what is not. It means investing more time in learning, and we all need to thoroughly research new and innovative products that will best suit our clients and projects. This is one of the ways that we can ensure we deliver better projects in the future.

Ensuring a solution is adaptable

If you're creating something completely bespoke for your client, how can you ensure its adaptable for the future?

Let's take a set of built-up lettering which is completely unique to a client brand. How can that ever be adaptable? The lettering itself may, at the end of its life, need to be disassembled and disposed of accordingly, but what about the fixings?

Could that set of rails you've designed and are providing be reused when a new sign is installed, or could the back tray of the tray panel the letters are sitting on be reused with a new face?

Looking at internal signage, what if you're creating a directory for a new block of tenanted offices that might change frequently? Instead of designing something bespoke that will need changing completely every time with a large amount of waste, can you instead incorporate one of the many modular sign systems into your design? With clever

design ideas, these can be integrated into bespoke features and often result in a completely flexible solution that reduces future waste and more.

Designing for disassembly

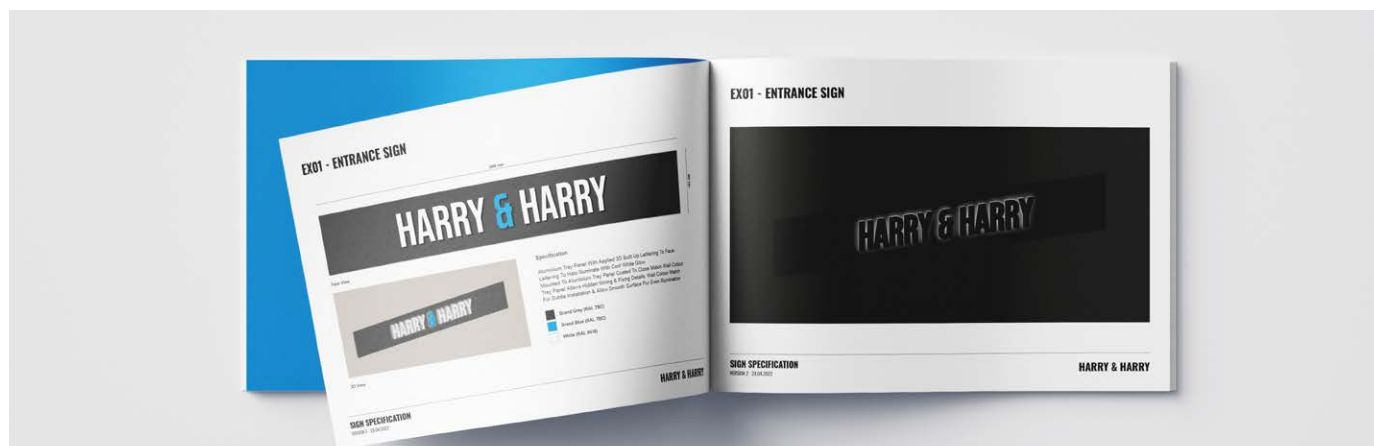
Traditionally, when designing and manufacturing signs, the only goal is to get them made and installed to client satisfaction at the start of their life. I believe this approach is wrong in 2022, and we should be designing and delivering projects by working backwards from the end of the sign's life.

So, when you're next designing a new project, why not consider how the pieces can be taken apart at the end of their life? Which elements can be recycled, and if something can't be repurposed, could it be changed to something that could be?

These changes are just a few examples of how sign design is changing and quickly. It will be a gradual process for the industry, but as more organisations consider these factors and others, our overall output will eventually improve beyond all expectations.

www.wearecog.co.uk

COG Studio





By Tony
Baxter, Voodoo
DesignWorks

Design is a mighty and powerful thing

What you, or any person who expresses a preference, might say of design is that it can sell things by promoting desire. It's somehow hard-coded into us all. Nobody would set out to buy anything that doesn't trace its origins to good design. We're moved by good design. We turn away from poor, clumsy or bad design. People buy things for reasons they alone choose, and we all have individual tastes and preferences. However - good design unites us.

Design as it applies to signage traces back to elemental principles embedded into typography, colour theory and layout. The most gifted designers violate these immutable pillars of design with utter impunity, and the results are inventive, epoch-making and wonderful. Those less talented cross the line without even seeing it, and the results are jarring, migraine-inducing. Awful!

Despite the dominance of computerised design and production systems and the widespread use of machinery that spits out durable, coloured images in daylight in this industry, more than a few people are still active and are capable of picking up a brush and some paint and doing things with these tools. Lettering and embellishments flow from the instrument. Its proportions are correct, its relative disposition from its neighbour is 'right,' it all sits on a baseline that supports its purpose.

An 'eye' for lettering

Sign-makers are said to 'have an 'eye' for lettering and layout. Nobody ever said that having a computerised sign design

and production system was a proxy for that 'eye.' It isn't. I've seen vehicle livery rendered in red Olde-English capitals on green backgrounds. Illegible. I've seen wraps illustrating conservatories on super-saturated green lawns peppered with trade logos and bulleted feature lists. Unfathomable. I've seen upside-down Ss, and the list continues. It bears remembering that all these things have to be expressly produced. They're out there in the wild, and you don't have to look hard for them.

The flip side of the very same coin is, of course, the product of great design, and there's a lot of it visible in the sign-scape out there too. Great design confers more value to everything it touches. It needs to. Great design tends to flow from original thinkers and creatives, and they require payment for the services they render.

I would accept that not every customer buying signage is willing or, in some cases, able to pay the price for design as a service. However, it adds little or no cost at all to evoke what the man with a brush knows in basic terms about layout and lettering. Someone with a small budget still wants the work we deliver to be legible and appealing. That doesn't mean it needs to be a great and creative opus.

Design touches everyone

There's a dimension to design that touches everyone, and it's so obvious that we sometimes fail to see it. When we're asked to put a sign above a door for a business, what's really being said is, 'can you help me promote and distinguish my business?' A 'business' in this context may have undergone a considerable

development gestation, and we're more-or-less there at the birth. When people come asking for ideas, and you then present them with options in the shape of some simple visuals, the effect is 'magical.' It's as if you've given their ideas wings and substance.

I've seen more sales result from a well-turned and presented design visual than I can remember. Underpinning that is the sheer power of basically sound design. It doesn't have to be revolutionary. It can be an exercise in restraint. It does add cost to what you make because it takes time and some of that, at least, is speculative. That cost comes back, though, in the price you can achieve for what you're selling. It's been said that the margin a business can make is geared to its attractiveness.

Given the chance, I'd urge anyone who makes signs and graphics to put an emphasis on design and to surround its presentation with simple things that reflect well on our businesses. It takes time and time's alter-ego is money. Get it right, and that investment is returned more often than it is wasted.

www.voodoodesign.com

This is the first in a series of articles by Tony Baxter, managing director of the Bristol-based design and sign production company Voodoo DesignWorks. Tony's sign industry career began in the 80s, designing digital typefaces for the world's first computerised production systems and marketing collateral to promote them. His creative fingerprints are also on many products he's been involved in developing and which are used by sign-makers daily around the world today.



Ellis Signs Delivers Beautiful Displays for Beautiful People

For Superdrug's huge new 7,700sq ft Silverlink store in North Tyneside, Ellis Signs has delivered fantastic signage throughout. The new store includes a Beauty Studio, a fragrance counter and is a bright, modern and spacious environment for a beautiful retail experience.

We spoke to Ellis Signs' Project Lead, Tony Richardson, "We have worked with Superdrug for a number of their stores and we are particularly delighted with this one. Each store is different and this one has lots of services and features as well as being a top retail location."

Ellis worked closely with Superdrug's architects and space planners who measure the store and develop a draw pack which is provided to contractors. "Our design studio creates a marketing pack that indicates the design, construction method, size and location of the signs, which then goes back to Superdrug for approval before we commence with manufacture. Measurements are vitally important as the space is fixed and the signage needs to fit perfectly."

Tony adds that experience is an important part of delivering a great job. "The client, in this case Superdrug, includes several project and property managers and they generally like to have one focal point of contact when it comes to signage. This is a big responsibility and requires one person to manage the various design and installation teams to ensure everyone is working properly together."

Ellis Signs manufactures all of their signage on-site, which Tony says gives them better flexibility and better cost

management. "For projects like this, having our own manufacturing capabilities means we can reduce lead times and maintain control over the whole project delivery. The production and installation teams work together to deliver outstanding results every time."

Sue Gibson, Project Property Manager for Superdrug, said, "Ellis Signs have done a great job. The store looks fantastic and was very well received by our CEO."

www.ellissigns.co.uk



Minuteman Press offers product excellence with Trotec Laser

Based in Bath, Minuteman Press has specialised in supplying high-quality printed products to customers for 24 years. As a customer-centric business, Minuteman Press prides itself on its creativity and the value offered to customers with a passionate team dedicated to delivering the very best quality and standards throughout the print and finishing stages.

Bringing laser work in house

Minuteman Press delivers the best possible results to customers in the shortest lead times. The team uses a wide selection of different technologies, including a range of printers and a flatbed cutter with a camera system. These technologies allow Minuteman Press to offer a comprehensive service. However, some work had to be outsourced or bought in from other suppliers. The cost was not significant but meant that lower margins were made on projects, and lead times could be affected, something the team were keen to improve on.

The Minuteman Press team first discussed investing in their own laser cutter in 2019. The topic was revisited a handful of times in the following years, and in 2022 the decision to bring laser production in-house was made.

The Sign and Digital UK exhibition proved to be the perfect venue for Minuteman Press to explore laser production, with four manufacturers present at the show, including Trotec Laser. It was on Trotec's stand that David Ghent, Managing Director, and Kieran Blacknall, Visual Communications Manager, saw the Q500 dual source laser cutter in action. Talking with one of Trotec's experts at length, he was impressed with the knowledge and advice that was shared with him about laser processing.

Kieran booked a demonstration the following week at Trotec's Showroom near Bristol. During the demonstration, Kieran tested a range of different materials on the Q500. Impressed with the versatility of processing coupled with the machine build quality, Minuteman Press invested in a dual-source Q500 laser cutter which was installed in June 2022.

A new string to the production bow

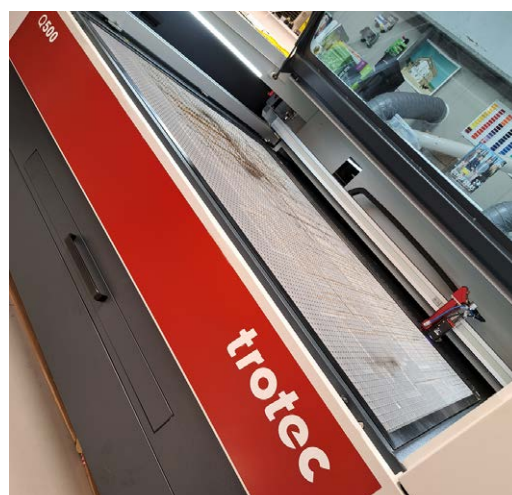
Since installation, the Q500 has added a new dimension to Minuteman's processing, adding new ways to bring customer projects to life, with all products now being created in-house by the team.

To complete the range of laser services, Minuteman Press Bath purchased the add-on – a Trotec Vision Print & Cut camera system. The Vision system enables printed materials with registration marks to be processed accurately, providing an efficient workflow and negating the need for manual alignment of jobs. Trotec's laser software has also been praised for its intuitive workflow, allowing team members to efficiently work with the laser.

Kieran and the team credit Trotec for helping them choose the optimal machine for their needs. The addition of the Q500 laser cutter means the team are now able to have complete control over project timings and quality control, with all work now produced in-house.

Minuteman Press have used the Q500 to process a range of materials, including creating signage with Trotec's TroLase laminates and incorporating LaserLeather into projects, with textiles being a completely new venture for the team.

www.troteclaser.com



Soyang Group Adds JETRIX LXiR320 to Hardware Portfolio



Large-format media and equipment supplier Soyang Group has partnered with InkTec Europe to distribute the new JETRIX LXiR320 UV LED roll-to-roll printer in the UK and Ireland. Following the acquisition of Josero, the new partnership demonstrates the group's commitment to expanding its wide-format equipment portfolio.

The JETRIX LXiR320 is a 3.2m production speed printer equipped with Konica Minolta heads, offering multi-roll capability, low energy consumption LED lamps, and Eco Green inks. With print speeds up to 120sqm/h, a two-pass printing process and a maximum resolution of 2,160dpi,

the machine uses CMYK, light cyan, light magenta and an optional white ink channel. Through the new partnership, the JETRIX LXiR320 will run PrintFactory RIP software, which is already offered by Josero.

Ben Woodruff, Sales Manager, InkTec Europe, comments: "Soyang/Josero is a great partner for the JETRIX LXiR320. It's an opportunity to offer the model to a wider customer base, particularly for businesses based in the North who will now be able to see the machine in action at Soyang's facility. I'm looking forward to working closely with the team to get the collaboration up and running and inviting Soyang customers to experience the

LXiR320 for themselves."

Sarah Winterbottom, Group Sales Director, Soyang Group, adds: "The JETRIX LXiR320 is the perfect addition as we grow our equipment offering and look for new ways to ensure our customers have access to the best solutions available. For businesses pursuing opportunities in new markets, this reliable, consistent, economical solution is ideal, and we can't wait to start showing our existing customers and other interested parties what the LXiR320 is made of!"

www.soyang.co.uk
www.inktec-europe.com

BPIF and POPAI announce joint initiative

Following the launch of its Display and POS Group, BPIF and POPAI have announced a collaboration to help align the needs and issues of Brand Specifiers and Manufacturers across the whole supply chain.

The Display and POS Group is a BPIF community that looks to provide an industry wide network and platform to work to support, sustain and develop the sector. This group has been specifically formed to bring together like-minded businesses and individuals with support on issues which are directly affecting them on a day-to-day basis. It is an opportunity to knowledge share, celebrate success and pro-actively promote the great work that is done in this sector.

POPAI UK & Ireland is a progressive industry association, promoting best practice, dedicated to enhancing the total shopper experience.

Both organisations have strong environmental and sustainability offerings which complement each other and those who seek to manage this area more effectively, ensuring the best and most up to date information. The collaboration will:

- Open up access to latest knowledge and insights and deliver prime research across retail trends and innovation.
- Provide networking opportunities and information sharing across the whole supply chain
Offer a blend of complimentary environmental tools to measure metrics
- Work together to understand consumer needs and wants
- Support joint lobbying and clarify issues affecting the sector, i.e. Plastic Packaging Tax

Martin Kingdom, Chief Executive of POPAI comments, "There is a tremendous thirst for knowledge and information to support transformation and change across the whole supply chain. We can now enable this change by coming together and creating information and networking forums on big issues, such as sustainability and environmental."

Charles Jarrold, Chief Executive of the BPIF states, "We look forward to building on our relationship with POPAI with this partnership, bringing great value to our respective audiences. Together with POPAI we aim to open up debate and understanding across key issues such as environmental and sustainability, and also identifying and capitalising on trends that will benefit the sector overall."

www.britishprint.com
www.popai.co.uk

The Sign Awards announced for 2023

The team behind the successful launch of the UK Graphic Awards (UKGA) have announced a brand new competition for the UK and Ireland Sign industry. The Sign Awards ceremony for finalists will be held at the iconic Birmingham Town Hall and has been scheduled for Wednesday 22nd March, during next year's Sign & Digital UK Exhibition at the NEC. It is sure to be another fantastic opportunity to bring sign-makers together to promote and celebrate their industry.

Dan Tyler, Founder of both the UK Graphic Awards and The Sign Awards, says, "It's been four years since the signage industry has had the opportunity to acknowledge and recognise its incredible achievements at an event like this. We have seen how important this is with the great success of the UK Graphic Awards, and we wanted to bring this experience and excitement back to the sign industry."

Prizes will be awarded across a range of categories and disciplines. The full list will be announced soon, which will include a best-in-show and company of the year. Entries opened on 1st November and the competition is open to all sign-makers in UK and Ireland. An independent jury will judge all the entries, and the organisers will follow the same blind, anonymised, fair and transparent process that UKGA has become known for.

Dan adds, "Several of our brilliant UKGA sponsors and partners have already signed up to be involved with this new event as we aim to cover every key element of the sign-making industry. We are also very excited to be hosting the ceremony in the middle of Sign & Digital UK, which is the UK sign industry's biggest and most popular event. This is the rightful time and place for a sign awards ceremony, and it is sure to add to the prestige and inclusiveness of the event."

Visit the website at thesignawards.com to register for latest news, including details on categories and how to enter. The deadline for submissions is 16th December.

Dan continues, "We very much aim to build on the success of the UK Graphic Awards,

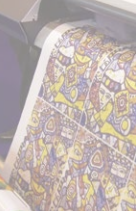
which have been very well received by the industry. We are delighted to be welcoming back ITV's Emma Jesson as host. She has been excellent, taking the time to get to know our industry, and it's fantastic to once again have her as our MC."

If you're interested in getting involved as a sponsor or partner of the awards, please contact The Sign Awards team on 0208 050 3637 or team@thesignawards.com

www.thesignawards.com



Following her fantastic performance hosting the UK Graphic Awards, ITV's Emma Jesson will take the stage again for The Sign Awards



MacroArt in strong drive for new apprentices to future-proof the industry

Leading large format print and installation expert MacroArt is shining a light on career opportunities in the print and events industry, directly targeting local schools and colleges with detailed information about apprenticeship vacancies across its business.

Working in partnership with Learn2print, a prominent training provider to the printing and graphic communications industry, MacroArt's new brochure sets out the range of apprenticeships within the business, from pre-press and press roles to print finishing.

Courses are expected to run for 26 months, with a six-month end point assessment by GQA, giving apprentices the chance to gain experience across several departments, potentially culminating in a rewarding future career.

One of MacroArt's recent graduates, Callum Thorne, is already working to become a fully trained Project Manager within the business, demonstrating the true value of a genuine apprenticeship pathway to permanent employment.

Ben Sullivan, a Technician Apprentice, is also experiencing the benefits of MacroArt's strong, supportive programme.

"My apprenticeship experience at MacroArt has been a great journey," said Ben.

"When I first started at MacroArt, I was very anxious and lacking in confidence. However, over the duration of my apprenticeship, I have received brilliant support from all staff and great training from my manager and other mentors and gained so much confidence, together with great knowledge and skills"

Lee Garnett, MacroArt's Continuous Improvement Manager, is keen to emphasise the great opportunities that these apprenticeships can provide; "What we offer is a bespoke training package tailored to enhance skills quickly, to build confidence in new starters. We have a strong skillset in-house and a friendly, inclusive environment to help anyone settle in well and feel part of a team. All we look for, and all applicants need, is a can do, will do attitude from any walk of life."

This new initiative seeks to provide an array of new options for school leavers amongst others who have not perhaps considered a career in the print industry, while helping MacroArt to discover new talent. In addition to

the full apprenticeships, MacroArt are collaborating with Learn2print to produce a range of short courses, developed to meet personal and industry needs.

Michael Green, MacroArt's Managing Director, is clear on the many benefits of the apprenticeship scheme; "The future of any business lies in the constant supply of keen, enthusiastic new starters, and we are fortunate to be able to find such a rich source of talent within our local catchment area.

"We are committed to developing talented people from the local community and beyond and look forward to welcoming our next apprentices through this drive and seeing how they can help continue to develop the Art of MacroArt."

Schools, colleges, universities and individual candidates looking to find out more about these great opportunities are encouraged to contact MacroArt direct on apprenticeships@macroart.co.uk.

www.macroart.co.uk



RA Smart celebrates 50 golden years

I had the pleasure of visiting RA Smart during their open house sessions in Macclesfield in October. This was in part to acknowledge the company's 50th anniversary, but I was blown away by the history of the business as well as the drive into the modern world of digital and 3D printing.

Alex Mighall is textile specialist at the company. During my tour, he explained, "As a town, Macclesfield is famous for silk production, and this is in the roots of RA Smart. While the silkworms themselves are no longer here, a big part of our business revolves around the production and distribution of silk products around the world. Whether printing or weaving, many rolls of high-quality silk and other materials are processed in the factory to create ties, scarves, apparel and upholstery."

He continues, "While traditional processes are still a big part of our business, we are also very much part of the digital revolution, and this is the focus of our open house session. We were delighted to welcome customers, prospects and partners, to celebrate our anniversary and also to show them how far we have come and our plans going forward."

For all of its 50 years, RA Smart has been part of the textile industry, and this continues with much of the digital technology they now market. Latest printers, presses and cutters from the market leaders – like Mimaki, Fujifilm, HP, Summa, Graphtec and more have made RA Smart a leader in digital textile printing.

The company recently added a large format specific division that doesn't just focus on textile machines. This is headed

up by Adam Booth who explains, "RA Smart has a great name in the industry for its professionalism and customer support. Our relationships with leading manufacturers has helped us develop the large format printing side of the business and we have already supplied many machines to sign-makers up and down the country. Including the first new Fujifilm Acuity machine that we installed at Ebbsfleet earlier this year."

Alex Mighall concludes, "It has been an exciting 50 years for RA Smart. From the solid functionality of massive screen printing presses, to the latest exciting developments in 3D printing from Mimaki. The journey is far from over."

www.rasmar machinery.co.uk



Sustainability showcase hailed as a collaborative success

swissQprint, Zund, Antalis and Compass Business Finance successfully held their Sustainability Showcase event, with delegates and participants collaborating to explore more affordable, sustainable approaches to materials, workflow, and print & cut technology in the drive towards net zero.

Held on two consecutive days at swissQprint's UK headquarters in Bracknell, over 40 attendees from 23 businesses came together to find out how to achieve a more effective and sustainable print production process to meet clients' environmental needs.

Visitors were able to assess swissQprint's industry leading flatbed printer, the Nyala 4, and the Karibu high-end roll-to-roll printer, alongside Zund's versatile S3 L-1600 precision digital cutter. In addition, they explored sustainability issues across the production process, including reducing energy consumption, minimising waste, and using environmentally friendly materials in their printing through using the latest hardware and software.

As well as live print demonstration sessions, the UK leader in papers, packaging, and visual communication distribution, Antalis, highlighted to guests

the range of sustainable materials for large format print applications, showcasing how their Green Star System™ helps make eco-responsible choices much easier to navigate.

Print and packaging finance experts Compass Business Finance provided insight on how today's print service providers can achieve a more effective and sustainable production process.

Erskine Stewart, Managing Director of swissQprint, celebrated the event's success: "Sustainability is core to all our businesses, and what is clear from the coming together of so many print service providers is that there is a real appetite for effective advice and support in how practical steps can be taken to improve operations from an environmental perspective.

"We are delighted with the success of our first Sustainability Showcase and very much look forward to building on this and continuing to provide the necessary advice, products and services that ensure we can all achieve net zero across workflow and print & cut technology."

www.swissqprint.co.uk



Sign & Digital UK 2023 is the place to be for Graphtec GB

Sign & Digital UK 2023 is set to be one of the biggest shows yet for the industry. Like many others, Graphtec GB has recently rebooked a much larger stand for next year's show.

Graphtec GB is the UK and Ireland's leading distributor for large format finishing solutions. With exclusive distribution for top manufacturers, including Graphtec's own range of roll fed cutting plotters, laminators from WidInnovations, productivity software from SAI and more.

Alastair Evans, Graphtec GB's Senior Digital Marketing Exec, comments, "Graphtec has been a regular exhibitor at Sign & Digital UK for many years and we see the exhibition as a crucial part of our overall marketing strategy. We support our resellers at several events throughout the year, but SDUK is the one that we want to be at in our own right. It's a perfect opportunity to speak directly to end users and to get a real feel for trends in the market and where our products are being used."

Graphtec exhibited the 2022 show, the first for three years, and were pleasantly overwhelmed by the industry's response. "SDUK 2022 was the first significant event after all the Covid restrictions and our only disappointment was that we didn't have a bigger stand! The turnout – particularly on that first day – was immense and it was a joy to see the market getting back together again and remembering what it was like to see, touch and feel some real equipment (and people). It was an easy decision to book again and this time with a bigger stand," adds Alastair.

Plans for 2023 are well under way and Alastair is looking forward to showing more equipment and possibly even recording live shows from the stand for The Cutting Matters Podcast, which Graphtec launched earlier this year, "We have mapped out our stand in the demo room to help us plan what we can demonstrate and to make sure we have as many solutions as possible on show. It would be great if we can also find a way to chat with people for the Podcast, which we have found to be a great way to communicate

to customers the benefits of working with Graphtec and our products."

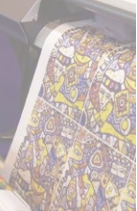
Jenny Matthew, SDUK's Event Director, says, "Companies like Graphtec are what makes our industry and our exhibition so special. We are introducing a host of special features and marketing campaigns designed to encourage as much of the sign and large format printing market as possible to join us at the NEC next March. It's going to be informative, innovative and a lot of fun!"

Alastair concludes, "It's great that SDUK provides us with a platform to speak directly with end users. It gives us a direct understanding of the trends and issues they are facing and this helps us continue to improve the service and products we offer to our resellers. The show is really inclusive and we welcome all our resellers to our stand to speak to their customers and demonstrate our products. We can't wait!"

www.graphtecgb.co.uk



Graphtec GB's Alastair Evans and Ellen Wain on their stand at SDUK 2022



Soyang/Josero Appointed as Exclusive UK Distributor of MEEVO Sewing Portfolio

The Soyang Group continues to expand its offering with its appointment as the exclusive UK and Ireland distributor for MEEVO sewing machines. The range is immediately available through Soyang Europe and Josero and comprises the MX EVENT +SEAS (Silicone Edge Automated Stitching), SM OPTIMA +SEAS, and the SM VERSATILE +SEAS.

The MX EVENT +SEAS is a fully automatic sewing machine, sewing SEG Keder to large-format fabric panels with perfect alignment, giving a quality finish to extra-long panels. The additional Extension Table allows for easier handling of heavy and oversized display textiles, improving productivity.

The SM VERSATILE +SEAS is designed for businesses which need varied sewing solutions, including SEG Keder, reinforcement tapes, open hems and velcro applications. A compact, multifunction machine, the SM VERSATILE saves businesses time and floor space.

With an easily operated and movable semi-automatic sewing system,

the SM OPTIMA is the perfect entry-level sewing machine for businesses expanding into Silicone Edge Graphics. Fitted with a high-end lockstitch sewing machine and MEEVO SEAS system, SM OPTIMA +SEAS delivers a high-quality finish.

SEAS Universal Kit is a set of accessories that transform standard sewing machines into high-productivity SEG Keder sewing machines, ideal for businesses moving into SEG Keder production.

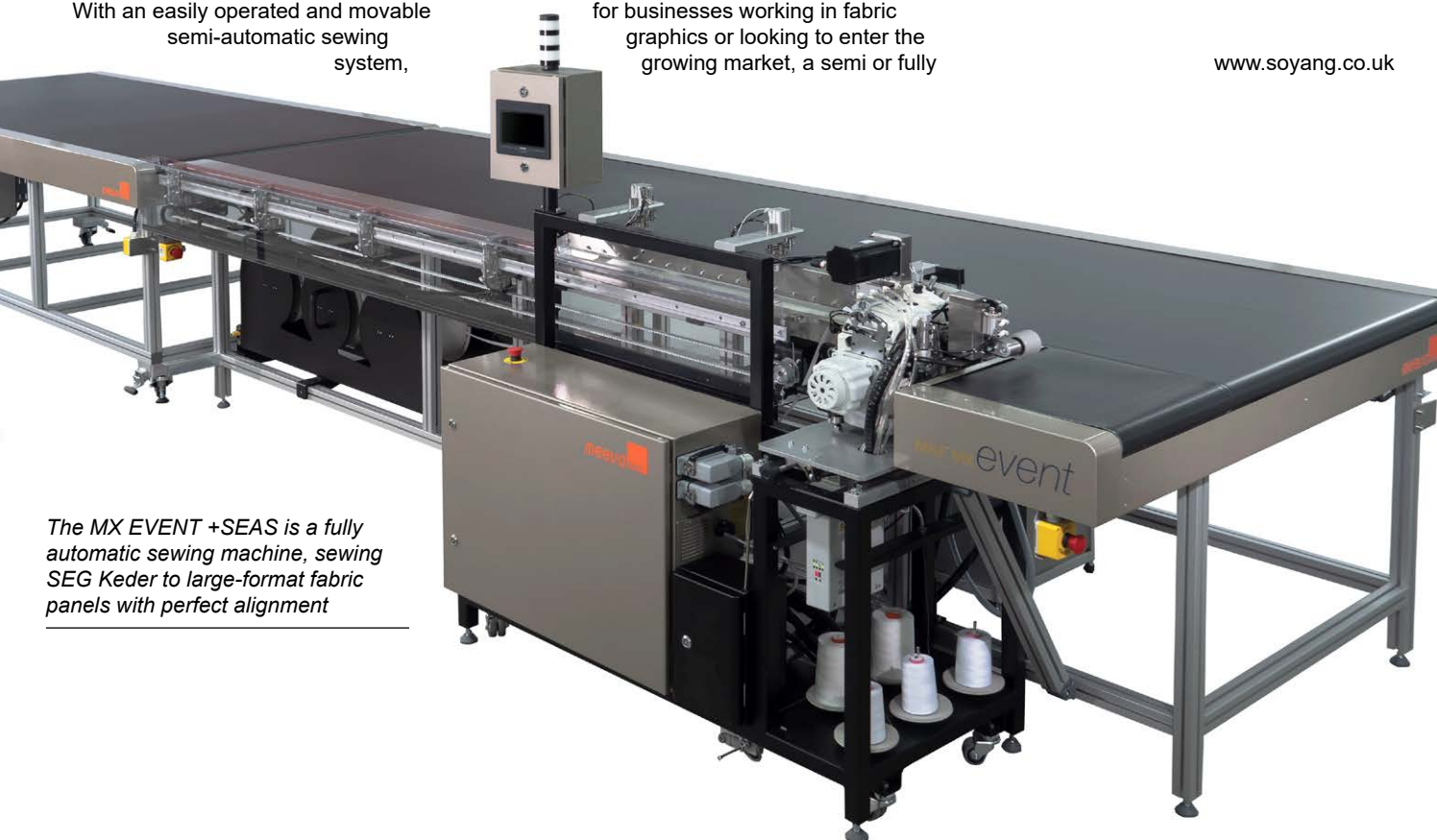
The growth of Soyang Group to include Josero opens up new opportunities for customers through partnerships with companies like MEEVO, delivering a wider pool of solutions for the UK market and a streamlined 'one-stop shop' offering for Soyang and Josero customers.

Sarah Winterbottom, Group Sales Director, Soyang Europe/Josero, comments: "We are delighted to be partnering with MEEVO to bring their industry leading solutions to the UK market. Boosting efficiency and managing costs effectively is crucial, and for businesses working in fabric graphics or looking to enter the growing market, a semi or fully

automated sewing solution from MEEVO is a perfect addition to their operations. Combined with Josero and Soyang's focus on technical excellence and consistent customer support, we look forward to an incredibly successful partnership."

Jorge Nogueira, CEO, MEEVO, comments: "From the Soyang/Josero portfolio, we saw that we were dealing with a company that distributes high-end equipment and this was a key factor for us, because a customer looking for MEEVO MX EVENT +SEAS has the best printing machines on their shop floor. In addition to equipment, Soyang/Josero has a long tradition of distributing consumables and raw material, and that's also perfect for a distributor of our MEEVO BTS KEDER that we believe is the best SEG Keder in the market – 'Better Than Silicone'! We also listened to the market and learned from some important printing companies in UK that Soyang/Josero is highly respected by its customers. We are very proud to have Soyang/Josero as our Exclusive UK and Ireland Distributor!"

www.soyang.co.uk



The MX EVENT +SEAS is a fully automatic sewing machine, sewing SEG Keder to large-format fabric panels with perfect alignment

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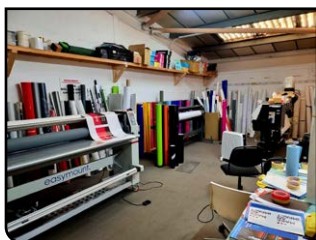
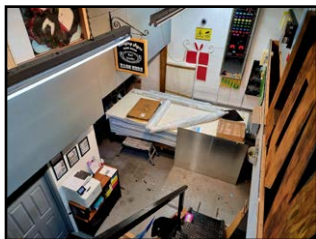
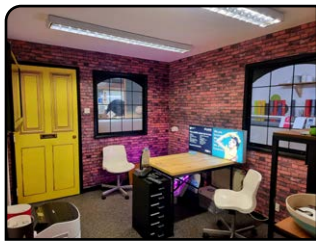
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Sale due to re-location abroad. Genuine and easy scope to expand.

Large portfolio of clients providing repeat business.

Potential to become a bolt on to existing business or stand-alone venture.

The business is run from a fully equipped unit in Derbyshire and employs 3 full time and one part time members of staff. Team capable to work without owner's input.

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Enquiries – strictly via email only: info@lemonsigns.com

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Many of the clients are serious repeat customers with majority ordering continually. The current list of repeat ordering contains prestigious clients who have been customers for many years.

Equipment includes new computer network, 2 x imac design computers, Mimaki plotter, Axyz 4008 CNC router, Longier large format UV flatbed printer, bubble free applicator and the usual hand and bench tools, including air driven riveter etc.

An unexpected health issue forces this sale and it is available as a going concern or to merge with another existing company. Most customers are not reliant on the business being local so moving the organisation to join with another is quite feasible.

This is a well run business with no debt and healthy profits.

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sign.bus4sale@gmail.com

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The right candidate will have experience and be fully competent in all areas of acrylic fabrication. You will know and understand the different materials available and know how to work them correctly. You will have a working knowledge of the different types of machines needed to achieve this and be able to read & follow technical drawings.

The ideal Fabricator will :

- *Be able to work unsupervised once briefed on the project
- *Be able to work to deadlines and plan themselves
- *Be experienced in cementing, cutting and forming
- *Understand the processes to produce high quality work
- *Be positive and be able to work around problems and challenges
- *Enjoy working as part of a team and have a positive attitude
- *Be able to travel easily to our North London production dept
- *Be happy to work extended hours when required
- *Have a good eye for detail and quality

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In the first instance, send your response and CV to
richard@talbotdesigns.co.uk

Print Finisher Somerset

SmithBrewer Ltd, a retail interior design and manufacturing company are looking to recruit a print finisher who will be working on tasks for top of the shelf brands. This role is suited for a proactive team player, who is comfortable with manual handling, and using large format finishing machinery. A good attention to detail is required as you will be following job sheets and drawings containing instructions and specifications.

Key responsibilities:

- Running large format CAD cutting tables (Zund, Kongsberg)
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- Operating vinyl plotters. Vinyl application
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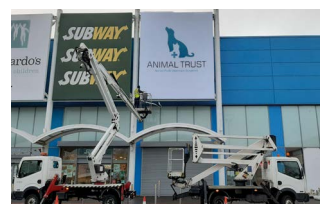
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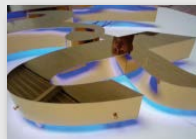
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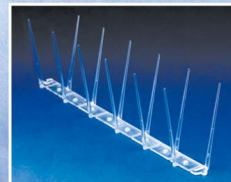


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Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

info@ward-signs.co.uk

www.ward-signs.co.uk

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

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

Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk
Manufacturers of plaques in stainless steel, brass and aluminium, chemically or machine engraved, colour filled to your choice. Logos and text from artwork supplied.

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

WARD SIGNS

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

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

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

MAGNETIC MATERIAL

BISBELL MAGNETIC PRODUCTS LTD.
Hillfield Lane, Stretton, Burton on
Trent, Staffs DE13 0BN
Tel: 01283 531000
sales@bisbellmagnets.com
www.bisbellmagnets.com
The UK's widest range of digitally printable wide format magnetic and ferro sheet (up to 1524mm wide). Maxmag vehicle grade magnetic materials available in white, plain or adhesive backed - by roll or cut to your specific requirements. Also available dry-wipe sheets, magnetic chalk boards, window graphics, neo magnets, vehicle roof magnets and a full range of magnetic and steel tape.

MAGNETIC SOLUTIONS LTD
Brooklands Business Park, Leigh
Street, Sheffield S9 2PR
Tel: 0114 2422211
sales@magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk
www.magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk
Part of the Sanders Group, Europe's largest combined supplier of magnetic & ferro sheet materials including wide format, PVC FREE magnetic (1370mm) and ferrous media (1600mm). Also available, retail POS graphic materials, magnetic flooring, neo magnets, sign grippers and magnetic tape with a range of adhesive finishes to suit your requirements. We can provide the solutions.

MOULDED & FABRICATED PLASTICS

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS
51-59 Waterworks Road, Norwich
NR2 4DA
Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk
Suppliers of moulded acrylic pans and logos up to 2800mm x 1500mm and other types of press and vacuum forming in PVC and HIPS. Specialists in fabricated plastics for POS displays with full screen print, graphics and CNC routing capabilities.

PROJECT PLASTICS LTD
7 Grange Way Business Park,
Whitehill Industrial Estate,
Colchester CO2 8HF
Tel: 01206 868696
sales@projectplastics.co.uk
www.projectplastics.co.uk
Manufacturers of acrylic domes and shapes, tubes, point of sale displays and showcases. Bespoke plastic fabrication. 3mt x 2mt CNC router, diamond edge polishing, 3mt x 2mt moulding oven for oven forming, vacuum forming and laser cutting. Plastic cut to size service.

MOULDED LETTERS

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS
51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2
4DA
Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk
Moulded letters and logos in all standard Perspex colours and UV stabilised gold and silver acrylics, in 8 standard sizes, bespoke sizes available on application. Press, vacuum and blow moulded pans, in acrylic and petg also available.

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD
225 Long Lane, Finchley London
N3 2RL
Tel: 08085 456700
sales@signtrade.co.uk
www.signtrade.co.uk
Moulded letters are our speciality with stock of 20 fonts 8 letter heights in coloured Perspex and 1000's of flat cut letters as well. Your own font or logo is made by our own toolmakers. With over 60 years of experience to call on.

WARD SIGNS
Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE
Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk
Having patented the original method of making cast resin letters, Wards of Bristol can manufacture and supply resin lettering to the highest standard. Our stock patterns for resin letters are a cost effective method of achieving the same styles as traditional bronze and aluminium (which we also cast in house) but we can also make custom designed patterns for letters and logos for all your needs.

NEON MANUFACTURERS (TRADE)

A1DESIGNS
4 Sandy Lane North, Wallington,
Surrey SM6 8JX
Tel: 020 8646 9886
enquiry@a1designs.co.uk
www.a1designs.co.uk
Neon & Cold Cathode Manufacturers to the Trade. Fast turnaround & Delivery, Quick repair service. Installation, Fault diagnosis, Repairs & Maintenance. Confidential Service. All neon accessories, Transformers, Cable, Tube supports etc.

AVENUE SIGNS LTD
216-222 Luton Road, Chatham, Kent
ME4 5BS
Tel: 01634 841300
info@avenuesigns.co.uk
www.avenuesigns.co.uk
Full computerised design service neon, cold cathode and LED lighting. Fully qualified installation engineers, fault diagnosis, fast repair service. Complete sign service from vinyl through to acrylic to polished stainless steel to transformer and neon accessory supplies.

NEON REPLACEMENT LETTERS

SPECTRON LED LTD
102 Chapel Walks, Chapel Street,
Salford, M3 5DW
Tel: 0161 263 8828
sales@spectronled.co.uk
www.ledsignsandlighting.co.uk
Specialist trade suppliers of premium quality faux neon & neon flex letters/logos illuminated with premium grade LEDs. Hand finished with high gloss polishing/matt finish & optional serviceable back. Suitable for internal/external use. Letter edges can be spray painted to any RAL. LEDs included. Our led neon signs are custom made by hand in-house. Approx. 10 day lead time. Competitively priced.

NEONPLUS® AND FAUX NEON

NEONPLUS® (PART OF THE SIGN GROUP)
Unit 3 Maple Park, Lowfields Avenue,
Leeds LS12 6HH
Tel: 0113 25 24 706
sales@thesigngroup.co.uk
www.thesigngroup.co.uk
Award winning LED block acrylic illuminated shapes and letters used for window displays, visual merchandising and signage. Neonplus® was the first of its kind, and still the only CE-approved LED block acrylic illuminated shape/letter product on the market today.

NOTICE BOARDS - LOCKABLE/ EXTERIOR

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX
Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.sasl.co.uk
We're a leading sign 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.

PLASTIC SHEETS

BRETT MARTIN PLASTIC SHEETS

24 Roughfort Road, Mallusk, Co

Antrim BT36 4RB

Tel: 028 9084 9999

mail@brettmartin.com

www.brettmartin.com

Brett Martin is a leading manufacturer of plastic sheet products for signage, interior design, shop outfitting, POS displays and fabrication. Products include Foamalux, the extensive foam PVC range in bright White, Satin and Gloss colours and our Eco options in addition to Polycarbonate, PVC, Acrylic, aPET, PETg and Styrene sheet. Our sales team and distribution network covers the UK & Ireland.

RIGHTON BLACKBURNS LTD

Building 38, Second Avenue, The

Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, West

Midlands DY6 7UE

Tel: 01384 276400

sales@rblimited.co.uk

www.rightonblackburns.co.uk

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

TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

South Strand, Lawford, Manningtree,

Essex CO11 1UP

Tel: 01206 803 580

sales@teleganpressedproducts.com

www.teleganpressedproducts.com

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

PROJECTING SIGNS

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,

Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW

Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

Trusted TRADE suppliers of projecting signs. Manufactured inhouse with branding to one or both sides of the sign face & a variety of illumination & fixings options are available. When combined with our award-winning LED Light Sheet, a double-sided projecting sign can begin at a super slim 60mm. Trough light illumination is also available, so get in touch with our experienced team to find out more.

IRON DESIGN

37A Douglas Rd., Poole, BH12 2AU

Tel: 01202 463573

enquiries@ironsigns.com

www.ironsigns.com

Leading trade suppliers of high quality traditional and contemporary projecting signs and brackets, offering a large range of brackets, panels and lights off the shelf, as well as a comprehensive bespoke service. Competitive prices and next day service. Please visit our website or phone for a brochure.

REFLECTIVE VINYL/TAPES

ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial

Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale,

Lancashire OL12 9EF

Tel: 01706 633043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

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

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

Britannia House, Granville Road,

Maidstone, Kent ME14 2BJ

Tel: 01622 689 410

www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

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

ROUTER CUTTERS/ PLOTTER BLADES

ATA ENGINEERING PRODUCTS LTD

ATA House, Unit B, Boundry Way,

Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7SS

Tel: 01442 264411

sales@ataeng.com

www.ataeng.com

Extensive range of high quality solid carbide, PCD, carbide tipped and HSS cutters manufactured by ONSRUD CUTTER offer routing solutions for most types of material.

EDWARD MATHIAS & CO

PO BOX 121, Frodsham, Cheshire,

WA6 1AA

Tel: 01928 739 799

info@edwardmathias.com

www.edwardmathias.com

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

LKH PRECISION TOOLS

Unit 15a, Cowlairst, Nottingham, NG5

9RA

Tel: 0115 666 0060

enquiry@lkhtools.co.uk

www.lkhtools.co.uk

UK distributors of Crown Norge, offering the highest quality CNC routing and engraving tooling. Tooling specialist for aluminium, plastics, acrylics, PVC, foams, ACM/Dibond brass, MDF, plywood, and woods. Maximise production, quality and optimisation with our range of training and consultancy services. Authorised UK reseller for Vectric software with training available upon request.

SCREEN PRINTING

DARTFORD ENGRAVING & SCREENPRINTING LTD

Unit 4 Power Works Industrial

Estate, Slade green Road, Erith, Kent

DA8 2HY

Tel: 01322 340 194

mail@desp.co.uk

www.desp.co.uk

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

FIRST SIGNS & LABELS LTD

Unit 1, Raynham Close, Raynham Rd

Ind Estate, Raynham Road, Bishops

Stortford, Herts, CM23 5JP

Tel: 01279 467999

sales@firstsignsandlabels.co.uk

www.firstsignsandlabels.co.uk

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

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2

4DA

Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

High quality screen printing to all types of rigid and flexible base materials ie. self-adhesive vinyl, paper, plastic and metal. From single to full colour and small or large runs.

SHEET MATERIALS

RIGHTON BLACKBURNS LTD

Building 38, Second Avenue, The

Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, West

Midlands DY6 7UE

Tel: 01384 276400

sales@rblimited.co.uk

www.rightonblackburns.co.uk

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

TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

South Strand, Lawford, Manningtree,

Essex CO11 1UP

Tel: 01206 803580

sales@teleganpressedproducts.com

www.teleganpressedproducts.com

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

TROTEC

9 Didcot Way, Boldon Business Park,

Boldon Colliery, NE35 9PD

Tel: 0191 580 1184

materials@troteclaser.co.uk

www.troteclaser.co.uk

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

VISIONS IN PLASTICS

Unit 3, Delta Court (Robin Hood

Airport), Auckley, Doncaster, DN9

3GN

Tel: 01302 775920

sales@visionsinplastics.co.uk

www.visionsinplastics.co.uk

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

SIGN & DISPLAY SYSTEMS

VISION LIGHTING LTD

Unit 1 Wortley Moor Lane, Leeds,

LS12 4JD

Tel: 0113 279 9745

sales@vision-lighting.co.uk

www.vision-lighting.co.uk

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

SIGN LOCATORS

F. K. MOORE LTD

5 Wilton Road, Haine Industrial Park,
Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5HD.
Tel: 01843 593 440
enquiries@fkmoore.com
www.fkmoore.com
British manufacturers of screw type Brass Sign Locators, Wall Fixing Standoffs and stockists of Nylon Locators for the Sign and Shopfitting Industries. As well as other shopfittings, we also manufacture Coverhead Screws, either Flat, Dome, Conical or Mushroom shape in various finishes.

SIGN POSTS & FIXINGS

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

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

SIGN SUPPORT SYSTEMS

ISPI TRADE LTD

Unit 3.3 Strathclyde Business Park,
19 Starling Way, Bellshill ML4 3PU
Tel: 0141 764 1600
sales@ispitrade.com
www.ispitrade.com
I-SPI Trade supplier of sign support systems. Our range includes wall mounts, cable & rod display systems, screw covers, LED lighting and much more all at THE REAL TRADE PRICE. Massive stocks and next day delivery. See our products on our web site or give Stephen or Sean a call for a brochure.

SHOPKIT GROUP LTD

Unit 3 Swanstons Road, Great
Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3NQ
Tel: 01923 818 282
www.shopkit.com/brochures/
Shopkit manufactures a wide range of sign support systems in our UK FACTORY, offering COMPETITIVE PRICES on quality products, working in different metal finishes with an ONLINE SHOP with next day delivery and quick lead times on CUSTOM ITEMS. Products include project fixings & sign standoffs, banner systems, rod signage supports & cable signage systems all for both interior & exterior use.

SIGN SURVEYOR

PB WILLIAMS SIGN SURVEYOR

48 Durlay Rd, Aintree L9 9AW
Tel: 07885 486 182
We specialise in sign surveying to the trade, with over 35 years of experience as a sign fitter/manufacture. I was contracted to large companies in the north west, and country wide. I am based in Merseyside and have PASMA, IPAF/PAL & CSCS qualifications and will travel UK and Europe. For further details please contact the above number or email.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIERS

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,
Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477
sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk
As confidential signage TRADE only suppliers, Applelec have the vision, experience & craftsmanship to help bring your project to life. Our in-house manufacturing facilities allow us to offer a vast array of signage & LED lighting options as well as respond to your needs without compromising on quality. Whilst our knowledgeable sales & production teams are there to support you all the way.

DISCOUNT DISPLAYS

31-35 Wortley Road, Croydon CR0 3EB
Tel: 0844 800 1020
sales@discountdisplays.co.uk
www.discountdisplays.co.uk
Discount Displays are UK based experts in all things display and signage. As well as a huge range of hardware for exhibitions, events and retail, we also specialise in large format print solutions. We are able to offer super low trade prices on a variety of printed signage, all produced in-house using high quality inks and materials. Visit our website for more information and to view our full range.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

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

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

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

SMITH TRADE SIGNAGE

Grove Works, Barnard Castle, Co
Durham, DL12 8JG
Tel: 01833 694700
info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk
www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk
Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only manufacturer of Commercial and CE Marked Traffic Signage, plus Chapter 8 Chevron Kits.

THE SIGN GROUP

Unit 3 Maple Park, Lowfields Avenue,
Leeds LS12 6HH
Tel: 0113 25 24 706
sales@thesigngroup.co.uk
www.thesigngroup.co.uk
We are a friendly, professional and experienced trade manufacturer of bespoke signage including (but not limited to), Neonplus®, built up and flat cut letters/logos, neon flex signage, illuminated sign trays and digital print amongst other things. We also offer a laser/cnc cutting service and stock a wide range of LED consumables including modules, fairground lights, power supplies and much more.

SPECIALITY FILMS

ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial
Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale,
Lancashire OL12 9EF
Tel: 01706 633043
sales@apptape.co.uk
www.apptape.co.uk
Suppliers of various speciality films including Etch glass, Reflective, Fluorescent, Reflexite daybrite, Reflexite prismatic reflective, Hi intensity reflective, Photoluminescent, Cast metallics, 2yr Fluorescent, Gemstone metallics, Multi lens, Transparent colours, Checker plate, Mirror colours, Prismatic colours, Glitter colours, Brushed aluminium silver and gold.

MACTAC UK LTD

Room 232, Victory House, 400
Pavilion Drive, Northampton
Business Park, Northampton NN4 7PA
Tel: 01604 644697
www.mactacgraphics.eu
Mactac is a global manufacturer of many different PVC, PET, PP and PE self-adhesive films. Specialities include etched films, fluorescents, phosphorescents, mirror films, rear projection films, erasable films and textured laminates – all designed to complement and enhance your creative talent.

TRANSFER PAPERS/HEAT PRESSES

THE MAGIC TOUCH

Unit 4, Apex Business Centre,
Boscombe Road, Dunstable LU5 4SB
Tel: 01582 671 444
sales@themagictouch.co.uk
www.themagictouch.co.uk
Manufacturers of Transfer Papers and Materials used in conjunction with Laser Printers and Copiers (toner based) for full colour image transfer onto T-Shirts, Caps, Polo's, Mugs, Mousemats etc. Plus Magicut® film for use with Plotter/Cutter for heat transfer.

TRAY SIGNS

APPLELEC

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

ILLUMEX

Wigan, WN1 3AB
Tel: 01942 243 341
Hello@illumex.co.uk
www.illumex.co.uk
Producing bespoke tray signs for the trade in both solid aluminium and alupanel composite, trays can be supplied as blanks or complete with an array of lettering and illumination options. We offer national delivery along with project services such as installation and graphic design. Always ensuring exceptional levels of service along with quality of products to match.

TROUGH LIGHTING

SPECTRON LED LTD

102 Chapel Walks, Chapel Street,
Salford, M3 5DW
Tel: 0161 263 8828
sales@spectronled.co.uk
www.ledsignsandlighting.co.uk
Designed & manufactured by LED and Sign specialists, Spectron LED, the LUMENLINEAR trough light is our best-selling product. It has been designed with the signmaker in mind; fast to install, easy to maintain, long lifespan, aesthetic & sturdy. Troughs are made to order; any size or Lead time is typically 1 day. Very competitive prices and 5 year warranty included.

VISION LIGHTING LTD

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

VINYL & GRAPHIC INSTALLATIONS

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH
Tel: 01302 800 250
sales@visual-group.co.uk
visual-group.co.uk

Our highly skilled craftsmen with over 30 years' experience within the industry, use traditional and modern manufacturing techniques with the latest technologies on hand. Visual Group can offer a variety of materials for creative office wall graphics to informative branded interior signage. We can create anything from vinyl window graphics to flat cut letters with LED illumination plus much more.

VINYL SUPPLIES

APA (UK) LTD

Unit 10 Capital Ind. Est., Crabtree
Manorway South, Belvedere, Kent,
DA17 6BJ

Tel: 020 8311 4400
apauk@apaspa.com
www.apaspa.com

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

ATC LTD

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

Tel: 01706 633043
sales@apptape.co.uk
www.apptape.co.uk

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

AVERY DENNISON

Nelson Way, Cramlington, NE23 1JR
Tel: 01670 59 2095

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

CREATIVE FILMS

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

Tel: 01562 747 000
sales@creativefilms.co.uk
www.creativefilms.co.uk
We stock an unusual range of sign vinyl rolls. Specializing in unusual and striking special effect films, including: Glitter Film, Many textured metal effect films such as coarse brush and diamond plate, Sequins and various holographic effects, Mirror (chrome) film, Mozaic films and more. Available in our standard 20 colours. Ask for samples.

GRAFITYP UK LTD

Grafitack House, 103 Mariner,
Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7UL
Tel: 01827 300500

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

GREENSTIK MATERIALS LTD (GM CRAFTS)

Unit 9 Lancaster Road, Carnaby
Industrial Estate, Carnaby,
Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO15
3QY

Tel: 01262 602 222
sales@gmcrafts.co.uk
www.gmcrafts.co.uk
One of the UK's Largest selections of self adhesive vinyl & heat transfer vinyl. Also supplying Graphtec CE7000 plotters, custom printing available on self-adhesive and heat transfer vinyl plus other medias.

MACTAC UK LTD

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

Tel: 01604 644697
www.mactacgraphics.eu
Mactac is a global manufacturer of self-adhesive films designed to bring out your talent. Our highly innovative printing and marking products transform interior decoration, commercial architecture, signage and visual communications – for applications that include buildings, windows, point of sale, vehicles and boats. Mactac solutions are used by some of the world's most prestigious brands.

MDP SUPPLIES

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

Tel: 0151 272 1234
www.mdpsupplies.co.uk
Distributor to sign makers and garment printers. Stocking Ritrama, KPMF, DeTape and many other leading brands. Order online at www.mdpsupplies.co.uk, by phone or at any of our 9 branches across the UK. No account needed.

PYRAMID DISPLAY MATERIALS LTD

Head Office, Unit 5 Westpoint
Enterprise Park, Clarence Avenue,
Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1QS
Tel: 0161 872 5666

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

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

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

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

SPANDEX UK

1600 Park Avenue, Aztec West,
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Tel: 0800 77 26 33

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

WAYFINDING SIGNS

APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,
Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk
www.applelec.co.uk
TRADE suppliers of curved or flat-faced way-finding and aluminium display systems with directories incorporating wall mounted, projecting and totem signs. Poster display frames with a snap side profile to allow for easy interchange of inserts and an exterior light box series is available. Please contact our friendly team for more information.

ICE SIGNS

28 Knowsthorpe Gate, Leeds LS9
0NP

Tel: 0113 2242124
sales@icesigns.co.uk
www.icesigns.co.uk
Suppliers of internal and external wayfinding and directory systems to DDA (1995) guidelines if required.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888

sales@signscape.co.uk
www.sasl.co.uk
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 finger posts, totems, 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.

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH
Tel: 01302 800 250

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

WIDE FORMAT PRINTING

VISUAL GROUP

Hunt Lane, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire DN5 9SH
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WIDE FORMAT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

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