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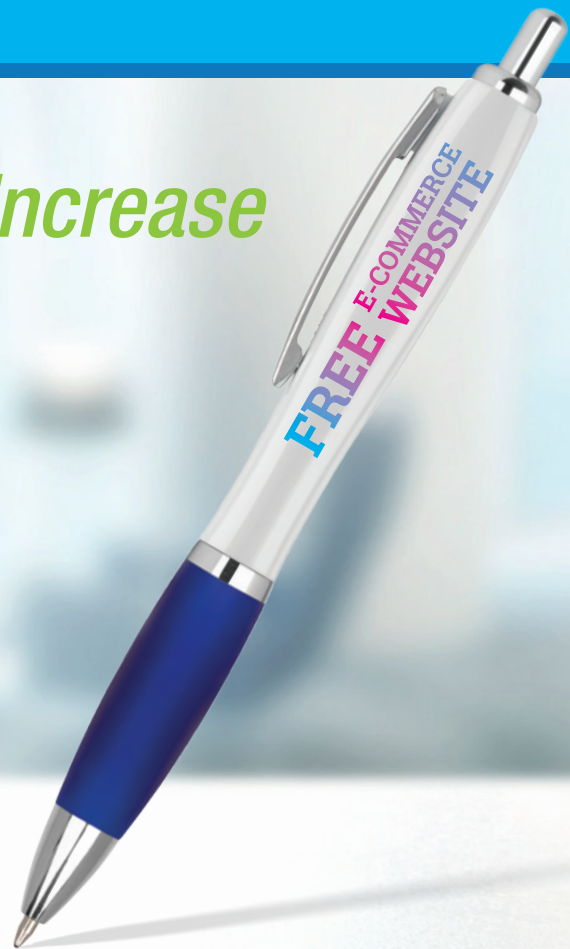
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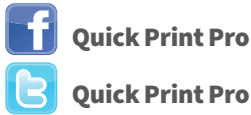


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Comment

Summer Sizzler — QPP Bumper Double Month

Ten weeks for the cost of four in your seasonal double month summer sizzler edition. QPP has proved that the summer double month magazine delivers the most reader response. Holidays are a time when printers plan to invest; by the time the following issue returns to publishing each month we are already planning Christmas.

Approaching our 24th summer break we are once again planning some hot off the press activity. We will as usual spend our ten weeks between publications trying out new kit and print processes.

Partnering, Flex Press, Snuggle, YES and more, we are researching DTF, DTG, trade only products, 3D print and have even commissioned your own case study web shop.

Quick Print Pros: What do you want researched? Just point your QPP beta test team in the right direction and be part of the September report back to our readers.

All ideas welcome.

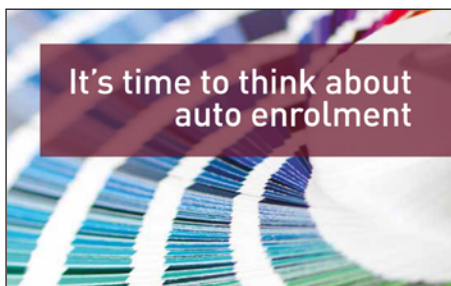
Peter, Busman's Holiday, Foulkes



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The law on workplace pensions has changed and every employer in the UK must put certain staff into a pension scheme and contribute towards it.

This is called 'automatic enrolment'.

It's important that you understand what you need to do — and when you need to do it. This will depend on your circumstances and those of your employees. To work out what you need to do and when you need to do it contact our auto enrolment scheme advisers on:

0800 132100 or email alan.hudson@meridan.co.uk

Help is on hand from the Printing Industry Pension Scheme which has been running since 1986.

Meridan Financial LLP is the appointed advisers for the Printing Industry Pension Scheme (PIPS) and are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Not all Auto Enrolment services are regulated by the FCA.



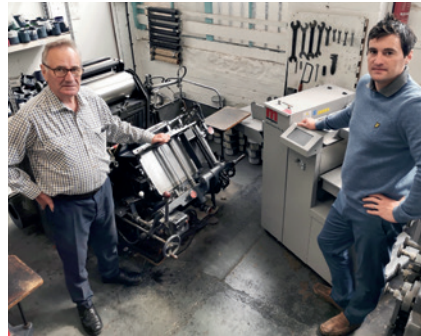
AUTOCREASER PRO XL FOR RICHARDSON & SON, HAWICK



Richardson & Son, based in Hawick in the Scottish Borders, has invested in a Morgana AutoCreaser Pro XL, purchased through Morgana dealer CLC.

Commenting on the need for the AutoCreaser Pro XL, Jamie Richardson, Co-Director, said: “We do a lot of creasing and perforating on our Thomson Platen machines, but it takes quite a bit of skill and time to make-ready those machines. A lot of the jobs we do are small runs, like sock bands and swing tags, for example, so make-ready was taking longer than the time to actually produce the work.

“One of the team had seen something about more automated creasing products online, so we made enquiries to three of our print finishing equipment suppliers. All of them came back with the same answer – that the Morgana AutoCreaser Pro XL would be able to handle our needs. We knew the Morgana team, as we have a few other Morgana machines on-site, so then, because of our location, we needed to find the best service solution as well as the best price. Although pricing was pretty close between them all, CLC offered an on-site



demo, so in the end we went with them.”

Would this new arrival make the existing trusty platen products redundant? “No, we’ve kept the platens, and our Titan cylinder. Although the Titan will probably never run again, we are not really short of space, and it is an impressive bit of kit – also I guess we

could be a little sentimental. The platens though are still used for die-cutting, and creasing heavier stock on a regular basis.”

The Morgana AutoCreaser Pro XL paper creasing system is an easy to use product with a highly efficient vacuum top feeder. The unique creasing rule in the AutoCreaser Pro XL eliminates paper tearing and, therefore, cracking. The Pro XL runs at a maximum of 8,500 A4 sheets per hour, with no loss of accuracy.

The product is Morgana’s most productive creaser to date, complete with the ability to handle longer sheets. The new AutoCreaser Pro XL takes a sheet size of up to 385 x 1,300mm with the table extension. Its feeder boasts an ultrasonic double sheet detection, an inline rotary perforation system with the capacity for up to five perforations at the same time, as well as the option of a cross perforation unit.

“The AutoCreaser Pro XL can be loaded with up to 200mm of stock, meaning we can set the job up, check it is correct, then walk away and let the machine do its thing. Being a small team, we need that level of automation so that we can keep our production output high. We also liked the capacity to store a large number of job pre-sets in the on-screen menu, meaning that complex jobs that come back to us frequently can be set-up with just the touch of a button,” added Jamie.

“The machine has done a lot of varied tasks. It perforates our raffle tickets, creases menus, order of service sheets, greeting cards, sock bands, swing tickets, and many more. The biggest plus, of course, is the make-ready time between jobs – it’s just so quick and simple. The machine runs every day, doing a variety of different jobs, and has definitely helped us increase our productivity.”

www.richardsonprinters.com • www.morgana.co.uk

BOOTH'S PRINT MOVES UP TO HORIZON SYSTEM

Booth's Print has completed its transformation into a highly responsive digital printing operation with investment in a Horizon BQ-270V single clamp perfect binder from IFS.

The Cornish digital, signage and exhibition printer produces a broad range of applications from books, business cards, flyers and letterheads to magazines, fine art brochures, leaflets, and catalogues. It runs Konica Minolta and Kodak digital presses.

Steven Booth, Managing Director, explains: “We have become an all digital operation to better address the demand for high quality short run fast turnaround print. We have been working on creating a production environment that can meet daily demand in a highly agile way. And the perfect binder is the last piece in the puzzle to cost effectively produce individual or short run jobs.”

He continues: “We have run larger perfect binding systems, but with different work mix we needed something that was quick to set up and easy to run. The BQ-270V was the ideal solution. It does everything we wanted it to do. We know the Horizon systems are robustly built, reliable, and user friendly. That has meant it was up and running immediately.”

Booth's Print's 500cph Horizon BQ-270V single clamp perfect binder offers high quality perfect binding and on-demand production of variable thickness books.

It includes an automated, sensor activated digital caliper system which consistently measures book block thickness and automatically transfers this data to the binder for quick, automated set-up for books of different thicknesses. It features a large 10.4" intelligent colour touchscreen, job programming, and a compact configuration.

www.ifsl.uk.com



PROFILE OF THE MONTH: SUPREME LABELLING



Supreme Labels supply a huge range of labels to suit any need, fast and efficiently and at a great trade price. Quality products for various applications in numerous sizes, with different adhesive qualities to suit all needs. Please feel free to contact Supreme Labelling regarding your customers label requirements; they will match the right product to your needs at the right price!

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IMAGECO HELPS DR. MARTENS TAKE A SUSTAINABLE STEP FORWARD

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

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

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

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



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

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

amount of use is about to be elevated."

Imageco deployed its HP Latex 800W printer, supplied by Perfect Colours, to produce all the graphics for the project. This, Nathan said, allowed the company to deliver an even more sustainable service to Dr. Martens. Imageco was one of the first UK customers to install the HP Latex 800W printer, back in January 2021. The printer offers a suite of features including the whitest white ink that does not yellow over time, enabling print businesses to produce neater outlines and add more contrast.

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

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

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

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

www.drytac.com

ANTALIS TEAM BUILDING EVENT FOR EARTH DAY

The team building day was part of Antalis' Earth Day activities and aimed to build and repair damaged fences that protect the trees at Bradgate Park in Leicestershire from deer who eat the bark and leaves, causing damage and risking the health of the trees.

The park has many trees that are several hundreds of years old, and a large number of Fallow and Red deer roaming free in the 830 acres of countryside. Over the years, many of the old fences protecting the trees had become damaged due to weathering, consequently allowing the deer to eat the bark and leaves of the old trees.

The Antalis team building day began with a short safety briefing, followed by fence building in the deer sanctuary area of the park. Under the guidance of the park ranger and two volunteers, the team set to work removing the damaged bits of the fence so they could be replaced with new wood, restoring the protection of the trees.

Jason Poxon, Antalis Packaging Technologist Manager comments: "All of the volunteers who got involved with the team building day at Bradgate Park had a great day. Spending time together as a team as well as contributing to the protection of those ancient trees was really rewarding!"

www.antalis.co.uk • pkteam@antalis.co.uk • 0370 241 1466



COMPASS BUSINESS FINANCE SUPPORTS SMES

Compass Business Finance has reaffirmed their support to businesses by



signing up to the new SME Finance Charter. The Charter consists of five pledges, set out by the Business Finance Council, to which Compass has detailed their specific commitment.

The five pledges state: 1. We're open for business and ready to lend; 2. We'll help you build back better after COVID-19; 3. We'll support your application and signpost other options if needed; 4. We'll treat you fairly at all times; and, 5. We'll work with the government-owned British Business Bank to support SMEs.

The Business Finance Council collaborated with finance providers, business organisations and government, to identify areas that are significant in ensuring that the SME finance market works effectively, drawing up the five high level commitments from these.

Mark Nelson, director of Compass commented, "Working in collaboration with the government and other finance providers is key to being able to offer the best possible support to the market. Signing up to the Charter reaffirms the commitment we have to our customers, to always do our best for them."

For details of the commitments made by Compass, visit www.compassbusinessfinance.co.uk/smecharter

GRANTHAMS (PRESTON), JOINS ENTWISTLE GROUP

Originally a sign making /sign writing business formed in Blackpool in 1890, since then, Granthams Graphic Technology division evolved into one of the UK's largest resellers of sign printing equipment and supplies with an enviable reputation for service and support.

For the past two decades, since introducing the very first fully working solvent printer to the industry, the Preston based operation focused their efforts on selling and supporting large format printers, cutters and finishing equipment for the outdoor graphics and signage industry. During that same time, Entwistle Group continued to expand their own wide format business with a focus on CAD and inkjet graphics printers and associated supplies as well as their core business sustainable print.

At the beginning of May 2022, the Graphic Technology division joined the Entwistle Group who have a similar heritage, tracking back their



humble beginnings to 1899. Entwistle Group has heavily invested in print equipment as well as sustainability and look to strengthen their group with the knowledge and expertise of the Granthams GT Team.

Kirsty Reader, General Manager of Granthams Graphic Technology, stated "We see this as an incredible opportunity for both teams to share their extensive knowledge of the industry. This

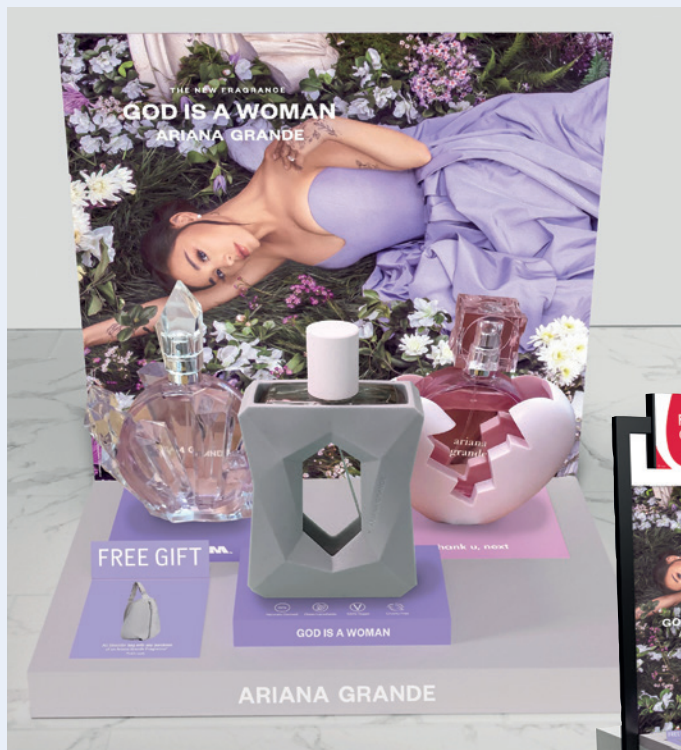
partnership will give our businesses a chance to expand together and tap into new and exciting areas of the industry. We've known and worked alongside Entwistles for many years as part of the GDL Network, so we are thrilled to be joining forces".

Although Entwistle Group will take ownership, all management staff and facilities at Granthams GT Limited in Preston will remain the same. The formal trading name of the new company is Granthams GT Limited. The trading address will remain in Preston, while Entwistle will continue operating as a separate company in Manchester.

Granthams copy and print bureau as well as the online art and graphic supplies operation in Charnley Road, Blackpool (trading under ArtDiscount.co.uk) will remain completely unaffected by these changes and continue under the ongoing ownership of Granthams Limited.

www.granthams.co.uk

ARIANA GRANDE ETHICAL NEW PERFUME PACKAGING



Antalis supplied its fluted display board and DISPA® for the project in which environmental considerations were paramount. The environmentally friendly point of sale solutions were created by London based print and point of sale specialist POSITIVE+ for Ariana Grande's ethical new fragrance, 'God is a Woman'.

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

For the floor standing display units, POSITIVE+ selected sustainably sourced Displayflute E/B Flute corrugated board for the main unit, back panel and tester plinth. An E-flute corrugate was chosen for the tester on display tray,



the base and plinth of the countertop unit. As well as being lightweight and strong, Displayflute corrugated boards are biodegradable and easy to recycle after use.

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

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

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

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

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EUROPE'S 1ST EFI NOZOMI 18000+ LED SINGLE-PASS PRINTER

London based global visual communications provider Delta Group is furthering its pioneering technical capabilities in high quality, ultra high speed inkjet printing with the purchase of the new EFI™ Nozomi 18000+ LED single pass printer for display graphics from Electronics For Imaging. Scheduled for installation in Q3, the new printer — the first of its kind to be installed in Europe and only the second to be installed anywhere in the world — sets a new productivity benchmark in inkjet signage production with throughput speeds that are three to five times faster than scanning inkjet printers for display graphics production.

“We have had remarkable success as an early adopter of EFI’s single pass technology on our first Nozomi solution, an EFI Nozomi C18000 corrugated board printer that we use to produce high quality displays,” said Delta Group COO Martin Shipp. “The new 18000+ model for signage and display graphics will be a welcome development for our customers. The range of applications this printer enables, printing on paper, styrene, corrugated plastic and more at very high speeds, keeps Delta Group ahead in its ability to meet every customer need in the display graphics space.”

The new printer purchase, which was announced during FESPA Global Print Expo in Berlin, comes four years after Delta Group announced its EFI Nozomi C18000 corrugated board printer at that year’s FESPA Global Print Expo.

The 1.8-metre (71-inch) wide printer — the very first single pass inkjet printer designed and built for the sign and display graphics market — runs at production speeds from 3,000-5,000 square metres per hour, or up to 1,000 1.2 x 1.4 metre sheets per hour. The press’s ultra-fast productivity is managed and driven through an advanced, EFI Fiery® NZ-1000 digital front end (DFE), which delivers robust, highly accurate colour management.

The printer also gives display graphics providers like Delta Group the opportunity to grow revenues and margins while consolidating large volumes



of work from multiple printers onto a single, premium quality device.

Award winning Fiery FreeForm™ Create software used with the DFE enables streamlined creation and management of variable data jobs for the printer.

The printer handles sheets from 0.3 mm to 12 mm thick with either manual or full automation feeding and stacking. A hybrid aqueous/UV primer unit on the print system enables printing on corrugated plastics and other sign and display materials without ink adhesion issues, and an optional post UV coater provides weatherability and UV protection for outdoor graphics.

Delta Group will be better equipped to handle burst capacity for nearly any type of printed signage job, delivering continuous productivity and premium quality with automatic registration, automatic nozzle plate cleaning and EFI’s advanced, fully recirculating ink delivery system.

“The team at Delta Group are once again on the leading edge of innovation in digital printing,” said Todd Zimmerman, VP and GM of Display Graphics, EFI Inkjet. “The range of capabilities Delta Group is obtaining with the EFI Nozomi 18000+ LED single pass printer puts this company in a new category, above its competitors, in terms of advancing technical innovation and leadership in the signage market.”

www.efi.com

MORE SUSTAINABLE IMPACT WITH WALL COVERINGS

Matt Manteit, International Sales Manager at Neschen Coating GmbH says though increasing in popularity at a rapid rate, when it comes to producing printed wall covering applications, print service providers are faced with a wide range of challenges that they must overcome in order to deliver high quality work to customers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

This also goes for the adhesive; often this can be a harmful substance,



whereas we are now seeing more solutions coming to market with a water based adhesive, offering users a much more eco-conscious alternative.

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

Distributed exclusively in the UK by ArtSystems, a specialist systems distributor and service provider, Neschen PP wall grip L-UV uses a heavy coat weight, enhanced, high tack, water based adhesive. It is one of only a few PVC-free, self adhesive wall graphics products available on the market. It is also suitable for use both indoors and outside and offers excellent adhesion to smooth and slightly rough interior walls, smooth and dry concrete, chipboard and other difficult low energy surfaces like polypropylene containers.

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VANGUARD ANNOUNCES ARTSYSTEMS AS UK & IRELAND DISTRIBUTOR



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

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

ArtSystems will be working with a selected reseller channel providing a UK-based demonstration centre for resellers to bring their users to see the speed and quality of the Vanguard

range. ArtSystems is a leading distributor in the wide format market and is able to support resellers channels with dedicated sales, training, support and channel marketing teams.

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

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

www.artsystems.co.uk • www.durst-group.com

HOW SUSTAINABLE IS THE PRINT MEDIA YOU USE?

Innotech Digital & Display has created an Eco Impact Rating Tool designed to give printed display producers and users a straightforward and accurate way to evaluate and compare any print material’s overall environmental impact.

The tool is available online and is very easy to use. Simply enter the information requested about your proposed media and instantly receive a rating from A to E that tells you exactly how sustainable that product is.

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

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



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

He adds, “We think the launch of this tool is a

big moment in the transition to sustainable print materials. It makes a complex job of picking the right material a simple one.”

The Innotech Eco Impact Rating Tool is available free to all users — follow the link here: <https://innotechdigital.com/eco-impact-rating-tool>

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THE LATEST PRODUCTS AND NEWS FROM YES GROUP

Over the last 27 years YES GROUP has specialised in professional embroidery, direct to garment, and UV object printing solutions, bringing the very latest products and services, direct to your business.

2022 is no exception, YES Group has announced that they have officially partnered with ColDesi USA to supply exclusively in the UK their range of DigitalHeat FX DTF “Direct to film” transfer printers.

DigitalHeat FX offers two clear print solutions for DTF Printing, the DTF-24H2 (two head) and DTF-24H4 (four head).

The DTF-24H2 Direct to Film printer is able to print up to 100 full size (10”x10”) prints per hour, that’s up to 55 linear feet per hour of printing directly on to film. That complete process includes:

- Printing the images in beautiful, high resolution, full colour
- Automatically applying the specially formulated hot melt or “glue” powder
- Curing the ink and hot melt in the integrated tunnel dryer and

- Outputting to the take up roll at the end of the process

In the end you’ll have a 600mm wide roll of high quality transfers that are to be used at your convenience.

The DigitalHeat FX DTF-24H2 Direct to Film printer is a perfect addition to an embroidery, DTG direct to garment, or transfer print business. It gives true flexibility and stunning transfer prints with a soft hand feel when compared to screen printing, traditional toner based transfers, and cuts out the need for pre-treatments in the DTG process. The transfers are also fast and easy to apply in just 15 seconds!

With the addition in the range of the DigitalHeat FX DTF-24H4 Direct to Film printer from ColDesi you can print up to 600mm x 100mtr long but do it a whole lot faster!

The DigitalHeat FX DTF-24H4 benefits from four heads and prints up to 300 full size shirts per hour, that’s 145 (or better) linear feet per hour but it is a bigger machine! So, if you’re wanting to print S, M, L,



XL to XXXL prints then either model will work, it’s just then down to how fast you need it to be and how much you need to print!

For further information on how YES Group can help your business grow call the team on: 01623 863343

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FUJIFILM LAUNCHES QUICKEST IN-STORE PHOTO PRINTING

As demand for photo printing continues to boom, Fujifilm has launched its new FUJIFILM Easy Print software and PHOTO by Fujifilm Kiosk to give retailers the ability to easily provide instant, affordable prints to customers in store.

Already in use at John Lewis & Partners’ flagship Oxford Street store, FUJIFILM Easy Print has been developed to make photo printing from a smart phone possible with four simple steps. Customers simply scan the QR code on screen, select images from their camera roll, chose the size and number of copies, then review the order and print.

With a small footprint of just under a half a metre squared (61.6x67cm), the compact PHOTO by Fujifilm Kiosk uses this innovative software to offer instant prints to customers in stores. Minimising the retail space taken up on the shop floor, the unit can house up to two DE100XD, offering size capabilities ranging between 5x7” to 8x10”.

With over 1.2 trillion photos taken on a smart phone or camera every year, this new solution is aiming to make it easier and quicker than ever for consumers to print their special memories, while giving retailers an autonomous way to provide the service.

Theo Georgiades, Managing Director of Fujifilm UK, explains: “Photo printing has returned in a significant way, and we want to help retailers provide the easiest service to their customers with a quick and easy solution. With our latest FUJIFILM Easy Prints software working through a compact intuitive Novus Kiosk, taking up minimal floor space, customers can make their prints themselves with no input required from store staff. Image data is stored for eight hours and no personal data is



stored at all so retailers and their customers can rest assured this service is completely GDPR compliant.”

An affordable solution for retailers wanting to add photo printing to their offering, the standardised kiosk that automatically updates its software is simple to operate and maintain, saving time for store assistants working with them. The reliable unit will also ensure the highest quality of instant prints for customers that Fujifilm has developed from years of experience in the photo

printing sector.

Theo adds: “We want everyone to be able to easily access the magic of printing your special memories, so photos do not just stay on our phones. With FUJIFILM Easy Prints and PHOTO by Fujifilm Kiosk, this is easier than ever for retailers to make a part of their shop floor, without causing extra work for their employees or disruption to their retail space.”

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Built with our unique, open design, the suction feeder handles stock sizes from 210 – 1300mm in length, useful for applications, such as covers for landscape booklets, book covers for oversized perfect bound books, multi-panel brochures and many other applications made from these long sheets. An additional static crease option can be installed to enable the full range of crease and perforation options.

Running efficiently to fold up to **6,000** A4 sheets per hours and in crease only mode up to **7,500** sheets per hour, making this is our most productive creaser/ folder to date.

PIXEL PROPHET GETTING THE PROPER PICTURE

Many regular readers will know that alongside QPP runs a bustling print shop in the centre of Brighton. With over thirty years of experience behind it, we don't just comment on the industry but work with it on a daily basis. **Martin Christie** looks through the camera lens of time. . .

In the last three decades, the last few years have certainly been the strangest and most disruptive, and none of us can really predict what will happen next or even properly plan. All we can do is try and be flexible and adaptable enough to cope.

We have learnt a lot about print-on-demand in these years, because being in the heart of a colourful and cosmopolitan community, our customers can certainly be very demanding, featuring as they do probably a higher percentage of creatives, artists and students than most towns.

We are not on the high street, but in a mixed residential and commercial zone tucked away from the main shopping streets, which turns out to be an advantage as we are therefore spared sharing space with some of the dismal frontages which they now present, where even the charity shops have cut-price sales alongside painfully empty retail units.

Some of our business neighbours have moved on, and some of our older residents have passed on. So, as well as the digital transformation, the environment has changed quite a bit since the analogue days. So with all the turmoil and changes, it was nice to have an opportunity to reconnect with the locals recently during the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

We did stock and sell a surprising amount of the merchandise for the event, but we were also happy to play host to a street party, having a covered yard for shelter should the British summer prove as unpredictable as ever. In the event, the threatened showers stayed away.

I wandered along with my camera to represent the firm during the festivities, record the event for posterity, and have a chance to chat with some new people who otherwise were only passing faces on the pavement.

While snapping, someone commented that I was using a 'proper' camera, and it made me realise that it has become an unusual sight. Not so long ago, a digital camera slung around a person's neck was common; now, the phone does everything and is seen as convenient because it is instantly to hand. But, of course, the result of that is a happy snap or a selfie which becomes almost a knee-jerk reaction rather than a composition, and the difference is rather significant. People take so many snaps that are rarely truly memorable, or even viewed for more than a second on a small screen, and certainly not remembered even if they can be found again in pointless scrolling through a mobile haystack trying to find a missing needle.

In the early days of photography, almost every family would line up to have that one group photograph taken for the wall and for future generations to wonder at. When film cameras became affordable and useable for the average person, they were still only taken out for special occasions — weddings, birthdays, holidays etc. — so that a single 24-shot roll might last a whole year, and the images were precious captures of moments in time, rather than blinks of an eye.

I printed out some of the shots I took in the street and posted them, not on social media, as all the other participants had done, but as real prints for viewing by everyone on our gate.



Party time

It's been interesting to see that it's not only the street residents that have stopped to have a look and comment, but general passers-by have paused to check them out and maybe, just maybe, be reminded that there is nothing like a proper photograph and a proper print!

Of course, the ubiquitous phone cam is a relatively recent phenomenon that has rapidly been accepted as the norm — we have really only had less than twenty years since digital cameras became serious devices — just one generation. They have developed massively in that time, but the issue remains not only how images are captured but how they are saved and stored.

Old school film, in comparison, has had nearly 200 years of continuity and leaves a physical record in the form of negative or print, much of which is still around, whether preserved in library vaults or stored in a million shoe boxes.

At some point or other, it is quite likely that some of this archive will need to be turned into digital files, a service which we have been providing for years and continue to improve on coming, as I did, as a film photographer and learning all the complications of the digital process along with everybody else, but with that darkroom background behind me. I've still got boxes of negatives from twenty years of shooting and developing 35mm though most of the prints have disappeared or been dumped as they take more space to store, so it was in my own interest, as well as the customers.

I've always used a dedicated stand-alone photographic flatbed scanner for prints after realising the quality of the scan from a digital copier. While it does a good instant copy, it is not good enough to record accurate detail and colour. It takes longer and costs more, but customers can clearly see the difference.

Film has always been a bit of a problem though because, while I have an A4 flatbed scanner with a transparency head, it can only take two strips of film with six frames each at a time, or just four mounted slides, so it is time-consuming if you are scanning at high resolution. Also, if a customer has a lot of negatives, they may not be able to tell what is worth scanning in the first place.

There are some alternatives, from a simple illuminated viewer to basic handheld scanners and even a way of shooting individual frames on your iPhone. Still, they are all pretty basic in terms of quality and ease of operation. What's needed is a faster way of dealing with film in bulk while still producing good enough results expected from a professional service.

It was the shooting with a phone screen gimmick that set me thinking. All you need is a good backlit source to illuminate the subject. As we happened to have a lightbox in the studio, I tried snapping an old negative on it with my phone with surprisingly good results — you just have to move the phone up and down and hold it steady to get everything sharply into focus. Good enough to set me working on a more professional set-up. You still have to turn the negative into a positive, but I will get to that bit.

Instead of handheld, you need a stable platform — even for a phone — as even the slightest movement can cause motion blur, so a copy stand of some sort is recommended, especially for a much heavier digital SLR or even a good quality Bridge camera.

Anything with a decent pixel quota over about 16mp should be suitable and, unlike a phone, decent optics. Most lenses won't focus down far enough for close-range sharpness, but some will have a macro function for shooting flowers and insects that should do the trick.

Alternatively, with a removable lens camera, you can add spacers that come in various sizes between the lens and the body that shortens the focal length of a standard lens to do the same thing. These are called extension tubes and are available for most cameras. They aren't expensive as they don't have any fancy glass inside or even need electrical connections if you are going to use manual focus. And because they have no extra elements, they don't reduce the quality or speed of the original lens.

It's all about the quality of the image to get clarity in the negative or positive. That's where a quality DSLR and lens scores over cheaper alternatives. Even with a good lightbox source, you will be shooting at relatively low settings — 60th second at F5.6, for example, depending on the density of the original image. If you have one that also shoots video, it will likely give you a live view on the main screen rather than the eye viewer, which takes a bit of strain off the back. You should also be able to use the enlarge option to check fine detail before taking a shot. I also use a remote trigger to fire the shutter to further reduce any vibration in the camera body.

An A4-sized lightbox will take a whole 36 exposure 35 mm film held securely in a negative frame, in this case, one from a flatbed film scanner, or even in the stiff, clear plastic wallets, you can still buy from photographic outlets.

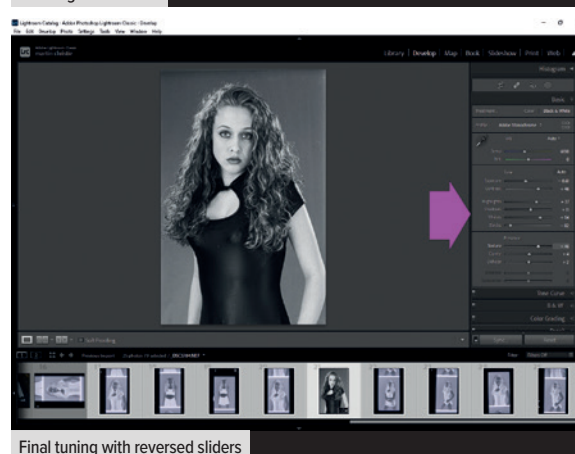
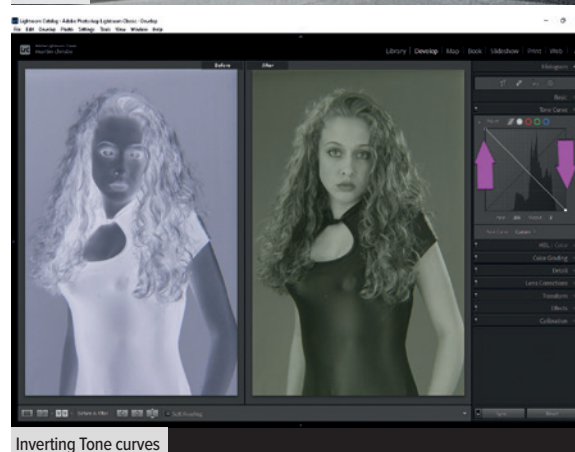
The film needs to be flat on the surface to avoid any optical distortion, but that is the same problem you can get with other scanners.

However, by doing it this way, you can rattle through three dozen images in a matter of minutes which would take at least half an hour on any of the alternatives, including checking and missing out on any originals that aren't sharp enough anyway. Instead, you leave the camera still and move the carrier sheet under the lens. It only takes as long as you need to click a button.

I've been very surprised at how good the results are, which is why I recommend the set-up here to anyone with a decent camera and even the slightest knowledge of what to do with it. It's not rocket science, just good old basic copying, just doing it with another device; it just needs a bit of practice and a little bit of trial and error. If you already have the camera, the rest of the kit can be bought in for under £100, which is cheaper than any decent film scanning alternative — and much quicker — so you can offer an affordable but high-quality option in-house.

The in-house bit is worth stressing as one of the important things to remember with film is that it is the only original and not a copy, and no one wants to send off a personal treasure to a company they've found online where they may get lost or damaged even if it is a little bit cheaper.

So you have all your negatives on your camera card; now, how do you make them positive? You've probably used Invert in Photoshop before to reverse a single image, but that's a bit laborious if you've got several dozen images. There is a better way using Lightroom where you can batch process the whole lot or select numbers of them as you choose. So instead, you simply use the Tone Curve in Develop and turn it upside down. Then, in Linear mode, take the extreme left point from the bottom up to the top left and the right one from the top down to the bottom. That's what Invert does in Photoshop automatically, but this way, you can have some input, for example, setting a white point first



by picking on any clear part of the film outside of the image which will otherwise have a slight colour hue from the celluloid base. This is particularly useful with colour negatives that tend to invert with a blue hue. The celluloid has a blue luminance, so correcting it should give you perfect blacks, similar to printing colour on acetate.

You can, in fact, fine-tune colour negatives quite accurately by selecting points in the colour curves of the individual RGB channels and then do any further adjustments using the colour grading tool. I'll delve into that one in more detail next time, as you can use it on all scanned images, particularly old prints, to bring them back to life.

One thing to be aware of is that in the upside-down world of inverted colour, all the control sliders work the opposite way round, so what would normally be lighter will be darker and so on. There used to be a man on Brighton Pier with a reverse steer bicycle, so when you turned left, it went right etc. Just impossible to do more than a yard or two without falling off. Inverted images are not that difficult in comparison. Have fun, and see you on the other side of summer!

MATHEW FAULKNER JOINS CANON WIDE FORMAT GROUP



In this position, Mathew is responsible for strategic and operational marketing for the wide format printing business, which includes the imagePROGRAF, Colorado, Arizona, ColorWave and PlotWave product lines.

Mathew brings extensive experience and knowledge of the print sector to this senior role, having fulfilled a range of marketing roles in Canon's production print business over the last decade. This has included almost five years working in applications led marketing and business development for wide format, following two years marketing the imagePROGRAF portfolio. Most recently, Mathew has been focused on customer and product marketing in Canon's cut sheet toner business, successfully launching a series of digital presses and workflow products, as well as driving insight led educational and business development initiatives for professional print customers.

Canon's Wide Format Printing business serves broad markets from Architecture, Engineering, CAD & Manufacturing (AEC&M) to photo and fine art and from display graphics to interior décor. The

product portfolio includes the roll to roll Colorado series and the flatbed Arizona family for large format graphics print service providers; the imagePROGRAF series for photographers, graphics producers, creative agencies and in-house print departments; and the ColorWave and PlotWave printers for corporate workspaces, print shops and production environments.

Mathew comments, "My ambition has always been to help print businesses to succeed — whether that's creating a smarter workflow or helping them find new areas of growth, and I'm bringing that same focus into my new role. Canon has a world class wide format offering, from innovative large format print technologies to the software solutions that support them, to the specialist partners we work with to help customers work smarter. I'm excited to come back into the vibrant world of wide format print and inspire our customers with all of the creative applications and growth opportunities that are within their reach."

Mathew started his career working in technical design for a packaging and print manufacturing business, subsequently co-founding a technology business to develop inkjet printing, CAD and prototyping systems for packaging.

www.canon.co.uk

FRIEDHEIM GROWS SALES TEAMS



As part of their growth strategy, Friedheim has been hiring new sales and sales support staff across Packaging, Post Press, and Converting. Working in the print industry since he was 16, with over 20 years' experience — Mitchell Ball is the most recent addition but by no

means new to Friedheim. Mitch previously worked in Friedheim's service division as a technical engineer and progressed into sales due to his rapport with customers and knowledge of print finishing processes. This deep understanding provides customers with valuable insight.

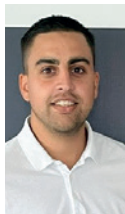
After a stint gaining experience at Duplo UK, Mitch has taken responsibility for the Midlands and Ireland

territories under the leadership of Post Press Sales Manager Stuart Bamford and Converting and Scodix Sales Manager John Harrison. Mitch particularly enjoys identifying and helping to remove bottlenecks from the production floor and looks forward to providing new solutions from across Friedheim's wide portfolio.

Interest has been on the rise since pandemic related restrictions have been lifted and previous deals, maybe put on the backburner during that time, finally come to fruition. New enquiries are rising rapidly in B1 format commercial and packaging sectors, as well as the primary demand for bringing post press processes in house and take external costs under control.

www.friedheim.co.uk

SOYANG EUROPE NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR



Soyang Europe, the manufacturer and distributor of digitally printable wide format and superwide format media and surface coverings, is delighted to announce the appointment of Daniel Dimambro as its new

Finance Director, with immediate effect.

As part of the senior management structure at Soyang Europe, Daniel will play an important role in the group's on-going growth and expansion strategy. He joins Soyang Europe at an exciting time for the business ahead of its appearance at the FESPA Global Print Expo 2022.

Daniel has worked in finance for nearly a decade and has held a series of senior roles across a number of industries including the logistics and care sectors.

Most recently he was Group Financial Planning and Analysis Manager at international supply chain specialist Ligentia. He also had spells as Group Finance Manager, Group Accountant, Management Accountant and Assistant Management Accountant during more than six years at the business.

Prior to this, he spent almost three years with Skills for Care, an independent charity and the strategic body for workforce development in social care in England as Assistant Treasury and Finance Officer and Finance Assistant. He also holds a Bachelor of

NEW HP APPOINTMENTS



HP Inc. announced today that Haim Levit has been promoted to SVP and General Manager of HP's Industrial Print business where he will manage several global business units and lead HP's

overall industrial global digital print strategy. The Indigo Division will be part of Levit's new organisation.

Levit began his career at HP Indigo 27 years ago and has served in a series of senior management positions both in Israel and the United States. He first started in Procurement, Planning and Supply Chain, followed by key business and operations roles, until he was appointed General Manager of HP Indigo in 2020 after successfully leading the company's global Go To Market activity.



Noam Zilbershtain, formerly VP of Operations at HP Indigo, moves to General Manager, HP Zilbershtain joined HP in 2020 after 20 years at General Electric

Healthcare where he served as the General Manager of the Global Imaging Subsystems Detectors. In this role, he oversaw research, development, and production at the company's five sites worldwide. His prior positions include the global leadership of Business & Product Management, R&D, Manufacturing, Quality, Marketing & Sales at GE healthcare.

Zilbershtain, General Manager of HP Indigo, said, "Under Haim's leadership, HP Indigo has hit many new milestones and is the market leader in the digital print industry. I am excited to move into this new role as we continue to pursue new growth opportunities."

Levit, SVP and General Manager of HP's Industrial Print Business, said, "As I move into my new role as SVP and General Manager of HP's Industrial Print Business, I will continue working closely with Noam who cares deeply about customers. I am confident that he will continue to drive HP Indigo's growth and development."

www.hp.com

Arts degree in Accounting and Finance from Leeds Beckett University.

"The newly created role at Soyang is a fantastic opportunity for me to develop both professionally and personally," Daniel said. "It's a fantastic next step in my career, and I am looking forward to providing strategic and financial guidance across the business to contribute towards achieving Soyang's business objectives."





Speaking about Daniel's appointment, Mark Mashiter, Managing Director of Soyang Europe, said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Daniel as a senior member of the Soyang Europe team."

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WEBSHOP

EPSON CREATE HUMAN MILK ONLINE STORE

World Day of Human Milk saw the launch of a new online store founded by Epson and its charity partner The Human Milk Foundation (HMF), which will sell gifts using Epson's dye-sublimated printers to help raise funds for the charity.

The Human Milk Foundation provides donor human milk to sick premature babies in hospital neonatal intensive care units and to families at home such as mums with cancer and other conditions through the Hearts Milk Bank.

The new online store can be visited here: www.hmfgifts.com

The mugs and tote bags are locally manufactured in the UK by print on demand platform Prodigy, which print onto sustainably sourced fabrics and materials using Epson dye-sublimation printing technology. This includes Epson's 44-inch SureColor SC-F6300 and the 24-inch SureColor SCF500.

Founded in 2014, Prodigy has since become a leading print on demand platform, with in house manufacturing facilities across the UK, the US, and mainland Europe, supported by a global network of print on demand fulfilment partners. Prodigy prints from locally resourced fabrics and materials and strives to bring production as close to the customer as possible to minimise the carbon footprint of its product lifecycle. Epson's dye-sublimation printers compliment this sustainable product life cycle by enabling the development of products to be done in market and free from the carbon footprint of international freight transport.

James Old, Founder and CEO of Prodigy Group, commented: "This online store is iconic to the commercial viability and the low environmental impact that can be achieved with dye-sublimation printing technology. Delivering quality without compromise to the environment has always been fundamental to Prodigy's success and it's enabled us to have a more seamless collaboration with businesses such as Epson and the Human Milk Foundation, both of which made it clear this was a priority to them from the start. Prodigy has long been an advocate of Epson technology and the SC-F6300 has been a workhorse for our dye-sublimation production. The SC-F500 has been a great addition for our smaller format production and its cartridge free ink tank system has helped reduce the downtime usually experienced when



changing cartridges."

In an industry still converting from analogue to digital, only 6% of the world's textiles are currently digitally printed, which presents a great opportunity for businesses looking to differentiate with faster turnover, higher flexibility and a more sustainable option for customers.

Products from the new online store feature bespoke designs by talented designer Emily Culpeper based on molecules such as Oxytocin and Prolactin, both key hormones found in human milk; the snowdrop flower, also known as the 'milk flower' which is the charity's emblem; and seasonal designs e.g. Christmas.

Mugs on the new HMF store will retail at £7.99 while tote bags will retail at £14.99. For every 13 mugs / 7 tote bags sold, funds raised will enable The Human Milk Foundation to on board a new milk donor, whose milk

would feed on average 20 babies.

Dr Natalie Shenker, Co-founder of the Human Milk Foundation comments: "We're delighted to launch the HMF online shop in partnership with our charity partner Epson, using their sustainable printing technology to create these beautiful gifts which will raise vital funds to enable us expand our service and help more babies. The designs also raise awareness of the science of human milk and our work in supporting milk donors, including the very special mums who choose to donate their milk following bereavement."

To support the development of the new online store and to offer a wider range of gifts to meet different consumer tastes, The Human Milk Foundation and Epson will be looking for and embarking on new design collaborations in the future.

www.epson.co.uk

MIMAKI 330 SERIES STANDOUT TECH FROM THE SOLVENT PRINTING EXPERTS

The latest from a two decade long heritage of producing industry leading solvent printers, the new 330 Series from Mimaki includes two notable machines: the JV330-160 solvent printer and the CJV330 solvent printer/cutter.

Available now through UK and Ireland distributor, Hybrid Services' reseller network, the pair of new solvent models offer significant technological advances to an already established technology. With Mimaki's heritage in manufacturing dedicated solvent printers stretching back to the early 2000s with the launch of the sector defining JV3, the latest iteration in the '3' lineage is the 330 platform, available as both a standalone solvent printer and an integrated solvent printer/cutter.

"Continuous development over the last two decades has ensured Mimaki's solvent print technology has been at the forefront of innovation during this time, and the new 330 Series is no exception," states Hybrid's Reseller Account Manager, Martin Southworth. "Companies looking to invest in the latest models will see substantial productivity benefits and we're delighted with the initial response to the new models."

Standout features include the MBIS bulk ink system that takes two litre ink sacks, reducing running costs by around 25% as well as saving on single use plastic. Onboard storage of three rolls of materials saves storage, time and enables operators to quickly change to a different roll of media, and an inline X/Y cutter powers through post print finishing, trimming artwork whilst the roll of printed media is still on the machine.

"Incorporating features like these as standard are a great demonstration of Mimaki's understanding of the sign and graphics industry," Southworth continues. "Freeing up the operator, reducing tasks such as trimming out posters and graphics panels, even something as simple as not having to return to the printer so often to replace inks, down to the huge supply from the MBIS — all have a positive impact on productivity."

With prices starting at just £23,995 and including a two year warranty, RIP software and, on the CJV330, plugin cutting software



that's compatible with both Corel Draw and Adobe Illustrator, the two new models are competitively priced. "The 330 Series offers excellent value, considering the amount of technology incorporated into the printers," states Southworth. "Furthermore, a two year warranty gives real peace of mind."

The technological innovations don't stop with what's immediately visible, with multiple proprietary Core Technologies included to further support minimal operator intervention, reduced wastage and high output quality. Mimaki's latest imaging technology is Mimaki Weaving Dot Technology (MWDT) which optimises the firing order and combination of nozzles to aid the reproduction of smooth photographic images and vivid, deep colours. "Mimaki is synonymous with high quality printing and MWDT combines numerous Core Technologies to deliver optimal results from the printer,"

Southworth explains. "Innovations like the Mimaki Remote Access app are designed to free up the operator for other tasks, with notifications provided via smartphone for remote monitoring."

Mimaki's proven SS21 ink is supplied in two litre sacks and sports a long outdoor life, excellent scratch resistance and a large gamut, covering 94.8% of Pantone colours, with an orange ink available for users that need to hit even the most demanding of corporate palettes. Print and cut on the one machine is possible with the CJV330 160 model making it ideal for producing large quantities of stickers, labels and decals, with both machines being perfectly suited to the daily demands of a print service provider, delivering vehicle graphics, posters, banners, pull ups, backlit graphics, décor and wallpaper, and much, much more.

For full details: www.hybridservices.co.uk, or call Hybrid Services on 01270 501900.

EYE ON DISPLAY

KEEPING AN EYE ON LARGE FORMAT PRINTING



Eye on Display has been busy over the last month catching up with companies that were launching new products, services and initiatives at FESPA in Berlin. Across the board, it was felt that this show marked a point where big global events are back. *Eye on Display's* editor, **Jack Gocher** offers his monthly report on what quick print pros should be keeping their eye on.

NEW AT FESPA

Amongst the big announcements from the show were two new printers from Fujifilm as part of their Blueprint Live event. The Acuity Ultra Hybrid LED and the Acuity Prime L were featured for the first time at FESPA. Kevin Jenner, European Marketing Manager for Fujifilm wide format inkjet systems, said that, "Fujifilm has combined its expertise, built up over decades developing exceptional flatbed and roll to roll platforms, to design a new wide format hybrid platform that will set a new standard in price and performance and offer exceptional versatility and ROI."

SwissQPrint also launched new models at the show, including the Kudu flatbed for high end printing. This beast of a machine has maximum productivity of 300m² per hour with high quality output according to Carmen Eicher, Chief of Sales and Marketing, "Kudu incorporates the latest print head technology, with an addressable resolution of up to 1350 dpi." In addition, SwissQprint announced a new solution that enables direct printing onto glass.



Another big feature for *Eye on Display* was a report on Kornit Digital. They presented the future of on-demand, sustainable production for the digital textile and fashion industry, with its Digital Textile MAX Production Systems and powerful workflow solutions. Chris Govier, President at Kornit EMEA, explains, "With Kornit's latest innovations of sustainable, on-demand offerings, there's nothing keeping our network of customers, partners, designers, and brands from achieving their own vision and driving the much needed disruption the market requires."

We are still busy interviewing attendees and exhibitors from FESPA and will be publishing a range of interviews, including with Head of FESPA Global Expo, Michael Ryan, who has told us how happy they are with the event and some of their plans for the coming year.

INSTALLED



Mailmate in Jersey with their Kongsberg and Mimaki flatbed.

At *Eye on Display* we love a good installation story and there were several in the last few weeks. It's great to hear about new investment going in as this means the market is continuing to thrive despite these difficult times. We had a rare story all the way from Jersey this month as Mailmate invested in a Kongsberg X24 Edge digital cutting table, Mimaki UCJV300-160 UV LED printer with integrated cutter, and Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX UV LED flatbed from CMYUK. This big investment supports Neil Faudemer, Mailmate's Managing Director's view that, "The world is a very uncertain place now, and it's all about being able to offer a broad range of services."

SOYANG, JOSERO AND FUJIFILM

Our biggest story last month in terms of interest on our web site were the two big announcements that involved Soyang. Firstly they told us they would be distributing the Fujifilm Acuity Ultra in the UK. This was soon followed up with the story that Soyang Europe had acquired Josero. Mark Mashiter, Managing Director of Soyang Europe said, "We already have a strong reputation with regards to the provision of wide and superwide format media, and plan to build on this expertise within the hardware space with support from Josero's specialist team."

We will be bringing more on this story in the coming months, as well as ramping up our interviews with key people in the industry. Please do visit our website and also follow our LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram feeds for latest news and video interviews from the colourful world of large format printing.

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ANTALIS INTRODUCES NEW DATA COPY PAPERS

The way we work and the documents we produce are constantly evolving.

Demand for inkjet printing, both at home and in the office, is growing, placing an ever-greater emphasis on the paper we use. To meet this demand, and to meet the markets desire for more environmentally conscious products, Antalis has enhanced its office paper range Data Copy® by developing some exciting new features. These new benefits complement Data Copy®'s already impressive environmental and performance credentials.

Enhanced by Colorlok® treatment, Data Copy® offers even greater performance and print quality when used in inkjet printers, to deliver vibrant colours and bolder blacks, making it ideal for both home and office use.

New packaging has been designed to create a box carton and a ream wrapper that is 100% recyclable, whilst retaining its moisture protective qualities.

The papers are FSC certified and awarded with a European Eco label to offer best environmental credentials on the market.

To further support its commitment to sustainability and positive



environmental impacts, the Data Copy® brand has become a member of '1% for the Planet' and contributes to environmental initiatives and projects globally.

1% for the Planet pairs businesses with approved non-profit partners and creates partnerships to amplify the impact of the members' giving. As a result, 1% of Data Copy® revenue is donated to support environmental associations and projects.

The Data Copy® range has also been increased to include a 120gsm A4 product, which complements the existing 75-100gsm weights, offering a wide range of options for office documents.

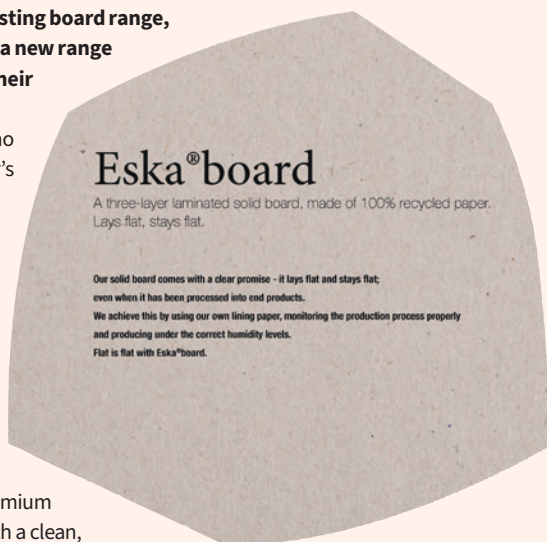
Paul Savill Product Manager, Office and Digital Papers Antalis said: "Data Copy® has always been an exceptional office paper. Founded in 1983, it continues to prove to its users of almost 40 years, the strong commitment it has to offer a quality paper, that can make the difference. The addition of a 120gsm sheet coupled with the introduction of Colorlok® and enhanced recycling and

environmental features will undoubtedly strike a positive note with quality and environmentally conscious users."

For more information, please visit www.antalis.co.uk or contact Antalis on contact@antalis.co.uk

ESKA BOARD NOW AVAILABLE FROM PREMIER

To complement their existing board range, Premier are introducing a new range of Lined Greyboards to their product portfolio. Eska Mono White and Eska Mono Black have joined Premier's extensive choice of graphical and folding box boards. Produced in the Netherlands, both grades feature a smart, three layer composition with an internal layer that is produced entirely from 100% recycled fibres (post-consumer).



Eska Mono White is a premium white lined solid board with a clean, bright white laminated lining paper on one side and an uncoated greyboard reverse. Eska Mono White is the perfect choice when producing gift boxes, display packaging, print finishing, sign and display and much more. Eska Mono Black is perfect for luxury packaging. Its deep, dark and tactile black layer denotes quality and captures the eye, furthermore it can instantly give a product a luxurious seal of approval.

Kieran Ferguson comments, "We're excited to be adding such an excellent and versatile range of lined greyboards to the Premier portfolio. In terms of supply, it's been a difficult period for the trade but Premier remain dedicated to providing the best service to our customers."

Premier offer a split pallet service at no extra charge on their graphical and box board range, with minimum order quantities of ONLY 100 sheets. Premier also provide next day delivery on stock items on their own fleet of vehicles, around the UK.

Kieran continues, "We work closely with our customers and suppliers to ensure that Premier's product portfolio reflects the best choice of products on the market. No matter the end use or application, Premier has an array of products suited to our customers' every needs."

For more information, samples and prices contact your local branch or visit www.paper.co.uk

PERSONAL 'SHINY' FOOTBALL CARDS

Thumbing through new football cards for the coveted 'shiny' has been part of childhood for decades. But while most young footie fans will be searching for England players Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling or Jack Grealish this year, one team of Under-7s in Hampshire has a new prize card — a shiny of their own to mark the end of their very first match season.



Basingstoke Colts Under-7s were presented with a souvenir sticker book, player stickers and personalised trading cards — including their own 'limited edition' gold-foiled shiny to mark the end of the team's first ever match season.

Paul Marsh, assistant manager for the team, and director of THEMPC printing and marketing promotion company, came up with the idea after thinking about his own love of renowned Panini World Cup sticker books.

He said: "Collecting and trading football cards is timeless fun, and the kids absolutely loved them! Who knows, maybe some of our players will join the England squad in future and these cards will become highly sought after. For now, we're just happy they've brought some extra fun to the end of a fantastic first season."

Each player was presented with a sticker book that included photos of the team, coaches and supporters, as well as stickers for each player that could be arranged in their chosen team formation on a dedicated centre page.

Every player also received several copies of their own personal football card, featuring a serious photo on one side, and a silly photo on the other, which they could trade with team mates to collect the whole team, as well as share with family and friends as a memento. Finally, and most importantly, they each received one gold-foiled shiny sticker of themselves to keep.

THEMPC sponsors the football team. The company, which offers a range of bespoke and personalised printing services, designed and created all items in-house at their UK studio and production suite in Basingstoke.

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PICON CHAMPIONS ADD VALUE AT THE PRINT SHOW



Picon, the trade organisation that represents and supports the graphic arts suppliers in the UK, will once again exhibit at The Print Show this year, with plans to use the event as a key meeting point for existing and potential members. The association works with manufacturers and suppliers to the printing, paper-making and paper converting sectors, with many of its members expected to attend the event this September either as visitors or exhibitors.

Bettine Pellant, chief executive of Picon, said that the association's core goal at the exhibition will be to provide members and would be members with a place to "meet, talk and refresh".

"The Print Show is a welcome return to in-person marketing; an opportunity to network and trade in a buzzing business environment," Bettine says.

"We have continued to support our members throughout the pandemic, sometimes remotely and increasingly in person, and we are pleased that several of our members have the confidence to return to the exhibition scene to promote their products, to meet customers and to exchange information and ideas with their peers in the industry.

"Picon will be at the show, will use the opportunity to meet and greet members and to talk to a wider graphic arts audience and get a handle on current thinking and latest developments."

Picon will not have a traditional exhibition stand as such; instead, the organisation will run a lounge for its members to relax or do business. Those interested in joining Picon, or existing members wanting to catch up on the latest goings on from within the association, including information on the grants it can offer them to help them recruit young people or train staff, can also drop by.

"Although the pandemic instigated a number of interesting marketing developments such as live demonstrations, there is still added value in being able to talk one to one with customers, to address their particular requirements and to get to know them and their business needs better," Bettine says.



"I know that printers like shows like this where they can research developments and compare and contrast competing products easily, and in a time efficient way. Suppliers have not halted their research and development during the pandemic, so this is a great platform to signpost new trends, new products and new ways of thinking."

Chris Davies, event director for The Print Show, said he is "delighted" to once again have the support of Picon, saying the backing of leading trade associations such as Picon represents a significant show of support from some of the leading and most respected voices in the UK print industry.

"We've been working with Picon for a number of years, and we are delighted to be able to welcome them back to The Print Show again this year," Davies says, adding: "Bettine and her committed team provide a hugely important service to the industry — a service that has become even more important in recent years.

"Visitors and exhibitors alike will have the opportunity to learn more about Picon on their stand at The Print Show and find out how the association can help them and their business, no matter what area of the market they work in."

www.theprintshow.co.uk

VPRESS HAILS THE PRINT SHOW

Web-to-print solutions provider Vpress has hailed The Print Show as the UK print industry's most important event after signing up to exhibit at this year's show. The Print Show 2022 will take place from September 20th to 22nd in Hall 18 of the NEC in Birmingham, with exhibitors confirmed from all corners of the print industry.

Vpress will be among many forward thinking companies in attendance at the show and will be on hand to speak with visitors about the core benefits of web-to-print and how its solutions can help print service providers achieve their key business goals.

Having exhibited at the event on a number of occasions, Kelvin Bell, Sales Director at Vpress said the company is looking forward to getting in front of people again and showcasing the latest advancements across its web-to-print products.

"The Print Show has become the key industry event within the UK and offers Vpress an opportunity to not only engage with new customers but also existing customers and important partners post pandemic," Kelvin said.

"For us, it is now the most important industry UK event and more so on the back of the pandemic, which stopped us engaging for so long. It offers a widespread array of solutions from ordering to production and beyond, showing how easy efficiency can be and how easy it is to enter new complimentary markets."

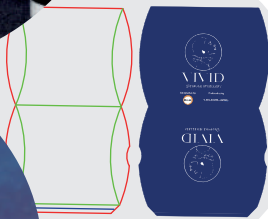
He went on to say Vpress will be showing off new products at The Print Show 2022 and urged visitors to drop by its stand during the event to find out more about how these new solutions can help their businesses succeed and grow.



"We have new products to launch but more importantly we want to continue the engagement of our industry with market leading solutions," Kelvin said. "We want to show with working examples, just how essential it is to be online in this new, digitally transformed landscape.

"Without giving too much away, we plan to offer something new and refreshing to the industry showing how advanced online/remote ordering of personalisation of anything has become but doing it in a way that is both affordable and easy to implement."

www.theprintshow.co.uk



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HOW TO BUILD SUSTAINABILITY INTO LARGE FORMAT PRINTING – NEW INNOTECH EBOOK AVAILABLE

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

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

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



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

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

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

www.innotechdigital.com

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Route 1 Print has launched a new recycled products range! You'll be glad to know that this range includes a selection of booklets as well as a whole host of other popular print products.

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Recycled Perfect Bound Booklets: Market recycled perfect bound booklets that can hold an incredible 120 printed pages, all of which are made using paper from sustainable sources.

Wiro Bound Booklets and Wiro Booklets: Sell recycled wiro bound booklets that are incredibly versatile and they're perfect for customers who are eco-conscious about their print.

Sustainable Printing: How Does Recycled Paper Help the Environment? Selecting a recycled stock is the most sustainable choice your customer can make. Read the latest Route 1 Print blog to discover more about how recycled paper helps the environment.

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TEAM SUNDERLAND CITY AND KM CLEAN UP



Konica Minolta has announced that members of its team joined Sunderland City Council for a litter pick at the picturesque Roker Beach and Marina.

Local residents and Konica Minolta employees, Shelley Wilson, Michael Ramshaw, Louise Moran, and David Moody took part in the environmental improvement initiative, organised by Sunderland City Council, one of many public sector organisations in the UK that relies on a fleet of multifunctional devices from Konica Minolta.

Participating in local events, as well as national and international initiatives is a vital element of Konica Minolta's commitment to sustainability. Earlier this year, the company was listed among the "2022 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World" (2022 Global 100), as well as being awarded a GOLD Level Recognition Medal in the EcoVadis sustainability ratings for 2022, in recognition of its sustained and committed focus to sustainable and socially responsible business practices.

Chief People Officer at Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd, Gemma Lee states, "We encourage all of our employees to get actively involved in supporting sustainability issues that are important to them, as well as taking a proactive role in helping our customers to achieve their sustainability targets and ambitions."

www.konicaminolta.co.uk

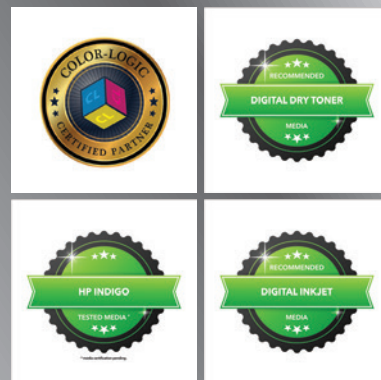


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FOUR LARGE FORMAT MARKETS SET FOR GROWTH

BY PHIL MCMULLIN, PRO GRAPHICS SALES MANAGER, EPSON (UK) LTD

The global large format printer market is set to see significant growth in the next four years. That is according to market research company Research and Markets which stated it could be worth as much as \$11.6bn (£8.6bn) by the year 2026, growing at a CAGR of 5.5%. Among the sectors driving this growth were outdoor advertising, CAD and technical printing, as well as décor and vehicle wrap application.

1 Marketing and advertising: Advertising specialists can improve brand awareness and boost visibility for a product or service within a specific industry with impactful advertising pennants, point of sale, posters, signs, billboards, and hoardings, that attract customer interest and drive engagement. Wide format capabilities produce vivid and vibrant colours to create eye-catching graphics that capture and hold attention. They can also support in-house marketing or an advertising company with numerous clients.

2 Technical Printing: The ability to print layouts quickly and accurately in-house enables contractors to produce floor plans or interior designers to bring room design concepts to life. Easy to use systems that ensure high quality results support the confident adoption of these capabilities.

3 Décor: The lucrative and fast growing global home decor market reached a value of US\$682bn in 2021 according to market research report and consultancy service provider IMARC Group. It



expects the market to see a CAGR of 4.8% in the next five years to reach US\$898.3bn by 2027. Digital large format printers can respond to this with their ability to enable inspiring results on a wide range of substrates.

4 Automobile wrapping: Of all the opportunities this sector presents the greatest growth. Transparency Market Research estimates the global vehicle wrapping will expand at a CAGR of 12.65% from 2021 to 2031. Large format printers are perfect for these applications as they deliver the optimum paper size and high image clarity required to print on the end media efficiently.

Epson solutions combine exceptional image quality and high production speeds with a small footprint, low running costs and easy handling.

They include the Epson SureColor SC-T7700D, which is perfect for architectural, engineering and construction (AEC) companies producing detailed and precise CAD plans and drawings as well as retailers that need to produce point of sale

(POS) posters that colour match logos and other corporate branding. Its six colour Ultrachrome XD3 ink set uses a new red ink, giving vivid depth of colour, and crisp, sharp lines.

The SureColor SC-P8500D has been designed for high volume, large format photo printing. Its six colour UltraChrome Pro6 inkset offers matte and photo black as well as a new grey ink for smooth gradations and reduced graininess.

There is also the Epson SureColor SC-F10000H 76-inch, industrial level, six colour, dye sublimation printer that can be configured with genuine fluorescent or light inks, to expand product offering. It is built for consistency, reliability, and high-quality throughput for a diverse range of applications including soft signage.

Interested in learning more about the opportunities in these markets or keen to discover more about what large format printing can offer?

Visit www.epson.co.uk/en_GB/products/printers/large-format/c/lfp

PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

In the growing world of personalisation TheMagicTouch has again created another great opportunity for customers to benefit from the massive potential of personalised shoes and footwear. This unique and easy method to personalise and decorate all kinds of shoes and footwear is using their new DTF transfer and toner based processes.

Jim Nicol, Managing Director explains, "25 years ago we were very fortunate to engage with many leading established shoe and fashion footwear brands that wanted to create limited edition designs and incorporate full colour images. The pioneers then and still today are Dr Martens, originally in Northamptonshire, where limited edition full colour designs could be produced within the normal production facility. However, at the time the entry level cost of the digital transfer printers and equipment was very high plus having to construct the finished footwear after the design had been printed to the specific leather panel eliminated this to many potential users".

Today, TheMagicTouch confirm they offer various full colour transfer options for the decoration of all types of footwear. Using a combination of both toner based and DTF transfers full colour images can be applied directly to almost any type



of trainers, sliders, sports boots, safety shoes and sandals for example within a minute using one of the many hand-held irons designed for intricate transfer applications and used extensively within the craft market. The printed and cured DTF transfers are easily applied to almost any part of the footwear with minimal risk of damage or rejects. In fact transfers applied can be easily and quickly removed using traditional flex and HTV removal sprays.

The finished transfer is vibrant and more importantly durable. The advantages of the

DTF transfer technology include no cutting, no weeding, and no pre-treatment. Plus full colour digital transfers at the lowest cost ever!

Jim Nicol adds "At the moment, globally the choice of personalisation to footwear is limited and also very expensive. The offerings from some world leading sports shoe brands is restricted to simple single colour names with a limited choice of positioning. Customers can now create custom footwear easily, quickly and profitably".

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READERS' SCRIBES

SOMETHING TO SHARE?

AN APPLE A DAY

My Grandma always used to say, "An apple a day, keeps the doctor away." I don't know if that's true, or just one of Granny's myths.

BEAR NECESSITIES

There's a guy who's hiking in the woods one day when a bear chases him up a really tall tree.

The bear started to climb the tree, so the guy climbed up higher. Then, the bear climbed down and went away.

So the guy starts to climb down the tree. Suddenly, the bear returns, and this time he's brought an even bigger bear with him. The two bears climb up the tree, the bigger bear going higher than the first. But the guy climbed even higher still, so the bears couldn't reach him. Eventually, the bears went away.

Naturally quite relieved, the guy starts down the tree again. Suddenly, the two bears return. But this time the guy knew he was in big trouble.

Each bear was carrying a beaver.

WORLD CUP FINAL

A man takes his seat at the World Cup final. He looks over and notices there's an extra seat in between himself and the next guy.

The man says, "Who would ever miss the World Cup final?"

The guy replies, "Well that was my wife's seat. We have been to the last five World Cup finals together, but sadly she passed away."

The man says back, "That's terrible, but couldn't you get another close family member to come with you?"

The guy says, "No. They're all at the funeral."

WORLD CUP COINCIDENCE

A French fan walks down the street, where he bumps into an English fan

The Frenchman asks: How are you, what are you up to?"

Englishman: "Ah, nothing much, playing the Croats in the World Cup quarter finals tomorrow!"

Frenchman: "What a coincidence...?! We're playing them on Sunday!"

WORLD CUP EXTRA TIME

The World Cup Final is the same day as Amazon Prime Day, so if it is coming home it'll be left with a neighbour.

England are playing Iceland tomorrow. If they win that game, they'll play Tesco's next Saturday and then Asda on Wednesday.

I was really surprised to see Canada qualify for the world cup this year, but it's Trudeau.

Most people are blaming FIFA for awarding Qatar the 2022 World Cup because of the Extreme Heat. Well I am not worried about it because of the fans.

What do Americans do immediately after winning the World Cup? Turn off the Playstation.

I bought a ticket to the World Cup final without realising it's also my wedding day! Does anyone want to go in my place? The church is St Antony's and the bride's name is Joanna...

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PUNCTUALITY PROBLEM

"You have to work on this, you can't keep arriving late for work."

"The trouble with getting to work on time, is that it makes the day so long."

STOCKINGS FOR MY WIFE

Waking into the lingerie store, the hard-of-hearing customer says to the shop assistant, "I'd like to buy a pair of stockings for my wife."

The clerk asks, "Sheer?"

And the man replies, "No, she is in another store."

I AIN'T HAD NO FUN

The teacher wrote on the blackboard: "I ain't had no fun all summer."

"Now Paul," she began, "what shall I do to correct this?"

"Get a boyfriend?" Paul replied.

HERE COMES SUMMER, GIVE US A BREAK!

Now that it's summer, we've got to seas the day! Hey summer, long time no sea!

I'm pretty shore that we're going to have the best summer ever!

Summer went swimmingly this year.

I have a serious love-heat relationship with summer.

Summer is the perfect moment to shell-abrate good times!

Make your own decisions this summer, don't give in to pier pressure.

The best thing to watch during the summer holidays. Game of cones!

Summer and ice cream are mer-made for each other.

Where there's a will, there's a wave.

Sun-day is the best day to go to the pool.

Don't worry, beach happy.

Let's take a trip to the beach, I could really use some vitamin sea!

I had a splashing good time today.

Water you sinking about?

It's a-boat time for a holiday!

Nothing about this holiday is plane.

I'll sea you when I'm back from my trip.

Keep palm and carry on.

Don't know where to go on your holiday? Just wing it!

Life is way better in slow m-ocean!

Why don't we stick to the sea-nic route?

This holiday has been sand-sational!

Life is way better in sandals, and that's one opinion that I will never flip-flop on.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

You really are one in a melon!

Yeah buoy!

Whale, hello there.

Let's go and enjoy the sun, don't be shellfish.

I hope you have an absolutely fin-tastic day!

Nothing better than a midsummer ice cream.

Reading whilst sunbathing? You must be well-red!

You used to call me on my shell-phone.



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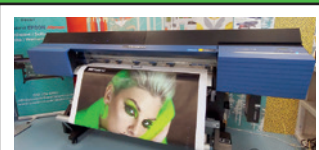
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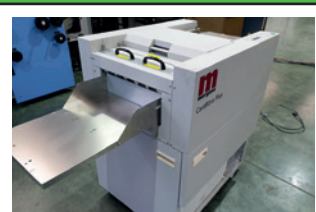
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