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- 10-Colour Vivid Printing System
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- Visible Status Light System



Primo Plus Neon X with
Visio Shaker and Curing Unit



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CONTACT

Quick Print Pro, Colourfast Group Ltd
36 Cheltenham Place,
Brighton. BN1 4AB
Tel: 01273 674321
Email: editor@quickprintpro.co.uk
Web: www.quickprintpro.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Marina Peirce

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Nyree Groome

EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER

Maureen Foulkes

CONTRIBUTORS

Lara Groome, Andrew Foulkes,
Rebecca Leach and Dan Tester.

FEATURES

Peter Foulkes

DIGITAL IMAGING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Martin Christie

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

Dean Cook

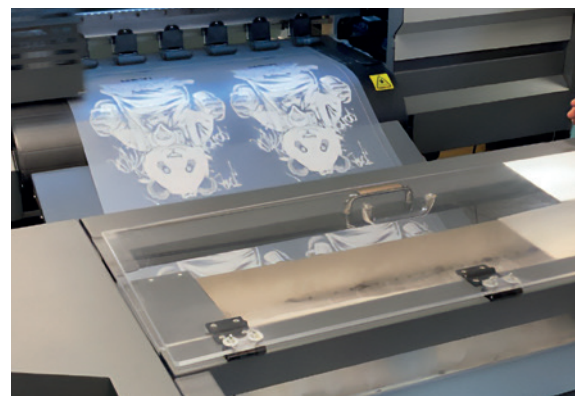
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www.QuickPrintPro.co.uk

Comment

Stand out print, with all the trimmings



At this stage of the year, as we celebrate Christmas in print, we are getting geared up to stand out more in the New Year.

Where most volume in print is found by keeping it simple, those printers prepared to get intricate and decorate the page will enhance the reader's experience. The rewards will stand out.

Print embellishment is the garnish trimming that enhances the main course.

Peter 'Dress Up Your Print' Foulkes

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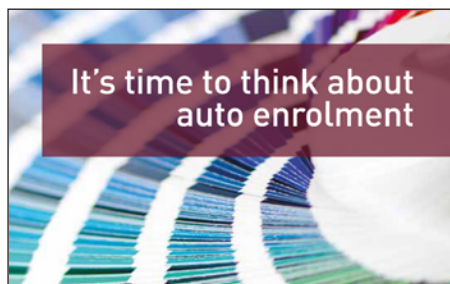
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The law on workplace pensions has changed and every employer in the UK must put certain staff into a pension scheme and contribute towards it.

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.



CANON FUELS GROWTH AT CB PRINTFORCE

CB Printforce UK Ltd has recently invested in Canon's ColorStream 8000 and varioPRINT iX 3200 to support its next phase of growth. Alongside high-quality equipment, Canon's business-oriented services and support have been fundamental to the longevity of this 20-year partnership.

Printforce officially arrived in the UK in 2019 with the launch of its soft cover production line, shortly followed by the expansion to include hard covers. Over the years, the company has been able to increase its digital presence across many businesses, supporting the transitions to on-demand printing and providing them with optimised automation and ultramodern workflow processes, at a competitive price. Today, Printforce's long-standing international partnership with Canon is more important than ever, to ensure its operations run as seamlessly as possible.

As the company was looking to keep up with new customers and demands, the ColorStream 8000 and varioPRINT iX 3200 were the obvious choice for investment, to increase capacity, speed, and quality. These devices have enabled Printforce to shift to roll-to-roll printing with a separate finishing system, which provides much more stability and flexibility throughout the production workflow. With the new addition of the iX Series, the company is also in a better position to start phasing out toner equipment and fully transition to inkjet, to maximise efficiency.

By upgrading to the ColorStream 8000, the most automated ColorStream ever, Printforce has been able to increase the business' productivity to meet tighter deadlines, with minimal interference. Since installing this device, it has almost doubled its production speed, from 75 metres per minute to 133 metres per minute. This has also provided more flexibility and efficiency when it comes to paper, allowing the business to offer a more diverse range of applications to its customers, while minimising waste. Low power and ink consumption levels of the ColorStream 8000 were among other key considerations in the decision-making process and will help Printforce to reach its desired sustainability and total cost of ownership goals.



Rombout Eikelenboom, Managing Partner, CB Printforce UK Limited comments: "Customers now expect faster turnaround times and higher quality products than ever before, so we are grateful to have Canon by our side as a dedicated business partner. The Canon team always goes above and beyond in their after sales services and support, which has enabled us to trust that processes run smoothly while we focus on maintaining strong relationships with our customers. We are excited to continue working with Canon in the years to come as we look to future-proof our business."

Stuart Rising, Head of Commercial Print at Canon UK & Ireland, adds: "We're delighted to continue supporting our long standing partner, Printforce, as they plan to scale up their business in Europe and the UK. Over the years, we have been able to meet Printforce's needs in an ever evolving market and deliver the technology and services they require to succeed. We are confident that these new devices will enable them to keep up with customer demand and remain a leader in this space."

www.canon.co.uk

FREENEY'S GRAPHICS FUTUREPROOFS WITH EPSON

Irish Sign specialist Freeney's Graphics has chosen to futureproof the business and its on-going evolution with investment in an Epson SC-V7000 UV Flatbed printing solution and an Epson SC-S80600 Large Format roll to roll printer.

The sixth generation family run Dublin sign specialist worked with local Epson supplier digitalprint.ie to cement its reputation for high quality sign and display solutions, bring production in-house, and expand into new markets.

Tom Freeney, Managing Director of Freeney's Graphics, explains: "We were originally sign writers but today we are producing digital format print, large format print and a lot of vehicle graphics. We were early adopters of digital printers and as their technology has evolved, we have evolved with them, and the business has grown."

The SC-V7000 was developed for sign makers keen to expand their offering and produce high quality UV signage. Offering up to 2.5m x 1.25m print capability it prints directly on to a wide range of substrates up to 80mm thick including acrylics, polycarbonates, PVC, aluminium, metal, polyester, foamboard, styrene, wood, and stone. Its 10 colour ink set with light cyan, light magenta, and grey provide low graininess and red for vivid and bright prints. It ensures accurate colour reproduction for spot and corporate colours. With Epson Edge Print RIP software and UV Flatbed controller software, operators can speed up printing and produce high quality results easily and repeatedly.

States Tom: "The flatbed solution is a new technology for us. It is very versatile. We find we are doing some nice niche work which we wouldn't have previously done or we would have outsourced. It has a wide range of features, features that other machines in its class simply don't have. It has the ability to print white in-line. It prints varnish. It has a wider colour gamut than any other machines we inspected and after printing the same file on a range of printers the Epson was far superior."

The 64-inch SC-S80600 system features a combined precision media feeding system and high-performance Dual-Array PrecisionCore TFP print head, which



supports enhanced productivity. It uses Epson UltraChrome GS3 nine colour solvent ink – including a red solvent along with the option for white or metallic silver inks – for outstanding photographic print quality, durability, and media compatibility.

Tom adds: "We hit the ground running with the SC-S80600. It has been very easy to use. The colours are far beyond our expectations and it has been a great success."

Both systems were installed by digitalprint.ie. Print Production Director Colm McCarthy says: "Freeney's chose Epson based on couple of key decisions – the quality that both systems could drive and the fact that both had the ability to colour match across separate platforms and separate ink sets. That was really important to them. And, although the SC-V7000 would be seen as an entry level flatbed model, it is quite distinct in its key features compared to market alternatives and what it can do. This really was the differentiation for the decision to go with Epson."

www.epson.co.uk

HP LATEX SUPPORTS ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

HP is proud to sponsor Nick Hollis, linking him up with long time HP technology user PressOn and the most environmentally certified technology HP Latex R2000 and HP Latex 3600 printers, to create graphics for an intense endurance challenge that will see him row solo across the Atlantic Ocean to raise awareness of climate change.

Nick worked at HP as both Sales and Business Manager between 2003 and 2012 before leaving the company to follow his passion for exploration and adventure. In 2013, Nick established Fitways Adventures, a specialist company that runs expeditions, adventures and team building events. By doing so, Nick has been able to fulfil his dreams of exploration, while at the same time campaigning to tackle climate change.

As part of this journey, Nick has embarked on the 721 Challenge, a gruelling test of endurance that features a series of extreme trials. Participants must scale the seven largest peaks in the world, ski to both the North and South Poles, and row more than 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to complete the full challenge.

Nick began the challenge several years ago and now has just two stages left – reaching the North Pole and completing the Atlantic Challenge. The latter of these is next on his list, with Nick set to begin the crossing from the Canary Islands to Antigua this Christmas.

CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY WITH HP LATEX

To publicise the sponsors, PressOn used HP Latex R2000 and HP Latex 3600 printers to produce

specialist decals to cover the boat Nick will row in with the logos and names of the various supporters. The graphics were printed onto HEXIS THE190EU0 vinyl and laminated with HEXIS PCI90G2. Importantly, PressOn will recover these materials for recycling after the challenge is complete to save them from landfill.

In addition, HP Latex ink cartridges are also carton based and produced using 100% recycled cardboard, while all HP printers and supplies contain UL validated ocean bound plastic and recycled plastics, further reducing impact on the planet.

HP's commitment to sustainability stretches beyond print and across its entire business, with the manufacturer having rolled out a series of focused initiatives in other areas to further enhance its environmental credentials. HP Chief Executive Officer Enrique Lores is himself a strong advocate of sustainability and has spoken openly about HP's long term commitment to protecting the planet.

Regarding sustainability, he has previously stated: "It's not always been easy, and we don't always get it right. No company does. But we are making steady progress, knowing that the long term success of our business depends upon the wellbeing of the people and communities we serve."

Olivia Kelleher, HP Large Format Sustainability Lead, adds: "As Nick will be spending so long on the water, it's important for him to work with suppliers and partners that keep up to date on the latest innovations and reduce the impact on the environment. Working with suppliers and manufacturers that have adopted closed loop systems to recycle waste materials back into the

printing process is one way of doing so as it reduces waste and increases resource efficiency."

THE ATLANTIC CHALLENGE



With the graphics having now been applied to the boat, aptly named Kraken, ready for the challenge, Nick is already testing out the boat as part of his training programme.

"I'll start the Atlantic crossing around 10th December, and I expect the row to take between 55 and 80 days. I'm rowing solo and plan to row for around 15 hours per day," Nick said. "I'll be consuming around 6,500 calories each day of the crossing, but I still expect to lose about 15kg."

"I'm attempting the 721 Challenge to support the international conservation charity World Land Trust, of which Sir David Attenborough is a patron. I'm also proud to be an ambassador for the organisation."

"I am absolutely delighted with the final outcome of the printed decals and cannot wait to take on the Atlantic Challenge!"

www.hp.com

LIFE ON THE LFP ROAD



"The DPS group held a casual trade event at Epson's Hemel Hempstead HQ in mid November, showcasing not only the latest models in large format printing but hosting experts from guest partners including Context, Colortrac and Fiery among others.

It was a good opportunity to talk to experts from several service providers in a relaxed atmosphere, as well as explore Epson's extensive demonstration suites with machines dedicated to graphics, photographs, fine art and direct to garment print.

Genial host, DPS director Maneesh Patel was in good form, attentive to all his visitors, with support from the specialists at Epson themselves."

www.dpsb.co.uk • 020 3157 4038 • sales@dpsb.co.uk

TANCIA GROUP SHORTLISTED FOR BPMA PRODUCT AWARDS

As we approach the prestigious BPMA Product Awards, The Pen Warehouse and Snap Products (Tancia Group) are delighted to share some fantastic news! Five of their most standout

products have been shortlisted for the BPMA Product Awards! It is a testament to their team's hard work and commitment to innovation. Here's what made the shortlist:

- **Anti-Theft Backpack** — Bag and Folder Product of the Year
- **Ultra HD Printing Electra Ballpen** — Innovative Product of the Year
- **Prestige Christmas Hamper** — Food and Drink Product of the Year
- **Oriel Wheatstraw Ballpen** — Writing Instrument Product of the Year
- **SeedCell** — Exhibition Product of the Year

We wish them luck as they hope to bring home the awards! For any samples or visuals of these products, please contact sales@pens.co.uk or call 01252 400270.

www.pens.co.uk • www.snapproducts.co.uk



NEXT INVEST IN VELOBLADE NEXUS AND ZIP CORE

Next, a British multinational retailer specialising in clothing, footwear, and home products, is headquartered in Enderby, England.

With approximately 700 stores in its portfolio, approximately 500 are located in the United Kingdom, while the remaining 200 are spread across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Next in-house print department sought a new system, purely for their own signage needs. Their previous cutting system, resulted in extended waiting times for support.

However, since partnering with Vivid, they have been thrilled with the support they've received, giving it a resounding five star rating.

Stephen Clarke, said, "Vivid's support is truly deserving of a five-star rating; they consistently go above and beyond to ensure we have the best support when operating The Veloblade Nexus and Zip Core Packaging Suite. This level of support is truly invaluable to us. Since partnering with Vivid,



our experience has been nothing short of fantastic. The Zip Core Packaging Suite opens up endless possibilities, and the ability to send a 3D Virtual CAD of a project, rather than creating a physical sample, has saved us an incredible amount of time. The Veloblade Nexus has demonstrated its precision, speed, and clean cut performance, surpassing all our previous experiences with other brands. This has given us the confidence to take full control of in-house production."

Now equipped with the Veloblade Nexus and Zip Core Packaging Suite, Next has unlocked a world of possibilities. This cutting edge technology has empowered them to take full control of in-house production with unwavering confidence, assured of the systems' dependability, precision, and the unwavering support they provide.

This transformative shift has proven to be more than just a time saver; it has also delivered substantial cost savings, a pivotal achievement that has left a significant impact on the organisation.

Vivid extends its gratitude to Ricoh, one of their valued resellers, for their instrumental role in making this sale possible.

Ricoh has been a long standing technology partner to Next, supporting them on innovative workflow and process improvement in their warehousing and storeroom functions. In addition to this Ricoh has provided Next with a complete graphic wide format and cut sheet print and finishing technology, to further enhance their operations. To complement the solution and provide a true production workflow system, Ricoh chose Vivid, its trusted Partner, and their Veloblade Nexus and Zip Core Packaging Suite to work alongside Ricoh Latex and UV Flatbed technologies. The system had to be operable over three shifts, be easy to use, cut various materials involving routing and most of all be reliable. The Veloblade Nexus meets all these criteria and with the technical support of Vivid, applications can easily be prototyped and bought to production in a matter of hours.

www.vivid-online.com

SEYMOUR SIGN & PRINT SAVES TIME WITH HP LATEX 335

Manchester based signage company Seymour Sign & Print has praised the impact its new HP Latex 335 printer has had on the business.

Located close to the famous Salford Quays, Seymour Sign & Print began life in 2010 and has quickly established itself as one of the leading vehicle signage specialists in the Manchester area. The business previously focused on both small and large format print but has changed direction over the past few years to become a more specialised signage company.

Print very much remains a large part of the business, along with commercial vehicle branding, window graphics and internal branding among its services. As such, Seymour Sign & Print needs to work with printing machines that can produce applications across this varied offering.

After speaking with Mick Hartley, Sales Manager at approved HP dealer Pyramid Display, Seymour Sign & Print soon identified the HP Latex 335 as the ideal replacement. The company pushed ahead with the purchase from Pyramid Display and installed the machine at its Manchester site in August 2023.

David Hammond, Director at Seymour Sign & Print and co-founder of the business alongside his father Paul, said despite the printer having only been in place a matter of weeks,



the company has already experienced a significant improvement and renewed confidence in production.

"The HP Latex 335 has facilitated shorter lead times for our customers," David said. "We're now confident in being able to consistently print, laminate and cut a job ahead of the installation. If for any reason we need to perform a reprint, we're no longer waiting in excess of 24 hours to finish it."

"We've also been able to fill some days with installations thanks to the ability to print and finish without the waiting for outgassing."

"Another hidden benefit we didn't anticipate is the front loading of the machine. Within 24 hours of the machine being installed, we'd rearranged the workshop, giving us more useable floor space in the installation area. This means no more squeezing between the machinery and vehicles."

David also spoke about the environmental benefits of switching to an HP Latex printer. All machines in the HP Latex range use water based HP Latex Inks, which are much kinder to the environment than their solvent, eco-solvent and UV counterparts.

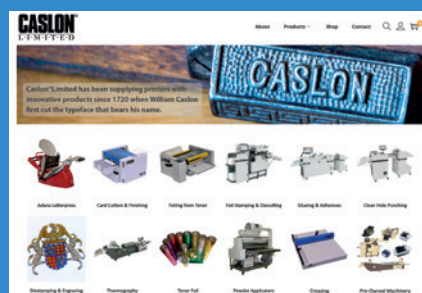
"We have spoken to a number of customers to explain more about these environmental credentials, and several have expressed an interest in more sustainable print, which we can now deliver with the HP Latex 335," David said.

Such has been the impact of the new HP Latex 335 that David said morale at Seymour Sign & Print is incredibly high.

"We're back in love with our work; the passion is back and despite some reservations about making the move to Latex, I'm absolutely blown away with it," David said. "The support from other HP Latex users is brilliant, almost like a family, and the assistance and support from Pyramid Display has been second to none."

www.hp.com

PROFILE OF THE MONTH: CASLON



Caslon has been supplying professional printers with innovative profit making products since 1720 when

William Caslon first cut the typeface that bears his name.

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NEW CANON B3 SHEETFED INKJET PRESS

Canon has announced a technology preview of the Canon varioPRINT iX1700, a new 170 A4 images per minute, sheetfed inkjet press, at Canon Expo in Yokohama, Japan. Engineered for high productivity and consistent, high quality to meet the needs of demanding commercial and in-house print service providers, the new press is based on a compelling blend of brand new and proven Canon technologies. In Europe, visitors to drupa 2024 will be amongst the first to witness the capabilities of the varioPRINT iX1700 on the Canon stand.

DESIGNED FOR DEMANDING COMMERCIAL AND IN-HOUSE PRINTERS

Canon is continuously striving to support customers in the face of on-going trends in the industry, such as the demand for shorter print runs and increasing automation to meet tighter deadlines. The brand new varioPRINT iX1700 B3 inkjet platform brings together Canon's expertise in inkjet and sheetfed printing from its R&D centres in Japan, Germany and The Netherlands. With a speed of up to 170 A4 images per minute, the new press targets print volumes between Canon's toner based flagship, the imagePRESS V1350, and the inkjet varioPRINT iX2100/3200 and completes the offering for heavy production environments.

INNOVATIVE PRINTHEAD AND INK TECHNOLOGY FOR HIGH QUALITY APPLICATIONS

The varioPRINT iX1700 features an innovative, high definition 2400 x 1200 dpi printhead and a new set of inks, enabling it to produce high quality print applications such as marketing collateral, books and demanding business communication applications. The new water based polymer inks contain highly saturated pigments and produce a wide colour gamut. Ink is jetted onto the media after the conditioning liquid, which anchors the pigments to the substrate in a very thin layer. As a result, the printed output shows high colour reproduction and the natural texture of the substrate is preserved, opening up the reproduction or migration of applications normally printed offset. The newly developed registration correction mechanism simultaneously corrects paper skew and horizontal misalignment, achieving high image alignment accuracy at high speeds.

PRODUCTIVE AND RELIABLE

The versatile press prints at high speeds of up to 170 A4 images per minute or 73 B3 images per minute. In order to maximise productivity, printhead maintenance and quality control have been automated, and the printheads



feature a mechanism that keeps the ink circulating along a precise flow path to the tips of all nozzles, enabling stable print operation. Thanks to the composition of the new inks, which Canon has developed specifically for the new printhead, and an air feeding system that ensures reliable paper feeding, the varioPRINT iX1700 can handle a wide variety of media. For ease of use, operators and service engineers have access from the front of the varioPRINT iX1700 and a window gives a clear view into the status of the engine. The press' PRISMAsync digital front end offers tight integration into the Canon PRISMA suite of production workflow software as well as interoperability with many other production workflows. Its highly visual user interface and automation features support operational efficiency.

Jennifer Kolloczek, European Planning, Marketing & Innovation Senior Director, Production Print at Canon Europe, comments, "As a leader in sheetfed inkjet production presses, with more than 600 installations worldwide, and a trusted partner to our customers, Canon is continuously looking to provide innovative, advanced inkjet technology. We're very much looking forward to adding this press to our production offering as our expanded portfolio will allow more print service providers to further streamline their production processes, improve the quality of their printed materials, and respond with greater speed and flexibility to the diverse needs of their customers. For both commercial and in-house print service providers, the varioPRINT iX1700 will deliver these benefits and help printers to expand their services, generate more business and remain competitive."

The new varioPRINT iX1700 press will become available in the EMEA markets in 2025. Additional product details will be provided in due course.

www.canon-europe.com

NEW INTEC FB1180-T TANGENTIAL DIGITAL FLATBED CUTTER

Known for its innovative digital die-cutting solutions, Intec Printing Solutions Limited, releases the ColorCut FB1180-T die cutter Tangential Flatbed Cutter.

It is precise enough for kiss cut labels yet powerful enough for fluted boards, and a diverse range of media in-between!

Sporting a new four tool head, the digital flatbed cutter is perfect for on demand prototype pieces and light production runs, cutting and creasing up to 3mm thick media. The new quad tool head includes two passive contour/drag cut and crease tools PLUS 2 active tangential tools using a new deep cutting tangential blade and tangential crease wheel. The operator just needs to select the right tools for the job in hand.

The FB1180-T offers two working modes; DIRECT — using Intec's industry acclaimed



ColorCut Pro software direct from a PC or HELD mode (standalone operation) where jobs can be stored internally on the cutter or from a USB stick, so anyone can cut sheets placed on the flatbed! Simply place the flatbed at any point of a production environment, click SCAN on the 7" touch screen and run!

All Intec cutters offer instant job processing when reading a QR code and page marks printed on a sheet. However, this is no longer necessary

with a fantastic new feature now included on the FB1180-T; page edge detection. Page edge detection enables processing of printed jobs, from the rear of the sheet where there are no QR codes or page marks printed — producing accurate cutting and creasing every time.

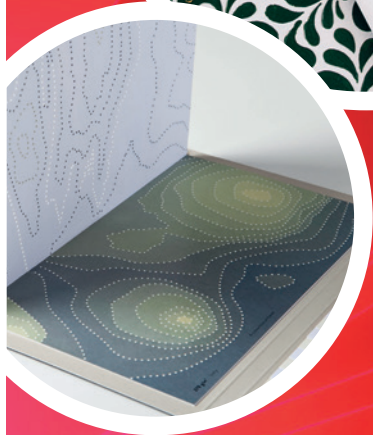
Terri Winstanley, Intec marketing manager, "The FB1180-T is a very exciting leap forward for our digital cutter range. This model is the first of a series of cutters to offer a new four tool head that includes tangential tools, for deeper cutting and creasing of thicker substrates. It also hosts the new high powered controller and expanded graphics interface that will be seen on all our digital die-cutters."

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COVER STORY: NEW AZON PRIMO DTF



Azonprinter's world premiere of the only 24" DTF system is now available at Atlantic Tech Services. The AZON PRIMO DTF series can be supplied with a regular (CMYK + White) configuration (Pronto printer) or neon (neon yellow and neon magenta instead of regular yellow and regular magenta — Pronto Neon). s.

The Primo + Neon X printer has 850ml built-in ink tanks mixing and recirculation systems and automatic nozzle check in a programmable time frame with automatic system maintenance.

The system is designed with user-friendly features, including an industrial signal light that provides a clear visual indication of the DTF system's status. Additionally, it boasts an advanced touch-sensitive colour LCD screen for intuitive operation. Powered by EFI RIP technology, it ensures swift and precise

colour reproduction, supporting ICC/Pantone standards.

With a generous 60cm (24") printing width, it incorporates an automatic maintenance system. It employs the ColourSURE RIP technology and features a PrecisionCore TFP printhead, offering variable drop capabilities ranging from 3.5 to 20 picoliters. Users can select resolutions from 720 to 2880dpi for optimal printing quality. The Visio Shaker and Curing Unit enhance the overall printing process. The entire setup is complemented by a visible status light system for enhanced monitoring.

Nationally supported by manufacturer trained engineers and dedicated Help Desk support team.

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INNOTECH DIGITAL DISTRIBUTE CONTINENTAL GRAFIX

Innotech Digital has been appointed as an authorised UK distributor for Continental Grafix, a leader in innovative graphic solutions.

The deal includes the Swiss based media manufacturer's extensive product portfolio, which includes floor and wall vinyls and perforated window vinyls.

"We are thrilled to partner with Continental Grafix and bring their industry leading graphic solutions to the UK market," says Derek Shedden, Managing Director of Innotech. "With this partnership, Innotech aims to expand its offerings and provide UK customers access to Continental Grafix's exceptional range of products. We're extremely excited to be distributors of these products, and we are looking forward to the opportunities they bring for Innotech and the industry as a whole."

Innotech's established distribution network, combined with Continental Grafix's reputation for excellence, will ensure efficient and reliable access to its premium graphic solutions. Customers can expect exceptional service, on-time deliveries, and comprehensive technical support from Innotech's experienced team.

"We are excited to join forces with Innotech in the UK," says Jacqueline Christ, Regional Manager at Continental Grafix. "Their strong market presence, commitment to customer satisfaction, and technical expertise make them an ideal partner. Together, we look forward to serving UK customers



with our high quality range of printable media and lamination products."

Derek concludes, "This collaboration aligns perfectly with our mission to deliver a fast, friendly and flexible service to our customers combined

with a market leading product range. We are confident that the addition of Continental Grafix's solutions will greatly benefit our clients across various industries."

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ATECH ANNOUNCES NEW NESCHEN ECOLAM 1650



Atech Ltd has announced exclusive UK distribution of the new NESCHEN EcoLam 1650. This entry level European manufactured, heat assisted, cold laminator is designed to cater to the needs of small print shops, low to medium-volume operations, and basic roll and rigid jobs.

The machines are available for demonstrations at Atech's showroom in Welwyn. The company will also be showcasing the laminator on its stand at The Print Show in September.

The NESCHEN EcoLam 1650 offers high performance and special features that are ideally suited to small print shops looking to enhance and increase their range of applications and services. The laminator ensures precise and consistent results for various laminating tasks with a temperature range of 0°C to 50°C and a pneumatic system with a built-in compressor (0-4 bar). The analogue pressure gauge, safety footswitch, folding in-feed table, image guide, and levelling feet further enhance the user experience,



making it a reliable and user friendly choice for print shops of all sizes.

Allan Ashman, Managing Director of Atech, says, "We are delighted to be appointed as the sole UK distributor for this exciting new laminator. The NESCHEN EcoLam 1650 fills gap in the entry level segment by offering superior features and performance compared to other machines. It caters perfectly to the requirements of small print shops, providing them with a cost effective solution for their laminating needs."

Matthew Manteit, International Sales Manager at Neschen Coating GmbH, says, "NESCHEN is proud to further strengthen our 33-year partnership with Atech with the launch of the new EcoLam. The new NESCHEN EcoLam 1650 adds a range of important new features to the product range to provide a more productive and cost effective solution for entry level laminating requirements. Allan adds, "NESCHEN have got this machine absolutely spot on in terms of functionality, performance and cost. I am very confident that our customers will like what they see."

The NESCHEN EcoLam 1650 comes with several upgrade options, such as a powered rear take-up, cutting system, and high speed motor for an increased production speed of up to eight m/min.

For more information or to arrange a demonstration, email susie@atech.co.uk **www.atech.co.uk**

THERMOPATCH UNVEIL TRUFLEX INDUSTRIAL AND DIGIPRO

Thermopatch, an Avery Dennison company, invited A+A 2023 attendees to discover its innovative and ever expanding portfolio of transfers, labels, and embellishments.

A+A 2023 in Düsseldorf stands as the paramount event globally for safety, security, and health at work. Thermopatch focuses on supplying full end to end labelling, embellishment and transfer solutions for the industrial laundry, workwear, and hospitality industries.

At the exhibition, resellers, brands and factories uncovered new avenues for personalising apparel and equipping users with vital information for protecting themselves and their garments, and for making informed decisions. At Avery Dennison's stand A+A attendees were able to interact directly with products in its broad range of labelling, embellishments, and transfer solutions.

The event also provided an opportunity to showcase the ground breaking Truflex Industrial transfers and Digipro system for the very first



time, following two and a half years of dedicated development. Attendees had the rare opportunity to engage directly with these pioneering and transformative innovations, gaining first hand experience of the positive impact they bring to the workwear textile industry.

Steve Mason, vice president and general manager Embelex & Aftermarket, Apparel Solutions, Avery Dennison said, "We're delighted to be exhibiting at A+A 2023, where Thermopatch, can be experienced first hand by all attendees. This event provides a perfect opportunity to showcase new product developments, demonstrating their value and unique benefits in the workplace setting."

He added, "Truflex is a well established and trusted transfer product, used on millions of units of workwear. With Truflex Industrial, we are initiating this innovation because in many fields, the harsh conditions of the washing and drying process did not allow for the use of transfers. This new technology not only sets a new standard for durability but also opens doors to new possibilities for industries reliant on resilient workwear solutions. It's a game changer, and we were excited to unveil it at A+A 2023, an event dedicated to redefining safety and health at work."

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PIXEL PROPHET

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, DAVE...

When a man like Elon Musk tells you that you won't have to work anymore because Artificial Intelligence will make mundane tasks redundant, it tells you more about the man himself and the rarified atmosphere of the world he inhabits. **Martin Christie** writes

Someone who knows more about computers than the realm of real people. Someone who has made much of his considerable fortune buying into other people's talent and skills rather than having to do the work himself. This is probably why Elon is able to dispose of a workforce like those who used to manage Twitter so easily. It probably never crossed his mind there might be one or two people he would need some time.

Certainly, AI is intended and expected to replace repetitive tasks that don't need continual human supervision, as well as tackle more challenging tasks much faster and more precisely. But my experience of life is that there is nothing so simple that it can't be cocked up, or SNAFU as it used to be called in military slang.

If you are anything like me, your first reaction was probably not to order lots of holiday brochures and a set of golf clubs. My immediate reaction was: someone's going to have to switch the computer on in the first place and pull the plug when it all goes wrong ("...You don't want to do that, Dave", says the threatening electronic voice of Hal 9000 in Kubrick's 2001).

Anyone who has faith in computers fixing themselves has obviously never used Windows Troubleshooter, which invariably tells you, after lengthy consideration, that whatever is wrong, it can't fix it.

Anyone who works with technology on a regular basis has a healthy disrespect for the term 'computer design', which used to be such a buzz phrase when it was all so novel and exciting a few decades ago. It used to be a unique sales pitch; now, it's a note of caution.

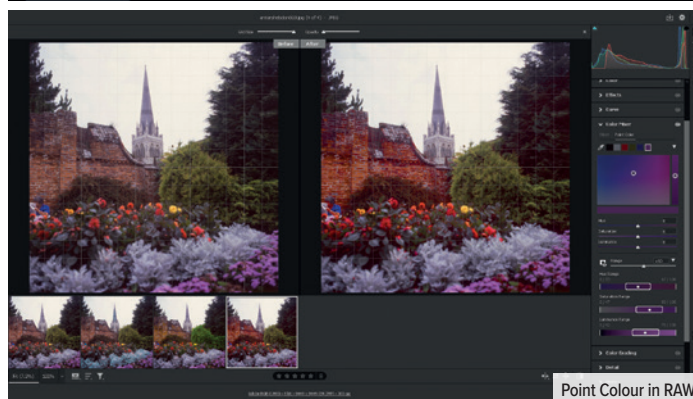
When you get to a certain age, scepticism is a default mode. You've heard all the promises and predictions before — like all the leisure time this coming revolution was going to give you. I'm still waiting to enjoy that.

Of course, I spend a large part of my day on a computer, so my cynicism is matched with an equal amount of respect for what they can do. But knowing what they can do also means knowing what they can't do, and that is the dilemma at the heart of the debate on the future of AI. So much of the speculation is just that — people with limited vision staring into the vast reaches of space, trying to make some sense of the universe. Most of them can only see in one direction — either the black hole or the Milky Way. The answer is somewhere in between, but we won't know till we get there.

Unfortunately, AI can only predict what will be based on what has been and what exists in the present, however vast its resources are.

Interestingly, while there is a prediction that it will eventually run out of images from which to sample, it appears that some of the generative text apps are struggling in some languages other than English because of the disproportionate amount of it as the almost universal language of the web.

Adobe only uses its own resource of stock images, which is still extensive and well catalogued. But generating entirely new pictures, while it may be eye-catching, doesn't really concern us in the workplace. The more practical uses of AI do, as there are a number of ways it can help with issues that come up daily when dealing with customers' files for print.



One of the most common problems is that they arrive at the wrong size and shape for the requested output, whether just needing additional bleed or being completely the wrong proportions to fit the page.

Until Content Aware appeared some years ago, anything that couldn't be solved by just filling the additional space with solid colour meant carefully, manually, trying to make up the void with cloning and patching. Content Aware gave you an intelligent assistant to help with the selection. But it wasn't always convincing, even with a certain amount of human control, because it could only recycle what was in the original, not up with anything new but visually compatible.

That's where the AI comes in, not the generative fill prompt that grabs all the attention, but generative expand, which does a more mundane but much more practical job as far as our routine is concerned.

THE HUMAN TOUCH

I used some examples last month as well as mentioning the Point Colour picker, which had only just been introduced into Photoshop, but having had more time with both tools, I thought I'd cover some more useful examples typical of the types of image adjustment needed regularly.

As always, there are several ways of doing things in PS, and this is intentional, as almost every image is unique to one extent or another. There is no one fix-all as a result, just one slightly better than the other. But that's where the human bit comes in — or



should. Remember, the machine doesn't care whether it looks realistic or not because it doesn't know what 'real' is. It is with much less care. As long as it completes its task, that's enough!

So we have this old image of a building in a park, but it's square, and the customer wants a landscape postcard. No problem. Previously, you would have had to say no, but you could do it portrait with Content Aware and a bit of cloning because you have grass and some sky, so it was easier to replace them. However, Gen Expand is a game changer, as you can see.

If we use Content Aware, it just does a step repeat, which doesn't look very good. Gen Ex, however, creates a whole new growth of foliage, blended in from the original but entirely new, just as nature would have intended. At the moment, the pixels generated tend to be of lower resolution just because of the computing power needed, so the magic may not be quite ready for large prints yet. But it will get there.

Back in the day, you wouldn't have even bothered to try — just said no, you'll have to have it square. Nowadays, the answer to 'Can you do something on the computer?' is probably, yes! Customers aren't so easily fobbed off these days; they've been sold so many amazing fantasies on their phones.

One of those tricks is changing the colour of things like a dress to see if it will match a handbag or vice versa. Looks fine on the small screen but won't translate into proper print.

We've always been able to change the colour of things in Photoshop, but how precisely you could do that depended on the difference between one pixel and another. Now, with the help of our electronic friend, we can be more precise, both in the selection of colours and all of the hues and other adjustments you can make to them.

The Point Colour only pops up in the latest version of Photoshop Camera Raw, and this may be a problem if your computer cannot run it because of Graphic Card issues like most older models. But a cheaper alternative to buying a new computer is to use the identical tool in Lightroom. You should have it in the Adobe package, and it's not as memory-hungry in action. It may look a little confusing at first as you import a version of the file rather than open it, and affect the changes you want to make and apply them later rather than doing it in real-time. This is both non-destructive to the original



and means the whole process runs faster and can be applied to multiple images rather than the more cumbersome method of individual files in Photoshop.

Lightroom was introduced quite a few years ago to suit photographers generally dealing with lots of similar images, which is why it's less used in print on demand, where generally only one or two are to be fixed. It has gradually become more powerful, doing many of the things you can do in PS, and some of them better. So, if you haven't used it before, it's well worth dabbling. As usual, there are plenty of useful tips for beginners online if you need any help getting started.

As you can see, the two workspaces are very similar in use. The colour sampler can store up to eight different swatches from an image, so you can dip into any of those, including the range of sampling as well as the Hue, Saturation and Luminance. A more basic version was, and still is, in the Colour Mixer panel, but this addition is more precise and user-friendly in operation. You can see with either option how easy it is to completely change individual colours without affecting those around it, as well as change any of them to balance the overall image.

I've used some more extreme examples to be obvious in print or on the screen, but you can be much more subtle, and I've used this function, and the previous, to make those tiny tweaks to fine art and photographic printing that make all the difference in the final product.

So often in the past, I would spend time getting the grass the right shade of green, for example, only to discover the blue in the sky had a tad too much green in it. Painters have the advantage that they can slap another layer of eggshell blue over it. We don't have that luxury in print, but at least AI is giving us a helping hand now.

When you are up against customers who only have a phone screen as a colour reference, it's good to have as much help as possible to second guess what they expect to come out of the other end of the printer. After all, you are the one who should know, not them. Happy editing!



DOMINO PRINTING SCIENCES APPOINT SHANE BURCHETT



During the recent 'National Customer Service Week' Domino Printing Sciences (Domino) highlighted its continued commitment to excellence in customer experience (CX), with the appointment of Shane

Burchett as its new Global Customer Experience Director.

The appointment comes following five years of work to reinforce the importance of CX across Domino's global business operations, with strategic investments in people, process, and technology. Domino's new Global Customer Experience Director will head up a team of specialists dedicated to driving the company forward on its on-going journey towards CX excellence.

With over 20 years of experience in the printing industry, Shane joined Domino in September 2022 as Partner Programme Manager. Having successfully defined the partner programme for Domino's global distributors — reinforcing the company's commitment to its distribution partners — Shane was promoted to Global Customer Experience Director to deliver superior customer lifetime experience for Domino's customers and partners.

"Domino is a company that places clear and documented corporate value on its commitment to delivering the best possible CX throughout the customer lifetime," says Shane. "As a company, we ensure that CX is a culture — with all Domino employees enabled and aligned under a shared

commitment and CLEAR corporate values, to always provide the best for our customers."

Shane's CX and Customer Support teams oversee a number of change and transformation programmes within Domino and facilitate improvements in processes and technological advancements for an improved lifetime experience for its global customer base.

Domino's continued work to enhance its CX programme has not gone unnoticed by customers, as the company currently boasts a Net Promoter Score (NPS) significantly higher than industry benchmarks. Even so, Domino is committed to further improve its processes and has incorporated new enhanced customer feedback methods, including seven NPS metrics, Customer Effort Score (CES), and Customer Satisfaction (CSAT), as well as an improved customer complaints process to address customer feedback and identify the root cause.

Domino has also invested in key technologies, including Oracle Fusion, Salesforce, and ServiceMax, amongst others, to enhance CX further and deliver greater business insight to improve customer lifecycle management.

Shane concludes: "Domino's investments over the past five years have been geared towards meeting our customers' needs now, and in the future. I feel honoured to be a part of this journey in my new strategic role — I am very excited to see what the next five years have in store for our customers."

www.domino-printing.com

DRYTAC APPOINTS CHRIS CRAWFORD

Drytac, the manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for the large format print and signage markets, has announced the appointment of Chris Crawford as Territory Sales Manager for the Southwest US.



Based out of Las Vegas, Nevada, Chris will be responsible for Southern California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Chris has a wealth of industry knowledge, having worked across both the print and signage markets since 2005. This includes serving in a range of senior positions with various leading print and sign shops, as well as at major print and graphics distributors.

"I'm delighted to welcome Chris to the Drytac family," said Glen Fitzgerald, Director of Sales for the Americas, at Drytac. "Chris has been working in the print and sign markets for more than 18 years now and has an incredible knowledge of both sectors."

"I am very much looking forward to working with him to further expand our presence across the key Southwest area and to support both new and existing customers within this region."

www.drytac.com.

DRYTAC PROMOTES EMILY BUTCHER

The appointment is effective immediately, with Emily taking responsibility for overseeing the key relationship between Drytac and its recently appointed exclusive UK and Ireland distributor, Premier Paper Group.



Emily has been a member of the Drytac team since November 2017, serving as a Customer Service Advisor within the Drytac Europe business for almost six years. A large part of this role has involved working with customers across a range of markets to help them access the products and solutions they need from Drytac.

"Emily's unwavering commitment to customers, exceptional industry knowledge and outstanding interpersonal skills has made her a beloved figure among both customers and vendors alike," says Hayden Kelley, CEO at Drytac.

"She has been instrumental in representing Drytac at numerous trade shows across the UK and throughout Europe. Her ability to connect with customers and showcase our products has been instrumental in strengthening our brand presence and driving growth in the region."

"We have every confidence that Emily will excel in her new role and continue to contribute significantly to the growth and success of Drytac."

www.drytac.com

WELCOME JAMES BADGER TO INKTEC'S TEAM

Due to significant increases in printer installations over the last six months, InkTec has taken on a new team member to enhance the hardware support team.



New starter, James Badger has joined to work as part of the technical installation and support team. Coming from a practical, mechanical background within the

security sector, James is keen to turn this extensive experience towards the printing industry. He will be involved with JETRIX, DTF and UV DTF Solutions and says of his new role:

"I am very much looking forward to rapidly learning more about all the types of hardware that InkTec supply and support for their customers. This is a great opportunity for me to learn lots of new skills, operate at an increased pace and learn about this exciting sector."

Joey Kim, Managing Director at InkTec says;

"It is very exciting times for the business, as we have really built up the JETRIX flatbed and roll-to-roll sales, while also expanding our offering with DTF and UV DTF. We have always prided ourselves on our level of service and our network of UK based field engineers and so with these increasing numbers of installations it was imperative for us to expand the technical and support team. We are delighted to have James on board."

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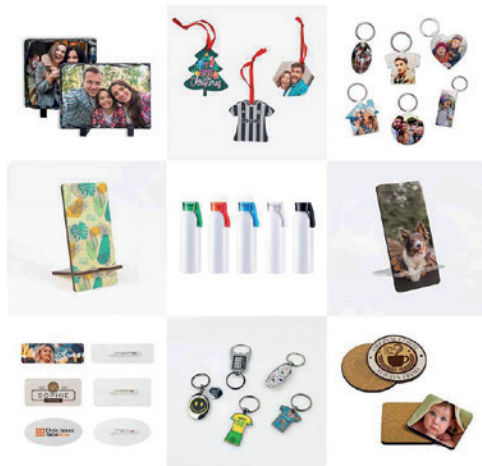
Xpres now has a bigger selection of sublimation blanks with some very merry marketing additions.

Featuring new key rings, mugs, coasters, bottles, mobile phone holders and much more besides, these latest additions sit perfectly within the rest of the Xpres sublimation gifts range providing

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ANTALIS' CREATIVE PAPERS CREATE 'MAGICAL MERRIMENT'

Creative Power by Antalis is behind Mount Street Printers' magical Christmas window installation for 2023. Titled 'Magical Merriment', the window display is a celebration of paper and the Christmas tradition of sending cards.

The display was designed and produced by Joyanne Horscroft of Makerie Studio, whose clients include Harrods, Gucci and

Fabergé among many other prestigious names. It features a variety of coloured and tactile papers from the recently relaunched Keaykolour and Curious ranges, which are part of a portfolio of premium creative paper brands from Antalis.

Central to the installation is a red post box made from 3 shades of Keaykolour papers in 300gsm: Guardsman Red, Prune and Carmine. Beside the post box sit a model of Huxley, Mount Street Printers' resident whippet, and a robin watching a flurry of Christmas cards fly into the post box; both of which are artistically made from Keaykolour Biscuit and shimmering Curious Metallics Super Gold.

Alex Cain of Mount Street Printers commented: "Our window for this year is imagined beyond the sentiment of gifts and decorations. The intangible yet essential warmth in receiving a thoughtful and timely Christmas card, sharing your conjured festive spirit and spreading it with those you love."

Sales Manager for Creative Papers at Antalis, Vicky Weatherington, comments: "It's been a joy to once again work with Mount Street Printers and Makerie Studio to develop yet another stunning and impactful Christmas window display with meaning. Antalis is all about celebrating the creative community and supporting the Print industry — and this is a wonderful example of that."

The installation can be seen in the window of Mount Street Printers, 4 Mount Street, London, from now until 5th January 2024.

www.antalis.co.uk



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SAY YES TO DIRECT TO FILM TRANSFER PRINTING

Direct-to-film or DTF printing is taking the customisation industry by storm. As the name implies, this process involves speciality machines that print directly on a film, making this a more permanent and colourful transfer printing method.



Personalising garments and promotional gifts has never been so easy. Of course, many loyal customers will always want more. They can't gift the same mouse mat and mug each year.

Workwear apparel can increase your product range from just t-shirts and polos to hospitality and care workers' protective, smart clothing.

Branding is lucrative, but look after your fine reputation in print by choosing the best DTF printer and consumables.

Direct-to-film printing involves a choice of two major different technologies. DTF for fabrics and textile applications, as well as UV DTF printing that is for decals and application on hard surfaced goods.

Direct-to-film printing uses a combination of cyan, yellow, magenta, white and black pigment inks. The coloured pigment is printed face down on a translucent film, and then the white ink forms a layer on top, giving these transfers a vibrant, rich look when placed on garments.

KEY COMPONENTS OF DTF PRINTING PROCESS

There are a few absolute must-haves if you are looking to start DTF printing. Number one the printer.

As mentioned, there are two major types of DTF printers, those for fabrics and those for decals. The way the technology of the printing process works is relatively the same in all these printers. The big difference is the ink used.

The second thing you must have for direct film printing is the film to make the transfer. The film is basically a transfer sheet. Some films come in large rolls for high production, but you can also find the transfer film in pre-cut sheets. The printer you are using will determine what film you need for the job.

ADVANTAGES OF DTF PRINTING

Direct-to-film printing stands out for its exceptional versatility across various substrates and its ability to deliver remarkable colour accuracy and vibrancy.

One of DTF printing's strengths is its compatibility with a wide range of materials, including textiles, garments, ceramics, wood, leather, and more.



New horizons are being developed as the industry masters intricate designs on fabrics or detailed images on hard surfaces, always delivering consistency and reproducing vivid and true-to-life colours. On Brand every time.

GET THE FEEL OF PRINTING ON FABRIC

The previously thought undoable is now achievable.

The latest garment decorating machine require no pre-treat, have a super soft hand feel, and feature amazing wash fastness.

The Digital HeatFX line of DTF printers are commercial grade, automatic transfer printers. The Digital HeatFX DTF 24/H4 features four print heads and a printing field width of 24 inches (60cm).

The Digital HeatFX 24/H4 prints 145 linear feet per hour (41 linear metres per hour). This translates to around 300 full front transfers an hour.

DTF printers use translucent PET films. They have a thickness of approximately 0.75mm. This is great for production, because they only need to be heat-pressed onto garments for about 8-10 seconds.

There are two classifications of PET Films based on temperature. These are cold peel-type films and hot peel-type films.

ADHESIVE POWDER

The hot melt adhesive powder is what gives DTF prints their transferring power. This powder is a white granular product and works as an adhesive material. This helps bind the coloured pigments in the printer to the surfaces you are printing on.

With commercial-grade DTF printers like the DigitalHeat FX line, the application of the hot melt powder is automatic. Meaning the machine has a powder storage container that carefully monitors and pours the amount of powder needed on the transfers. No shake and vac here.

The DigitalHeat FX DTF printers are a production powerhouse, so of course they also have an on-board dryer that melts or "cures" the powder into a thin adhesive coating onto the printed ink.

For those using a converted DTG printer to produce DTF transfers, they will need to purchase an additional curing machine or use a heat press with a hover feature.

HEAT-PRESSING THE FILM ONTO THE FABRIC

Now we've come to the last stage of the DTF printing process for making custom t-shirts. These types of transfers require heat to adhere to garments and other fabrics. A new job for your existing heat press or upgrade to keep up with the speed of the transfers.

DTF printing uses two things: water-based inks and the hot melt powder. They are extremely soft and flexible, making them ideal for clothing.

New print products for your customers, think collars, tags, pant legs, etc.

Adding a home décor range like pillowcases, table runners, blankets and tea towels is an easy way to diversify your print and t-shirt business with DTF printed transfers.

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NEW ANTALIS SUSTAINABLE RIGID PAPER BOARD



Antalis introduces Xanita aspect, an innovative paper based board designed exclusively for the wide format printing industry. Xanita aspect sets a new standard for eco-friendly signage solutions, offering a superior alternative to conventional honeycomb boards.

Xanita aspect represents a step forward in sustainable signage solutions and is engineered to cater to the evolving needs of businesses while minimising their environmental footprint.

"We believe that sustainability and performance should go hand in hand," said Paul Neale, Product Manager at Antalis. "With Xanita aspect, we have a product that not only meets the demands of the

printing industry but also aligns with our customers' commitment to ESG goals."

Xanita aspect comes in two types; aspect Print, with a white liner made from over 90% post consumer paper and aspect Kraft, with a brown liner, is made from 100% post consumer paper. Xanita aspect contains no harmful chemicals or VOCs, making it a safe and environmentally friendly choice for businesses and is awarded the maximum rating of five stars on the Antalis Green Star System.

While Xanita aspect is designed for signage applications, it is far from a typical honeycomb board. Leveraging the same 'closed cell' core design as Xanita's premium board products, it delivers



unmatched strength, durability, and rigidity. Its ability to withstand the rigors of wide format printing and everyday handling ensures exceptional print results.

Xanita aspect is an economical choice, allowing companies to benefit from the sustainability and durability of Xanita aspect without compromise and increased material costs. Stocked in 1220 x 2440 mm and 1220 x 3050mm sizes in 10 mm thickness.

www.antalis.co.uk
contact@antalis.co.uk

ANTALIS ADDS COLOR COPY XL BANNER FORMATS

Antalis has announced the launch of a new range of extra long banner formats, expanding their Color Copy Original portfolio

Color Copy Original is already well known for its high quality and vibrant colours in digital printing; these new XL banner formats further expand the possibilities for creative applications.

The range includes extra long banner formats, including 660 x 330mm, 889 x 330mm, and 1200 x 330mm, in short grain options. The grammages available span across 120g/m², 160g/m², 250g/m² and 300g/m².

With its extremely smooth surface and perfect whiteness, Color Copy Original ensures vivid colours in digital print, making it suitable for a wide range of applications, from brochures and leaflets to cards and posters. The XL banner formats open up new possibilities for landscape brochures, six panel brochures, gatefold cards, banners and more creative and impactful digital print.

In addition to its exceptional print quality, Color



Copy XL banner papers are also environmentally friendly. Ensuring responsible sourcing of the raw materials used in production, the range is European Ecolabel and FSC certified, and additionally, Color Copy is CO₂ neutral and has received the Cradle-to-Cradle Product Certification at Bronze level.

"We are thrilled to introduce our new range of extra long banner formats for Color Copy. This

expansion allows for greater creativity in digital printing and creates new opportunities for our customers. Antalis is dedicated to providing sustainable solutions for our customers' printing needs and Color Copy offers a fantastic range of papers which are not only high quality, but also environmentally friendly," said Tim Percival, Category Director for Office and Digital at Antalis.

www.antalis.co.uk

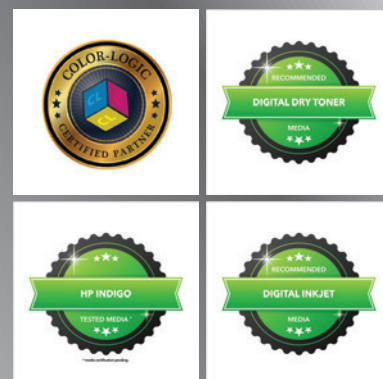


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REGISTER NOW FOR PRINTWEAR & PROMOTION LIVE! 2024

Registration for Printwear & Promotion LIVE! 2024 is now open. Be a part of the UK's only national exhibition dedicated to the booming garment decoration industry by heading online and registering to attend at www.printwearandpromotionlive.co.uk

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM P&P LIVE! 2024

A vibrant, dynamic, and interactive event, showcasing all that is new in garment decoration, from well over 100 suppliers! The show aims to provide inspiration and offers tuition and advice through workshops, live demonstrations, and seminars, with a host of industry experts present each year.

Expect to see direct to film printing take centre stage at the exhibition once again, with more than 20 exhibitors set to showcase the latest advancements and developments in this technology. In addition to this exciting new product launches across embroidery, screen printing, transfer printing and direct to garment printing will also be on display across the three-day exhibition.

Not only this, but the show is well on course to be even bigger in 2024! There are already over 100 stands on the floor plan, with several big name

PrintwearLIVE!
&promotion HALL 1 NEC, BIRMINGHAM, 25-27 FEBRUARY 2024

exhibitors returning, after missing the 2023 show, including PenCarrie, Result Clothing, Roland DG, Adelco and GS UK.

FEATURE AREAS

You can also expect to find an impressive line-up of speakers in the show's two Seminar Suites; The Decoration Advice Suite and The Knowledge Centre. Topics covered will include a DTF update, garment transfers, embroidery tips and tricks, and business advice for garment decorators! The timetables will be released and shown online towards the end of the year.

CO-LOCATION SIGN & DIGITAL UK

For the first time Printwear & Promotion LIVE! will run alongside Sign & Digital UK, in Halls 1 and 2 at the NEC. SDUK is the UK's biggest and longest running trade show for the visual communications sector, and will be celebrating its 35th edition in 2024.

The co-location will be a first for the UK's sign, display and garment decoration markets. There is

SIGN & DIGITAL UK
HALL 2, NEC, BIRMINGHAM, 25-27 FEBRUARY 2024

a real synergy between the two shows, with several exhibitors traditionally exhibiting at both events and around 10% of visitors attending the two shows. However, the co-location will present a greater opportunity for each audience to explore the other market! Visitors will have more compelling reasons to attend, with the added benefits that a two show experience will bring! A combined audience in excess of 9,000 is anticipated!

A link will be opened between the two halls to allow for easy access from one into the other, without the need to exit and re-enter by way of the two entrances.

Registering online ahead of your visit will save you time on the day, allowing you to make the most of your time at the exhibition.

The latest news and updates on the exhibition can be found on the show's dedicated website, as well as on social media. Join in the conversation using the hashtag #pandplive2024.

www.printwearandpromotionlive.co.uk
www.signuk.com

FESPA 2024 — NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN PRINT, SIGNAGE, PERSONALISATION AND SPORTSWEAR

FESPA Global Print Expo, European Sign Expo, Personalisation Experience and the inaugural Sportswear Pro will take place from 19 to 22 March 2024 at the RAI Exhibition Centre in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The co-located events will showcase an array of solutions for speciality print, sign making, personalisation, and sports and leisure garment production.

Amsterdam RAI is a popular venue amongst both the FESPA visitor and exhibitor community and has been host to successful FESPA exhibitions in 2006, 2009, 2016 and 2021. The local Amsterdam Schiphol airport serves over 310 destinations with direct flights, and the city offers affordable public transport and accommodation.

Michael Ryan, Head of FESPA Global Print Expo, explains, "This year, we're introducing a set of new event straplines which represent a natural progression from the 2023 events where we encouraged visitors to discover 'New Perspectives'. The FESPA 2024 straplines; 'Opportunities, Uncovered' at FESPA Global Print Expo; 'Opportunities, Illuminated' at European Sign Expo; 'Opportunities, Created' at Sportswear Pro; and 'Opportunities, Reimagined' at Personalisation Experience, highlight how there's always something new to learn and how the sectors that our visitors are active in are often broader than they realise."

Michael continues, "In our constantly evolving



speciality print industry, the possibilities and opportunities are endless and we're excited to welcome an array of suppliers to highlight their latest, innovative solutions. We look forward to showcasing new growth opportunities to our global community in Amsterdam."

Visitors to FESPA 2024 will see a host of technologies, media and consumables from confirmed exhibitors including AGFA, Antalis, DGI/d. gen, EFI, Elitron, Kongsberg, LIYU, Mimaki, Orafol, Sun Chemical, and swissQprint. Confirmed textile suppliers include MHM, Monti Antonio, MS printing/ JK Group and ROQ, as well as two new embroidery suppliers — Tajima and Ricoma — choosing to exhibit at a FESPA event for the first time.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The 2024 events will again host an educational conference. Day one will be dedicated to Personalisation Experience, offering educational content from industry experts on the commercial

value of personalisation. On the first day, 20th March 2024, speakers will cover topics including how personalisation can be used to engage new audiences, customisation trends in 2024 and the role of AI in personalisation. Day two of the conference (21st March 2024), aligned with Sportswear Pro, will focus on the opportunities in sports and leisure garment production and decoration, delving into topics including the latest trends, recent innovations and circular design. The full line up of speakers will be confirmed closer to the event.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE PROGRAMME

A Personalise Make Wear feature will run as part of Personalisation Experience and Sportswear Pro, showcasing an array of personalised printed sportswear and athleisure. Offering visitors the opportunity to join expert guided end to end production tours of the latest technologies for sportswear garment make-up and personalisation of sport related merchandise, Personalise Make Wear will also feature fireside chats focussed on cutting edge technologies and processes.

Registration for the events will open at the beginning of December and visitors can benefit from super early bird tickets to all four events for €25.

www.fespa.com

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HALL 1, NEC, BIRMINGHAM, 25-27 FEBRUARY 2024



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www.printwearandpromotionlive.co.uk



CO-LOCATING WITH



ANTALIS SUPPORTS FOREST GROWTH WITH TREE PLANTING

In partnership with Forest Carbon, pioneer of carbon financed woodland creation in the UK, Antalis recently hosted a tree planting day at its woodland creation project in Cumbria

Antalis, who has worked with Forest Carbon since 2014 and are their longest standing current partner, hosted customers Coventry Building Society, Egan Reid and The Printroom at the tree planting day at The Croft on the Lowther Estate in Penrith, Cumbria.

The day saw the planting of a native oak, adding to the 9,000 plus broadleaf and coniferous trees Antalis and its customers have already planted on the six hectare site as part of the carbon offsetting scheme offered by Antalis. Through the planting and management of these trees, over 2,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide will be captured.

The Croft is one of four schemes Antalis and its customers are supporting through the partnership with Forest Carbon. In addition to The Croft, 4,000 native broadleaf trees have been planted on a 2.5 hectare site at Thorney Coppice near Kettering, Northants, with 1,000 tonnes of CO₂ capture underway. A further 31,557 broadleaf and coniferous trees have been planted on just under 16 hectares at Doddington North near Wooller, Northumberland, meaning a further 4,308 tonnes of CO₂ will be captured.

Antalis has also partnered with Forest Carbon on an international project: ECO2 Rubber in Guatemala. The project has supported the restoration of over 2,000 hectares of degraded and over farmed land and created more than 300 permanent jobs in low access communities.

A dedicated and long standing partner, Antalis first contacted Forest Carbon in 2014 to see how they could work together to support forest growth and carbon capture. Director of Forest Carbon, Stephen Prior, says of the partnership: "At the time Antalis



first made contact with us, the UK voluntary carbon market was in its infancy. The partnership with a company like Antalis was critical in helping us to

continue our pioneering work, and in giving other organisations the confidence to work with us."

To date, Antalis and its customers have planted almost 50,000 trees, restoring 30 hectares of ecosystem and capturing over 9,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Sustainability Manager at Antalis, Matthew Botfield, comments: "Our partnership with Forest Carbon helps us provide our customers with a quality assured and transparent means of contributing to nature based carbon reduction projects — offering a way of addressing the carbon generated through the manufacture and delivery of the wide range of Antalis products they use. Together, we're helping to restore indigenous woodland and biodiversity, which in turn supports flood mitigation and soil and water protection. Customers also have peace of mind that Forest Carbon's projects are certified under the UK Government's Woodland Carbon Code."

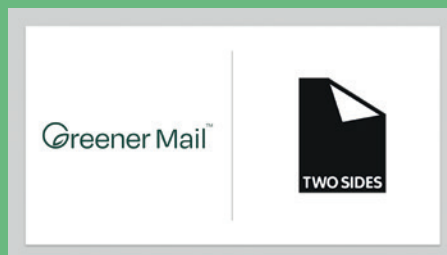
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GREENER MAIL JOINS TWO

The print and paper advocacy group Two Sides are excited to announce its newest partner member, the B2B direct mail, leaflet distributor and printer, Greener Mail.

Greener Mail prides itself in showing its customers how to make their marketing greener and that using mail can be a sustainable choice. Having the environmental standard ISO14011, users of Carbon Balanced Paper, offsetting emissions with World Land Trust, committing to the SME Climate Pledge and now joining Two Sides, Greener Mail is continuously looking for ways to be more sustainable.

"Sustainability and being 'greener' is at the forefront of our company ethos and we are constantly thinking of ways that we can improve our own business. Greener Mail is continuously investing in our buildings and machinery to reduce carbon emissions and the energy we use, where a simple upgrade can make a profound



difference. Beyond offering sustainable services to our customers (direct mail, door to door, print and pick and pack), we also help educate them through the process and explain how becoming greener is so much easier than they think. We show our customers how they have the power to make an instant positive impact for our environment! As a certified Carbon Balanced Printer, offering our customers the option to balance (offset) the carbon emissions of their jobs is a really simple way we can help them reduce their impacts and,

by doing so, protect endangered land and forests rich in biodiversity. As an environmentally focused business, partnering with Two Sides is a natural step in our sustainable journey," says Andrew Robinson, Head of Sales and Marketing at Greener Mail.

By joining Two Sides, Greener Mail has access to a large library of co-brandable communication tools, consumer research, industry leading information, sustainability advice and events. They will have all the tools they need to promote the great sustainable story that print, paper and paper-based packaging have to tell.

"Our partnership with Greener Mail will help us communicate the great sustainable story of paper products. It's always a pleasure to welcome new members on board and we look forward to working with Greener Mail," says Josh Birch, Campaign Manager for Two Sides UK.

www.twosides.info/why-join-two-sides
www.greenermail.co.uk



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NOPINZ FINISHES WITH FLYING COLOURS

Founded in 2013, NOPINZ is a UK based manufacturer of clothing for cyclists and triathletes. The company's first product was the 'SpeedPocket', a product that allows competitors to attach their race numbers more easily (and with 'no pins') while improving the all important aerodynamics. Soon recognising the customer demand for premade attire with incorporated number pockets, the company embarked on a mission to manufacture these new product lines itself. Today, NOPINZ boasts a diverse portfolio, with 60% of its products made in-house, catering to a growing customer base across the UK and international markets.

GEARING UP TO GROW

"We tested out a few printers, before we ultimately settled on Mimaki," Blake Pond, the founder of NOPINZ explained. Now the company's line-up entirely consists of Mimaki's textile dye sublimation solutions, purchased through Mimaki Authorised Partner, Xpres. With an initial investment in two TS300P-1800 in 2016, NOPINZ later upgraded its technology capabilities with a TS55-1800 in 2022.

"During our search we prioritised the ability to produce fluorescence and accurately replicate colours. Customers often come to us with existing kit made by other manufacturers, which they want to match, so accurately replicating colour is extremely important. And even without existing kit, customers occasionally ask for specific pantone colours. When it comes to cycling kit, colour is often pivotal when considering where to buy from."

As two flagship dye sublimation printers, both the TS300P-1800 and TS55-1800 are equipped to print on the various technical fabrics that are needed for cycling attire and faithfully reproduce colours to meet customer expectations.

NOPINZ places a strong emphasis on sustainability and is committed to minimising its environmental impact. Using a microfactory approach gives better oversight and control of the manufacturing process, including sourcing materials sustainably and locally where possible, reducing transportation, and improving access to recycling. "Our 'zero to landfill' policy, means that we reduce our wastage where possible and either recycle or donate excess product to charity," Blake adds. "We hope to become a B-Corp company in the future."

MAKING THE PRODUCTION AERODYNAMIC

With a steadily growing customer base across the UK and abroad, NOPINZ began to look for ways to fine tune its processes. "Preparing orders for print was done manually and the time needed to do so had become a significant bottleneck in our production process," Blake explained, "As we looked to scale up, we knew something needed to change. We got a recommendation for Early.Vision, which offer software solutions for the apparel industry, in May 2022 and since then, it's been smooth sailing!"

Early.Vision supports in streamlining the design to production workflow, allowing designers to focus on design and create nesting ready files that are prepared for production automatically based on eCommerce orders. It



integrated its software to work seamlessly with Mimaki's RIP software. "We immediately saw significant improvements, in both time and cost," explained Blake. "It used to take us 36 hours to print 150 items, we can now do the same in 90 minutes!"

Beyond the printing process itself, NOPINZ has seen other benefits to taking on Early.Vision's technology. "While we endeavour to produce mostly in-house (about 60%), when we do need to outsource, it's much easier to send these print runs to other locations to be made. As we look to scale up our own production, this will also be a huge help."

HIGH TECH, HIGH ACCURACY

NOPINZ creates speed suits for some of the world's top cycling teams, as well as competitive amateurs. "A World Tour team is like a Premier League football team, winning and losing by very fine margins. A lot of the kit we make for them is custom fitted, completely bespoke, not just in terms of the print but the whole fit of the item. We even look at minute details such as the material placement to further improve the aerodynamics. We then use 3D scanning to get the measurements of the athlete exactly right. For this, the athlete stands in a booth, and is scanned, with those precise measurements being used in the creation of the kit," explained Blake.

GLOBAL EXPANSION WITH MIMAKI

As NOPINZ eyes expansion into new territories, Blake expects that Mimaki dye sublimation solutions will remain the company's printers of choice: "We're looking to further expand in the USA and Australia and because we want to manufacture local to the market, that means setting up micro-factories in those new locations. Considering its importance to our customers, we really want to keep colours consistent no matter where they order from, so we wouldn't consider moving away from Mimaki as our preferred supplier."

For more information about products and services from Mimaki, visit its UK and Ireland distributor, Hybrid Services at www.hybridservices.co.uk

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EASY CUT STUDIO NEW UPDATES WITH NESTING FEATURE



EasyCut Studio, a worldwide developer of signmaking software solutions, has launched a new enhancement to its industry leading vinyl cutting software, **Easy Cut Studio**, which now includes **true shape nesting**. This enhancement tool takes sign making to a whole new level. Efficiently nest all your objects to save on time and material.

Nesting is the process of placing your design as efficiently as possible to save on production materials. This new feature enables all users to reduce their material waste on average by 40%. The intuitive and powerful option improves the arrangement of multiple objects per job by rearranging the objects based on their actual shape.

"Thanks to the latest updates, the newly added nesting feature efficiently nests

all objects to save on time and material. Designers can enjoy creating more in less time," said Eric Lee, Senior Product Manager for EasyCut Studio. "Starting from now, users will be able to upgrade their Easy Cut Studio to Version 5.026 in order to experience the full range of new nesting features and improvements. It's simple, intuitive, fully automatic, and no training is needed."

In addition to the new nesting feature, this update also includes more than 10 new cutter drivers, several bug fixes, the official support of macOS Sonoma, compatible with several new vinyl cutters and improvements to the stability and performance of the software, enabling users to design, print and cut more efficiently than ever before. So this latest version will definitely amaze you.

Easy Cut Studio Release v5.026 includes a host of new features, including:

- Performing the advanced nesting by moving the object including the rotation.
- Fixed a problem with Print+Cut with Janome Artistic Edge 15 cutter.
- Fixed crash issue when printing and cutting with KNK Force cutter.
- Fixed a problem with manual laser alignment with Titan.
- Fixed crashing problem with offset path.
- Fixed a problem with incorrect dimensions for Print+Cut groups.
- Fixed the issue of incomplete cutting or random cutting.
- Fixed the issue where users were unable to connect to the Summa machines via USB.
- Adds support for Vevor KI series.
- Adds support for JiaChen JC-E, JiaChen JC-H and JiaChen JC-DS series.
- Adds support for UKCutter V-series.
- Other stability improvements.
- Official Support for Windows 11 and macOS 14.2 Sonoma.

www.easycutstudio.com

GIBSON/ALMEIDA COMBO A SIGN OF PROGRESS

Lasting Impressions (Signs) Ltd of Bridport, Dorset has just installed a Gibson GTF-2512R flatbed printer and Almeida B8-2513 digital cutter, both supplied by SOS. Owner Terry Gall says that his new printer/cutter combination brings a new level of productivity to the full range of the company's output, but especially for its key market in health and safety signage, produced on a range of materials such as plastic, vinyl, Foamex, Corex and acrylics.

"Prior to installing these machines we would usually screen print, which meant taking the time to set up multiple screens, and then printing as many as 50 to make it cost effective. With the Gibson machine we can instantly print bespoke one-offs if required," he says.

"Our other method was roll printing on our Roland wide format machine, which meant leaving prints for 24 hours, laminating and then mounting, which was a time consuming two man job. The Gibson prints direct to substrate and dries instantly. Plus there's no mess and no waste."

Making the investment was a bold step for the small but growing company, so the economic case had to be made. "We hadn't heard of Gibson before but were very impressed at the demo site we visited," says Terry. "Compared to the alternatives it's cheaper to buy, but what's



Terry Gall with his new Gibson machine.

surprised us is how cheap it is to run. The inks cost less than screen printing or solvent inks, and we've calculated the power consumption is way less than expected at about £6 a day!"

The company's Almeida cutter is an important part of the package. "We used to buy materials cut to size, but now we can print multiple signs in one pass and the cutter does the rest. It's also really versatile, we can change the blades, cut all kinds of shapes, sheets of stickers, and more."

Terry and his team are always looking for new

sign markets. As much as half of their work comes from web orders which give a real time indication of what is popular and a design a sign feature helps identify new trends. A feature of the Gibson machine gave Terry an idea which has huge potential. "We can layer the white ink which gives a raised surface and is ideal for producing braille signs," he says. "All together we're expecting this machine to contribute to a big rise in turnover in the coming year."

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READERS' SCRIBES

SOMETHING TO SHARE?

YULE TIDE JOKES

What carol do they sing in the desert? O Camel Ye Faithful.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

Who's Santa's favourite singer? Elf-is Presley

How did Scrooge win the football match? The ghost of Christmas passed.

How does Santa keep track of all the fireplaces he's visited? He keeps a logbook.

What do the Royal Family play at Christmas instead of musical chairs? Game of Thrones

Why are snowmen bad at cricket? They're always bowling snowballs.

Why was the turkey in the band? He was the only one with drumsticks.

How do you know when Santa is in the room? You can sense his presents.

Why is it getting harder to buy advent calendars? Because their days are numbered.

How do you know if Santa's been in your garden shed? You've got three extra hoes.

Why was the Brussels sprout sent to prison? Because it was a repeat offender.

Why can't you wash up during Christmas?

Because the Fairy is on top of the tree

What is Snoog Dogg's favourite part of a present?

The rapping paper

What happened when the snowman's dog melted? He had a slush puppy

How do you take photos of Christmas desserts?

Mince-stagram

Why are there no jokes about turkey giblets?

Because the punchlines are offal.

What do you get if Michael Schumacher and Ben Collins lie under their duvets? Stigs in Blankets.

What is Father Christmas's favourite TV programme? The Xmas Factor.

My mum opened her Christmas present from me and pulled out a load of leaves and vines. That's the last time I order from Amazon.

Why does Liam Gallagher avoid going to France at Christmas? Because it's all about Noel.

What do recovering chocoholics have during Christmas? Cold turkey.

Will Father Christmas launch an online alternative to his usual delivery service? He's toying with the idea.

My dad got an Apple AND a Blackberry for Christmas. He was peachless.

What is Mrs Claus's favourite TV programme? The Only Way is Xmas.

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor? Because he had low "elf" esteem!

What is green, covered in Christmas lights and Christmas bulbs, and goes ribbit? A mistle-toad.

SANTA GOES INTO A BAR

Barman: "St. Nicholas, can I get a refund on this?"

Santa: "Nah, you're thinking of St. Michael."

NEW YEAR - OLD JOKES

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up for New Year's. Middle age is when you're forced to.

What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

My New Year's resolution is to see my cup half-full, preferably with rum, gin, or vodka.

What is the digital camera's New Year's resolution? 1080p.

What do you call someone named Stephen on Dec. 31? New Year's Steve!

What do cows say on Jan. 1? "Happy Moo New Year!"

What's the worst part of jogging on New Year's Eve? The ice falling out of your drink!

What was Dr. Frankenstein's New Year's resolution? To make new friends.

What does a ghost say on Dec. 31? "Happy Boo Year!"

What New Year's resolution should a basketball player never make? To travel more.

What does a jeweller do on Dec. 31? Ring in the New Year.

What is the snowman's New Year's resolution? To chill out more.

Knock knock! Who's there? Abby. Abby who?

Abby New Year!

Knock knock! Who's there? Razor. Razor who?

Razor glass and toast to a happy new year.

READERS SCRIBES — BETWEEN THE SHEETS

You are invited to send in your jokes for us to share, on what we are often told are the first turned to pages. Re-cycled classics are much sought after.

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The Chicken joke first appeared in print in 1847 in a New York magazine called *The Knickerbocker*, on a page titled 'Gossip with Readers and Correspondents.' A reader wrote: There are 'quips and quilllets' that seem actual conundrums, but yet there are none. Of such is this: 'Why does a chicken cross the road?' Are you 'out of town?' Do you 'give it up?' Well, then: 'because it wants to get on the other side!'

THE NEWSPAPER JOKE

What's black and white and red all over? A newspaper, of course. The joke first appeared in an American humour anthology in 1917.

WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH OUT LOUD?

Yes, Maureen does edit out anything un-printable, but laughing, for example, at a salesman's expense is encouraged and is our duty as a print trade magazine with the remit to create a level playing field. editor@QuickPrintPro.co.uk

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A man goes into a print shop and says, "I would like ten copies of my CV please."

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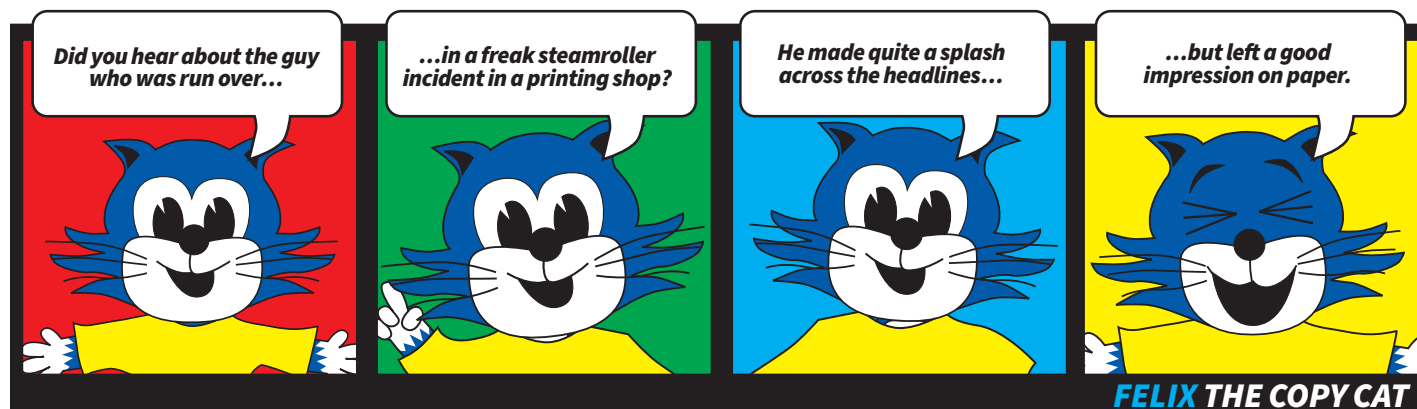
"But I want it my way," says the man.

"What do you mean 'your way'?" asks the print shop assistant.

The man says, "Well, I want the Power Point document to run into a different amount of pages than my original. To choose its own typeface and size. Can the columns all get shaken up and add some different colours in the text and background.

"I don't have the time to do all that!" replies the print shop assistant.

"Well you did yesterday!" replied the customer.





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