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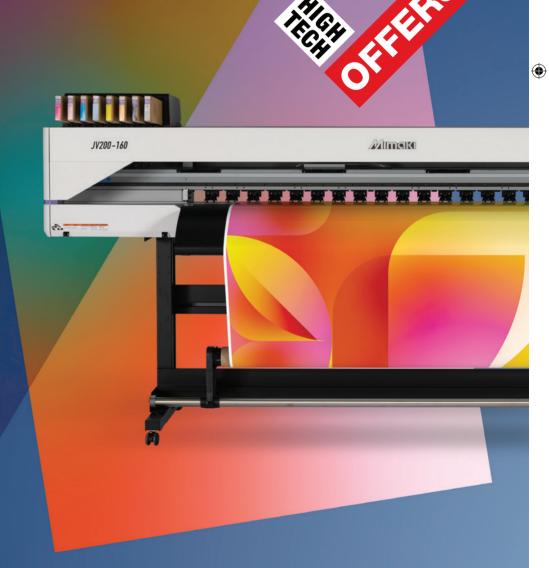
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CONTACT

Quick Print Pro (QPP)
Colourfast Group Ltd
16 Tichborne Street,
Brighton. BN1 1UR
Tel: 01273 674321
Email: editor@quickprintpro.co.uk
Web: www.quickprintpro.co.uk



/QuickPrintPro



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EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER Maureen Foulkes

**EDITOR** 

Peter Foulkes

CONTRIBUTORS

Lara Groome, Becky Foulkes, Martin Christie, Dean Cook

DIGITAL IMAGING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Martin Christie

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

Dean Cook

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www.magazineproduction.com

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QPP is an independent publication and not affiliated with any manufacturers or suppliers. QPP celebrates publishing the professional print trade's favourite magazine, formerly known as Copy Shop News (CSN), since May 1998.

Sharing best practice through both print and digital media, QPP magazine is in front of 36,000 quick print pros each month.

Each day the live web version is updated with the hottest stories in frontline printing, including news, views, new products and suppliers information.

Avid readers include Digital Printers, Commercial Printers, Copy Shops, On-Street Instant Printers, In-House Print Room Managers, FM and Conventional printers specialising in On-Demand, Short Run, Variable Printing, CRDs (Corporate Reprographic Departments), PSPs (Print Service Providers), Graphic Arts Businesses, Sign Suppliers and CAD Bureaus.

### Welcome

## Musical marketing in print and in your ears



Are you planning to up the tempo with a marketing medley pitch? I can still hear the song, Konica, the colours are calling you and remember fondly the Duplofest print finishing festival.

Do we as print marketeers want, or need to make a song and dance about it? So what is your sound feedback on this. Tune in here by clicking or scanning the QR code.

To all you QPP roving reporters, please send in your events, plant purchases, print team success, anniversaries, training milestones, charity activities and supplier referrals.

QPP loves to share best practice in print, on the web, by email, blogs, social media and now the airwaves.

Peter, whistle while you work, Foulkes



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# Pressision invests in Horizon SPF-200L Bookletmaking System

Pressision has responded to growth in demand for stitched booklets and addressed a production bottleneck with investment in a Horizon SPF-200L bookletmaking system from IFS.

The Leeds operation's mix of offset and digital presses produces creative print, high end brochures, packaging and marketing collateral. Clients include premium brands, design agencies, and publishers.

James Taylor, Founder and Managing Director, explains the investment: "Demand for shorter runs, versioned brochures, and high pagination booklets is rising, and the Horizon SPF-200L offers the automation and flexibility to handle that efficiently. It also complements our Horizon BQ-500 PUR ice binder and HT-300 ice trimmer, giving us a well rounded finishing line up."

On choosing the solution he expands: "The automation, reliability, and fast set up times make it ideal for our fast turnaround environment. Its compatibility with our existing Horizon equipment made it the natural choice. What stood out for us was the operator friendly touchscreen controls, repeatable accuracy, and the ability to switch quickly between different formats without downtime. It's engineered for efficiency.

James heard about the system from the IFS team: "We evaluated other systems but found the Horizon package offered the best fit in terms of footprint, automation, and value for our workload.



IFS provide excellent support. Installation and training were smooth, and the aftercare has been proactive, which is vital when running a busy production schedule."

Pressision's fully automated Horizon SPF-200L bookletmaking system enables user friendly operation and instant set ups via a large icon based colour touch screen. It runs at speeds up to 4,500 booklets per hour and produces a wide variety of booklet formats, ranging from CD to A4 landscape.

As for the expected impact James states: "It will reduce the need to outsource jobs, enable faster

throughput, and support tighter turnaround times. The SPF-200L means we can bring more finishing inhouse and improve overall productivity. It also strengthens our ability to handle multi-version, short-run work more cost effectively, while also giving us confidence to take on larger stitched jobs with consistent quality."

He concludes: "We expect a quick payback through increased productivity, reduced reliance on outsourcing, and more efficient use of labour and press time."

www.ifsl.uk.com

## Graphix installs Konica Minolta C7090 ENHANCED

Konica Minolta has supplied leading design, print, signage and exhibition services specialist Graphix Limited with a new AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED digital production press. Graphix Limited joined Konica Minolta on its stand at The Print Show 2025 at the NEC Birmingham to place the order.

Brian Duffy, Director of
Hertfordshire based Graphix Limited
commented, "We are excited to
confirm our order for the new
AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED
which will be at the centre of our
small format printing. It replaces
a previous faithful Konica Minolta
press, but will deliver additional
increases in speed along with
greater levels of automation and
flexibility, which are essential to our
evolving and growing business."

Recently launched, the AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED is



a powerful and versatile production printer designed to meet the fast paced demands of modern print businesses. With speeds of up to 90 pages per minute, support for media up to 400gsm and 900mm in length  including embossed and textured stocks – it offers Graphix Limited exceptional flexibility across a wide range of applications. Its advanced automation, intuitive setup, and reduced manual adjustments enable the company to take advantage of single operator efficiency and uninterrupted, high quality output, making it an ideal solution for delivering flawless results with speed and precision.

Malcolm Smith, Category Manager Professional Print at Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd. also commented. "Graphix Limited has built its well deserved reputation on delivering high quality, fast turnaround print services, and the AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED is an ideal fit for supporting that. With its advanced automation, media versatility, and consistent output quality, the press enables Graphix Limited to streamline production, reduce manual intervention, and meet evolving customer demands with confidence and efficiency.'

www.konicaminolta.co.uk

#### •

# Sign Zone invests in Mimaki CJV200

Based in Limerick, Sign Zone has established itself as a trusted name in the Irish signage industry. With a talented in-house design team and comprehensive fabrication and manufacturing capabilities, the company delivers projects ranging from bespoke interior and exterior signs to site hoardings, labels, vehicle liveries, window films and floor graphics. Their promise to customers is clear and confident: "We'll get you noticed."

This commitment to quality and impact has consistently guided the company's technology choices – and at the centre of those has been Mimaki. Established for over 30 years, Sign Zone has relied on Mimaki hardware throughout its recent history, and the brand has become a constant in its production environment. "Brand fidelity is really important to us," explains Production Manager, Giorgio Parravano. "We have been using Mimaki for many years and will keep doing so – they're excellent machines."

The latest addition to their line-up is a Mimaki CJV200-160 integrated solvent printer/cutter, purchased in March 2025 through authorised Mimaki partner, Spectrum Digital. It continues a long tradition of choosing Mimaki technology for its speed, reliability and standout print quality.

For Giorgio and the team, consistency was a decisive factor. "Printing speed, quality of print and the peace of mind of knowing it's always going to be right – that's why we invest in Mimaki," he states. "Consistency is key in our business." The CJV200 is already delivering



exactly that, producing high quality signage, banners and display graphics with sharp detail and accurate colour.

Equally important is the impact on workflow. With minimal downtime and efficient operation, the Mimaki has given Sign Zone greater productivity and faster turnaround times, allowing the business to respond quickly to customer demand while maintaining its usual high standards. This reliability not only improves service levels but also contributes to more sustainable operations through reduced waste and better resource use. Sign Zone regularly supplies grand format sized graphics and a recent 21 metre by 1.6 metre installation was produced in a significantly shorter timeframe with the company's new printer.

Giorgio is also keen to acknowledge the

role of Spectrum Digital in supporting the investment. "We've been really impressed with the support from Spectrum throughout the whole process – from helping us choose the right model to the smooth installation and after sales assistance. Their team has been knowledgeable, approachable and quick to respond whenever we've had questions."

For Sign Zone, investing in the Mimaki CJV200 is both a continuation of a long standing partnership and a step into the future. With the proven quality and reliability of Mimaki behind them, they are well positioned to keep delivering innovative, high impact signage that helps their customers stand out – and to keep doing so with the confidence that comes from brand loyalty built over many years.

www.hybridservices.co.uk

# A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO PRINT EMBELLISHMENT INNOVATION — TAKTIFUL STUDIOS DROPS DEBUT ALBUM "THE 2025 EMBELLISHMENT TOUR"

The industry's first ever LP celebrating the art and technology of digital embellishment now streaming on Apple Music and Spotify.

Taktiful, the creative force championing the global digital embellishment movement, announced the release of its debut LP album, "The 2025 Embellishment Tour". The album celebrates the world's leading OEMs featured on The Embellishment Technology Tour Powered by Taktiful, an immersive experience which debuted at PRINTING United Expo 2025 in Orlando and is now available on Apple Music and Spotify.

Each track on the album honours a different technology partner shaping the future of print finishing, including Sharp, Harris & Bruno, Scodix, Fujifilm, Xerox, Skandacor, Duplo, Roland, Swiss Q Print, and Konica Minolta.

Blending hip-hop, rock, gospel, reggae, and more, the album transforms cutting edge print technologies into an expressive, cross genre soundtrack. The album played live throughout the show creating a sensory experience



that merges sound, touch, and creativity, perfectly reflecting Taktiful's mission to make print feel alive.

"This album is our love letter to the innovators who make print exciting again," said Kevin Abergel, President and Founder of Taktiful. "Each

song celebrates a partner whose technology pushes the boundaries of what's possible in embellishment. We wanted to give that energy a sound, something you can feel, just like great print output."

www.taktiful.com • eric@taktiful.com

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# **BEL Signs invest in new VeloBlade Nexus 2516**

West Sussex based sign, display, and promotion company BEL Signs has praised the impact of its new VeloBlade Nexus 2516 wide format digital die cutter, revealing how it has been able to significantly speed up production since taking delivery of the machine from Soyang earlier this year.

Located in Horsham, BEL Signs delivers a wide range of products and services to customers across Sussex and Surrey. The company works with clients such as local authorities and councils, schools, colleges, retail and manufacturing companies, charities, and sports, social and leisure clubs on a variety of projects, ranging from signage and vehicle graphics to branded clothing and traditional signwriting.

With such a diverse offering, BEL Signs is committed to regularly updating its production equipment to ensure it can make use of the latest developments and new technologies. This approach led it



to identify the need to enhance its finishing setup, with the company's existing cutting machine in need of being replaced.

Having looked at several options on the market, the BEL Signs team opted for the VeloBlade Nexus 2516, which is manufactured by Vivid Laminating Technologies and sold through Soyang Hardware as an approved distribution partner.

Featuring a bed size of 2,500mm x 1,600mm, the cutter, combined with CNC router, allows users to

work with stocks up to 25mm in thickness, including key sign making materials such as Dibond, MDF and acrylic. Stand out features on the machine include automatic cut depth setting and tool change, making production easier for the user, as well as the ability to cut, crease and perf in a single pass, helping speed up production.

Faster production has been one of the major benefits BEL Signs has noted since it installed its new machine in spring this year.

Managing Director Peter Bedford said the flexibility of the cutter has also allowed the company to experiment with packaging work, with the idea of growing its already expansive offering.

"We have certainly been able to speed up all of our finishing," Peter said. "We can now take on quick turnaround orders that include large amounts of cutting and still do them at a sensible cost. For one example, we processed an order of over 500 large posters in less than two and a half hours, which really pleased our customer.

"The work we are running is very varied, ranging from posters to thick and thin Foamex, graphics and even plywood. But we are on a learning curve every week we find something we can develop. In fact, we are experimenting with short run packaging, which is another reason we chose the machine as Vivid has a great history with that."

www.soyang.co.uk

# KONICA MINOLTA HELPS GD PRINT EVOLVE ITS PRODUCTION

Konica Minolta has supplied commercial print specialist GD Print with a new AccurioPress C14010s and AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED to evolve its New Milton in Hampshire-based production facility. The GD Print team also joined Konica Minolta on its stand at The Print Show 2025 at the NEC Birmingham to place the order for the new production presses.

Craig Dobbs – Managing Director of GD Print commented "We are thrilled to announce our investment in the new AccurioPress C14010s and AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED, which will become the cornerstone of our printing operations. While we bid farewell to our trusted Konica Minolta C14000e press, this upgrade brings a significant boost in quality, enhanced automation, and unmatched flexibility – key elements to support our business as it continues to grow and evolve."

GD Print's AccurioPress C14010S includes the TU510e inline trimming unit and blends performance and productivity with spectacular results, offering fifth colour capabilities on a broad range of sheets up to 1,300mm and as thick as 450 gsm, with an impressive speed of 140 pages per minute (ppm).

The company's AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED also features the TU510e inline trimming unit and



is built for fast, flexible production, delivering up to 90 pages per minute and handling media up to 400gsm and 900mm long — including textured and embossed stocks. Its automation and intuitive setup allow GD Print to operate efficiently with minimal manual input, ensuring consistent, high-quality output across a wide range of applications.

Both presses will be utilised to produce a wide array of print products for GD Print's customers, including credit card welcome packs and booklets, and orders of service.

Malcolm Smith, Category Manager — Professional Print at Konica Minolta, also commented, "GD Print is taking a significant step towards greater automation and even more flexible print operations by investing in these presses. There are huge opportunities for print businesses that can deliver the right products exactly when they are needed, and Craig and team are showing exactly how this can be achieved."

www.gdprint.com • www.konicaminolta.co.uk

# **QPP PREFERRED SUPPLIER OF THE MONTH: DIGITAL OFFICE GROUP**



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**New Products** 

# What exactly is UV DTF, and why is it such a game changer?

Following the launch of the Mimaki UJV300DTF-75, Mimaki's brand new UV DTF printer, Hybrid Services has been exploring the huge potential this technology offers.

As UV DTF is still relatively new to the industry, it naturally raises plenty of questions. That's why, in our latest blog, we cover everything you need to know, including: what UV DTF is and how it works; why it could be a smart choice for your business; tips to make the application process simple and efficient; where you can see the UJV300DTF-75 in action for yourself; turn complex surfaces into profit opportunities.

- **Durable** scratch and weather resistant.
- **Flexible** able to adhere to uneven and awkward surfaces.
- **Fast** no need for drying time, cutting, or weeding.
- Save time and money while maximising profit.
- No heat presses or additional equipment the

process is all in one.

- Energy efficiency UV curing reduces power usage compared to alternative methods.
- Print Safely Mimaki's latest UV inks are certified safe and non-toxic, earning a GreenGuard Gold certification.

### THE MIMAKI UJV300DTF-75 MAKES CUSTOMISATION SIMPLE

With a compact footprint and straightforward RIP integration, the printer fits neatly into existing workflows and demands minimal training to get started.

Following the UK and Ireland launch of the Mimaki UJV300DTF-75 at the Sign Show in September, you can now book a one to one demo at Hybrid's showroom or request a print sample to experience the quality for yourself.

Check out the blog here: www.bestblogsinprint. co.uk/blog/what-exactly-is-uv-dtf-and-why-is-it-such-a-game-changer-



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To create new high value print products download the brochure here.

www.konicaminolta.co.uk

## New Xerox® IJP900 Cut Sheet Inkjet Press



Xerox has introduced the Xerox® IJP900 Inkjet Press, marking its return to the rapidly expanding mid volume inkjet market with a powerful and cost effective colour press. The IJP900 is designed to meet the evolving demands of print service providers looking to expand into profitable new applications such as transactional printing and direct mail, as well as in-plant operators aiming to reduce costs and boost operational efficiency.

The IJP900 integrates seamlessly into the Xerox end to end production print ecosystem. It combines Xerox® FreeFlow® workflow automation, XMPie® personalised communications, and Al-assisted workflows solutions with production analytics to accelerate job preparation, automate repetitive tasks, and deliver real time operational insight — reducing costs and increasing output.

"The mid volume inkjet market is expanding

quickly, creating a clear opportunity for Xerox to re-enter with strength," said Terry Antinora, Senior Vice President and head of product and engineering at Xerox. "Clients are looking for smarter, more accessible solutions, and the IJP900 delivers by combining robust inkjet technology with our proven strengths in workflow, automation, and service."

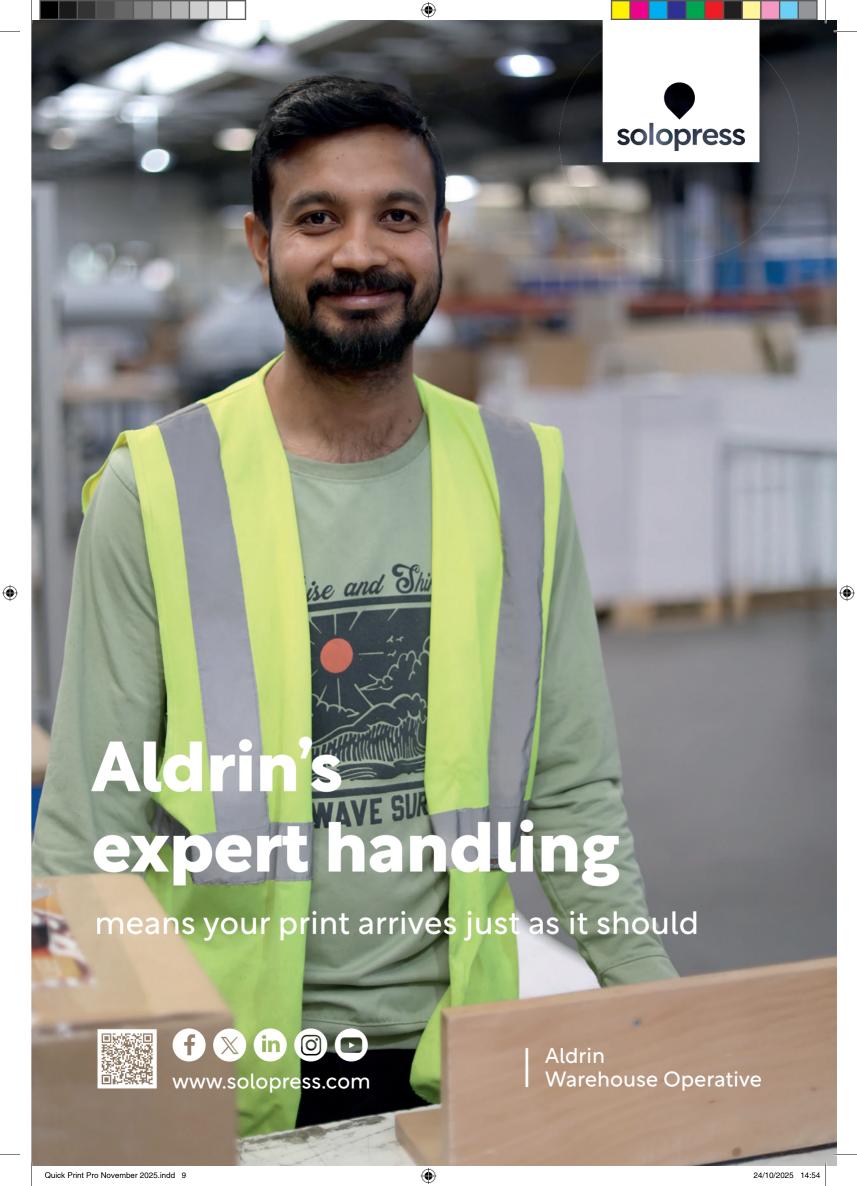
Compact and easy to deploy, key highlights include:

- Performance Xerox EX IJP900 Print Server powered by Fiery® exclusively designed to deliver consistent colour accuracy and streamline workflows.
- **High Speed Output** Up to 150 ppm (A4) / 146 ppm (Letter), with an average monthly volume of 250,000–1,000,000 impressions.
- Business Quality Colour 600 x 600 dpi (up to

600 x 1200 dpi) with stable colour and precise registration using water based pigment inks.

- **Operational Efficiency** Automated printhead cleaning, built-in dust removal, and duplex capability up to 360 gsm without special infrastructure requirements.
- Media Flexibility Handles substrates from 52–360 gsm including plain, uncoated, super smooth, inkjet treated (matte, silk, and plain) media, oversized sheets up to 48" single sheet feed, and multiple finishing configurations including booklet making and hole punching. The Xerox IJP900 made its public debut at PRINTING United in Orlando, Florida where attendees viewed live demonstrations and explored its integration within the complete Xerox Production Ecosystem.

www.Xerox.com



# **New Cutting Edge Self-Adhesive Display Films**

Antalis has expanded its Coala and Kernow ranges with three innovative self-adhesive products designed to deliver exceptional application performance, print quality, and creative impact.

These additions reinforce Antalis' position as a leader in the supply of next generation materials for the visual communication market for POS, retail, graphic and display applications.

Coala 1D Daily Air Free is an easy apply film allowing installers to save valuable time in application. Coala 1D Daily Air Free is a cost effective, 100mic, monomeric printable selfadhesive, available in gloss and matt finishes, and in widths of 1370mm and 1600mm. It has a PE air release liner for bubble free, effortless application and flat media transit. Compatible with Solvent, UV, and Latex printing.

Coala 2D Daily Blockout Air Free makes double sided graphics



effortless to produce and install. Coala 2D Daily Blockout is a 160mic, white gloss, polymeric self-adhesive with a 100% blockout layer sandwiched between two white faced films. It's ideal for double sided window displays, enabling vibrant graphics on both sides without show through.

Coala 2D Daily Blockout is designed to last up to five years for long lasting, dimensionally stable graphics. It has a PE air free release liner for easy application and smooth media transit. It is printable with Solvent, UV and Latex inks. Available in roll sizes of 1370mm x 50m.

Kernowjet Metalik is a metallic self-adhesive display film perfect for creating eye catching premium displays and seasonal campaigns. It's a 55mic, PVC-free, PET high gloss, printable metallic film, available in chrome silver or gold. Offered with either permanent or removable adhesive and 1372 and 1524mm widths, it's ideal for



high impact window graphics and festive promotions. Printable with Solvent, UV and Latex.

"Antalis offers a complete range of large format digital media, including substrates for indoor and outdoor use, for solvent and water based ink systems. These three, state of the art new products strengthen Antalis' position as a leader in the supply of cutting-edge self-adhesive materials. From quick and easy application to advanced blockout technology and premium metallic finishes, we are equipping our customers with solutions that deliver creativity, efficiency, and impact," said Mike Collins, Product Manager, Antalis.

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

## Bakers £1m+ Investment at Labelexpo Europe

Independent UK label and packaging manufacturer Baker Labels made headlines in Barcelona committing in excess of £1 million in new technology investments during Labelexpo Europe 2025.

The Brentwood based business confirmed the addition of a Galaxy Packtech GS 24 Plus 200 SBS pouchmaker for its BakPac division, alongside two new HP Indigo 6K+ digital presses for its labels operation.

While many companies arrive at Labelexpo with spending plans already locked in, Bakers took a more agile approach. After seeing the latest technology in action and talking with long term supplier partners, the team acted decisively.

Steve Baker, Managing Director, explained:

"At Bakers, we've always made it a priority to stay at the very forefront of label and packaging technology. Our long standing partnership with HP has been central to that journey, and the introduction of the two new HP Indigo 6K+ presses strengthens our ability to deliver both speed and quality to our



label customers. On the flexible packaging side, Galaxy Packtech has been a fantastic partner in the growth of BakPac – their pouch making systems give us the reliability and scale we need to keep up with customer demand. These investments reflect our confidence

in the future and our commitment to giving brands and trade partners the innovation, service, and agility they expect from Bakers."

Quote from Gaurav Sharma, Galaxy Packtech:

"BakPac's continued trust in our technology is a true testament to



The week in Barcelona wasn't just about investment. Bakers also used the show to connect with its extensive network of suppliers and industry partners, including HP, Galaxy Packtech, Nilpeter, Durst, A B Graphic International, Screen, Hybrid Software and a range of leading label material suppliers.

With a track record of bold, well timed investment decisions, Bakers continues to demonstrate how an independent, family run business can set the pace for the industry.

The Bakers team at Labelexpo Europe 2025 included: Steve Baker, Managing Director; Phil Smith, Operations Manager; Paul Sykes, Production Manager; Jamie Godson, Technical Manager; Simon Chandler, IT and Solutions Manager; and Kirsty Dailly, PR and Marketing Manager.

www.bakerlabels.co.uk











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## **Xaar's new Versatex Printbar for labels and braille**

Xaar has launched the latest evolution of Versatex, its high performance digital inkjet printbar. Designed to expand digital capability across a wide range of analogue print lines and converting machines, the new printbar meets the growing demand for label varnish, foil embellishment and braille.

Alongside high quality printing of high opacity whites at 85 per cent in a single pass, the Versatex's compact, low maintenance unit features an upgraded Ink Delivery System which increases the high laydown performance by doubling the High Build Print Mode headline speed. For example, jetting 100µm can now be achieved at 50 metres per minute with the new Versatex, compared to 25 metres per minute previously.

Powered by Nitrox printheads, it can jet fluids with viscosities of up to 1000 centipoise at ambient temperature (around 100 cP at jetting temperature). The Versatex's ability to achieve higher laydown at builds in excess of 200µm delivers exceptional performance for demanding print effects such as varnish and cold foil embellishments, white flood fill, black variable data and digital personalisation.

With Xaar's High Creativity print mode and High Laydown Technology, customers can achieve laydowns from 15 to 100µm in a single pass — ideal for delivering high build gloss, spot varnish, and matte textures on premium labels across wine, spirits, cosmetics, and more.



Thanks to the Versatex printbar's brand new braille mode — with enhanced speed and high laydown capabilities — braille printing is now faster and more precisely defined. This is especially valuable as demand grows in markets like Spain, where legislation is currently being proposed for braille on FMCG packaging.

Versatex also includes an upgraded Meteor datapath, which improves flexibility and data rates while supporting a wide variety of digital and volume data workflows. This, combined with the increased speed and higher laydown performance, is enabling significant improvements for web based variable data black print applications.

Developed in response to customer feedback, the new Versatex offers enhanced configurability and easy integration in a compact, low maintenance design. Now compatible with right to left press directions as well as left to right, it fits new builds or retrofits without compromising

layout or productivity. With many finishing lines running from right to left, this new capability makes the Versatex relevant for virtually all installations.

Its on-press interface streamlines job setup and image adjustments, ideal for short runs and variable work. With minimal operator intervention required, Versatex delivers high uptime and consistent output, while its modular, space saving design ensures seamless inline or offline integration into conventional presses and finishing lines.

With sustainability in mind, the Versatex printbar, when compared to screen printing, continues to offer shorter setup times and a higher utilisation rate, resulting in small run jobs being completed faster. In addition, the ability to jet higher volumes and viscosities of fluids — at higher speeds — improves the efficiency of print processes, reducing the need for multiple passes, delivering faster print speeds and cutting energy use and costs.

Tom Mooney, Product Manager at Xaar said: "The Versatex printbar delivers exactly what industrial converters and printers need. Whether it is meeting demand for braille and embellishments or driving greater productivity and value in label production – the greater speed, precision and versatility of our new printbar is bringing the many benefits of digital to analogue presses and converting lines."

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#### www.xaar.com

# Xerox introduce two digital presses to production ecosystem at PRINTING United

Xerox introduced the new Xerox® Proficio™
Production Series at the PRINTING United Expo,
an annual production print industry event, with
the debut of the Xerox® Proficio™ PX300 and
Xerox® Proficio™ PX500 Production Presses.
Designed to help print providers compete and
grow in a rapidly evolving mid-production colour
market, this line represents the company's next
generation of production technology.

The introduction of Proficio, the new master brand for the company's production press lineup, marks the beginning of a new era for Xerox production printing. The Proficio name is derived from the Latin verb meaning to make progress, advance, and succeed and embodies

the company's mission to help clients anticipate, adapt, and accelerate in a changing marketplace. Built on a platform approach that unites the most advanced imaging, automation, and Al assisted intelligence from Xerox, the Proficio Production Series represents a cohesive family of presses engineered to drive measurable performance, efficiency, and profitability for every print provider.

The Proficio PX300 and PX500 presses are built specifically with graphic arts and commercial print in mind, delivering the automation, colour consistency, and application versatility needed to simplify operations, elevate applications and differentiate their offerings.

Key highlights of the presses include: The Proficio PX300 and PX500 deliver speeds of 85 and 100 pages per minute; ultra-HD resolution with optional fifth colour station enabling beyond-CMYK embellishments; new performance modules maintain precise colour density; Xerox Print Server powered by the Fiery® FS700X exclusively designed for the PX range

The new presses integrate seamlessly into the Xerox end to end production print ecosystem connecting Xerox® FreeFlow® Workflow Software, XMPie® personalised communications, and AI assisted workflows solutions with production analytics. Together, they accelerate job preparation, automate repetitive tasks, and deliver real time operational insight to reduce costs and boost productivity.

Xerox will begin regional rollout and order taking of the Proficio PX300 and PX500 in March 2026 with shipments expected in the first half of 2026.

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# You just have to read this...

Of course you don't. It's just the kind of strap line that's all too familiar in popular use to entice you into spending time browsing something you would probably choose to ignore if you had more information. Even a few precious seconds lingering just to see if it's of interest is sufficient to be of benefit to someone, generally financially. It may only be a fraction of a penny, but multiplied by millions, the numbers add up. **Martin Christie** scribes...

I'm sure we all know this and are resigned to it as just part of modern life, but it has a more insidious effect on the way we receive news and information. These seductive introductions are increasingly created by artificial intelligence, which learns and mimics the sort of messages likely to grab our attention. It has learnt that the more outrageous and ridiculous the claim, the more attention it is likely to grab.

Older readers may recall that I started my professional life as a journalist in the days of hard copy. And although it would be fair to say that even back then, newspapers would indulge in a fair amount of headline-grabbing, apart from a few notorious tabloids, most quality publications were aware that if they continually hoaxed their readers with false claims, they would lose them.

I was trained to put an outline of any story in the first paragraph — enough for a reader to judge whether it was worth continuing to absorb the finer detail.

This was then read by the Sub-Editor — a more senior post — who would ultimately compose a suitable headline to direct readers to the content. In the structure of the content, it was important to leave nothing to the end that could not be cut out if it needed editing to make room for a bigger news item — hence the catchphrase 'drop the dead donkey'.

This produced a discipline of framing a story that could be summarised as quickly as possible, rather than the opposite, which is why I am comparing it to the AI approach, which will become relevant shortly.

We are increasingly seeing machine learning moulding not only the headlines, but the content, even of our emails, which can have fundamental implications on not just how we communicate but what we communicate. This, of course, may be all well-intentioned to avoid us wasting precious time sifting through useless reams of chaff, but it is also equally responsible for creating it.

Human beings are easily distracted and not great at concentrating on the details. That's how magicians get away with the simple trick called the French Drop, where they swap a coin from one hand to another, and the viewer is too busy following the movement, not the target.

# WHY PROFESSIONALS STAY: THE UNRIVALLED POWER OF THE FULL ADOBE SUITE

At the end of October the annual Adobe MAX conference launched in Los Angeles and no doubt produced a lot of processed headline news about a lot of AI innovation. While it's unfortunate that it's too close to the deadline to review in this column, it does give me a month to study the full details and find out the facts that are relevant to us in the print industry, hidden beneath the inevitable marketing gloss.

along the lines that it was all over for Big A and that subscribers were abandoning the Creative Cloud in droves for cheaper or better alternatives. Of course, there was no shortage of sponsored podcasts promoting these.

I recently did a very brief look at some of these alternatives and concluded that while there were certainly options for the personal user, for the professional requiring multitasking at their fingertips, the CC was still by far the most comprehensive collection currently available. The one question was whether you might need all of the suite on all studio computers, or whether a pick-and-mix policy might suffice.

One of the reasons is that, while not all customer content arrives actually print-ready, the prevalence of user-friendly editing and design software — ironically, due to that very AI — means that much of it no longer requires the technical adjustments it once did.

One of those easy-fix solutions is actually contained within the Adobe stable, and I have to confess that Adobe Express had rather gone below my radar, as the previous one-stop options had proved disappointing. Newer users, less biased, and versed in the instant media world for which it was designed, have made me think again. If you are already using it, this is not news, but for those less educated like me, I will include a review of its possibilities in next month's issue. Certainly, much more than a tool for doing eye-catching reels on Instagram.

#### PROFESSIONAL IMAGING: TWO SEPARATE BATTLES FOR SOFTWARE AND SKILL

My personal preference for an Adobe alternative has been Affinity, which has a photo, design and publish option — or at least has had up to now. In a rather strange global move, online sales of the software were recently halted, and the website was frozen. Hopefully, this is just a precursor to the launch of Version 3, but the melodramatic hiatus has caused a flurry of speculation on the web, with very few pundits having a favourable view of parent company Canva, which purchased

Adobe has been forced into the escalating hype by the claims of others climbing onto the AI bandwagon in recent years, with even more specular claims for its products. At the same time, there have been plenty of social media threads





the much smaller one last year.

Australian-based giant Canva has very much captured the general public market as a result of its free option for mobiles, and would dearly love to topple Adobe in the professional stakes. In a few days, news will be released, so if you go to the Affinity website, you will know as soon as I do.

It would be a negative step if global aspiration strangled creative talent, but we shall see. Big corporations don't have a great track record.

To some degree, design is straightforward — fitting content into specific dimensions. So it's relatively easy for AI to sort out square pegs and round holes. Digital imaging, however, has always been problematic, which is why this column was requested to have a presence in these pages in the first place when it was still a novelty.

Digital cameras came long before smartphones, so those of us transitioning from film had time to get our heads — and particularly eyes — around the new technology. In 35mm days, it was important to understand what the camera saw in terms of colour and detail because you didn't have the luxury of reviewing it until much later. It still is important, but few people realise it because it is so easy to simply capture any old image and assume that it's real and not an illusion.

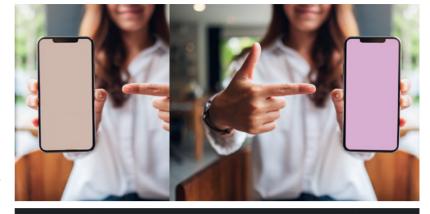
Digital devices don't just capture an image — their processors interpret it. Even the barely processed RAW files, which I now almost always use, require at least some point of reference to allow electronic calibration, which can be manually adjusted on the monitor in post-production, so I still have to make some mental calculations in my camera settings. For most people, it's just point and shoot. But of course, there's a direct relationship between making something convenient and making it understandable.

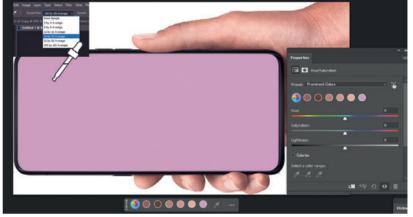
### TWO JOBS, TWO LESSONS: THE REAL COST OF DIGITAL IGNORANCE

With customers, we have an invaluable source of examples of the yin and yang of this process, with two perfect ones just this very week. The first involves some pieces of art photographed by a person — I'm not describing him as an artist, as that is rather more a personal title than a qualification. I work with a number of very good creatives, and most of them have an excellent understanding of the nature of colour, so we can have a useful dialogue on digital reproduction. In this case, however, there was no discussion. The photographs had been taken on a phone, and entirely on automatic settings. I had no reference to the originals, only the digital files supplied. Out of five files, four were perfect, but the fifth was way too dark and had 'too much black', and the customer wanted a reprint or a refund. He actually brought in the original canvas, expecting me to match it free of charge.

I pointed out that all five files were printed at the same time on the same printer, on the same paper, so any issue had to be with the individual file, whose content was being determined by his phone, not my printer profile.

He wouldn't accept it and went off with his original under his arm, saying he would go





somewhere else, and I wished him well, knowing most local printers send troublesome jobs to me!

The second example is the exact opposite—a customer asking for my expertise in matching a product colour to create a background for social media postings. I'd been sent a phone snap of one of the box tops, and it appeared to be beige — one of those colours that immediately rings warning bells when it comes to the possible variance of composite printing. So I asked to see an original item rather than a digital copy, and it turns out it was actually pink. So rather than wasting a lot of time trying to match a non-existent hue — hands up how many times you have done that — it was possible to do a decent reference card and work from that, so at least we started on the right side of the colour chart.

As well as being the right colour, the background also needed to be a shade lighter so that anything in the foreground stood out better — logical as anything further away from the subject will generally appear darker. In order to be accurate, the only option is to do a simple test print and work from that. A monitor screen, after all, is a composite of RGB pixels, not solid colour, as well as being backlit. In print is the real thing.

The colour picker tool has been around in Photoshop for a long time, but many users don't know that you can adjust the pointer to take in a wider sample zone — effectively taking an average of a number of pixels. This can better reflect the actual result colour than a possibly unique one. You can widen the search area from one to one hundred pixels radius.

Alternatively, you can use the new Adjust Colour option in the Contextual task bar, which I have illustrated in previous columns. This works slightly differently; instead of simply taking a dab at colour, it uses AI to identify the six prominent ones in the image. The sampler in this tool will show you the area covered by the search so you can move it around to perfect your selection.

Or again, you can use selection masking to isolate colour in Photoshop or Lightroom, but probably more on masks next month, as they are likely to feature in Adobe updates coming, even if they don't take centre stage. You can find out long before you read it here.

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People in Print

# Antalis new National Business Development Manager

Antalis Packaging continues to demonstrate its commitment to growth and excellence and has announced the appointment of Mandy Fleming as National Business Development Manager.

Mandy brings extensive experience to the role, having spent nearly nine years in the packaging industry, following 16 years in the print and stationery arena. In this new position, Mandy will drive and support new business across the UK as part of the national team with a focus on e-commerce, 3PL, and sustainability.

At Antalis Packaging, teamwork and collaboration are key to delivering value to customers. With a team whose members bring a diverse range of skills and expertise, Mandy will be able to draw on this collective knowledge to provide guidance on enhancing sustainability,

operational efficiencies and customer experience, as well as e-commerce and transit packaging solutions.

Kim Allen, Head of Business Develop for Packaging at Antalis commented:

"Antalis Packaging provides a comprehensive portfolio of packaging materials and solutions, helping customers improve efficiency and sustainability through dependable supply and innovative products. As part of our commitment to growth and excellence, we continue to strengthen the team with experienced, customer focused professionals, welcoming talented individuals such as Mandy to support our national business development team."

www.antalis.com



## Soyang strengthens sales team

Soyang Europe, the manufacturer and distributor of digitally printable wide format and superwide format media and surface coverings, and, through Soyang Hardware, a supplier of leading edge wide and superwide format print production hardware solutions, has announced the appointment of Lauren James as Internal Sales Manager and Louise Bibby as Sales Administrator.

Louise and Lauren both officially joined Soyang in July and have settled quickly into their new roles and day to day activities at the company.

Lauren becomes Internal Sales Manager, moving into the print industry after working in recruitment for the past 11 years. In her new role, Lauren has assumed key responsibilities including customer relationship management, customer



success, and both team and sales management.
As Sales Administrator, Louise is working with

Soyang customers across the UK, supporting them with their product choice and helping them to locate the most effective solution for each project they are working on.

"We are delighted to welcome Lauren and Louise to the Soyang team," said Mark Mashiter, CEO of Soyang Europe. "Both are operating in customer focused roles, working with the rest of the sales team to help match customers with solutions from across the wide reaching Soyang portfolio.

"Louise and Lauren join Soyang at what is a very exciting time for the business following the recent announcement of our new-look Board of Directors, with this forming part of our long term growth and success strategy."

www.soyang.co.uk

# **Ankur Mour new FUJIFILM VP and GM**



Mour is a Fujifilm veteran, serving in progressively senior roles for numerous functions, including engineering, manufacturing operations, commercial presales,

customer support, ink development, and project management.

During his tenure at Fujifilm, Mour directed and managed the group's long-term strategic

vision, operational plans, and processes. He played a pivotal role in the development and launch of recent products such as the 42X Printbar System, DE1024 Embellishment System and the Dimatix Materials Printer DMP-2850 S. Mour also spearheaded the successful deployment of Fujifilm's global business platforms, processes, and practices at the European offices of FUJIFILM Integrated Inkjet Solutions, ensuring alignment with the company's corporate goals and strategic objectives. In his new role, he will lead a global team of dynamic professionals in bringing

high-quality digital inkjet to Fujifilm's global customer network.

"I am honoured to be entrusted with the leadership of the FUJIFILM Integrated Inkjet Solutions team at such a dynamic and pivotal time for the company," said Mour. "Fujifilm's dedication to innovation and excellence in digital inkjet printing technology is truly inspiring. I look forward to leading our talented team to enhance our capabilities and bring our world-class solutions to new markets and applications."

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The Magic Touch in association with Keramikos, the UK ceramic trade supplier that has recently opened a bespoke in-house coating process. Using eco water based inks both mugs and bottles can now be Pantone specific matched for your end user brands and promotions.

Standard stock colour mugs are available at £2-25 each. MOQ 72

Pantone matched mugs at £2-75 each. MOQ 252

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#### **Cover Story**



# High tech Mimaki offers from Hybrid Services

For many quick print pros in copy shops and print on demand businesses, keeping pace with changing customer expectations often comes down to having the right equipment at the right time. With that in mind, Hybrid

Services has put together a series of offers on a selection of the latest Mimaki printers to make upgrading or expanding a little more straightforward.

longside upfront trade in savings, extended warranties and value added extras, the aim is simple — to help businesses get their hands on proven, production ready kit. Leading the line-up is the Mimaki JV200-160, now just £10,995 after a £2,000 trade-in and three year warranty. Built on Mimaki's trusted 200 Series platform and enhanced with the latest 330-series print engine, the JV200 solvent printer delivers the kind of image quality, speed and ease of use that makes it a strong fit for busy sign and display environments.

For garment decorators and promotional printers, the Mimaki TxF300-75 presents an efficient way into high output DTF production. With an attractive offer price of just £13,995 after a £3,000 trade in and supplied with a two year warranty, it's a printer designed for volume, consistency and peace of mind.

Those looking for an affordable print and cut solution can turn to the Mimaki CJV200 Series. With a choice of three print widths, the solvent printer/cutter range now starts from just £7,495 after up to £2,000 trade in and with up to three years' warranty. Compact, versatile and easy to run, the CJV200 is ideal for producing everything from decals and labels to signage and vehicle graphics.

In the direct to object printing space, the Mimaki UJF-3042MkII e is currently available for £16,995 with a free table and two year warranty. It's a proven, high quality small format flatbed that gives businesses the flexibility to print detailed, durable graphics directly onto a wide range of substrates — opening up plenty of new application possibilities.

Rounding off the selection is the Mimaki UCJV330-160, which combines high speed LED UV printing with integrated cutting. With £3,000 off and a free second year Gold Customer Care Package, it's a smart way to upgrade to Mimaki's latest generation for eye catching, multi-layer and high impact graphics.

Each of these offers is part of a wider programme designed to give businesses the best access to the latest Mimaki



technology, backed by trusted UK and Ireland service and support. Whether it's stepping up capacity, branching into new markets or replacing older equipment, there are solid options available at competitive price points.

For full details on all current offers, visit www.hybridservices.co.uk/offers



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# James Cropper Redefine Craft, Colour, and Luxury

ames Cropper made a bold statement at London Packaging Week, joined on stand for the first time by new partners Winter & Company, where they shared space, ideas, and colour, showcasing Coloursource, James Cropper's flagship British made coloured paper range, now available for global adoption.

The speciality paper expert provided attendees with a first look at its brand new Coloursource range, consisting of 50 high quality coloured papers developed over the past half century.

James Cropper also renewed its partnership with renowned paper artist Nathan Ward for a dynamic workshop titled Paper Possibilities: Redefining Luxury by Craft. The interactive session, led by Ward and James Cropper's Marketing Communications Manager Jordan Scott, allowed visitors to create their own luxury papercraft experience, demonstrating the power of paper in brand storytelling.

James Cropper and Ward have previously collaborated on the Message in a Wrap project, a 3D art installation that used paper and moulded fibre to create a stunning diorama inside a bottle wrap.

Before the show Jordan said, "As a proud British company, we've always felt at home at London Packaging Week, but we're committed to making this year's show our biggest and best ever. We're thrilled that Coloursource is making its long awaited UK debut in the British design capital, and attendees to the show can be the first to get their hands on the range exclusively through our friends at Winter & Company.

"But we won't just be telling attendees about the benefits of paper — we'll be showing them in our interactive workshop. It's a privilege for us to partner with Nathan once again for what is sure to be an unmissable workshop demonstrating the very best of British papercraft."

"This is a real celebration of the best of British innovation," added Jordan. "The only UK manufacturer of coloured paper is exhibiting a British made product range in the design capital of the UK—and we're partnering with a talented British artist to demonstrate just a few of the unlimited creative possibilities this offers to businesses.

"We've already experienced intense levels of interest from customers, as the release of Coloursource has become the paper industry's hottest topic. We're looking forward to delivering a memorable experience for those customers at London Packaging Week." To learn more about James Cropper's extensive portfolio of paper and packaging materials, visit www.jamescropper.com



#### •

# **Beware limitations**







# Plockmatic Group show Disruptor Label Technology at Labelexpo

isruptor technology and a new ColorCut LCF520 roll to roll label cutter were showcased at Labelexpo 2025 on the Plockmatic Group stand (5G26). Along with the LCF500 and a technology demonstration of a four bladed LCF840Di, designed to eliminate rotary flexi die-cutting, the digital system enables converters — both large and small — to save up to thousands of euros per job order.

Large, complex, high precision rotary flexi dies can cost thousands of euros for converters — and getting one from a third party die manufacturer typically takes one to two days. But with Plockmatic Group's ColorCut LCF range of all in one solutions

for volume roll to roll production, new unique customer orders can be completed on the fly, for ultra short run digital label production avoiding time wasting flexi die-cutting.

Based on the same chassis as the single bladed ColorCut LCF500 launched earlier this year, the new Plockmatic LCF520 has two blades and unique, patented auto tracking automation to ensure highest cutting accuracy.

A wide range of shapes and label sizes can be produced on the LCF family, which offers precise, powerful, and easily managed cut functions via its built-in control centre. It includes the added benefit to apply laminates when required



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using integrated lamination capabilities, along with a range of finishing options for labels, such as waste matrix removal and slitting for finished rolls.

In addition, at Labelexpo Plockmatic had a prototype behind a screen for a new ColorCut label cutter LCF840Di with four heads. Important features include digital web tracking from the infeed table and automated waste removal. This new model is expected to be launched at the end of the year, with sales starting from Q1 2026.

With a show theme of "Relax — Taking the Stress out of Digital Finishing", Plockmatic Group's stand at Labelexpo at Fira Gran Via, Barcelona, Spain, hosted a wide range of label, cutting and finishing systems for label and flexible packaging markets. Other specific machines include the entry level LC330 Automated label cutting machine, the Color Cut LC700 Pro for professional applications runs and the ColorCut LC6500 compact, on-demand digital sheet cutter, which is crossover product from labels into light packaging applications, POS and lightweight card projects, as well as kiss-cutting.

"The new LCF520 roll to roll label spotlighted at Labelexpo is the newest family member in our disruptor technology that will eliminate the need for rotary flexi die-cutting for converters," said Terri Winstanley, Marketing Manager, Packaging & Labels, Plockmatic Group UK. "It has the potential to save hundreds of euros, sometimes thousands, per job order. Other benefits include web to print label applications in extremely short run, same day dispatch plus converters can save on space where conventional dies used to be stored."

She added: "The showcasing of this ColorCut LCF520 digital label cutter at Labelexpo will mark another important milestone for Plockmatic Group, as will the prototype LCF840Di that will also be on our stand. We're anticipating a lot of interest from visitors."

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# **Antalis elevates everyday printing with PEFC**

Antalis has announced that its core office paper ranges — including Image Volume, Xerox® Business, Xerox® Performer, and Xerox® EcoPrint — are now all PEFC™ certified. This milestone reflects Antalis' ongoing commitment to sustainability and responsible sourcing.

The PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) is a globally recognised certification that ensures forests are managed sustainably, preserving biodiversity, supporting local communities, and safeguarding the environment. By extending PEFC certification across the Xerox Ecoprint, Business and Performer and Image Volume ranges, Antalis is ensuring all its exclusive brands have strong sustainability credentials and score at least 4 out of 5 on their Green Star System rating scheme.

The Green Star System™ is Antalis' unique 5-star rating tool that evaluates environmental performance based on fibre origin and manufacturing processes. With the addition of PEFC certification, Antalis' virgin fibre office



papers now achieve a 4-star rating, the highest possible for non-recycled papers, helping customers make clear, sustainable choices.

Antalis continues to collaborate with suppliers and stakeholders to deliver a wide selection of eco-conscious papers. This ensures all products reflect the highest standards of environmental responsibility across the value chain.

Paul Savill, Category Manager Office and Digital Papers at Antalis, comments, "Choosing Antalis' PEFC-certified office papers means supporting sustainable forest management and responsible sourcing without compromising on quality. Together, we can make everyday printing part of a more sustainable future."

www.antalis.co.uk

# Antalis enhances 100% recycled Cocoon range with Cocoon Silk

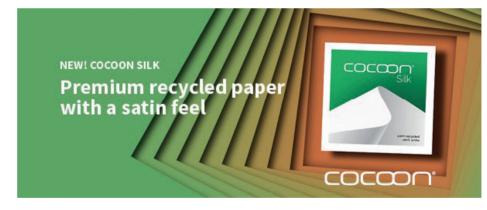
Made from 100% post consumer recycled pulp, new Cocoon Silk is an environmentally responsible coated paper with satin finish and superb printability.

Expanding its recycled papers offering, Antalis has enhanced its Cocoon brand with the addition of Cocoon Silk; a 100% recycled two side coated paper that is the perfect complement to Cocoon Offset. A complete and versatile new range, Cocoon Silk is available in weights ranging from 90gsm to 350gsm, and in a variety of formats.

Made from 100% FSC\* recycled certified post consumer pulp, Cocoon Silk has excellent eco-credentials and is awarded four stars in the Antalis Green Star System.

With its high whiteness (121 CIE) and exceptionally high quality semi-matt, satin feel surface, Cocoon Silk produces printed images with outstanding intensity and has a printability comparable to non-recycled papers. It is the perfect go to stock for producing both corporate style communications and creative print, including: reports, brochures, direct mail, art books, catalogues, luxury magazines, greeting cards, invitations and menus.

While Cocoon Silk is guaranteed for litho printing, it is also suitable for silk screen printing and most digital print systems and is HP Indigo certified. In addition, it is well suited for a variety of finishing processes such as foil blocking,



embossing, laminating and varnishing.

Product Manager for Papers at Antalis, Ben Cahill, comments: "The addition of Cocoon Silk to the well known Cocoon range means we can offer complementary coated and uncoated papers and

boards to printers and brands looking to produce a variety of premium, sustainable print. And it must be said that Cocoon Silk's performance and quality of print is superb."

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#### **New Profit Centre**

## **Print on bikes**

VELORBIS specialists in visual logo bicycles and company branded bicycles, help brands, companies, organisations, municipalities and public bodies to set their branding or message in motion – literally speaking.

VELORBIS can custom make bikes to your customers specific needs.

They have 16 different bicycle models, and when you choose the right bicycle model, there is an ocean of design possibilities. You can choose whether the logo bike(s) should have an electric motor or not (the electric bike option is available on almost all models), and you can mix the composition of colours from more than 200 different RAL colours, including a new metallic look in Chrome, gold or Copper. If you do not know the RAL colour, but have a CMYK, HEX, RGB, or Pantone code, etc. then you can easily convert.

Depending on the bicycle model, it is possible to colour the following bicycle components: Frame; Fork; Front carrier; Basket; Rear Carrier;





Advertising plates; Chain guard; Mudguards; and Wheel Rims.

All logo bike models come with an optional advertising plate that can be coloured in the same



colour as the rest of the bike or in a colour of your choice. Your new print on bikes partner can then print the logo directly on the advertising plate in foil or UV. In addition, there are several unique designs where you can integrate the company logo on the logo bikes.

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### WEDDING DECORATION WITH STUNNING 3D ACRYLIC EFFECTS



Wedding Decoration with Toner Transfer using transparent acrylic panels and ORD Toner Transfer Paper, you can create stunning 3D wedding decorations that really catch the eye.

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The key to achieving crisp, vibrant designs on transparent acrylic is ORD Toner Transfer Paper. This specially designed paper allows your artwork to transfer cleanly, giving a professional, high quality finish. Perfect for personalised wedding signs, table displays, or high impact décor pieces.

#### **CREATING THE 3D EFFECT**

Here's how to bring your customers wedding acrylic decorations to life:

**Prepare your artwork** — Use high resolution designs for maximum clarity and vibrancy.

**Print with ORD Toner Transfer Paper** — This ensures sharp, vivid transfers that stand out of transparent acrylic.

**Apply to acrylic panels** — Carefully transfer the design onto the acrylic surface.

Add depth for 3D effect — Layer elements or position plates with spacing to create a floating illusion, making wedding décor appear to pop off the surface.

### APPLICATIONS FOR WEDDING DECORATIONS

Using this technique, you can create:

**Personalised wedding signage –** Names, dates, or quotes with a professional 3D effect.

**Table or display décor** — Elegant, layered designs that draw attention.

**High impact wedding décor** – From entry signs to centrepiece displays, these 3D acrylic decorations add a premium, memorable touch.

#### **WATCH THE PROCESS**

Check out the TMT video to see how stunning these 3D wedding acrylic decorations look in action using ORD Toner Transfer Paper.

### READY TO CREATE WEDDING ACRYLIC DECORATIONS?

If you've got customer wedding projects in mind,



let's bring them to life with stunning 3D effects. Personalised, eye catching, and professional!

ORD 8.1 (Opaque Reverse Decoration) transfer paper gives the user the opportunity to easily and quickly decorate a comprehensive range of glass and acrylic products in full colour.

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#### **New Profit Centre**

# **Ultima Displays extensive range on pole**

Ultima Displays is inviting customers to 'Partner with the Winning Team in Creative Display Solutions' as part of a promotion for its extensive product range and behind-the-scenes services.

At the Print Show, Ultima Displays' stand showcased a Formula One theme, featuring a striking custom-built Formulate F1 car and Hanging Structure to showcase the creativity and brand activation potential of its display products. The team also unveiled several new

solutions, including the iLLUMiGO $^{\rm M}$  Modular lightbox system, the QuickLink Modular Stand Rental system, a new Digital Signage range, and the ever-popular Fastframe.

Following its showcase of these creative and bespoke display products at The Print Show, Ultima Displays invites customers to enhance their partnership. Ultima can further support customers with a range of business, operational and support services that can be used as a direct extension of their own businesses.

With more than 25 years of delivering the broadest range of display products to the industry, Ultima Displays has developed a comprehensive suite of innovative services and strong business relationships. "We only sell to trade customers and we understand that they often face intense pressure from high-volume orders, shifting workloads and increasingly tight deadlines," says Andrew Cushing, Managing Director at Ultima Displays. "To help, we have created a powerful range of services designed to complement our product range and alleviate these operational challenges. This allows customers to focus on their core business objectives and clients."

He continues, "The success of our partners is directly linked to our own success. Great quality products and fast, accurate supply are important, but there is a lot more to our industry than that. In addition to providing bespoke display solutions that are limited only by creativity and imagination, we offer a reliable support system that our customers can rely on for a range of services.



Design Service: Providing professional creative support from initial concept to print-ready artwork, ensuring a polished final product.

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to integrate seamlessly into a partner's

The creative display services are designed

workflow, providing expert support exactly

when and where it is needed. The suite of

 Storage Service: Offering smart, cost-effective warehousing with rapid access and full logistical support for client assets.

- Distribution Service: Delivering flexible and reliable transport solutions for any project size, including complex international shipments.
- **Print Service:** Acting as an overflow resource for partners without inhouse printing capabilities or those facing stretched capacity.
- **Installation Service:** Supplying expert on-site support for exhibitions, events, and custom set-ups to guarantee a flawless finish.
- Marketing Service: Equipping partners with professional, white label printed and digital marketing assets to help them sell more.
- Collate & Pack Service: Managing seamless campaign fulfilment from start to finish, ensuring every component is perfectly assembled and dispatched.

Andrew concludes, "There is no other provider of creative display solutions with the experience, capabilities and capacity that Ultima Displays can offer. We can be a truly exceptional partner that can significantly raise the service levels our customers can deliver to their clients. We encourage customers to talk to us about their product and operational requirements and see exactly how we can help their businesses grow and thrive."

www.ultimadisplays.com

# Sign Trade Supplies launches KOPA Finger Post Kit

Sign Trade Supplies has announced the launch of its new KOPA Finger Post Kit — a complete, fully customisable system designed to simplify and elevate outdoor wayfinding. Engineered with the sign maker in mind, the KOPA kit includes everything needed to produce a professional finish quickly and efficiently. No specialist tools are required.

Ideal for applications such as parks, golf courses, estates, educational campuses, and commercial spaces, the KOPA Finger Post Kit offers flexibility without compromising on quality or durability. The all in one kit includes finger blanks, post, fixing screws, and a unique drilling jig with a drill bit to ensure perfect alignment during installation.

"This product has been developed to meet the real needs of sign makers on the ground - speed, flexibility, and professional presentation," said Garrick Dartnell, Head of Marketing at Sign Trade Supplies. "With the KOPA Finger Post Kit, we've streamlined the process so that trade professionals can deliver high quality signage



without the complexity, whether they're fulfilling a one off order or scaling for multiple locations." The kit allows users to select finger blanks in

either 800 x 100mm or 800 x 165mm sizes, with a choice of mill finish, white powder coat, or custom RAL colours. Posts are available in 76mm or 100mm square aluminium profiles, including timber look Decro finishes and classic colour options to suit a range of environments.

#### **DESIGNED FOR TRADE EFFICIENCY**

The inclusion of a custom drilling jig and matching drill bit removes the guesswork from installation, speeding up the process while ensuring consistent, clean results. The intuitive design makes it possible for trade professionals to assemble and install a complete finger post in minutes.

Early feedback has been positive, with users praising the kit's ease of use and flexibility. Many have noted how it simplifies a traditionally complex process and helps maintain a consistent, professional finish across different signage locations.

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#### Readers' Scribes

# Something to share?

#### **OFF THE CENSUS**

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register.

His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologised profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census.'

#### **CRAZY LAPTOP**

My laptop was driving me crazy. "The A, E, and I keys always stick," I complained to a friend.

She quickly diagnosed the problem, "Your computer is suffering from irritable vowel syndrome."

#### THE LONGEST SENTENCE

One friend says to another, "Did you know that the shortest sentence in the English language is 'I am'?"

"Really?" replies the other. "What's the longest sentence?"

"I do."

#### **CUTTING STONE**

Did you hear about the ancient Egyptian man that launched a successful stone quarry business? Turns out it was a pyramid scheme all along.

#### **SORRY ABOUT THE WEIGHT**

My husband was going on a diet, but when we pulled into a fast-food drive in, he ordered a milkshake. I pointed out that a shake isn't exactly the best snack for someone who wants to lose weight. He agreed, but he didn't change his order.

The long line must have given him time to make the connection between his order and his waistline. As the woman handed him his shake, she said. "Sorry about the wait."

"That's okay," he replied. "I'm going to lose it next week."

#### **PSYCHIC GIRLFRIEND**

I almost had a psychic girlfriend...but she left me hefore we met

#### **DOG BITE**

One day a man is walking down the street when he sees an old man with a nice looking dog. He goes over to the man and asks, "Does vour dog bite?"

The old man replies, "No, never."

When the man bends down to pet the dog, it immediately takes a snap at his hand. The man says, 'I thought you said your dog did not bite!"

"I did," replies the old man, "but this isn't my dog!"

#### **SALAD DAYS**

A lettuce and a tomato were in a race.

Who won?

The lettuce went a head, but the tomato never could ketchup.

#### **BE CAREFUL**

Two mountaineers reached a huge, deep fissure in a glacier.

"Careful here." savs one of them. "My mountain guide fell down there last year."

"I bet you felt bad about that," says the other. He quipped, "Not really, it was pretty old and missing a few pages."

#### **SPECIAL PRINT ORDER**

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

"No problem," comes the reply from hehind the counter.

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

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

"Well you did yesterday!" replied the customer.

#### **SILENCE IS GOLDEN**

Silence is golden unless you have children. If that is the case, silence is suspicious.

#### MARRIED THE LONGEST

At my granddaughter's wedding reception, the DJ polled the guests to see who had been married longest. It turned out to be my husband and me. The DJ asked us, "What advice would you give to the newly married couple?"

I said, "The three most important words in a marriage are, 'You're probably right.'

Everyone then looked at my husband. He said, "She's probably right."

#### **SLEEPING ON THE COUCH AGAIN**

Wife: "I have blisters on my hands from the garden broom."

Husband: (trying to be playful) "Next time take the car, silly."

#### **CATCH AND RETWEET**

Give a man a fish, and he'll Instagram it. Teach a man to fish, and he'll still Instagram it.

#### **ADORABLE WIFE**

She texted me. "Your adorable!" I replied, "No. You're adorable!" Now she loves me a lot and all I did was point out her typo.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just still keep it on film and they never develop it.

#### **READERS SCRIBES -BETWEEN THE SHEETS**

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

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