



PRISMATIC INKS PTY LTD

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APPLICATION NOTES

UV CURED FLUORESCENT INKS

Product Ranges

UV curable fluorescent inks are available for offset and letterpress (1208xx), Screen (Screen Vinyl 1248xx, Rotary Screen 1288xx, Corflute 2248xx) and Flexographic Inks (1268xx).

Colour range

All pantone colours (PMS 800-814) made to order. Chartreuse and clear (blue and yellow OCR) also available.

Application

Fluorescent inks are tinctorially weak compared to inks made with conventional pigments and generally require heavier film weights to be applied. This may result in water balance issues in lithographic printing, depending on the nature of the job and the fountain solution. Avoid using alcohol in fountain solutions as this promotes colour bleed. Preferred option is dry offset or letterpress. Solids on white are effective, but avoid printing fine text. Excessive UV drying can “burn-out” the colour. Run fluoro colour “last down” at the highest possible speed to minimise exposure to UV lamps. Use only low amine UV varnishes to minimise burn-out from the UV varnish.

Drawbacks

UV cured fluorescent inks are generally not as clean as fluorescents printed using other processes (particularly water based flexo and roller/coater). There is a trade-off between brightness and degree of cure – the brightest print is achieved with the least amount of light but this also means the lowest level of cure and the lowest heat and rub resistance. Business forms stocks printed with UV fluorescent inks would not be suitable for high speed laser printing machines for example.

Prismatic Fluoro inks are produced only in gloss in order to print at the highest possible strength. These inks are readily overprinted with other UV inks however they are not readily overprinted with simple inkjet or pen inks. The ink tends to sit proud on paper and not penetrate deeply in the way fluorescent stocks are supplied. Paper stocks are therefore made non-porous by printing with UV fluorescent ink.

Fluorescent inks have poor lightfastness with screen ink performance > Flexo > Letterpress/Offset. Even at the heavier film weights of screen, fluorescent ink will not last more than a few weeks when exposed to direct sunlight and should not therefore be used for any exterior applications where anything more than a few weeks lifetime is envisaged.

Similarly, fluorescent inks bleed readily in the presence of many solvents and household chemicals therefore applications involving caustic chemicals or products containing solvents should be avoided if there is a chance of exposure to these chemicals.

All information is given in good faith without warranty. This information does not constitute a specification. Users are encouraged to assess the product under their own conditions and for their own applications.