

Previews of FLAAR Reports On Solvent Inkjet Printers



Vutek printer at ISA tradeshow



Solvent ink printers for outdoor signs without lamination or for vehicle wrap.

Grand format printers, billboard printers and other appropriate printers (these printers cost about \$30,000 up to \$450,000). Plus, how you can use a normal \$15,000 inkjet printer also to do outdoor jobs, albeit with lamination (2 year outdoor warranty).

Introduction

Wide Format Electrostatic Printers

44 TO 75 Inch Solvent Ink Printers

DGI (Digital Graphics Incorporation)

Gerber Orion

Mutoh

Encad

Oce Arizona 30s

Mimaki JV3

Gretag Arizona (now all branded as Oce)

New Roland entries into the solvent ink market

SIM

Solvent Ink Printers from Korea, Taiwan, and Mainland China

Aztec from Korea

Summary on the new breed of \$30,000 to \$50,000 solvent ink printers

Infiniti

Rasign PosterJet

Eastech

General Observations on any Solvent Ink Printer under \$150,000

Solvent aspects of solvent inks

Grand Format solvent ink printers (roughly 75" to 16 feet wide)

Innovative Solutions

Oce (Gretag)

Alternatives if you cannot stand the health hazards and odor of solvent ink

Air Filtration Systems

Alternative Technologies

Large format printers using Oil-based Ink

Seiko

XES, Xerox Engineering Systems

XES ColorgrafX X2

Thermal Transfer

Wide Format Airbrush printers

Printing On Rigid, Flat, Thick Media

UV curable and other new technologies

Media for outdoor signage

Traditional Inkjet Workhorses

Inkjet printers with Epson piezo printhead systems

FLAAR Recommendations

Conclusions

Bibliography

Advisory

Acknowledgements

Wallpaper

Large format printers for doing custom wallpaper. FLAAR Fast Facts.

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Wallpaper
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Arizona (a brand of printer)

A report kindly sent by an energetic end user. This print shop uses their printer daily and were kind enough to send notes on what it was like to have an Arizona solvent ink printer. For example, how do you handle backlit with a solvent ink printer.

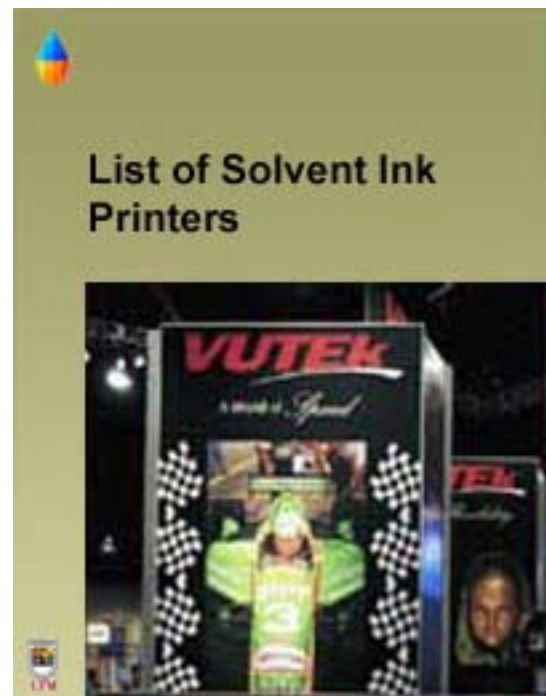
Contents

Introduction
 How much is your service contract and is it worth it?
 Are you a print service provider?
 If so what do you get per sq/ft?
 How long have you had the Arizona in production?
 How do you handle the need to profile cut? (decals for an example)
 What is the real cost: computer, software (RIP & design), printer, ram upgrades, service contracts, maint?

List of Solvent Ink Printers.

FLAAR Fast Facts, New as of May 16th, 2003

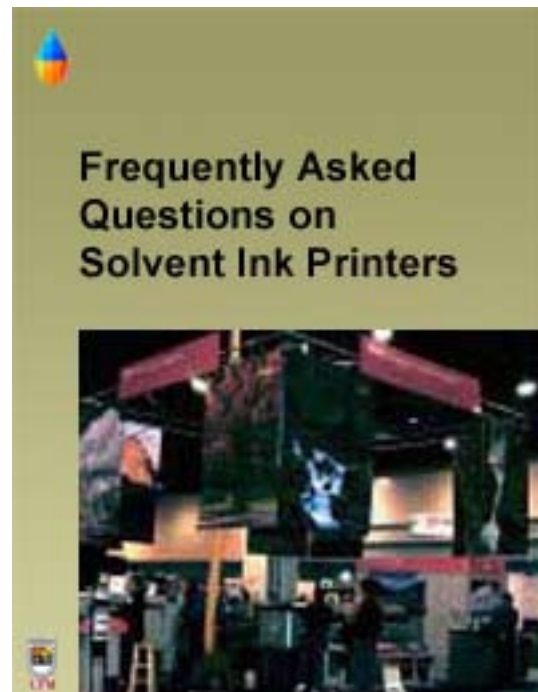
Includes all the solvent ink printers from Korea, China, Taiwan, and Europe, in addition to Vutek, Mimaki, Mutoh, Arizona, etc. Annotated. Includes warnings about those solvent ink printers about which people complain the most. So if you are even thinking of buying a solvent ink printer, it is surely worth investing \$142 (discountable to \$120) to obtain all these FLAAR Fast Facts.

**Questions to ask about Solvent Ink Printers before you buy one.**

New as of May 16th, 2003, updated June 2003.

Armed with these FAQs you have a better chance of not getting screwed by false and misleading ads, hype, and all the utter nonsense. The manager of one solvent ink printer company said "they are all telling lies." Actually honest printer manufacturers do exist. But sure helps to have a guidebook of advertising claims so you can become a savvy buyer.

FLAAR is the only consumer advocate available for wide format printers. We are university based professors and print shop managers who utilize our research to assist the general public, which is, after all, part of the mission of an educational institution.

**Contents**

- Introduction
- Size, shape, technology, mechanical
- Tech support
- Cleaning and maintenance
- Inks
- Media
- RIP, driver and color management
- General or Miscellaneous
- Please add your own suggestions



Evaluation of RasterGraphics-Oce Arizona 90 and Arizona 180 Solvent Ink Printers, Site-Visit Case Study, new June 2003

In their day, Arizona solvent ink printers were sought after worldwide. Today, 2003, the competing solvent ink printers from Taiwan, Korea, and Mainland China (not to mention excellent solvent ink printers from Japan such as Mimaki JV3), make the choice of an Arizona a challenge. If you are thinking of any Oce (or Arizona) model, new or used, might want to read tips from a sign shop which actually already owns one.

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- Media
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- General or Miscellaneous
- Editor's Summary
- Editor's Comments
- To obtain license to reproduce

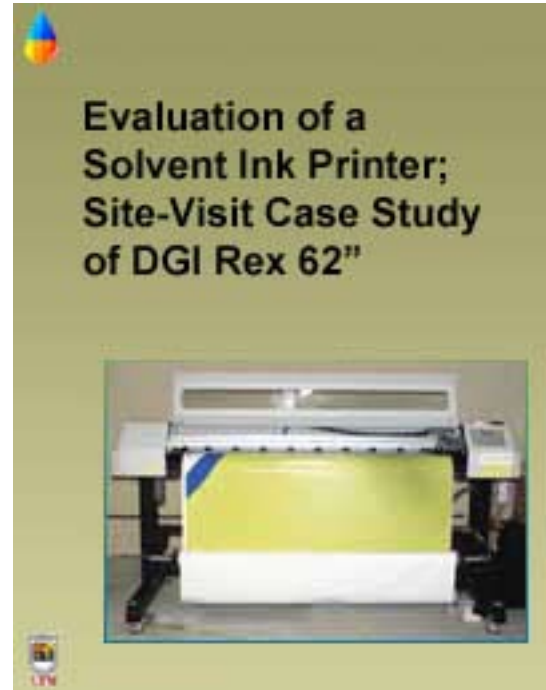


Evaluation of a Solvent Ink Printer; Site-Visit Case Study of DGI Rex 62" new June 2003

Exactly what you would expect from Nicholas Hellmuth. He tracked down a DGI Rex in its natural habitat, took a team from the university to inspect it, interrogated the shop owner and printer operator, and came back with probably the world's first totally independent report of what the Rex is actually like in operation in a sign shop.

Contents

- Introduction
- Size, shape, technology, mechanical
- What is rated speed at
- Tech support
- Cleaning, maintenance
- Inks
- Media
- RIP, driver, color management
- General or Miscellaneous
- Additional Commentary
- Editor's Conclusions
- Downsides
- Benefits
- Profile of Printshop of site visit case study
- Please note



Evaluation of two DGI Rex Solvent Ink Printers. Site-Visit Case Study, new August 2003.



Actually we learned there were 46 DGI Rex solvent ink printers within a one hour drive of our university. So we found a second company with this brand, indeed they had two of them, side by side. So Hellmuth and his lab manager from the university went to visit this print shop. They also had a ColorSpan and a Roland, so was an informative visit to compare all these (we have other publications in other FLAAR Series on those printers).

Contents

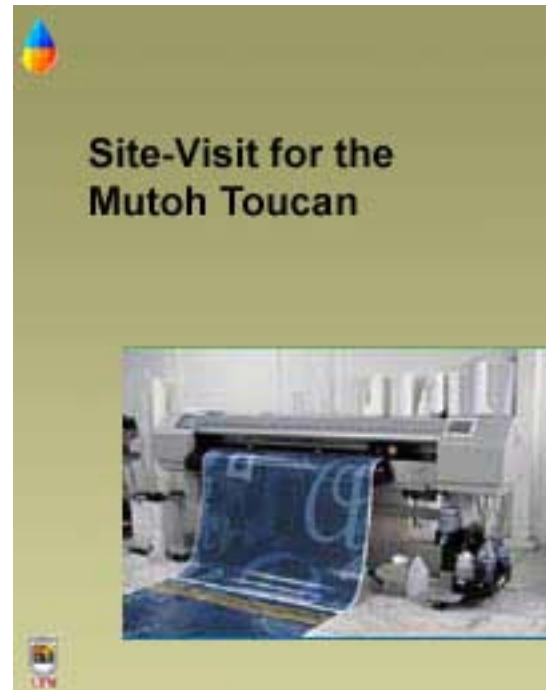
- Introduction
- Initial comments by the print shop owner
- Specifications: Printhead
- Specifications: Printhead; Testable aspects
- Specifications: Set-up of the Printer; Tech Support
- Specifications: RIP
- Specifications: Ink
- Specifications: Media
- Specifications: Machine Build and Mechanics
- Assessment of Advertising Claims
- Comparison with Piezo printers
- Comparison with HP DesignJet
- Conclusions
- Appendix A
- Please note
- To obtain license to reproduce
- Advisory
- Acknowledgements

Mutoh Toucan: Evaluation of this Solvent Ink Printer at a sign-printing company, Site-Visit Case Study, new August 2003.

The sign shop owner that we interviewed has two Mutoh Toucans, but they bought the second one before they found out the quirks of the first one. A very informative look directly at actual use of a Mutoh Toucan solvent ink printer.

Contents

Size, shape, technology, mechanical
 Specifications: Printhead
 Tech support
 Cleaning, maintenance
 Inks
 Media
 RIP, driver, color management
 General Miscellaneous
 Summary
 Downsides
 Positive features
 Please note



Introduction to Wide Format Printers using Lite-Solvent Eco-Solvent or other pseudo-Solvent inks.



If you are considering a lite-solvent printer, even thinking about an eco-solvent printer, you absolutely need to get this report before you make your \$25,000 to \$35,000 decision. Many people who bought these printers were surprised when they found out the reality of what they had been sold.

Nicholas interviews people who know sign shops with lite-solvent printer problems. Their experience can help you learn the full truth about lite-solvent and eco-solvent ink printers.

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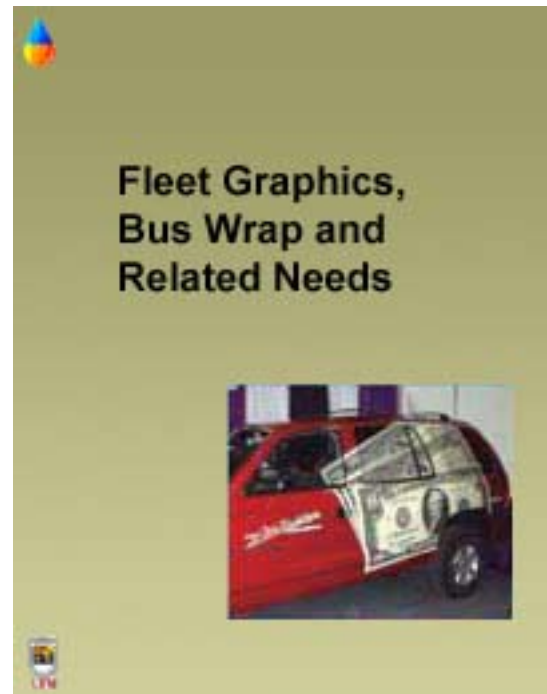
Introduction
 The origin of this report
 Murkiness of the overall situation
 Not all lite solvents and eco-solvents are the same
 Roland SolJet
 Mutoh
 Tiara
 Encad
 Consensus on Lite-Solvents
 Advisory

Bus Wrap and Fleet Graphics.

Must be a boom in the wide format sign-making business since I get quite a lot of inquiries for fleet graphics, bus wrap, and related needs.

Contents

- Introduction
- Electrostatic printers
- Thermal Transfer Technology
- Traditional Inkjet Printers



Oil-Based Ink: Wide Format Printers for outdoor use without lamination New, September 2003, an update of an earlier chapter within the solvent ink report. Now that DGI is also offering an oil-based printer, now that the Seiko is better quality, and now that it appears that XES ColorgrafX X2 has reappeared, it is time to have a separate discussion on this subject. Updated January 2004.

Contents

- Introduction: Our Interest in Oil-Based Ink Printers
- Large format printers using Oil-based Ink
- Seiko Info Tech
 - The original Seiko inkjet printers, vintage 2000*
 - Newer, improved Seiko IP-4500 Mk-II and 4010 Mk-II*
- Raster Graphics
 - PiezoPrint 5000*
- XES, Xerox Engineering Systems
 - XES Xpress 54 and related models*

- XES ColorgrafX X2*
- RIPs for the XES ColorgrafX X2*
- Current Status of ColorgrafX X2*
- Comparisons*
- Feedback from users*
- Limited media*
- Printheads and Body of the Printer*

- DGI
- Summary
- Positive Features of Oil-Based Ink Printers
- Warning, Advisory
- Sources and Resources on the Internet



Flatbed Inkjet Printers using Solvent & Eco-Solvent Inks

Printing Directly on Thick and/or Rigid Materials (up to 3 inches thick)

The need for being able to print on thick rigid material has risen to the point that several companies are now making flatbed printers. The thick or rigid material is fed by various means straight through the printer, horizontally. Some of these printers have an option also to feed regular roll-fed paper or roll-fed media as an alternative.

Clearly there is a need for inkjet printers to handle thick material. But since this is the kind of printing that generally takes place in large commercial companies, the printers tend to be priced accordingly. Most printers which can handle stiff or thick material cost from \$150,000 up to \$250,000. Flatbed printers that use UV-curable ink cost from \$150,000 to \$650,000, though the prices are coming down rapidly.

Contents

Abstract
Aprion
Belcom Corporation
ColorSpan
Ferro
Friend or Faux
LAC
Mutoh
Buyer Advisory
Oce
Roland
Scitex Vision
Sprin
Contact Information
Sources and Resources on the Internet

Evaluation of the ColorSpan DisplayMaker 72s True-Solvent Ink Printer

Sign shops face a tough decision: buy a \$14,000 eco-solvent or a \$54,000 true solvent printer. If a printer causes clients to reject the work after the signs dissolve or fall off the vinyl or chip off from abrasion, your \$14K or \$30,000 printer becomes a liability. In this case a \$54,000 printer would have been a better investment. No one printer is perfect, but you can protect yourself with knowledge. While we can't save you from making the wrong decision, and we absolutely can't guarantee that one ink over another will insure your survival, our facts will help you to become a more knowledgeable sign shop owner or operator.



Contents

- Introduction
- Evaluation based on Sensible Standards
- Standard Evaluation Format
- Size, shape, technology, mechanical

- Specifications: Printhead
- Construction (Build Quality)
- Tech support
- Cleaning, maintenance
- Inks
- Media
- RIP, driver, color management
- Price
- General or Miscellaneous
- Please add your own suggestions
- General thoughts

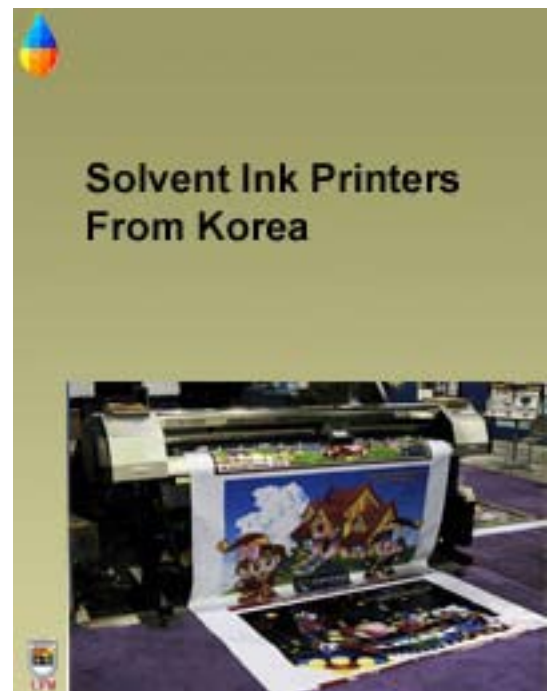
Solvent Ink Printers from Korea

What are the differences between solvent ink printers from Korea and solvent ink printers from China or Taiwan?

And how do Korean printers differ from those of Japan (Mimaki, Mutoh, and Roland?)

Contents

- Introduction
- Aztec
- D.G.I
- Dilli
- Dream Printech Co. Ltd.
- Keundo Technology
- Kwangko System Co. Ltd.
- Skyjet
- How do Korean Printers differ from those of the US
- Bibliography



Is it recommended to even consider a Chinese Solvent Ink Printer?

What about solvent ink printers from Taiwan? From Korea?



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Introduction

3M

Anhui LIYU Computer Equipment Manufacturing Co,

Azero

Duo Tian/Shang Cai

Eastech

Eastsign International Ltd,

Feimeng Advertising

Fei Yeung Union

Fieldcenter Inc.

Flora

FY Union (see Fei Yeung Union)

Gongzheng,

Infiniti

iQue

JinHengFeng Digital Science & Technology Development Co. Ltd

KeLing Digital Image Equipment Co. Ltd

Liaoning Kebao Technical Development Co.

Lyric

Matan

Good Features

Ningbo Sunnyway Digital Printing Systems Co.

PosterJet

RASIGN

Runjiang, Shenzhen Runjiang Advertising Equipment & Material Co. Ltd.

Shanghai Teckwin Development Co

Shanghai Yaselan Advertising Materials Co., Ltd,

Shenzhen Runjiang Advertising Equipment & Material Co. Ltd.

Skyton

Sunnyway Digital Printing Systems Co.

Teckwin

WIT-Color Digital

Yaselan

Yunyuan Digital Graphics

If you are trying to decide between a

- Mutoh Toucan,
- Mutoh Falcon Outdoor (Rockhopper in Europe),
- RasterGraphics (Oce) Arizona Digital Screen Press,
- Roland SolJet,
- Roland SolventJet,
- Lyson Tiara Opal,
- Tiara Sapphire,
- Mimaki JV3, Infiniti,
- DGI VistaJet,
- DGI Rex
- Infiniti

These report Series are a good investment.

If you initially were looking at a

- Nur,
- Vutek,
- or Scitex-Vision,



and are now trying to make a decision about the lower priced Arizona, Mutoh, Mimaki, or Rex, then also these reports are ideal for background information. FLAAR offers independent reports which you will not find in any trade magazine.

If you seek either a grand format or 54" through 90" solvent ink printer, and are tempted by the low priced printers from Mainland China, Taiwan, or Korea, you had better read Nicholas's reviews from seeing these printers at ISA '03 and Graphics of the Americas '03.

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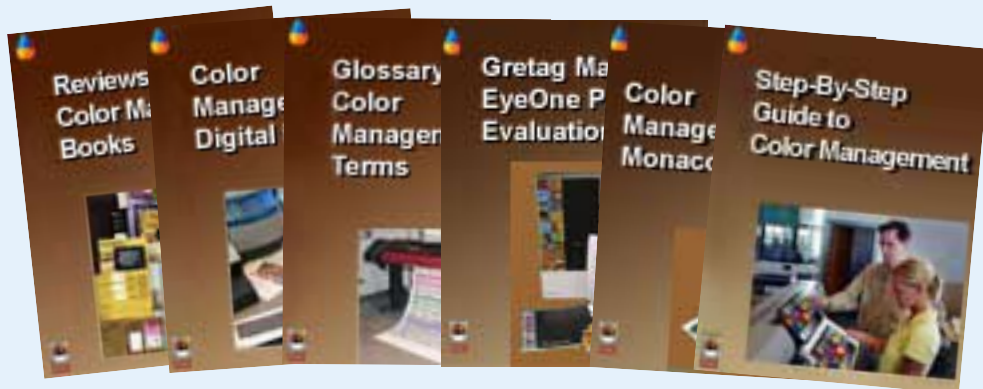
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Color Management Series



Survival Series



CAD Series

