

Make ready savings based on Troika Systems anilox-QC/AMS equipment

Location: Skanem, Cardiff United Kingdom
 Equipment user: Ian Furmage, Production Manager, Skanem Cardiff
 Date: December 2012 to June 2013
 Products used: Troika AniCAM 7.2 3D scanning camera, Anilox QC and AMS software
 Nilpeter FA4 8 colour press

The special demands and expectations of Skanem’s customers in the Health & Beauty sectors continue to increase year on year. Skanem’s key skills in the Health & Beauty sectors are precise colour matching with our qualified ink technicians, innovative processes: peel and seal, braille, tactile finishes, 3D labels and many more. Line audits which have increased production line efficiencies with our customers, cost reduction programmes, stock management and bringing the latest innovative technologies and materials to our customers make Skanem a leader in this field.

Skanem were looking to improve productivity on their press for brands who require improved colour density on press, historically to meet these demands Skanem would incur extended press make ready time and therefore chose to adopt a total quality management system, incorporating the Troika AniCAM, and Anilox–QC/AMS software.

All other areas of the press were being checked, but one unknown factor remained, causing lost productivity on press, this was the volumes of the aniloxs. Based on the research at Paragon Print and Packaging the AniCAM appeared to provide a solution to that unknown factor. Consequently with the introduction of the Troika AniCAM at Skanem Cardiff, for the first time exact volumes were able to be captured and the information managed in a database.

Paragon Print & Packaging volume to density print tests. (Paragon/Troika July 2011)

Tests showed that a volume change of 0.4cm³/m² would approximate to a delta-e of 3 on press.

THE PRINTED RESULTS WERE PROVEN TO CORRELATE WITH THE ANILOX ENGRAVING AS FOLLOWS:

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
Manufacturers volume & depth	3.1 cm ³ /m ² 11µ	3.2 cm ³ /m ² 12µ	3.3 cm ³ /m ² 13µ	3.5 cm ³ /m ² 15µ
Cyan Density	1.14	1.17	1.20	1.22
Magenta Density	1.17	1.18	1.19	1.24
Yellow Density	0.96	0.98	1.01	1.04
Black Density	1.43	1.46	1.52	1.62

The difference in density on all colours became discernable to the eye when band 1 was placed on top of band 4 – approximately 3ΔE.



With the Brands demanding at least 2.4 and up to 1.5 delta-e as a tolerance in print density, Ian Furmage knew that managing his anilox would assist him to meet their requirement with the minimum of make-ready time.

By measuring the anilox, firstly on dirty or worn anilox which were identified and cleaned or refurbished as required and newly received anilox meant that incorrectly engraved anilox could be rejected. The anilox database AMS provides both a management overview and for the press operator an individual roll view to confirm suitability for the print job.

Following a full six months of working with the AniCAM and AMS Ian Furmage has seen a saving of 23 hours per month per press and is pleased to endorse the improvements gained by using the Troika-Systems AniCAM and Anilox-QC products, adding **“we saw a payback within the 6 months of the system being adopted”**

“Having adopted this process we are confident in our work for our customers will meet and continue to meet print criteria set by the them and that when quoting for new business, have at our disposal a high quality print management solution that we know provides our customers with the highest print quality”, quoted Ian Furmage.

This allows Skanem to reduce press set up time by:

1. Ensuring their aniloxs are engraved correctly and are closely matched in volume.
2. Use standard ink and minimise ink adjustments.
3. Prove the quality of their anilox cleaning.
4. If sets of aniloxs are matched from one press to another to achieve similar density, jobs can be more easily be spread from one press to another.

This is allowing Skanem to:

1. Increase productivity
2. Reduce wastage
3. Reduce deadlines by load sharing across presses.

The ability for Skanem to measure and qualify the condition of their anilox has greatly helped in achieving these targets.

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