

Printware

LEADERS IN COMPUTER TO PLATE

Poly Plate Quick Start Guide

Learn how to print silver-halide polyester plates on a coffee break



SilverStream™
Plate Material

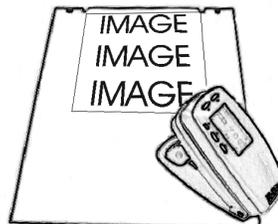
PlateStream™
Platesetter

Introduction

Thank-you for choosing the Platestream Computer-to-Plate system and the high-quality silver-halide polyester plates for your print shop. This guide is a summary of the best advice that hundreds of customers have gained using the Platestream polyester plates. Remember, changing to new plates on the press means controlling the entire process for perfect printing. Don't be afraid to experiment, but start with these guidelines that work in all kinds of print shops. You can always reach our **technical support team at (800) 456-1400**. Happy printing!

Platesetter Optimization

When using plates produced on the Platestream platesetter it is most important that the Platestream image power is set properly. To do this, measure the background (non-image area) of an imaged plate with your densitometer. This reading should be 0.06 to 0.08 less than that of a fully exposed and processed plate. If the density reading is too low, increase the image power to increase the density of the plate. If the density reading is too high, decrease the image power to decrease the density of the plate.



If no densitometer is available, image a plate using the SilverStream Exposure Pattern (available at <http://Printwareinc.com/bulletin.htm>) and follow the instructions on the plate to determining proper image power settings.

General Notes On Running Poly Plates

1. Always use fountain solution designed for the type of plate you are using.
2. Always use de-ionized or distilled water to mix fountain solution.
3. Poly plates clean up better on the press when wet.
Always wipe plates with fountain solution and a clean cotton pad prior to roll up.

Recommended Press Chemistry

SilverStream™
Plate Material

Silverstream plate material is designed to be compatible with all Agfa brand fountain solutions and fountain solution additives. We also recommended the following solutions.

Best Fountain Solution Silverstream Plate Material - **Varn Universal Pink**
Silverstream *Plus* Plate Material - **Agfa G648C**

Best Additives Allied - DTA Contains silica to help the non-image areas of the plate hold water better. Use if scumming is encountered. Recommended for use on presses with conventional dampening systems. Mix 1 oz. per 1 gallon fountain solution.

Plate Cleaner Varn - True Blue Plate Cleaner mixed 50/50 with water. **Note:** Plate cleaner for metal plates is *not* recommended.

Agfa Setprint

Best Fountain Solution Agfa - G671C Designed for small offset presses (4-up or smaller).

Mixing Concentration

| Dampening System | Oil/Soy-Based Ink | Rubber-Based Ink |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Conventional | 3% | 5% - 10% |
| Integrated | 5% - 10% | 10% |

Plate Cleaner Agfa G642b

Mitsubishi Silver-Digiplate

Best Fountain Solutions SLM-OD Formulated for smaller presses using both conventional and integrated moisture systems. Normal conductivity range 900-1500 (large presses run lower - small presses run higher).

Best Fountain Additives OA-1 An alcohol substitute. OA-1 is recommended for use on presses with continuous dampening systems. Mix 1oz. per gallon.

OA-2 A much milder wetting agent than OA-1. It helps to attract and keep more water on the plate surface. Recommended for use on presses with conventional dampening systems. Mix ½ to 2 oz. per gallon.

Press Start Up SLM-OH An etching solution that can be used if experiencing poor roll up. It can improve both the ink receptivity and water keeping properties of the plate.

Plate Cleaner Varn - True Blue Plate Cleaner mixed 50/50 with water. **Note:** Plate cleaner for metal plates is *not* recommended.

Metal and Polyester Plates

If you are running a mixture of metal and poly plates on the same press we recommend Varn Universal Pink fountain solution.

Press Startup

Key Press Pressures:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Form-Plate</i> | <i>1/8" stripe</i> |
| <i>Plate-Blanket</i> | <i>3/16" - 1/4" stripe</i> |
| <i>Blanket-Impression</i> | <i>1/4" stripe</i> |

To prevent scumming on the plate during press startup, the plate must be sufficiently wet before the ink form rollers are lowered onto the plate. This can be accomplished in two ways.

1. The recommended procedure is to lightly wipe down the plate surface using a soft sponge or cotton pad soaked with fountain solution (or SLM-OH if using Mitsubishi plates). Be sure to wet the entire plate surface. Start press and engage the fountain rollers being sure the plate is fully wetted before applying ink to the plate.
2. Or, for conventional (separated) fountain systems you can pre-wet the plate by engaging the moisture form roller to the plate and allow several cylinder revolutions prior to engaging the ink form rollers. The prints should be clean within 5 sheets.

Note: This plate material requires 5-10% more water than metal plates. If stopping the press to make adjustments, you may have to pre-wet the plate again.

Troubleshooting

| Symptom | Possible Cause | Remedy |
|--|--|---|
| <i>Toning</i> (background stain due to too little fountain soln. Usually improves with higher fountain settings.) | Too little fountain solution | Turn up fountain supply rate |
| | Weak fountain solution concentration | Increase fountain solution mixing concentration |
| | Underexposed plate | Check image power setting |
| | Low activator temp. | Check and adjust temp. Should be 86°F |
| | Low activator chemistry level | Fill activator tank to overflow drain |
| | Deteriorated activator | Drain, clean and refill activator tank |
| <i>Scumming</i> (background stain caused by emulsified ink. Usually gets worse when the fountain setting is increased.) | Emulsified Ink | Clean out emulsified ink and replace |
| | Too much fountain solution | Decrease its supply rate |
| | High concentration of fountain solution | Decrease the concentration |
| | Too much additive | Decrease additive mixing ratio |
| <i>Image drop out just after start of printing</i> | Detreiorated PlateStream processing solution | Change PlateStream chemistry |
| | High or low activator temperature | Check and adjust temp. Should be 86°F |
| | Tacky ink | Use less tacky ink or add an additive |
| <i>Image drop out in the course of printing</i> | High blanket to plate pressure | Decrease the pressure |
| | High form roller pressure(s) | Decrease the pressure(s) |
| | Tacky ink | Use less tacky ink or add an additive |

