

# Printware

## Technical Bulletin

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### Tips for Switching to SilverStream™ Plate Material

Applicable Products: PlateStream Platesetters



Thank-you for choosing *SilverStream*, the ideal material for the PlateStream Platesetter. SilverStream has the longest rolls in the industry, premixed chemistry, and unsurpassed exposure and press latitude. This bulletin gives you tips on making a smooth transition to the new material.

#### ⇨ **Replace Activator and Stabilizer**

Drain out the old chemistry, clean the processor, and fill with fresh chemistry. *SilverStream+* Activator and Stabilizer are different from regular SilverStream chemicals, and both are incompatible with Mitsubishi chemistry. When changing chemistry type, you should drain both tanks after three to five days and replace with fresh chemistry. This removes residues of the old chemistry (remember, if you're changing from a competitor's material, Printware will give you a case of chemistry for the change-over free).

#### ⇨ **Remove the Plate Leader Before Loading**

Be sure to remove the SilverStream leader before loading; it will not run through the machine.

#### ⇨ **Check Activator and Stabilizer Replenishment Rates**

The optimum SilverStream replenishment rate is **0.37 ounces/ft<sup>2</sup>** (120 ml/M<sup>2</sup>) for both Activator and Stabilizer. Most PlateStreams are set at that rate at the factory. To check the replenishment rate, remove the replenishment hoses from the working tanks inside the processor, and place them in measurement containers. Run a test plate of known area, and measure the amount of Activator and Stabilizer collected. For more replenishment, turn the screw on the pump *clockwise*; for less turn the screw *counterclockwise* (the screw for the stabilizer replenishment is located toward the front of the pump; the screw for the activator toward the back). Other tips:

- If stabilizer replenishment has been set higher for Mitsubishi material, you can lower it for SilverStream.
- If you run mostly wide plates you may need to increase replenishment rates; if you run narrower plates you may be able to decrease the rates.
- Lower than recommended replenishment rates shorten chemistry life and cost you more in the long run.

#### ⇨ **Set Exposure (Laser Power)**

The best way to set the laser power is to expose a piece of plate media to room light, process it through the processor, and measure its density (it should be in the range of 1.3 to 1.5). Subtract 0.06 to 0.08 from the density of the fully-exposed plate to determine the optimum laser-exposed density (*e.g.*, if the fully-exposed plate was 1.36, the optimal density would be 1.36 - 0.06 = 1.30). Run a PlateStream test plate and measure the density of a solid black area. If the density reading is *less than* optimal, *increase* the laser power from the operator panel. If the reading is *greater than* optimal, *reduce* the laser power. If you don't have a densitometer, you can image the SilverStream Exposure Pattern (see <http://PrintwareInc.com/bulletin.htm>) and follow the instructions. Alternatively, use a standard exposure pattern (*e.g.*, the **Calibrated Target** from the **Output Menu** in the Harlequin RIP):

- If a light tint such as 2% looks like 0%, *decrease* the laser power.
- If a dense block such as a 98% tint looks like 100%, *increase* the laser power.

#### ⇨ **Use the Correct Press Chemistry**

SilverStream will work with a variety of polyester plate or "universal" fountain solutions. One of the best we've found is Varn *Universal Pink*, which also works well with metal plates.

**For more information, call the Printware Customer Service Department at (800) 456-1400.**