

A Guide to Printing Chromolux

As the coloured surfaces of Chromolux Energy, Instinct, Monochrome and Soft Tech vary depending on whether they are protected with a non-absorbent lacquer or are conventional cast coated, the printing method required may be different.

Lithographic printing

Inks

With the exception of Chromolux White, only inks that dry fully by oxidation must be used when printing the coloured side of the Chromolux quality. The reverse side of Chromolux has a lick coating and is capable of accepting four colours using conventional ink for Matt coated papers. If a solid or dense image is being printed, at least 48 hours should be allowed before printing the top side.

Damping

Cobalt acetate drier added to fount water is recommended, the damping should be reduced and maintained at the lowest possible level; excess fount will retard or prevent the ink drying. Printing of Chromolux on small offset machines incorporating an integrated damping system is not recommended.

Spray powder

Always use a non-vanishing spray powder.

Stack heights

These should be reduced to allow for the ink oxidation process to occur.

Finishing and other processes

Folding

Provided the material is correctly pre-creased, no problems should be experienced.

Lamination

Orientated Polypropylene (OPP) or Acetate films give good results, but the laminator should be aware that any solvent in the adhesive must be fully evaporated before the film comes into contact with the Chromolux, as these can attack the surface. Chromolux can be laminated using a water based adhesive without difficulty.

Foil blocking

The smooth surface of Chromolux is excellent for foil blocking. Suitable foils are available and should be tested to confirm compatibility.

Die stamping and Blind embossing

Chromolux is perfectly suitable for conversion by these processes.

UV Litho printing

UV cured inks and varnishes print satisfactorily, but check with your ink supplier to confirm compatibility.

Screen printing

As long as the inks and additives do not contain any solvents which will attack the surface, no problems should occur.

Thermography

Good results have been achieved using thermography.

Further information is available from Robert Horne Technical Services.