FLAAR

Preview of

FLAAR Reports

on UV-Cured Inkjet

Flatbed, Combo, Hybrid & Roll-toRoll

Nicholas Hellmuth

December 2006

FLAAR Report Series on

UV-Curable Inkjet Flatbed Printers, Series #1

2005-2006 Updates on UV-Flatbed Printers, Series #2

UV Printers Applications and Tips, Series #3

New UV-Flatbeds, 2004-2006, Series #4

Comments on UV Printers at Trade Shows, Series #5

Site-Visit Case Studies, Series # 6

More than 61 models of UV inkjet printers are now available to choose from. So which UV-cured ink printer should you select?

Prices on UV printers are dropping too. So now is the time to obtain all the latest information on UV-curable inkjet printers from Dr Nicholas Hellmuth + FLAAR.

We have added 17 new reports this year. More than 11 reports have been updated already in January 2006. More updates and several new reports are being added from April 2006 through June 2006. Many of our reports have been updated as of summer, autumn and now winter 2006.

What little is available on the Internet are just PR releases or idealistic “Success Stories.” But you need to learn the “Failure Stories” too. The downsides are as important to learn as the benefits. No one else reveals these facts, so it helps to have a university institute that works hard to provide the pros and cons of each aspect of UV-curable inkjet printers.

We have dedicated six years to research on UV-cured flat-bed technology, and the FLAAR Reports you see here are the results of Professor Nicholas Hellmuth’s quest for which UV-cured inkjet printer(s) are optimal for various kinds of signage, architectural decoration and unique applications.

Screen printing companies, sign shops of all sizes, photo labs come to FLAAR to seek our help in suggesting what UV-cured printer that they should consider for POP, banners, and other display graphics. So again, all our years of research are intended to assist a wide audience.

Plus we have noticed that our many avid readers also include manufacturers of printers, RIPs, substrates, and inks. So we can have a positive effect by providing a complete consulting service on what features and capabilities these printers and consumables should provide.

Most print shop owners and operators only ask about one thing: cost and ROI. They forget that sooner or later they need to know what components are in the printer. You need to learn more about the printheads, the inks, and UV-lamp characteristics. Just knowing the print speed is not enough. So FLAAR provides in our full-color reports in PDF format what the manufacturer’s spec sheets often neglect to mention.

Here, for winter 2006, are the results of the research of our university-based institute, FLAAR.

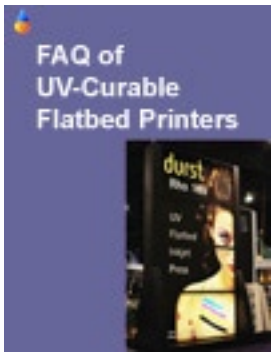
Diverse applications from a Mimaki 605C UV-cured printer.

New Oce 250 UV flatbed.

Thick pieces of wood printerd on with a ColorSpan 9840.

Series #1
UV-Curable Inkjet Flatbed Printers

How to buy a UV-Cured Inkjet Flatbed Printer:
FAQs: Questions to Ask Before you Decide Which Brand of UV Curable Flatbed Printer to Purchase,



Being updated for June 2006.

Imagine if you actually could ask penetrating questions, before you buy? Before you decide which brand? Before you spend between $60,000 and $450,000, you might want to arm yourself with Nicholas Hellmuth's questions to ask BEFORE you buy.

No, we can't save you from every mistake, because some printers don't quite function as advertised. But you sure will know more after reading this report than you did before.

And when you are about to spend a quarter of a million dollars, we highly recommend you invest a modest amount to acquire the FLAAR Reports so you can relax and be assured that you are forearmed to face the alluring ads. This report teaches you the questions you need to know; knowing the answers is nice, but knowing the questions is essential. So this report gives you the questions; the answers you get when you have these questions to face the sales rep, distributor or manufacturer.

The updated edition of this publication by Professor Hellmuth is as close to a general introductory booklet on the basics of UV-cured inkjet printers as exists anywhere. It is an excellent way to initiate your learning about what to look for (and what to watch out for with misleading or confusing spec sheets). Protect yourself by becoming a savvy buyer.

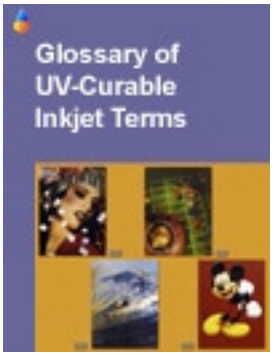
New Mimaki dedicated UV-curable ink flatbed.

Vutek PressVu 200/600 UV combo printer

Glossary Of Terms Related to UV-Curable Inkjet Printers (Primarily flatbed printers)

Updated June 2006.

The FLAAR Reports are dedicated to assisting you to learn about



Abrasion resistance, rub resistance and scratch resistance. How good is UV ink?
Adhesion, How long will the ink be able to adhere to the material?
Applications, what applications can bring profit to your company?
Banding defects, when is this an issue, and on which brands of printers?
Combo, how does a combo UV printer differ from a hybrid UV printer
Flexible substrates, when do they work, and when and why don't they work?
Glossy finish, can you achieve this surface with UV-curable ink?
Matte surface, which is harder for a UV system to obtain, matte or glossy?
Roll to roll, do you want, or need this? If so, which printer lacks it?
Shrinkage with UV inks, and how this affects you and your clients.,
VOC, is this an issue with UV curable inks?
White ink, why is white ink so difficult to produce?
Xaar, how do Spectra and Xaar printheads differ? What about Ricoh-Hitachi?

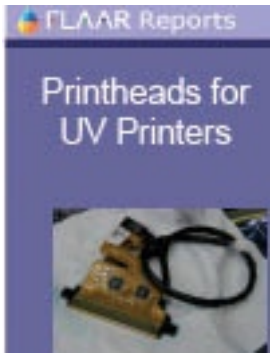
And dozens of other terms and jargon that are useful to know so that you can speak with a sales rep and read the UV-curable ink advertising claims and understand what in the world they are talking about.

A UV-curable inkjet printer is not cheap. So we thought it would be a good investment to help people understand the jargon in the advertising and printer specs if FLAAR offered a glossary. So here it is. We hope it helps you understand both the terms, benefits and occasional issues, with UV-curable inkjet technology.

Bibliography of UV-Curable Inkjet Inks and Printers.

A bibliography is something a university professor does well.

Updated December 2005. Updated again June 2006.



How does a UV-Curable Printer differ from a Solvent or Eco-Solvent Inkjet Printer?

Since many people who wish to obtain a UV printer already have or know about solvent printers, we have produced this handy little report to provide a basic introduction to the similarities, and differences, in each class of inkjet printer.

Updated December 2005. Being updated for October 2006

How a UV-Curable Inkjet Flatbed Works: Anatomy of a UV-Curable Ink Printer

This is a FLAAR Fast Facts, so we won't overburden you with technical detail. Fast Facts are precisely that, a precis of useful information in an easy to understand format.

Updated December 2005. Being updated for October 2006.

Printheads for UV Printers

Why are people switching from Xaar and Spectra to Konica Minolta, Seiko and Toshiba Tec heads?
Quick primer lists every brand of printhead out there. So any UV-cured ink flatbed that you are thinking about, now you know which printheads to look for.

FLAAR Fast Facts
Updated December 2005. Being updated for October 2006.

Learning about UV-Lamps & UV-Curing for Understanding Flatbed Inkjet Printers

New, December 2005. Updated for February 2006.
Being updated for October 2006.

Business Plan (Resource Planning) for Adding a UV-Curable Inkjet Printer and Starting an entirely New Business featuring a UV-Curable Inkjet Printer

Tips, suggestions, reality-check, and general basic information for adding a UV-printer to your business.

New, January 2006.

UV-Series #1, for less than the cost of a single set of UV inks, you can obtain all eight FLAAR Reports together.

Speak directly with Dr Hellmuth, in person

If you purchase all three series (#1, #2, and #3), then, if you wish, you can consult personally with Dr Hellmuth. You can either meet him during a trade show or UV conference (such as IMI), or you can telephone and ask questions directly. Normal consulting fee varies between $2000 and $3000, plus expenses. But, you can get 30 minutes with Professor Hellmuth, at no cost, if you purchase the entire group (set) of FLAAR Reports #1, #2, and #3 on UV-printers.

If you need more time, $300 per hour, but we can usually answer most of your remaining questions in 30 minutes because now you have all the FLAAR Reports to provide tips, help, information, and suggestions.

This offer is open to end-users, printer operators, or print shop owners.

If you are a printer manufacturer, reseller, distributor, or manufacturer of UV inks or materials to print on, please ask for information on how to arrange to consult with Dr Hellmuth, FLAAR at Bowling Green State University: fax 419 372 8283.

Preview of
Nicholas Hellmuth's

Series #2: 2005-2006 Updates on UV-Flatbed Printers

Flatbed Inkjet Printers featuring UV cured inks:
Comparative Guide to printers that can print directly on rigid and/or thick material

Updated April 2006.
If you would like a comprehensive annotated listing of every UV-curable ink flatbed and the newer roll-to-roll UV inkjet printers, here is a reliable guide.

UV-Cured Flatbed Printers Presented at ISA 2005 and FESPA 2005
Comprehensive list of what UV-curable ink flatbed printers were presented for the first time or still being shown during 2005.

Comparative Chart, Feature by Feature, of 45 UV-Curable Inkjet Printers
This chart indicates what format, size, and thickness of material each printer accepts; indicates which printhead, how many colors (whether white is included), and whether the printer is only a prototype, alpha-stage, beta-stage, shipping, or is vapor-ware.

Updated June 2005 based on all new printers introduced during 2005, including FESPA.

Past, Present & Future UV Printers (for 2006)
FLAAR Fast Facts on UV Printers
This list could be considered a "what to expect in new UV printers for 2006" simultaneously with listing all the dead, stillborn, withdrawn, cancelled, and moribund UV printers. This FLAAR Report gives the model designations and status of all known UV printer machines worldwide.

Being updated for October 2006.

Classifications of more than 60 UV-Curable Inkjet Printers
By price level, status (alpha stage, beta stage, defunct, etc) and other practical and useful categories.

New, April 2006. Being updated for October 2006.

This series of FLAAR Reports is written for end-users (print shop owners; printer operators), for manufacturers, distributors, and resellers.

UV-Series #2, all five of these FLAAR Reports together, price is less than two liters of ink.

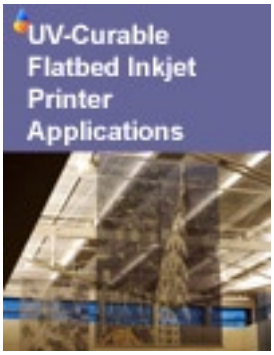
Preview of
Nicholas Hellmuth's
Series #3: Applications of UV-Curable Ink Flatbed Printers

A List of UV-Curable Flatbed Inkjet Printer Applications for screen printing and sign shops together with

Everything you can Print with Flatbed Printers, especially Architectural Uses

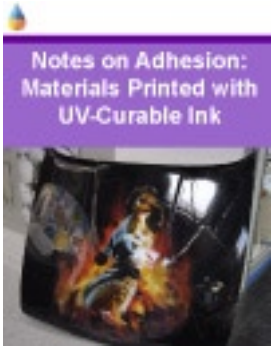
FLAAR Fast Facts format, Updated October 2005.

Professor Hellmuth's background is in architecture so he has a personal interest in inkjet printing on doors, wall sections, window glass, window blinds and everything else. This report also covers what materials to avoid? Materials that do either poorly or which might damage your printheads.



Notes on the Adhesion Situation for Materials Printed on with UV-Curable Ink
Frank discussion of printability, UV-lamp heat resistence, and abrasion resistance and adhesion of a comprehensive inventory of flat and rigid signage and architectural materials.

Updated for February 2006.



True Cost Calculation Chart for UV Flatbed Inkjet Printers under $80,000

Some printer ads hide the true cost of the printer. So we reveal how to detect hidden costs to you can calculate the full actual price of the printer. The less you intend to spend on a new UV flatbed, the more you need the protection of the FLAAR Reports.

New Feb. 2005. Updated May 2005. Most recently updated June 2006.

What about White Inkjet Ink?
At last you can print with white ink on dark cloth, on dark Lexan. But why do only some UV printers offer white ink, and others not?

Updated June 2005. Updated again June 2006.

List & Sources of UV-Cured Inks for Flatbed and Roll-to-Roll UV-Inkjet Printers

FLAAR Fast Facts, so not a long dissertation, but instead a basic annotated list of all the companies that make UV-curable ink for flatbed printers, including a list of sources on after-market inks, plus a note on FLAAR+BGSU university labs program of evaluating new sources of UV-curable inks.

New, December 2005

Creating 3-Dimensional Signage & 3D Objects With Extrudable UV-Cured Ink, On a regular UV-Curable Inkjet Printer

In preparation for 2007

Series #3: five reports, reduced price for all five together.
As soon as the sixth (on extrudable ink for 3D signage) is finished, you can ask for it at no additional cost.

Any two of the above series together, bulk price $600.
Series 1 + Series 2
Series 1 + Series 3
Series 2 + Series 3

All three series together, list price is $1114; discounted to $862 (plus you get 30 minutes visiting with, or speaking on the telephone with Dr Nicholas Hellmuth). We will send you his personal telephone number, and hours he is available to speak with you (and with your colleagues).

Preview of
Nicholas Hellmuth's
Series #4: New UV-Flatbeds, 2005-2006

FLAAR often hears tidbits that are not revealed to end-users. And since Dr Hellmuth is fluent in German, he can converse with people at Photokina, DRUPA, FESPA and other German trade shows in their own language. So he can translate and bring all this to you in plain English.

Plus we can often figure things out based on our background experience. So even if you attended any or all of these trade shows yourself, the FLAAR Reports still have priceless information that can be useful to you.

Our "FLAAR Fast Facts" means we have inspected the printer and translate their advertising claims into a frank and more realistic appraisal of what you really get (which is seldom what the ads suggest).

First Look means this printer is worth scrutinizing closer. In a "First Look" format we answer crucial questions so that you know the pros and cons of this printer. "Second Look" means we have grilled key personnel for hours on end. However we do not inherently accept what we are told; we use common sense to read between the lines. Yet for other questions it is best for you to get the answers directly (from a print shop that has the printer or from an ethical sales rep or corporate manager). So we have many questions open: this is because most buyers are unsure of what questions to ask, especially with such new technology. So we provide the crucial questions.

Third Look means we have additional sources of factual documentation, far beyond the spec sheets available at a trade show. Still, to assist the usability of the reports, we keep all our material in spec-sheet format, with informative annotations and comments to provide tips.

We will estimate that you wish to learn more about specific printers. The material you are faced with are the spec sheets and the advertising brochures put out by that company. We are the only source takes these ads, looks at them carefully and provides comments when there is a question about veracity of the claim.

Also realize that knowing the questions is crucial. Even when the answer is not yet available. Questions are how we all learn about new things in our business. So this is why the reports are all in a neatly organized questionnaire format.

It costs over $18,000 a year to send our review personnel to all these trade shows and site-visit case studies. So we feel the reports are fairly priced. Besides, there is no other institute offering independent information on UV-curable ink printer pros and cons.

Substantial discounts are available if you buy several titles at the same time.

The UV Flatbed Series on Individual Printers

Agfa Anapurna and Mutoh Cobra 100

The most fascinating new UV-curable inkjet flatbed technology available so far.

New, July 2005. Updated March 2006.

Agfa :Anapurna L, Agfa :Anapurna XL; Mutoh Cobra S65uv, Mutoh Cobra S100uv

Learn more about the which UV printer is the OEM brand that is being rebadged and painted Agfa-red and sold as Agfa and Mutoh printers.

New, May 2006. Substantially updated for October 2006.

Azero Creon, Azon, Hypernics

Covers the

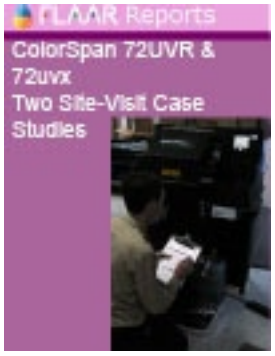
- Azero Creon Jet UV8250F,
- Azero CreonJet UV1600F,
- Azon UV-Jet 2500-R 2W,
- Hypernics UV-FR2513,
- Hypernics HyperJet UV-F2515.

FLAAR Fast Facts, new July 2005.

ColorSpan 72 UVR: Evaluation

A UV-curable flatbed and roll-to-roll printer at an enticingly reasonable price. So many people placed orders at the booth at SGIA and then at GraphExpo that ColorSpan sold out their initial manufacturing run. At present the ColorSpan 72 UVR is out-selling the Zund 215 (which costs about $176,000, so more than twice that of the ColorSpan).

Comprehensively updated August 2006. The most all-inclusive reports are on these excellent entry-level printers since these are the reports we are asked for most often.



ColorSpan 72 UVR (and 72 UVX), Site-Visit Case Study

Updated October 2006.

We visited a large photo lab that has two ColorSpan 72uvr flatbed printers. They do both roll-to-roll and rigid materials. We then visited another print shop with a 72uvX. Plus we have interviewed other owners of ColorSpan UV-cured inkjet printers. So find out what it is really like to have the ColorSpan flatbed UV-cured ink printer.

ColorSpan 9840: First Look at a New Productivity Combo Flat-bed UV-Curable Inkjet Printer

This is the most impressive new UV printer of 2006: even in beta-stage the printer worked perfectly (we know, we went to the factory to try it out, hour after hour). If you are considered any UV-cured printer in the $150,000 to $250,000 range, this report is a must-have.

First issued May 2006. Updated October 2006.

Dilli: NeoJet UV-Curable Ink Flatbed Models

Dilli and DGI are associated with each other. Their UV-flatbed printer is considerably more sophisticated than anything from Mainland China. Plus DGI is well established in the US for several years already. Learn why Korean-made printers are better than those from China.

Updated March 2006. Updated again October 2006.

Digirex Technojet Flat UV (Yishan)

This is the world's first independent discussion of the Chinese printer, Yishan YS2500.

New July 2005. Updated October 2006.

DuPont CromaPrint 22UV

Chinese manufacturers now realize they won't penetrate the US market without a US partner. So Flora has allied with DuPont Imaging Technologies. But how does this quarter-million dollar printer hold up to the challenge at both the high end (Durst, Inca, Vutek) and mid-range (ColorSpan). Save time by learning from FLAAR about what is what in the world of UV-curable inkjet printers.

Comprehensively updated July 2005. Updated again, December 2005. Updated January 2006. Most recently updated May 2006. Substantial update in preparation for October 2006.

Site-Visit Case Study of a DuPont CromaPrint 22UV

What is it like to have a quarter-million dollar Chinese-made printer in your sign shop?

New, November 2006.

DuPont Cromaprint 18UV

New 1.8 meter entry-level printer (new, as of SGIA '06).

First Look, October 2006.

Site Visit and Case Study of Zund UV-Curable Flatbed Printer Compared with a Durst Rho UV-Curable Flatbed Printer

Updated April 2004.

Here is a godsend for any screen printer or owner of a sign shop: an actual factual view inside a successful print shop what has experience with two different brands of UV-curable ink flatbed printers. Be aware that people are still trying to sell old Zund 215-C printers; even the newer Zund 215-Plus has a few quirks, so be especially sure to learn about the earlier 215 models. If a price is “too good to resist” if may be a warning to acquire more information before you buy the wrong printer.

This is the kind of research and publication you should expect from Nicholas Hellmuth. We took three members of the university lab to a sign shop and spent hours interviewing the operator and owners on the performance both of a Zund and also a Durst Rho. You will not get this type of factual (blunt) pros and cons format in a “success story” orchestrated by the manufacturer.

Durst Rho 205

What makes the Durst one of the top three picks for high productivity? This is a review of the spec sheet with commentary.

Durst Rho 600

FLAAR Second Look.

New, July 2005. Updated February 2006 based on additional inspections recently.

Durst Rhopac

FLAAR Fast Facts.

New, July 2005. Updated January 2006.

Durst Rho 350R

FLAAR Fast Facts

New, December 2005.

Eastech: Mature UV-flatbed Printers from Taiwan

Learn how Taiwan manufacturers stay ahead of Mainland China, both in understanding the US, Latin American, and European markets, and in producing a functioning printer.

One model of Eastech printer is now being distributed in the U.S. by Graphics One; see our report on their Fuzion UV printer.

Completely updated 2005. Updated since October 2005. Most recently updated May 2006.

Flora LJII 1800 UV Flatbed & Flora LJII 1800 UVS-Pro

A Chinese Flora-built printer is the original chassis for the Raster Printers RP-720 UV, but are the two printers really the same?

New July 2005. Updated already, December 2005. Updated February 2006. Being updated for October 2006.

Flora FUV2214

Shenzhen Runtianzhi Image Technology Co, FLAAR Fast Facts.

FLAAR Fast Facts, new, July 2005.

Gandinnovations Jeti 3150 UV Flatbed Printer

Gandinnovations is the newest superwide printer company yet is outselling most of their competition. What makes the Gandy printers so popular?

This is one of our more comprehensive reports since we have full access to the printer, to the designer, to the tech support, and to their User Manuals. We have visited their demo room in Texas. All these factors result in thorough coverage.

Updated October 2005. New update being issued October 2006.

Gandinnovations Jeti 3150 Site-Visit Case Study

We visited a digital print shop that had the Jeti 3150 for eight months, so were able to gather documentation on what it is like to have this printer and not one of the competing brands. The owner initially ordered an Oce Arizona T220 UV, but switched to the Gandy printer. He was also considering the ColorSpan 72uvr and a Durst alternative. Now he has the Gandinnovations Jeti. Is he happy? Is his business growing? Or was this the wrong decision?

This site-visit case study report is in addition to the evaluation. You need both the evaluation and the site-visit case study.

If you are considering any Durst, Inca-Sericol, Vutek, or Zünd printer, you definitely need to learn the pros and cons of the Jeti UV flatbed. After our initial visit to this print shop we went back several months later and did a second interview to find out how the printer was holding up. This is priceless information (before you spend over $350,000).

First issued October 2005. Being updated June 2006.

A second ***Gandinnovations Jeti 3150 Site-Visit Case Study***

Based on spending two days in a company that had three Gandy Jeti printers: solvent, roll-to-roll UV, and a flatbed UV.

New, for December 2006.

Roll-to-Roll UV-Curable Printer: Gandinnovations Jeti 3324 UV RTR

New, in preparation for December 2006.

GCC Stellar Jet 250UV
An economical Taiwan version in the price range of a Zund.

New, June 2005. Being updated during June 2006.

GCC Stellar Jet 183uv
Trying to offer a low-price entry-level UV printer to compete with Chinese printers and to compete with the ColorSpan 72UVr and UVx. So if you want a budget price UV-cured printer, you need to learn the facts.

New June 2006. First Look.

Gerber Solara UV2 Printer
Why we at first felt this was one of the better of the newly released UV printers in the budget price class? Yet it has a downside, actually two. If you are considering the Infiniti, Raster Printers, GCC 183uv or ColorSpan, you also ought to learn about the Gerber Solara (since it is not assembled in China).

Updated December 2005. Being updated again during June 2006.

GO Fuzion UV Flatbed Printer
A rebranded printer distributed in the US by Graphics One.

New, January 2006. Updated April 2006.

GRAPO Octopus
GRAPO Octopus (Printing Systems) X4-360 BIG NV is sold under many different names, such as (bedigital domino, Colormy), depending on what country. This printer competes against the DuPont Cromaprint 22uv, the Dilli, Agfa, Neolt, and the new ColorSpan 9840. You might want to learn about the GRAPO Octopus, the only printer made by a company that is a sign printing company. In other words, they actually use their own printers to print banners and billboards. The result is that they have designed a printer that actually functions well.

Substantially updated July 2005. Updated again April 2006. Substantially updated October 2006 after visiting the factory in Europe and inspecting the printer in detail.

GRAPO Manta: Dedicated Flatbed Printer
This printer competes with the new Oce 250 GT and the new Mimaki dedicated flatbed. We visited the factory to learn about this printer first-hand.

New, October 2006.

Inca Spyder 150
Not shown at SGIA, but we saw plenty of it at DRUPA. This is one of the few UV-printers that offers a glossy surface finish. FLAAR Fast Facts, First Look.

Updated October 2005.

Inca Spyder 320
FLAAR Fast Facts, which means we take a close look at the spec sheet and comment on the pros and cons of pertinent features. FLAAR Fast Facts reveal that knowing what questions to ask is the first step to becoming a savvy buyer. The answers are easy for you to learn on your own, but only if someone provides the questions to begin with. FLAAR provides the questions.

Available since December 2005.

Inca Columbia Turbo
Truly the fastest UV-curable ink flatbed available, thus a competitor for commercial sign shops that need productivity.

Updated July 2005 with comparative comments on all Inca printers.

Infiniti
Covers the Infiniti Europe version, Infiniti Xterius 16UVs, and the US / Latin American version from Aeromatrix, Infiniti UV-1606. These are all manufactured by Fei Yeung Union Digital Technology.

New July 2005. Being updated October 2006.

Infiniti UV, Site-Visit Case Study
Does the print shop owner like this printer? Or is he sorry that he bought this brand? If you are thinking of a low-price Chinese UV printer it might help to learn all this in advance.

New October 2006.

Infiniti UV, Second Site-Visit Case Study

New October, 2006.

FLAAR visited this printshop twice, to learn what it is really like to have a low-cost Chinese-made UV-cured printer.

IP&I Cube260 UV Printer: Unusually High Quality UV Printing
This is possibly the best of the mid-range UV printers, better than ones you are considering now.

New April 2006. First Look.

Leggett & Platt Virtu: A Superwide UV-Curable Ink Flatbed Printer
Leggett & Platt has been making UV-flatbed printers for several years now, so has a good head start. They make the largest and most complex system, but you need to compare the resolution, graininess, and surface image quality with the competing printers. FLAAR Fast Facts.

Lüscher JetPrint 3530 UV
A mammoth dedicated flatbed from Switzerland; competition for the NUR Tempo.

New July 2005. Updated August 2005. New update issued January 2006.

What is it really like to have a Lüscher JetPrint UV-Cured Inkjet Flatbed? Site-Visit Case Study

If you are even thinking of a NUR Tempo, a Gandy Jeti, or a Luescher, you need to obtain this to find out what to expect. If you are about to spend over a quarter of a million (or half a million + for the Luescher) then you can afford to become a savvy buyer.

June 2006.

Is the Luscher JetPrint in Beta-Stage or a Finished Printer? Site-Visit Case Study

This is our second site-visit case study. Our first was in Europe; this is in the USA.
New October 2006.

Mimaki UJF-605C

What made this the highest quality UV printer for text (until newer printers came out from other companies that were also high quality for small fonts)?

Updated October 2006.

Mimaki UJF-605R, RII, and RH

New October 2006.

Mimaki UJV-110

1200 x 2400 dpi, the only UV printer in the world to offer true photo quality at close viewing distance.

Completely New Mimaki Flatbed: IPF 1326 (JF-1631 and JF-1610), 4 x 8 feet: New High-Resolution Flatbed Printer

First Look format.

New April 2006. Updated October 2006.

Mutoh Cobra 100 (see Agfa Anapurna)

Mutoh Cobra S (see Agfa :Anapurna L and XL and Dilli Neo)

NUR Tempo II: An Industrial Strength UV Workhorse

See why this is probably the strongest and most robust UV printer (until the Lüscher JetPrint 3530 UV came along). But the Lüscher has issues, so the main competition is between the NUR and the Gandinnovations flatbed.

New update February 2006. Being updated October 2006.

NeoltJet UV Printer

Learn why this Italian UV printer may be one of the better new options from Europe. This printer comes in three widths. But, how does it compare with the Gerber, GRAPO and ColorSpan?

Substantially updated July 2005. New update now available in October.

Oce Arizona 60UV: Why is this $40,000 Printer Still not shipping?

Why trying to obtain a cheap UV-cured ink flatbed printer may not be a good idea? We all want to save money when buying a printer, but what if your “low price” printer turns out to be so low-bid that it is inadequate?

Updated May 2005.

Oce Arizona T220UV

This Oce model is more mature than the model 60, and it has several other key advantages. Learn the difference between the model 60 and model 220. Why did this heavy-duty UV flatbed printer fail?

Substantially updated July 2005. New update now available in October.

Oce Arizona 250 GT

In preparation for late Autumn 2006.

PIT (Printing & Imaging Technologies)
Sprint II. This Eastern European printer is in the size range of the NUR Tempo and Luscher JetPrint 3530: but what about tech support for an “unknown” brand of printer?

FLAAR Fast Facts, new July 2005.

Raster Printers, Inc, RP-720 UV, 720UVZ, and Daytona

This printer has passed from prototype (alpha-stage) to beta-stage. We have now undertaken five inspections of this promising printer. Our comprehensive FLAAR Report is the most complete that is available anywhere else.

Based on spending 5 days with the RP-720 UV printer at the factory demo center in Palo Alto, California. We then spoke with and corresponded with several people who owned this printer, so we have a reality-check.

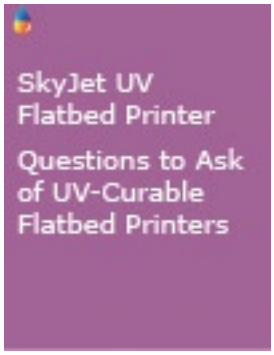
The most all-inclusive reports are on the entry-level printers since these are the reports we are asked for most often.

Updated August 2006. Update being prepared for October 2006.

Roland? Why no UV Printer Yet?
We can ask the same question of Epson and Seiko? Why no UV flatbed printer? We also explain why HP and Encad won't have this technology in their printer lineup. But what about Canon?

In Portugal we saw the prototype for Roland's new UV printer, so can show what it will most likely look like when it appears. As you can see, we travel all around the world so that we can bring you news of what is available today, and what to expect next month. Should you wait for the new Roland printer? To answer this question, obtain this FLAAR Report. You won't get this information anywhere else.

Updated January 2006. Substantial update for May 2006.



SkyJet UV Flatbed Printer
New (June 2005) FLAAR Fast Facts.

Techwin Techsmart 1600 UV (Shanghai Teckwin) UV Printer
Is it risky to buy an off-shore printer with UV inkjet technology? FLAAR First Look.

This report is primarily for end-users who are faced with needing to decide whether to buy an Infiniti, Teckwin, Flora (Raster Printers) or comparable entry level printer.

Simultaneously this report is helpful for all others who need background information on each and every UV printer that exists, especially on Chinese printers, for comparative purposes.

Updated June 2006. Another update in preparation for October 2006.

Teckwin 1800
Teck UV 1800 with notes on TeckUV S2400.

July 2005. This report is primarily for managers and companies who need to know something about every single UV printer that is out there.

Yishan (see Digirex)

Vutek PressVU UV 200/600 with comments on PressVu UV 180/600

Updated February 2006 with comments on the ink situation relative to potential issues with longevity on Lexan. Updated August 2006.

What it is really like to own and operate a Vutek PressVu UV 200/600:

Site-Visit Case Study by Nicholas Hellmuth

You won't find this kind of information elsewhere: a visit to a print shop that has had the Vutek printer for two months. But with a FLAAR Report you get the blunt truth. What is the Vutek printer really like? Is the owner of the print shop pleased that he spent a ton of money, or did he now wish he had selected another brand?

New, June 2006.

An Additional Site-Visit Case Study of a Vutek PressVu 200/600 UV Printer

Whether you are looking at a Vutek QS2000, QS3200 or 200/600, it sure helps to learn what it is really like to have this printer in your shop. You might want to find out before you buy it!

New, November 2006.

Vutek PressVu UV 320/400

First issued, summer 2005. First Look, being updated December 2006 with comments from site-visit case study of a company that had this printer six months but switched to another brand? What, and why?

Zund UVjet 215-C, Zund UVjet 215-Plus

Visibly improved over earlier models of 2003, but now they have to contend with ColorSpan, Gerber, GRAPO, and Neolt. So if you too are confused by the plethora of choices, let FLAAR assist you in sorting through advertising claims.

Since the Zund XY-flat was shown at DRUPA and then withdrawn; since the Zund 250 was exhibited for two years and then withdrawn; how much longer will Zund continue trying to manufacturer UV-curable flatbed printers? Zund makes great cutters, and here there is not much competition. But in the world of UV inkjet printers, there are more than 50 models from over 21 manufacturers. If you are thinking of buying a Zund UV printer, you really ought to get your hands on this FLAAR Report first.

There is no report elsewhere that has the full story on Zund as the manufacturer and the 215-C and 215-Plus printer compared with competing brands.

This FLAAR Report is updated and expanded for April 2006, with additional updates June 2006.

Zund UVjet 215 UV-curable Inkjet Flatbed Printer: Site-Visit Case Study

This is the only independent site-visit case study of what it is like to own a Zund flatbed printer. Coverage is based on the Zund 215-C. The owner we interviewed has had his Zund printer for two years. He is very outspoken.

If you are thinking of buying any Zund printer, new or used; if you can't make up your mind between a Zund, ColorSpan, Durst, or Vutek, this report is a good investment.

This FLAAR Report is from the point of view of a person who owns the Zund printer. This goes together with the separate FLAAR Report on the Zund system that is our own independent observation. We recommend you obtain both our reports, since together they cover the Zund printer from all perspectives.

As important as evaluating the printer itself, this FLAAR Report has comments on the reseller. Choosing your reseller can be as vital as selecting your printer brand.

New, January 2006. Updated April 2006.

An additional site-visit case study of the ***Zund UVjet 216-Plus (6-color version).***

Does it work acceptably? It's made in Switzerland, but how does that affect you? The Zund printer was developed in the 1990's (yes, along with the Scitex Vision VEEjet+, this is the oldest technology out there). Should you opt for a newer technology? Or select Swiss craftsmanship?

Nicholas Hellmuth has visited two completely different sign franchise print shops: one has a 4-color Zund 215; this report is based on the 6-color Zund 215-Plus.

First issued November 2006

Zund UVjet 250-Combi

Now using Sericol ink, so available from the same capable folks as the Inca series of printers. But someone began selling this printer before it was finished. What happened?

Updated April 2006. Updated again June 2006. Updated after it was reintroduced in autumn 2006.

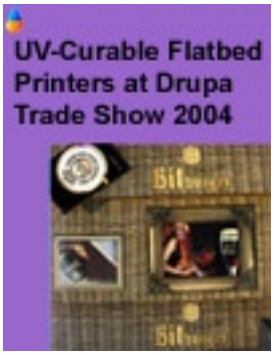
If at any time the edition you receive is not the most recent update available on the date you placed your order, notify CustomerSupport@FLAAR.org and we will send you the update at no additional cost as long as there has been no increase in the price since you bought it. If there has been a price increase, you pay only the difference in the cost.

Series # 5

Comments on UV Printers at Trade Shows

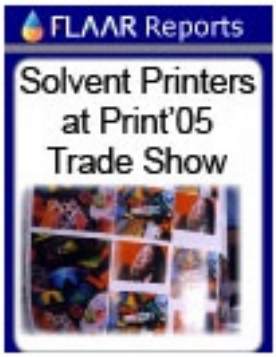
UV-Curable Inkjet Printers Shown at DRUPA Trade Show, May 2004

A printer-by-printer description, with comments, based on 10 days scrutiny of UV-curable ink printers at DRUPA 2004. DRUPA is the largest printer trade show in the world. It is held every four years.



If you are a manufacturer, distributor, or reseller, it helps to know the history of UV printers, and which models where available during each year. So we maintain our year 2004 reports because of the historical importance of DRUPA trade shows (held
only every four years).

UV-cured Inkjet Printers Presented at Print '05 Trade Show



UV-Cured Flatbed Inkjet Printers Displayed at Viscom Düsseldorf 2005

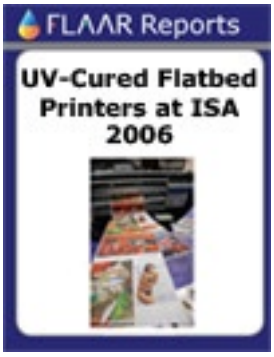
UV-Cured Wide Format Printers Exhibited at Visual Communications, Milan, Italy, November 2005

UV-Cured Flatbed Printers at SGIA 2005: Annotated List & General Comments on UV-Inkjet Printers

UV-Cured Inkjet Printers at ISA 2006 Trade Show

April 2006.

List, comparative comments, observations, photographs in full color.



UV-Cured Inkjet Printers at FESPA Digital Trade Show, May 2006.

In preparation for June 2006.

Discussion of what we saw, and heard, during 5 days at this, the largest international UV printer trade show of 2006. FLAAR had a booth here, so we got inside two days before the show began, while all the printers were being unpacked, plus three days of the show itself. Dr Hellmuth was also a featured speaker in the FESPA program.

UV-Cured Inkjet Printers at SGIA 2006
In preparation for October 2006

Chinese UV-Curable Flatbed Inkjet Printers at Shanghai Trade Show 2006

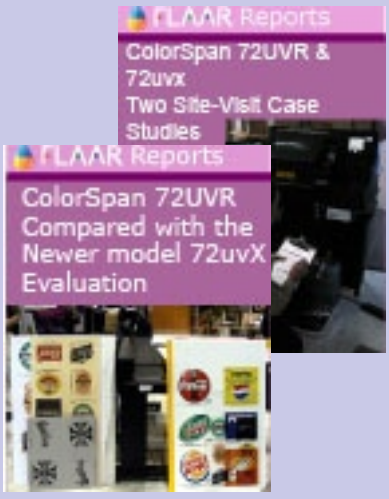
New September 2006.

Note:
On the e-commerce page we also show and offer trade show reports on solvent ink printers and other trade show reports, but those other trade show reports are not part of UV Series #5.

Series # 6

Site-Visit Case Studies

Series 6 pulls all the site-visit case studies out of Series 4, and features them, since the combination of a site-visit and a FLAAR evaluation/review together form an unparalleled fountain of information.



ColorSpan 72 UVR (and 72 UVX), Site-Visit Case Study
Updated October 2006.

We visited a large photo lab that has two ColorSpan 72uvr flatbed printers. They do both roll-to-roll and rigid materials. We then visited another print shop with a 72uvX. Plus we have interviewed other owners of ColorSpan UV-cured inkjet printers. So find out what it is really like to have the ColorSpan flatbed UV-cured ink printer.

ColorSpan 72 UVR: Evaluation
A UV-curable flatbed and roll-to-roll printer at an enticingly reasonable price. So many people placed orders at the booth at SGIA and then at GraphExpo that ColorSpan sold out their initial manufacturing run. At present the ColorSpan 72 UVR is out-selling the Zund 215 (which costs about $176,000, so more than twice that of the ColorSpan).

Comprehensively updated August 2006. The most all-inclusive reports are on these excellent entry-level printers since these are the reports we are asked for most often.

Site-Visit Case Study of a DuPont CromaPrint 22UV

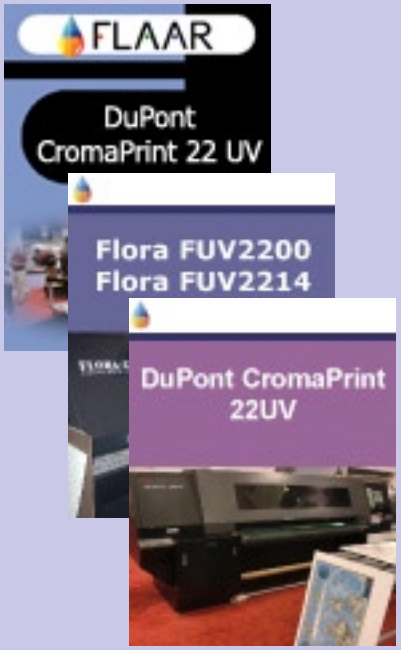
What is it like to have a quarter-million dollar Chinese-made printer in your sign shop?

New, November 2006.

DuPont CromaPrint 22UV

Chinese manufacturers now realize they won't penetrate the US market without a US partner. So Flora has allied with DuPont Imaging Technologies. But how does this quarter-million dollar printer hold up to the challenge at both the high end (Durst and Inca) and mid-range (ColorSpan). Save time by learning from FLAAR about what is what in the world of UV-curable inkjet printers.

Comprehensively updated July 2005. Updated again, December 2005. Updated January 2006. Most recently updated May 2006. Substantial update in preparation for October 2006.



Site Visit and Case Study of Zund UV-Curable Flatbed Printer Compared with a Durst Rho UV-Curable Flatbed Printer

Updated April 2004.

Here is a godsend for any screen printer or owner of a sign shop: an actual factual view inside a successful print shop what has experience with two different brands of UV-curable ink flatbed printers. Be aware that people are still trying to sell old Zund 215-C printers; even the newer Zund 215-Plus has a few quirks, so be especially sure to learn about the earlier 215 models. If a price is "too good to resist" if may be a warning to acquire more information before you buy the wrong printer.

This is the kind of research and publication you should expect from Nicholas Hellmuth. We took three members of the university lab to a sign shop and spent hours interviewing the operator and owners on the performance both of a Zund and also a Durst Rho. You will not get this type of factual (blunt) pros and cons format in a "success story" orchestrated by the manufacturer.

Gandinnovations Jeti 3150 UV Flatbed Printer

Gandi is the newest superwide printer company yet is outselling most of their competition. What makes the Gandi printers so popular?

This is one of our more comprehensive reports since we have full access to the printer, to the designer, to the tech support, and to their User Manuals. We have visited their demo room in Texas and look forward to visiting their factory in Toronto. All these factors result in thorough coverage.

Updated October 2005. New update being issued October 2006.

Gandinnovations Jeti 3150 Site-Visit Case Study

We visited a digital print shop that had the Jeti 3150 for eight months, so were able to gather documentation on what it is like to have this printer and not one of the competing brands. The owner initially ordered an Oce Arizona T220 UV, but switched to the Gandy printer. He was also considering the ColorSpan 72uvr and a Durst alternative. Now he has the Gandinnovations Jeti. Is he happy? Is his business growing? Or was this the wrong decision?

This site-visit case study report is in addition to the evaluation. You need both the evaluation and the site-visit case study.

If you are considering any Durst, Inca-Sericol, Vutek, or Zünd printer, you definitely need to learn the pros and cons of the Jeti UV flatbed.

First issued October 2005. Being updated June 2006.

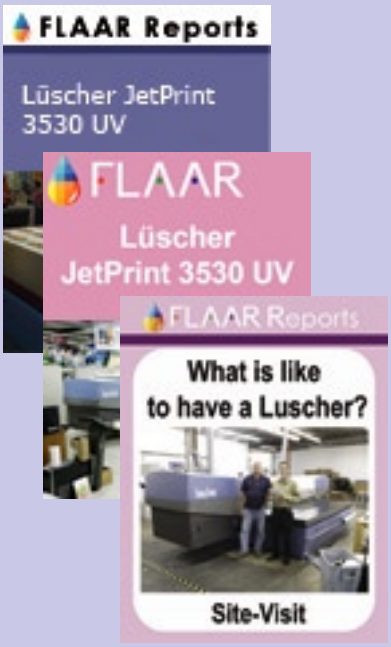
A second ***Gandinnovations Jeti 3150 Site-Visit Case Study***

Based on spending two days in a company that had three Gandy Jeti printers: solvent, roll-to-roll UV, and a flatbed UV.

New, In preparation for October 2006.

Roll-to-Roll UV-Curable Printer: Gandinnovations Jeti 3324 UV RTR

New, in preparation for December 2006.



What is it really like to have a Lüscher JetPrint UV-Cured Inkjet Flatbed?
Site-Visit Case Study

If you are even thinking of a NUR Tempo, a Gandy Jeti, or a Luescher, you need to obtain this to find out what to expect. If you are about to spend over a quarter of a million (or half a million + for the Luescher) then you can afford to become a savvy buyer.

June 2006.

Is the Lüscher JetPrint in Beta-Stage or a Finished Printer? Site-Visit Case Study

This is our second site-visit case study. Our first was in Europe; this is in the USA.
Being prepared for October 2006.

Lüscher JetPrint 3530 UV
A mammoth dedicated flatbed from Switzerland; competition for the NUR Tempo.

New July 2005. Updated August 2005. New update issued January 2006.

What it is really like to own and operate a Vutek PressVu UV 200/600?: Site-Visit Case Study by Nicholas Hellmuth

You won't find this kind of information elsewhere: a visit to a print shop that has had the Vutek printer for two months. But with a FLAAR Report you get the blunt truth. What is the Vutek printer really like? Is the owner of the print shop pleased that he spent a ton of money, or did he now wish he had selected another brand?

New, June 2006.

An Additional ***Site-Visit Case Study of a Vutek PressVu 200/600 UV Printer***

Whether you are looking at a Vutek QS2000, QS3200 or 200/600, it sure helps to learn what it is really like to have this printer in your shop. You might want to find out before you buy it!

New, November 2006.

Vutek PressVU UV 200/600 with comments on PressVu UV 180/600

Updated February 2006 with comments on the ink situation relative to potential issues with longevity on Lexan. Updated August 2006.

Zund UVjet 215 UV-curable Inkjet Flatbed Printer: Site-Visit Case Study

This is the only independent site-visit case study of what it is like to own a Zund flatbed printer. Coverage is based on the Zund 215-C and applies also to the Zund 215-Plus. The owner we interviewed has had his Zund printer for two years. He is very outspoken.

If you are thinking of buying any Zund printer, new or used; if you can't make up your mind between a Zund, ColorSpan, Durst, or Vutek, this report is a good investment.

This FLAAR Report is from the point of view of a person who owns the Zund printer. This goes together with the separate FLAAR Report on the Zund system that is our own independent observation. We recommend you obtain both our reports, since together they cover the Zund printer from all perspectives.

As important as evaluating the printer itself, this FLAAR Report has comments on the reseller. Choosing your reseller can be as vital as selecting your printer brand.

New, January 2006. Updated April 2006.

An additional site-visit case study of the ***Zund UVjet 216-Plus (6-color version).***

Does it work acceptably? It's made in Switzerland, but how does that affect you? The Zund printer was developed in the 1990's (yes, along with the Scitex Vision VEEjet+, this is the oldest technology out there). Should you opt for a newer technology? Or select Swiss craftsmanship?

Nicholas Hellmuth has visited two completely different sign franchise print shops: one has a 4-color Zund 215; this report is based on the 6-color Zund 215-Plus.

First issued November 2006.

Zund UVjet 215-C, Zund UVjet 215-Plus

Visibly improved over earlier models of 2003, but now they have to contend with ColorSpan, Gerber, and Neolt. So if you too are confused by the plethora of choices, let FLAAR assist you in sorting through advertising claims.

Since the Zund XY-flat was shown at DRUPA and then withdrawn; since the Zund 250 was exhibited for two years and then withdrawn; how much longer will Zund continue trying to manufacturer UV-curable flatbed printers? Zund makes great cutters, and here there is not much competition. But in the world of inkjet printers, there are more than 50 models from over 30 manufacturers. If you are thinking of buying a Zund UV printer, you really ought to get your hands on this FLAAR Report first.

There is no report elsewhere that has the full story on Zund as the manufacturer and the 215-C and 215-Plus printer compared with competing brands.

This FLAAR Report is updated and expanded for April 2006, with additional updates June 2006.

Do you want to be a beta tester for an expensive piece of equipment?

Protect yourself by prepping yourself with the FLAAR Reports. No one can predict the future, and obviously some printers have hidden flaws that don't manifest themselves until you have the printer in-house for several months. This is why a site-visit case study is needed in the future. But few people can afford such detailed examination, so we offer a more practical "First Look" and "Fast Facts" previews of the printers based on common sense.

- **Do you print signage?** Then certain UV-flatbeds are excellent for you.
- **Do you print photographs?** Whoa, better be sure the UV you are thinking of can produce photo-realistic quality. Nicholas is a photographer and can explain which flatbeds work best with true photo quality (beware of brands that hype their quality...they may be covering up for less than ideal images).
- **Do you print Point of Sale?** Better find which are best.
- **Which is more important: speed or quality?** (sorry, you know you can't get it all in one machine, but we do have suggestions for the most realistic compromise).

Prices are on www.wide-format-printers.NET. Look for the link to UV flatbed printers at the right side of the page, in the vertical column of links.

We can provide Consulting Services on UV-Cured Ink Printers for Print Shop Owners, Printer Operators, and Individuals

If you wish to visit us at FLAAR / BGSU, and consult with Prof Hellmuth for up to four hours, just purchase the four complete series on UV printers (you are eligible to use the discounted price). This purchase will simultaneously allow you to inspect the FLAAR lab and consult with the staff, along with Dr Hellmuth, for no additional cost (you just buy the reports and the personal consulting is included).

If you wish to bring other members of your firm, you can bring up to two colleagues for no additional charge if they are members of your company.

If you wish Dr Hellmuth to visit your print shop, anywhere in the world, and consult for one day, just purchase the four complete series on UV printers (at discounted price), provide airfare to your location, local transportation, hotel & meals and a special discounted consulting fee of $1000.

If you wish all that plus an extra day of personal instruction in digital photography and/or giclee, consulting/personal instruction fee is $2,000 for the second day, so you get all UV reports listed above, 1 day discussion for UV inkjet printers, 1 day for digital photography and/or giclee (and scanners if you wish), and whichever series of Nicholas's publications on additional subjects that you prefer.

Plus (if you desire, these are not required)

- **All giclee reports (including Business Plan for giclee and décor).**
- **All photo-printer reports.**

You can also receive (included at no extra cost) if you wish,

- **All solvent ink printer reports,**
- **All eco-solvent reports,**
- **All color management, ICC color tools and software reports,**
- **All RIP evaluations,**
- **All media and substrate reports,**
- **Survival Series (piezo vs thermal, and Business Plan)**

We provide Consulting Services for Printer Manufacturers, RIP Software Developers & Companies related to Substrates, Materials and Media

If you manufacture UV-cured ink printers, materials, inks, or solvent, eco-solvent or other kinds of printers, Dr Hellmuth is available as a consultant on comparable terms: you get all stipulated FLAAR Reports, and Professor Hellmuth will fly to your demo center or headquarters (or both), anywhere in the world. He can consult in English, Spanish, or German.

If you wish to visit us at FLAAR and consult with Prof Hellmuth for up to four hours, just purchase of the four complete series on UV printers (at discounted price). This purchase will simultaneously allow you to inspect the FLAAR lab along with Dr Hellmuth, for no additional cost (other than buying the initial reports).

If you wish to bring other members of your firm, you can bring up to four colleagues for no additional charge if they are members of your company.

If you wish Dr Hellmuth to visit your manufacturing location, headquarters, regional office or demo center anywhere in the world, and consult for one day, just purchase the five complete series on UV printers (at discounted price), provide airfare to your location, local transportation, hotel & meals. There is no consulting fee if you have bought the five series.

You can also receive (included at no extra cost) if you wish,
- all solvent ink printer reports,
- all eco-solvent reports,
- all color management, ICC color tools and software reports,
- all RIP evaluations,

Just send a fax to 419 372 8283.

For manufacturers we prefer an in-person meeting, either at the FLAAR facilities or at your location, per our standard consultant package (above). If you wish to consult first, and purchase the reports subsequently, the basic fee is $2500 per day at the FLAAR facilities or $3500 per day plus travel expenses at your location.

FLAAR has a fundamental interest in UV printers

You have probably noticed that FLAAR is the #1 source, worldwide, for fresh information on the UV-cured flatbed printers. That is because we find UV-curable inkjet technology is more practical in many respects than eco-solvent (which is more accurately called “pseudo-solvent”). We are especially interested in the benefits of UV-cured ink flatbed technology for architectural applications, and especially for museums. FLAAR has several new projects to prepare signage for archaeological parks and museums to create, via dioramas and other displays. We feel that UV-curable ink technology is the best for creating such outdoor educational signage.

Your alternatives to information from FLAAR

One printer company person said that there was no need for any of their clients to have access at any time to independent outside information, since “all the information our clients need, they will get from our personnel.” (in other words, the manufacturer intended to be the absolute sole source of information).

I am sure that the executives would be horrified that one of their sales reps spoke in this manner. But it is an example of what we go through in the search for information for our over half-million readers from over 62 countries worldwide. Of course that kind of booth person is our best advertisement for why a service such as FLAAR is absolutely essential.

Most sales reps and booth personnel know the FLAAR Reports and themselves use our reports for information. Most companies, especially if they have honest advertising and make good equipment or supplies, recommend the FLAAR Reports. But of course we can understand that if a particular product does not fare well in an initial evaluation, that this company would prefer that people not have access to FLAAR Reports.

But if the product is improved with better software or a hardware improvement, we will update our evaluation. But we do not update our evaluations on the basis of PR releases.

Why are some reports in Fast Facts format and other reports are Second Level or Third Level?

Our more comprehensive reports result when we have full access to the printer,

- **When we can speak with the designer or integrator,**
- **When we know the tech support staff,**
- **When the manufacturer or distributor make their User Manuals and site preparation manuals readily available to us.**
- **We have been brought to their demo room and/or showroom with enough time to get to know the printer and staff.**
- **When we have been brought to visit the factory so we can testify that the printer is strong and robust.**
- **When we are guests in their trade show booth over the course of an entire trade show.**

All these factors result in thorough coverage.

So far we have these advanced levels of access (to varying degrees) with

- **ColorSpan 72uvx and uvr**
- **ColorSpan 9840**
- **Gandinnovations**
- **Luscher JetPrint**
- **Raster Printers**
- **Zund 215-C and –Plus**
- **Vutek 200/600**

We also have, and appreciate, the cooperation of Durst, though do not yet have their User Manuals, nor have we visited their factory or demo/showrooms.

Access to a printer also depends on funding, since to visit the manufacturing facility of a Korean or Chinese company would require that the basic costs of airfare, hotel and meals to be covered. The same for a European manufacturer. Our university does not cover the costs of travel; indeed the College of Technology at BGSU specifically encourages sponsored research projects with manufacturers, since interaction with industry is a stated goal of the Center for Applied Technology and the state university administration.

We work hard to bring you information about UV-curable inkjet printers, and it definitely helps when documentation is readily available.

FLAAR Fast Facts & Comments on basic specifications

Aellora SureFire TKMP1000 (in preparation for autumn 2006)
Durst Rho 350R
Flora FUV2214 (2000-series)
Graphtec (eco-solvent, listed in that series)
Mimaki IPF 1326
Oce 250 GT
PIT
Skyjet
Techwin Tecksmart 1600 UV
Techwin 1800

First Look Evaluation & Scrutiny of specs, with comments on Pros and Cons (things no one else will warn you about).

Agfa Anapurna + Mutoh Cobra 100
Agfa Anapurna L and XL; Mutoh Cobra S64uv (in preparation, April 2006)
Digirex (Yishan)
DuPont CromaPrint 18UV (new, as of SGIA '06)
Durst Rho 205
Durst Rhopac (updated January 2006)
Gandinnovations Jeti 3324 RTR, roll-to-roll (in preparation, Autumn 2006)
GCC Stellar Jet 183
Inca Columbia Turbo
Inca Spyder 150 (original model)
Inca Spyder 320 (update upcoming in October)
IP&I Cube260 UV
L&P Virtu
Oce Arizona 60UV

Second Look Evaluation: learning what's behind the spec sheet

Nothing comparable to this information is available elsewhere. If you are thinking of buying any of these printers (or if you for any other reason need to know more about what they are really like, these FLAAR Reports are helpful.
ColorSpan 9840
Dilli – DGI (updated April 2006)
DuPont CromaPrint 22UV (updated May 2006)
Durst Rho 600
GRAPO Manta
Infiniti
Mimaki UJV-110
Mimaki UJF-605C
Mimaki UJF-605R, RII, RH
Oce Arizona T220UV
Vutek PressVu UV 200
Vutek PressVu UV 320
Zund 250 Combo (updated twice this year).

Third Look Evaluation: Deeper into the printer

ColorSpan 72 UVR, 72UVX
DuPont CromaPrint 22UV (updated October 2006)
Eastech Scutum
Flora LJII 1800
Gerber Solara UV2
GCC StellarJet 250
GO Fuzion UV
Lüscher Jet Print
Neolt 1800, 2050, 2500, 3200
NUR Tempo and Tempo II
Zund 215-C, 215-Plus

Demo Room: Personal experience with the Printer & Evaluation

ColorSpan 9840 is also a demo-room report in addition to a Second Look level
Gandinnovations JETI (substantial update in October and more in February 2006)
GRAPO Octopus, bedigital domino, Colormy
Raster Printers RP-720Z (updated August 2006)

Site Visit Case Study

ColorSpan 72UVR (site-visit case study)
ColorSpan 72UVX, site-visit case study in progress of the –X version flatbed.
DuPont Cromaprint 22uv
Durst Rho 160
L&P Virtu (report already exists, update is upcoming)
Gandinnovations Jeti roll-to-roll UV printer
Gandinnivations Jeti flatbed UV printer (two separate site-visit case studies)
Infiniti UV (October 2006)
Infiniti UV (second, additional site-visit)
Lüscher (April 2006).
Luscher (second, additional site-visit)
Vutek 200/600
Vutek PressVu 200/600 (a second site-visit)
Zund 215-C with comments on Zund 216-Plus (new for 2006).
Zund 216-Plus (6 color model)

Where possible the site visit is separate from, and in addition to, the evaluation review. So for the Zund 215, the Gandy printer, the Luscher JetPrint, Vutek 200/600 and for the ColorSpan printers, there are two reports on each.

Any time there is an update whereby the price remains the same after the update, you can request the update at no additional cost if you send a fax to FLAAR at 419 372 8283. Indicate approximately what year and month you ordered the original report, and which title(s).

However it there has been a price increase, this means that the new report is substantially updated, edited, and

revised, and the new price is what holds. We are going to see if we can add a system whereby you can order the update by only paying the difference in price plus the cost of our administering the update (a lot of this we have to do manually; it may appear automatic to you, but it takes a lot of programming and work behind the scenes to make it happen at all).

There is no system to automatically send updates (this would be so expensive we would have to raise the prices; we prefer to keep the prices down).

Consulting Services

419 372 8283 is also the FAX number to use if you wish consulting. If you wish consulting, please indicate that printer(s) you already have; what printer(s) you are considering purchasing; what your applications are; and a general list of questions you wish to ask. Consulting is for basic UV-cured ink printers. If you need consulting or personal training for your staff on color management or workflow solutions, FLAAR and BGSU do provide color management training.

We also provide consulting for giclee and décor production. But these are separate consulting matters. However for general basic questions on color management, giclee and décor, and fine art photography, we are glad to include this within the free consulting if you have purchased the entire set of all four UV series. (Series 1 through 4).

If you bought UV reports earlier (last year) we will credit your entire previous purchase against the newer year 2006 or 2007 publications. This offer is only for purchase of the entire collection of all four series.

What to expect

Our style is informal, notes from our notebook as we are writing down details. So don't expect pedantic formality. We don't always write complete sentences (we have over 73 of these reports and there aren't enough hours in the day and night and weekend to spend with endless editing). Our notes are more information than is available at the trade shows, and our basic information, albeit not the Queen's English, at least offers more than is available elsewhere. If we use slang or jargon, that is because computers are called "Macs" not "Macintosh."

The going rate for a Technical Editor in Ohio is about $54,000 a year, so if we edit all our reports we would have to raise our current prices up to a commercial level. We prefer to keep the prices down to what you expect from a non-profit educational institute.

We often have to surmise, to use our best estimate, since many aspects of a printer are kept well hidden. So don't be upset to see the words surmise and "we estimate that..." And yes, we often have to guess. Again, if the information were available (or funding) then we could be more precise. We can't help but notice there is virtually no viable information resources elsewhere. So clearly we are not the only people who find it difficult to learn about UV-cured inkjet printers.

Some aspects in an evaluation require serious lab testing. If you need this type of information, in some cases we can do the testing, but such projects are expensive. So don't expect that we can wave a magic wand and have an entire team measure the effects of some aspect of an ink. You would not want to pay the increased price that we would have to charge for our reports.

For some brands, about all that is available are the PR releases, clothed as Success Stories; or infomercials clothed as reviews. Since we are a university institute, neither of those formulas is appropriate.

We report what we are able to learn and do our best to update reports. It is worth pointing out that no other university has even tried to write evaluations of digital imaging equipment. Most other attempts to comment on digital equipment or software are done by commercial companies which get click-through fees or advertising income. And no one else makes the effort to review RIP software, for example (because there is no money in such evaluations).

Thus our institute appreciates it when you recognize the conditions under which we work, and that indeed we do work hard to provide information on UV-curable inkjet printers.

Most recently updated December 2006.

Previously updated February 2006, April 2006, June 2006, August 2006.