

# Textile Printers



at Graphispag 2011,  
Barcelona

# Textile Printers at Graphispag 2011, Barcelona

## Introduction

There were four significant exhibits of textile printers at this trade show. In past years a FLAAR Report on each trade show included textile printers within the main printer report (which tended to focus on UV-cured printers). But beginning in 2009 and increasing in 2010, we began offering separate FLAAR Reports to list the textile printers that are at each major international expo.



Graphispag 2011 aerial view of the trade show.



## The following textile printers are the major units at this expo

We provide one photograph of each and every model to introduce them.

### Agfa AquaJet



*Agfa AquaJet textile printer lateral view.*

### d-gen



*d-gen Teleios textile printer.*

**Mutoh**; two versions, one in a dealer's booth; one in main "Mutoh" booth



*Mutoh Viper TX textile printer close-up.*

**MTEX**; two units: 3.2 and 1.6 meters, in booth of DigiDelta



*MTEX 3200 textile printer at DigiDelta booth.*



## Missing: not exhibited:

There were no Roland textile printers that we noticed.

## Printers that can print on polyester but which are not “textile printers” per se

Any printer that has an ink trough can print on fabrics: the ink trough allows the ink to pass through the fabric and not stain the platen. So production printers such as the Durst Rho 500R can print on fabrics that do not stretch too much and on fabrics that can take the heat of UV-curing lamps.

HP latex ink can also print on some fabrics (if “backed” the printer does not need a trough). However this present FLAAR Report is focused on “textile printers” which are the four brands listed at the start of this report.

## Small or miscellaneous dye-sublimation displays

Many small dealers were offering dye-sublimation products, usually at T-shirt size or desktop printer size. I saw at least one 44” Epson printing on transfer paper. But we tend to comment primarily on international textile systems and major vendors. If you wish a list of the primary distributors in Spain (for any and all wide-format inkjet printers), this is a standard service of the FLAAR Reports.



*Durst Rho 500R printing photographs from the FLAAR photographic archive onto polyester.*

## Photographic essay of the main textile printers at Graphispag 2011

### Agfa AquaJet

Agfa has been working on improving the older Gandinnovations AquaJet. I do not understand why a new company keeps the same name for a printer that was first exhibited in 2007, as it makes it unrealistic to constantly differentiate the situation of the first two generations (the first two inks) with the next two generations (Agfa AquaJet with DuPont ink; and evidently no longer using this ink). There was so much publicity and PR releases about changing to DuPont ink in recent months, so I was not aware they had ceased using DuPont ink until I learned this at Graphispag.

So in the future it would be nice to clear all this up and hopefully the new generation will have a nice new Agfa-ized name so we can concentrate on what the Agfa dye sublimation printer does better (and try to avoid remembering the earlier generations which were of Gandinnovations, which was before Agfa).



*Agfa AquaJet textile printer.*





*Agfa AquaJet textile printer view from above.*



*Agfa AquaJet textile printer lateral view.*



**d-gen**

In the future we look forward to learning more about the d-gen products so that we can add more discussion.



*d-gen Teleios view from the front.*



*d-gen Teleios view from the back.*





*d-gen Teleios lateral views*





## Mutoh

Two versions were exhibited. In a dealer's booth the printer did not have a full transport belt. It was what you could perhaps call a faux-belt. I have not seen this kind of mini-belt before. Since a full belt can cost between \$10K and \$30K the obvious advantage of a partial belt is less cost. This model is the Muto ViperTX soft sign, in the booth of MC.

In the main "Mutoh" booth there was the full-belt version: a sticky belt. This is the model Mutoh viperTX professional.



*Mutoh Viper TX textile printer close-up.*



*TECHNO HARD booth exhibits the Mutoh Viper TX textile printer.*





Close-up of the Mutoh Viper TX textile printer ink cartridges.



MC booth exhibits the Mutoh Viper TX textile printer.



What was unusual about the workflow exhibited here was that the fabric was printed directly, but was not sublimated underneath or in front of the machine. Instead the inked polyester was moved to a heat press calendaring system in one corner. Normally a heat press is used to transfer the image from transfer paper to unprinted polyester. That process gives added pop to the color (if you do this full transfer process, normally (notice the word normally) you get more dramatic colors than if you sublimate inside the machine).

But doing it half-and-half (using a sublimation machine as a fixation unit) this is a new process and I will need to do more research to learn the pros and cons of the workflow. I would tend to prefer a full system (transfer paper).



*Mutoh Viper TX textile printer.*



*Mutoh Viper TX textile printer at MC booth.*



## MTEX

Two units were on exhibit: 3.2 and 1.6 meters, both in the booth of DigiDelta. It was possible to visit the factory where the fixation unit was made, and also to visit an end-user who had gotten rid of an early generation of another brand and had switched to MTEX in order to get better resolution.

It helps to have better resolution for wallcoverings and décor.

One main advantage of the MTEX printer is that the core printer is a Mimaki JV5 which has benefited from now over four years of improvements since its origin as a solvent printer. In the last two years Mimaki has added new features to evolve this chassis and print engine into a disperse dye sublimation printer at high resolution.



MTEX 3200 textile printer at DigiDelta booth.



*DigiDelta booth exhibits MTeX 1.6 textile printer.*



## **This is the first edition**

This is the first edition: more to come. So please return next week and download the updated version.

*First issued March 25, 2011*