



**Tech Talk From**

**Prisco®**

*Tech Talk #C10*

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING INK TRAIN COATING**

Ink train coating is an aqueous coating which is designed to be run in the ink train and is much more viscous or thicker than conventional sheetfed aqueous coating. Ink train coating was designed to replace press varnish on presses that do not have a coating unit, and normally run varnish in the 5th or 6th printing unit. Because ink train coating is water-based, the printer will receive all the benefits of aqueous coating including faster drying, higher gloss, less impact on the environment and non yellowing image. These products can be run on sheetfed or web presses and are formulated with various gloss levels and finishes.

Inks should contain pigments that are alcohol and alkali resistant (aqueous coatable pigments).

1. Lift the dampener rollers off the plate. Do not use fountain solution.
2. Use a very low pressure on rollers, blanket, and plate. Use a standard varnish plate with only KISS impression.
3. The product can be pumped or poured into the ink fountain of the last printing unit.
4. Most presses can set the keys and the doctor sweep at 50 to 60 percent of the maximum as a starting point.
5. Use minimum infrared energy.
6. Spray powder should be used, as with overprint varnish. Only a light application is needed.
7. Maintain a thick film of coating on the rollers to avoid dry-up in the ink train, which can lead to wrapping a sheet on the blanket.
8. Upon start-up, spray or wipe drying retarder on the rollers, plate and blanket before the first sheets come through the unit. If drying occurs on the ends of the rollers, spray the area with drying retarder. Always spray the drying retarder on the rollers, plate and blanket when stopping the press.
9. When sheets are pulled from the delivery they will feel wet to the touch. A subjective test of coating weight starts by placing your hand lightly on the coated sheet. The coating should feel tacky but your hand should not feel sticky when removed from the sheet. This indicates that the coating film thickness is about right. If your hand feels very sticky, the coating is too heavy and may block or stick in the load.

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10. A wet film weight of 0.5 lbs./thousand square feet of stock is recommended for optimum performance.
11. Initially, small lifts should be used while running this type of product. When a comfort level has been reached with the process, larger lifts may be attempted.
12. During operation, if there is drying of the coating on rollers, blanket, or plate, spray the areas with a drying retarder and increase the coating film coverage.
13. When the press is stopped, blanket and plate washing are mandatory to avoid sheet wrapping on re-start. If the press is idling for a short time, spray the rollers with a drying retarder prior to re-start. Extended press idling requires blanket and plate washing before re-start.
14. Wash the blanket and plate with Prisco Aqueous Coating Cleaner first. If ink is still on the blanket, then use blanket wash. Always use Prisco Aqueous Coating Cleaner before the blanket wash.
15. For spot coating, mount a photopolymer type of material to the plate. A strippable blanket can also be used for this application.

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