



OEC Opens West Coast Manufacturing Facility

OEC is excited to announce the opening of our 12,500 square foot, free-standing prepress manufacturing facility in Union City, CA. Located east of the San Francisco Bay, Union City is an ideal place for OEC to put down roots. The location allows OEC to better service our converter and consumer products customers west of the Rockies.

The grand opening of OEC Graphics – West Coast is scheduled for the very near future and the facility is up and running. OEC Graphics – West Coast boasts thermal and solvent platemaking with Esko High Definition Flexo capabilities. OEC Graphics – West Coast is also able to manufacture plates up to 52" x 80" with both OEC's Flat Top Dot technology and HD. Staff is available within the Union City facility to offer the sales and technical support OEC is known for.

The idea of a California manufacturing facility is not a new one for OEC. OEC recognizes that the flexible packaging, carton, label and preprint markets on the West Coast are thriving and ready for the technical partnerships that OEC delivers. Our new location will allow us to better service our new and existing customers from Vancouver to Los Angeles.

OEC recognizes the potential for growth in this region. "We are excited and poised to offer the latest technology available in the market directly to the West Coast" according to OEC President, Jeff Schloesser. "As with all our operations, when doing business with Union City, our customers will be assured the experience and expertise of our entire national team." If you'd like to learn more about what OEC Graphics – West Coast can offer your company, please contact Brent Fulkerson at 920-420-9910.

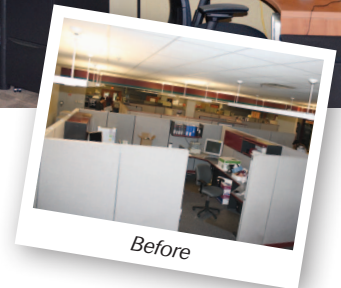
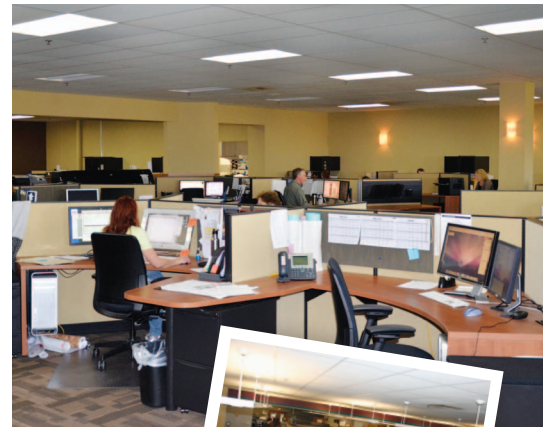
OEC GRAPHICS – WEST COAST

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OEC RENOVATION BRINGS MAJOR CHANGES

OEC has undergone a sort of extreme office makeover in the past year. In an effort to improve OEC's security, data center, energy efficiency and aesthetics, more than half of the building has been renovated. The project started in August of 2010 and ended almost exactly one year later. Following are the highlights:

Production Room: OEC's production area was carefully redesigned to accommodate teams of operators that work together on their designated clients. To achieve this, OEC opened up the visual space and added new workstations grouped in pods. The furniture, carpet and wall color were replaced for a warmer, more modern feel. An emphasis was placed on energy efficient lighting which combines overhead fluorescents with wall sconces. The workstations were also put on emergency power in case of an outage.



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Ask Dick: Sleeve Life

Trade Show News

The subject of Photopolymer plate and/or Seamex® sleeve life expectancy is frequently brought up to OEC Graphics by printers. A common question is:

“What kind of mileage/life can I expect from Seamex sleeves and/or photopolymer plates”?

Many influencing factors contribute to plate life and/or plate wear. As such, the question is impossible to answer without qualifications.

My answer to this question is:

“If all of the processing and operating conditions are the same in the manufacture and printing with either Seamex continuous sleeves or digitally imaged photopolymer plates, plate life is expected to be no less than equal. In the case of repeat print runs, there is no demounting and remounting of plates with Seamex, and no chance for plate damage due to same”.

Seamex is photopolymer bonded to a base sleeve, with or without compressible foam in the construction. It is vulcanized or merged to make it seamless or continuous, that is, no plate gap. It is then digitally imaged in-the-round and processed as would be a solvent washed flat plate. The photopolymer on a Seamex sleeve does not have the polyester support on the back like a flat plate. It is photopolymer adhered directly to the sleeve or compressible foam.

The following are some factors influencing Seamex/photopolymer plate life; the accompanying list is definitely not all-inclusive:

- The type of compressible foam; density, thickness, uniformity
- The properties / characteristics of the photopolymer such as chemical composition, durometer and relief
- Analog / digital plates – Seamex is digitally imaged
- Line screen, in the case of screened images
- Photopolymer processing conditions
- Ink system – solvent, e.g. – alcohol / co-solvent / water / UV
- Ink pigments
- Ink formulation
- Ink drying rate
- Solvent blend – acetate / alcohol ratio, and other solvents

- The use of reclaimed solvent in the printing / plate cleaning process
- pH, in the case of water-based ink
- Plate cleaning methods – tools and cleaners
- Mechanical condition of the press and components
- Condition of impression rolls or central impression cylinder
- Anilox roll concentricity / total indicated run out (TIR)
- Print cylinder concentricity (TIR)
- Between color dryer temperature / air flow balance
- Over impression / anilox pressure
- Storage conditions – exposure to white light or ozone
- Handling – adequate drying, mounting and de-mounting
- Print substrate surface roughness / smoothness
- Speed match / mismatch



The use of reclaimed solvents for dilution or cleaning in the printing process should be closely monitored. The combined solvents in the reclaimed blend could have a detrimental effect on photopolymer flat plates or Seamex. Components in the blend can be separated, analyzed and identified by performing gas chromatograph (GC) and mass spectrometry (MS) tests. GC can separate volatile and semi-volatile compounds to great resolution. MS can provide information to provide exact identification. Photopolymer has a low tolerance for ketones, common esters, aliphatic hydrocarbons and a few others. Do not forget to consider the solvents that are in the base inks coming to press, before dilution.

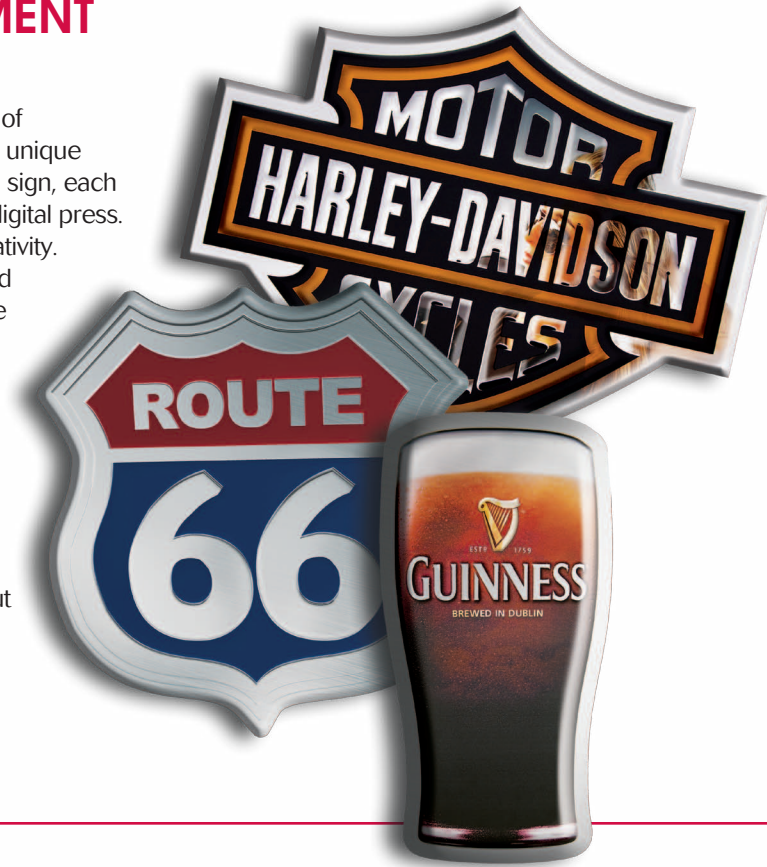
Following use, ensure that Seamex sleeves and or photopolymer plates are clean and thoroughly dry before placing back into storage.

Attention to operating conditions, proper cleaning and storage will ensure longevity and peak performance. ■

OEC MAKES A STAINLESS STATEMENT WITH CHROMEDOMZ

ChromeDomz is a brand new product that combines the durability of heavy duty steel with the flash of colored graphics for a completely unique promotional piece. Made from a three-dimensional mirror-polished sign, each ChromeDomz is custom laser cut then printed on with a full color digital press. Any image can be printed on the sign; it is open to all levels of creativity. ChromeDomz are ideal for company logos, team sports awards and point-of-purchase. They can be purchased in low quantities and are reasonably priced. The best part is that ChromeDomz are fade resistant, scratch resistant and made to last a lifetime!

OEC is excited about the introduction of ChromeDomz. Michael Kurtz, Lead Sales Representative, explains "Our brand messaging team worked hard to refine the product through its development phase and ready it for the marketplace. We have already received extremely positive feedback and look forward to further sales growth." If you or your company is interested in hearing more about ChromeDomz, please contact **Michael Kurtz at 920-213-8723**.



OEC RENOVATION BRINGS MAJOR CHANGES *(Continued From Cover)*

Seamex Clean Room: Air filtration (HVAC) upgrades were made to the Seamex production area to ensure a clean manufacturing environment.



Secure Data Room: OEC's data room was put in place to provide a secure and controlled environment for OEC's servers. The life safety support systems and network have a backup electrical generator insuring building and data safety. Additional fiberoptics were added to improve data transfer rate speeds and allow for nightly remote backups of all systems.

Management Station Restructuring: Adjacent to the new production area are a series of workstations for the different production managers. Here, the managers are grouped together within close proximity to the production staff. Nearby an additional conference room for internal meetings was added.

Display Graphics Production Area: Demolition had to occur in order to accommodate OEC's new large format press. Offices were removed and more space was designated to house all of OEC's digital presses in a clean room environment. The department is now prepared for challenges of an increased workflow.

Bathrooms: All bathroom facilities within the building were redesigned and upgraded. Touchless sinks, toilets and waste baskets were installed to prevent the spread of germs.

The transformation of OEC was a gradual process. According to Lou Kiefer, OEC's Facilities Manager, "OEC's development changed production needs every year and this renovation was the culmination of required changes. Building safety, redesigning filtration, adding energy efficient lighting and recognizing how to improve workflows all drove the project forward." Although a lengthy process, OEC's renovation has definitely improved efficiencies and according to employees, has made it a better place to work. ■



VISUAL INSIGHTS

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TRADE SHOW NEWS

OEC took part in the tabletop exhibition at the Sustainability Packaging Coalition's (SPC) Forum held September 20-22nd in Dallas, TX. Held at the same time as the SPC Fall Meeting, the exhibition gave OEC the opportunity to present OEC ECO solutions to key players in the packaging arena.

OEC attended Pack Expo, September 26-28th in Las Vegas. A record 25,000+ attendees visited this show where OEC was present to further bolster our name and new facility among the West Coast marketplace.

OEC played an important role in the recent FTA "Color In Focus" fall



meeting held October 10-12 at the Marriott Union Station in St. Louis, MO. OEC not only exhibited, but Marshall Hogenson, a member of OEC's Business Development Team was featured as the emcee. Filled with nearly 300 printers, suppliers, consumer product companies, educators and students, the meeting mixed speakers with tabletop sessions resulting in record attendance and outstanding evaluations. Marshall received rave reviews for his emcee skills as well. Marshall shared "It was a great opportunity to be part of such a well constructed and delivered conference and represent OEC at such an influential industry gathering." ■

OEC HOLIDAY HOURS

In observation of the holiday season, OEC Graphics will be closed the following days:

Thursday, November 24th -
Friday, November 25th

Friday, December 23rd -
Monday, December 26th

Monday, January 2nd

Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS