

Tech Tip 127

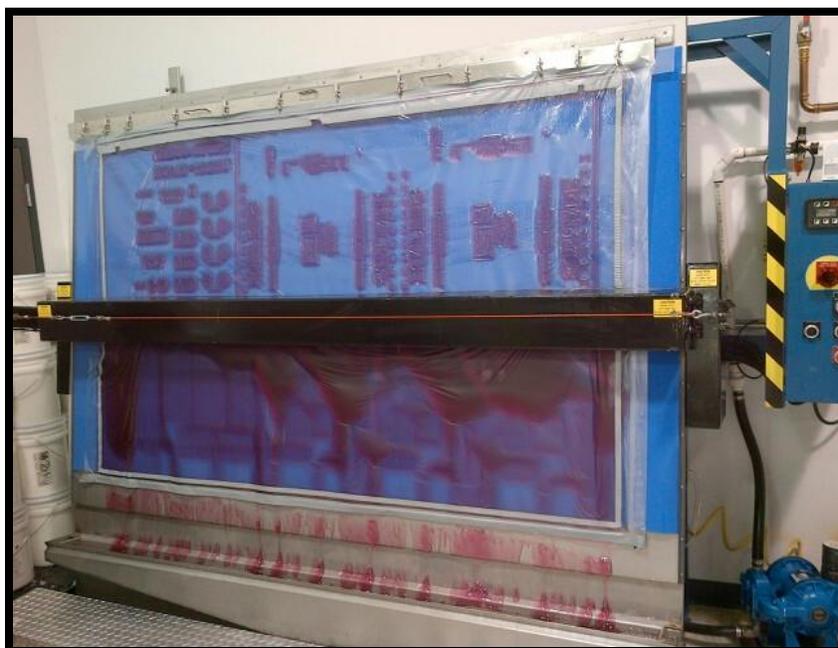
Optimizing Reclaim Efficiency

Reclaim efficiency can be greatly impacted by the type of plate being manufactured (conventional vs. in-position), the type of copy (large block solids vs. smaller image elements), plate thickness, resin type, and plate relief. The following are general tips to help platemakers improve their overall reclaim efficiency with minimal impact to their current equipment setup.

USE OF COMPRESSIBLE MATERIALS

One of the simplest ways to greatly improve efficiency is by mounting compressible foams on the reclaim system itself, as shown below. One such option is RBak, mounted with the foam side to the reclaim board and the polyester backing towards the plate.





REDUCTION IN RECLAIM ROLLER SPEED

Running the reclaim slower is not as effective as the compressible material option, but is advantageous in that it does not require the use of another consumable. The downside to this technique is a decrease in productivity.

INCREASE IN PRESSURE

Increased pressure will push the roller deeper into the printing plate, allowing for greater removal of uncured resin. Typical ranges of incoming air pressure that are used are 50 to 60 psi. Limitations on pressure may be present due to house air pressure. Additionally, the platemaker may want to evaluate the impact of increased pressure on any small text or line work present in the plate.

USE OF MULTIPLE PASSES

While simple, the use of multiple passes is an effective means of generating greater efficiency, but it will reduce productivity.

INTRODUCTION OF HEAT

Incorporating heat into the roller reclaim scenario is a more difficult option that would likely require a modification to the device itself. This method has not been proven to be easy and effective, and is therefore not recommended.

