


PRESS TROUBLESHOOTING

MISCELLANEOUS PROBLEMS, THEIR CAUSES, AND REMEDIES

PROBLEM	DEFINITION	CAUSE(S)	REMEDY(IES)
SCUMMING 	Clear areas of the plate pick up ink.	1. Insufficient amount of fountain solution. 2. Insufficient dampener-form to plate pressure 3. Dirty dampeners. 4. Fountain solution pH incorrect. 5. Oxidation of plate.	1. Increase water ratchet or speed control. 2. Readjust dampener-form to plate pressure. 3. Clean dampeners. 4. Check pH and correct if necessary. 5. Clean and gum plate.
TINTING	Uniform, light colored tint over the entire sheet.	1. Dirty dampeners. 2. Fountain pH too low. 3. Ink breaking down in fountain solution that has proper pH.	1. Clean dampeners. 2. Check pH and correct as necessary. 3. Notify ink manufacturer; replace ink.
FILLING UP	Halftones and type fill in with ink.	1. Ink is too tacky. 2. Too much ink.	1. Reduce tack using varnish. 2. Reduce ink flow; remove some ink from rollers.
PILING	Ink builds up on the blanket.	1. Ink is too tacky. 2. pH of fountain solution is incorrect.	1. Reduce tack using varnish. 2. Check and correct pH.
SET-OFF	Ink from one sheet transfers to the back of the next sheet in the delivery pile.	1. Too much ink. 2. Ink lacks drier. 3. Static electricity in paper. 4. Coated paper doesn't absorb ink quickly. 5. Fountain pH too low.	1. Reduce ink flow. 2. Use properly formulated ink; add drier. 3. Use a static eliminator. 4. Use anti-set-off spray. 5. Correct pH.
PICKING	Hickies appear in image areas of the plate.	1. Ink too tacky—it pulls fibers of paper into the ink. 2. Paper has lint on the surface. 3. Stock is poorly coated.	1. Reduce tack using reducing varnish; use properly formulated ink. 2. Use better grade of paper. 3. Use better grade of paper.

PROBLEM	DEFINITION	CAUSE(S)	REMEDY(IES)
ROLLER STRIPPING	Areas of ink rollers do not pick up ink.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pH of fountain solution too low (too strong) 2. Ink rollers are glazed (shiny) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check and correct pH. 2. Remove glaze with pumice or cleanser and water, then wash rollers with water miscible solvent.
SPRAYING	Ink flies off the rollers at high speeds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If dots of ink appear on the press, the ink's viscosity is too low. 2. If lines of ink appear on the press, the ink's viscosity is too high. 3. Too much ink. 4. Ink rollers are worn or incorrectly set. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use an ink with higher viscosity. 2. Use an ink with lower viscosity or thin ink with varnish. 3. Reduce ink flow. 4. Check condition and setting of rollers.
GREY TYPE	Printing is too light	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorrect ink form roller pressure. 2. Too much water. 3. Too little ink. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjust ink-form to plate pressure. 2. Reduce water flow. 3. Increase ink flow.
CHALKING	Ink dries too quickly and fails to bond to the sheet. The ink can be wiped off the paper.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient varnish in the ink. 2. Too much drier in the ink. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use properly formulated ink; add varnish. 2. Use properly formulated ink with less drier.
RUNNING	Ink penetrates the paper.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ink is too thin. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace ink with an ink with higher body.
HICKIES	Small white spots in solid areas of the image.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bits of ink skin in the rollers. 2. Paper has loose fibers. 3. Ink too tacky. 4. Fibers of molleton are coming off dampener rollers. 5. Cracked ink rollers or blanket. 6. Particles of anti-setoff powder in ink. 7. Dust falling into ink rollers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid putting ink skin in the fountain—remove skin carefully. 2. Wind paper before loading it into the feeder. 3. Use properly formulated ink: add varnish to ink. 4. Replace worn molletons. 5. Check and replace worn rollers or blanket. 6. Use as little spray as possible. 7. Keep pressroom dust-free.