Digital Preset with InkZone

Feed the Press

The information contained in digital imaging data has great potential for shortening make-ready times and saving expensive paper during the printing process. This financially interesting option often goes unused, especially with offset machines without the CIP3/4 interface. Digital Information Ltd. is the only manufacturer in the world to offer a solution for presetting ink zones on printing machines from almost all established manufacturers.

Digital presetting of the ink keys

InkZone extends DI-Plot, the Rip-independent formproof solution, by a new component and brings manufacture-independent workflow all the way to the printing machine. Now, bitmap data calculated by DI-Plot and used for the formproof can be simultaneously used for presetting the ink keys on the printing machine. InkZone can be used with all popular printing machine types. Existing offset machines without digitally preset ink keys can be upgraded with InkZone simply and economically.

More productivity, greater efficiency

Data calculated for film and plate imaging provide the printer with reliable information for digitally presetting the ink keys. Numerous advantages are the result, which go to boost the productivity and quality of the printing process: much quicker attainment of the correct ink feed, shorter start-up times, drastic savings in waste and 100% reproducibility with repeat orders, because the same digital data are referenced all the time.

InkZone Box

InkZone Box also uses DI-Plot for calculating ink zone setting values on printing machines. Either CIP3/4 files or direct InkZone files can be generated from DI-Plot. InkZone files are input into the InkZone Box via Ethernet. After release of the required job via touchscreen, the files are written to the printing machine data carrier in the required format (e.g. Heidelberg's Chipcard;

The InkZone Box is the heart of InkZone

MAN Roland's Jobcard; KBA floppy, etc.). Both DI-Plot and InkZone support hotfolder technology for automation of sequences.

Ink profile with InkZone Print

In addition to writing the ink zone values to the respective printing machine manufacturer's data carrier, it is possible to output the values on a laser or inkjet printer using InkZone Print. The printer presets the ink zones manually on the printing machine control console using bar graphs containing the allocated numerical values. InkZone Print also enables precise calculation of the average ink consumption for each printing job – a function that can be crucial to any printing house where expensive inks are an important cost factor.
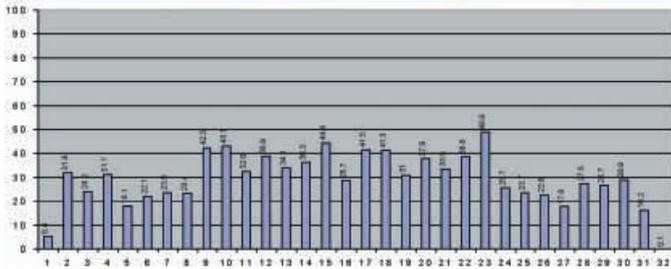
An alternative to plate scanners

In many printing houses, preset values for ink zones are still generated using plate scanners. Apart from

Output of values with InkZone Print on any laser or inkjet printer

Face and back printing with InkZone Perfect

In their digital CIP3 output option, some printing machine suppliers only support ink zone presetting for single-sided jobs. The setting of ink zones for recto/verso printing is not possible. Digital Information Ltd. has closed this gap with InkZone Perfect. This InkZone Box option enables the assignment of presetting values for a specific job to the separate printing units, as required and regardless of production type.

the laborious handling of the printing plates, the scanning of plates will also result in a relatively imprecise ink profile due to weak contrast between the aluminium and ink-bearing layer, while subsequent precise adjustment of the zones costs time and paper. Through the online transfer of bitmap files, on the one hand a work-intensive detour via the plate scanner is eliminated, while on the other, InkZone will always refer back to first-generation data. That means: shorter set-up times and minimum start-up waste. In view of shrinking print runs and frequent job changes, this means a significant increase in productivity.

InkZone Box can write the corresponding formats to various printing machines
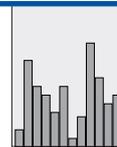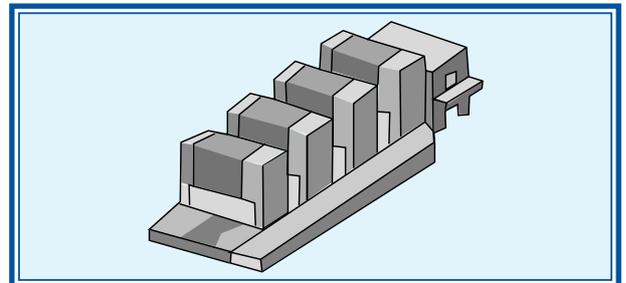
Processing

Software

A DI-Plot licence is required for presetting the ink keys via the InkZone Box. The relevant software package is not included in the InkZone Box delivery.

Output

Heidelberg, MAN Roland, KBA, Komori, Ryobi, Miller and many more

Production