

Seminar Q&A

1. How is “indigo specific” paper different from offset paper? Is there some kind of coating treatment applied?

Papers for digital printing are manufactured specifically for the type of ink used in the press, which varies among different brands and models. Papers for HP Indigo presses are either optimized in the manufacturing process, or given a surface treatment to ensure proper surface chemistry and compatibility with HP ElectroInks. Sheet sizes for digital presses are typically smaller than the sizes available for conventional offset presses. HP Indigo presses can accommodate a sheet size range between 12” x 18” and 13” x 19” depending on the press model.

2. What post finishing options are most suitable for the pieces printed with this digital format?

The finishing options which are most suited for digital printing are basically the same finishing options available for conventional printing. Finishings include: folding, saddle stitch, perfect bound, wire bound, scoring, etc..

3. I would like to understand size, technique and finishing (varnish, uv, foil, emboss, adhesive, die cutting, channel scoring, paper strength, etc). and archival limitations- what can I do with this technology, but also what I cannot do?

The HP Indigo has the size capabilities to print pieces up to 12” x 18”. This press can print up to 7 colors which would include 4 color process and up to 3 PMS colors. All types of finishing applications are available for digital printed pieces including varnish, uv, foil, emboss, die cutting, and channel scoring.

4. Can you emphasize that the new technology really doesn’t cause the banding it used to?

Banding frequently occurred with older digital technology and was much more prevalent with technologies other than Indigo. The Indigo’s unique ink based technology (not toner) eliminates most banding issues. There are limited instances where a specific color produced out of process can cause some slight banding issues. However, by producing a single sheet off the press, we can identify this problem before a complete project is run and investigate solutions to mitigate this problem (usually involves slightly “tweaking” the color)

5. Are projects printed on indigo recyclable with the ink/coating that is used?

Yes.

6. How many colors can be printed on the Indigo?

There can be up to 7 colors printed on the Indigo. However, we find that we can usually produce most colors out of a 4 color process build.

7. How do the prints hold up with the binding operations (scoring, folding)?

Our normal indigo house stocks have very little issues in the binding process. Occasionally a stock specified by a customer may have some issue when cutting and folding (ie scuffing). In these instances, we will usually recommend an overall aqueous or UV coating.

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Seminar Q&A, cont.

8. We are interested in the aesthetic surface quality of digital prints (many are unpleasantly slick and plastic looking).

These issues usually occurred with older technology. We do not see this as an issue with the Indigo ink technology and the numerous paper substrates available for Indigo printing.

9. What quantities are best run indigo for greater cost savings?

Depending on the size of the finished pieces, we find the most economical quantities are from 1 to 5,000 12"x18" press sheets. However, we have often run much larger quantities because of the variable data and personalization capabilities with this press.

10. When are larger format presses coming?

We know that larger format presses are being developed and tested. However, at this point, we do not know specifically when they are scheduled for release.

11. Can we print on plastic?

Yes. There are some plastic substrates available. Please contact your Account Executive to find more specifics.

12. What are the paper limitations to the Indigo?

The limitations on the Indigo are 12 x 18 in size with a maximum thickness of 120# cover and a minimum thickness of 60# offset.

13. What is the design community's perception of using digital printing vs. offset?

With the new technology of the HP Indigo Digital press, much of the design community has been excited to learn more about the technology and have seen that the quality is superb.