

Gallus Services – the decisive added value for our customers’ success

St. Gallen, September 2015 - “Gallus Services” plays a key role in securing more success for the label printer. The technical availability of a press has a major impact on output, which is why the experienced team at Gallus supports its customers around the world with skilled consulting for all operational processes. The “Gallus Services” business unit is responsible for minimising production downtime, maximising machine availability and using workflow management to get the very best from every machine and its associated sequences. A big part of delivering on these promises is ensuring that customers can lay their hands on original parts and printing accessories quickly and conveniently. This year, during LabelExpo 2015 in Brussels, the company will be presenting two additional innovations – new doctor blades in a range of qualities and the self-adhesive Twinlock cylinder.

Three new types of doctor blade available as Gallus consumables

The squeegee or doctor blade is a key element in flexographic printing. High-precision, high-quality doctor blades are vital to ensure stable ink transfer and avoid premature wear on the anilox roller and all kinds of printing difficulties. Gallus offers three different high-quality doctor blade types for all Gallus presses. They are supplied already cut to exactly the right final dimension of the relevant press. Since the blades are already cut to exactly the right size, press operators no longer have to do this themselves and can use them straight away. In addition to eliminating the risk of injury during cutting, this also ensures a high-quality product is being used that significantly reduces printing problems and the waiting times such problems can cause.

Gallus doctor blades are available in three different qualities:

1. The Basic doctor blade: This doctor blade is very attractively priced. It is produced without additional hardening, which results in an average lifespan. This makes it ideal for small to medium-sized jobs.
2. The Classic doctor blade: A top-quality doctor blade that benefits from additional hardening for an above-average lifespan at maximum printing speeds. This doctor blade covers the majority of requirements and is recommended for day-to-day flexographic printing.
3. The Premium doctor blade: This doctor blade combines exceptional stability with a unique finish, which means it is used to counter printing problems such as ink spitting. Even though it is not recommended as standard, every press should have one so as to ensure a fast and effective response in the event of a problem.

Polymount Twinlock cylinder

In flexographic label printing, the flexible printing plate is normally applied manually to the printing cylinder using foam adhesive tape. This tape has a huge impact on the print result and needs to be replaced at regular intervals. To achieve high-quality print results, it is advisable to apply new tape for each job. This takes time and costs money. What's more, it is not unusual for incorrect application of the tape to cause quality problems. The revolutionary full-area and thus seamless self-adhesive Twinlock printing cylinder coating solves all these problems, because it dispenses entirely with the need for flexographic adhesive tapes and all the associated drawbacks. A solvent can be used to restore adhesion at any time. If used correctly, the manufacturer guarantees adhesion for an unlimited period.

The Twinlock coating is available in various thicknesses on both synthetic sleeves and aluminium cylinders but is supplied with a thickness of 2 mm on aluminium printing cylinders as standard.



Figure 1: The new Twinlock coating is available in three different levels of hardness for the full range of Gallus print cylinders and sleeves.

Print tests at Gallus have demonstrated that the Twinlock coating achieves the same print quality as foam adhesive tapes – but the Twinlock cylinders support lower print adjustment. A medium hard Twinlock coating is recommended for virtually all printing applications. A soft or hard Twinlock coating is only required for specific applications/jobs.

In conjunction with a fully or semi-automatic plate-assembly device, Twinlock-coated printing cylinders are an excellent way of achieving significant reductions in both costs and assembly times.

Captions:

Figure 1 (GallusTwinlock.jpg): The new Twinlock coating is available in three different levels of hardness for the full range of Gallus print cylinders and sleeves.

The Gallus Group

The Gallus Group with its production sites in Switzerland and Germany is the world market leader in the development, production and sale of narrow-web, reel-fed presses designed for label manufacturers. The machine portfolio is augmented by a broad range of screen printing plates (Gallus Screeny), globally decentralised service operations, and a broad offering of printing accessories and replacement parts. The comprehensive portfolio also includes consulting services provided by label experts in all relevant printing and process engineering tasks. The Gallus Group is a member of the Heidelberg Group and employs around 410 people, of whom 250 are based in Switzerland. The group headquarters is in St.Gallen, Switzerland.
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