

# Flexo Plate Making Simplified

## Reduce lead times & boost flexo quality



Esko's integrated flexo solution delivers plates with the highest quality and consistency. The solution encompasses for all flexo and letterpress print applications and takes away the need for platemaking experts.



# Flexo plate making simplified

Flexo printing is by far the most popular printing technology used for packaging and labels.

Its market share is growing because it is in many cases more economical to print in flexo; what's more: the process supports the widest array of substrates used in packaging. Flexo is the only technique that will deliver the desired results on anything from high-end perfume labels to big size corrugated boxes.

For decades, Esko has pioneered and innovated flexo plate making. Our integrated software and hardware solutions have been instrumental in raising the quality and consistency levels of flexo printing.

Today, only Esko solutions span across all flexo print applications. No matter what size, substrate, inks, plates or presses are used: Esko's solutions deliver the right plates for the best print results.

Our latest innovations simplify the complete flexo plate making process. It was never easier to reduce lead times and boost flexo print quality.



# Maximize press uptime with flexo prepress & project management

## Project management

Today's packaging and labels market is dominated by a drive for increased quality and much shorter turnaround times.

More and more projects have ever tighter deadlines. Trade shops and converters must be ready to manage these projects from incoming order to the press in an ever-shorter time frame.

## Manage more jobs without increasing the headcount

Esko's process automation and optimization reduces manual labor used to process orders. Converters can deal with the increasing number of smaller jobs with less staff.

Esko helps you to manage assets, approvals and projects from the initial concept to print-ready design and connect ERP/MIS systems to the rest of the workflow for smooth throughput and single data entry.

## Intuitive flexo prepress

Esko offers the full range of expert prepress tools for flexo solutions. From intuitive PDF editing with packaging-specific preflight functionality all the way to hands-on flexo retouching in Adobe® Photoshop®.

Whether operators are working on PC, Mac or in Adobe® Illustrator® and Adobe® Photoshop®, Esko offers dedicated flexo prepress functionality on all platforms.

Editors like ArtPro+ or the DeskPack plugins for Adobe® Illustrator® offer state-of-the-art solutions for flexo professionals with strict deadlines and no margin for errors.

“ Since implementing the solution, our packaging **productions speed** has increased **by 25%**. As there are fewer manual settings required, the amount of **operator errors** has also **decreased**.

MARK LEHMANN, CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER,  
PERMAPACK (SWITZERLAND)





## Reduce human intervention with workflow automation

Companies looking for an edge are automating all prepress steps that do not require human intervention. Easy to set up workflows boost prepress throughput and automate quality assurance.

Esko leads the way in workflow automation, from small companies to enterprises: from a simple to deploy preconfigured solution to highly customized, fully integrated multisite workflows.

## Simplifying prepress & plate merging

A lot of prepress tasks do not need human intervention. Esko's Automation Engine automates these tasks, from job creation all the way to the final production file. Automation Engine extends automation into the plate room. Plate merging and ripping are controlled by Automation Engine.

Automation Engine is also the only workflow that has a live connection with the Esko plate imagers. This provides complete visibility and transparency. Rush jobs are very easy to prioritize.

## Deep flexo know-how for everybody

While Automation Engine automates, Esko's Print Control Wizard collects all print condition parameters (i.e. substrate, press, anilox, plate type, tape...). The Print Condition Wizard uses Esko's deep flexo know-how to automatically create the perfect attributes such as dot gain curves and screens for the Esko Imaging Engine to use to rip the file.



# CDI Spark and Advance: flexo imagers for every need

The CDI (Cyrel Digital Imager) Spark and CDI Advance Cantilever range offers superb results that before were only achievable in offset or gravure.

There is a CDI for every need: from narrow web label printing, to flexible packaging and wide format corrugated printing; from one color printed corrugated boxes to highly sophisticated multi-color packaging and even security printing.

You can choose and configure a CDI to match your current production needs, and expand capabilities as your business grows. The CDI can accommodate all plate and sleeve sizes and any brand of plate or processing method.

The CDI seamlessly integrates with Esko's packaging workflow, or can work with any third-party workflow system. Our market leading CDIs can image digital (LAMS coated) flexo plates, letterpress plates (polyester- and, optional, metal based), chemistry free offset plates, digital silk screens and chemistry-free film.



reddot design award





73%  
LESS  
OPERATOR TIME

50%  
LESS  
MANUAL STEPS

50%  
LESS ERRORS  
& PLATE WASTE



## Removing complexity through automation: CDI Crystal XPS

In today's market, rush jobs without quality compromises have become the norm.

There is a direct relationship between the number of touchpoints in the plate room and the number of times errors occur. Reducing the number of steps has an immediate impact on the productivity and profitability of your operation.

### Removing manual steps

The typical platemaking process consists of many complex and manual steps. These take time and open the door for human errors.

The CDI Crystal XPS is the answer: an itinerary of up to seven manual steps is turned into a coordinated, linear and digital process.

The integration and automation of digital imaging and LED UV exposure provides unmatched plate consistency and overall ease of use. This solution not only frees up valuable operator time but also reduces maintenance and the footprint of your flexo equipment.

# From excellent to premium: 3 levels of flexo quality

Esko's unique flexo solution is scalable to help companies achieve the highest quality and consistency plates that deliver superior print quality. Esko brings the first and only automated flexo plate making line in the industry.

This automation streamlines the entire process. It is very simple to use, so converters do not need to hire dedicated flexo expertise. The unique solution is also scalable to help companies achieve the highest quality and consistency plates that deliver superior print quality.



1



## CDI Crystal The easiest CTP device

- ✓ Reduce operator time by 50%
- ✓ Less plate waste
- ✓ No damages or delays due to plate handling

2



## CDI + XPS Crystal Automated plate making

- ✓ Plate consistency
- ✓ 7 process steps reduced to 2
- ✓ Less operator involvement

3



## CDI Crystal XPS + Print Control Wizard

- ✓ No need for platemaking experts
- ✓ Superior print quality
- ✓ Fully automated and very accessible





## Smart to press: Printing & ink specification

Dealing with the increased complexity of mixed printing environments (digital, flexo, gravure, offset) while achieving color consistency is a challenge.

### Intelligent color management

Esko's Color Engine guarantees color management across the packaging and print supply chain. At the heart of the Color Engine is a central color database for all color critical data, from color preflighting, over proofing to the actual plate.

Esko's color solutions work seamlessly with X-Rite's color solutions such as PantoneLIVE and X-Rite spectrophotometers.

### Extended gamut printing

Extended gamut printing with Esko's Equinox dramatically reduces press changeover times as well as the number of changeovers. It enables profitable production of short run jobs on conventional flexo presses and substantially increases press uptime. The business impact is complete when you add value of the reduction of ink inventory and substrate waste to the picture.

The unmatched plate quality and consistency from Esko's CDI Crystal XPS is a true enabler for fixed ink set printing.

# Significant cost savings: Digital plate cutting

Automation Engine's Flexo Platemaking Module offers significant cost savings through the automation of the flexo plate production. It automates several manual steps to prepare for plate making (i.e. merging, cropping and extending). It uses job data so that typical errors can be avoided (a job imaged on the wrong plate type, for instance).

The Flexo Platemaking Module adds a flow of information to plate making. Automatically, instantly and with computerized accuracy a job is sent to the imager, files are created for cutting and data files are made for mounting.

## Faster flexo plate mounting

The Automation Engine Flexo Platemaking Module offers a number of ways to ensure faster flexo plate mounting without sacrificing accuracy. The flexo plate is cut up into smaller patches to reduce waste, and accurate mounting information is sent to the mounting device.





## Protect your investment with flexo expertise

Esko pioneered digital flexo imaging and is the undisputed global market leader.

We continue to innovate by pushing flexographic print quality to new standards and by making flexo plate production as simple as producing offset plates.

### Global flexo solution services

Esko's global team of solution architects and project managers is uniquely placed to help you streamline your flexo plate production even further.

From workflow integration, color management and plate making to multi-color process printing, we offer expertise services that will help you tackle all the challenges today's printing industry presents you with.

### Perform at the highest level

Proper maintenance guarantees that your Esko equipment will perform at the highest quality level for many years to come. There are several Care Plans, ranging from basic support to all-inclusive support.



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