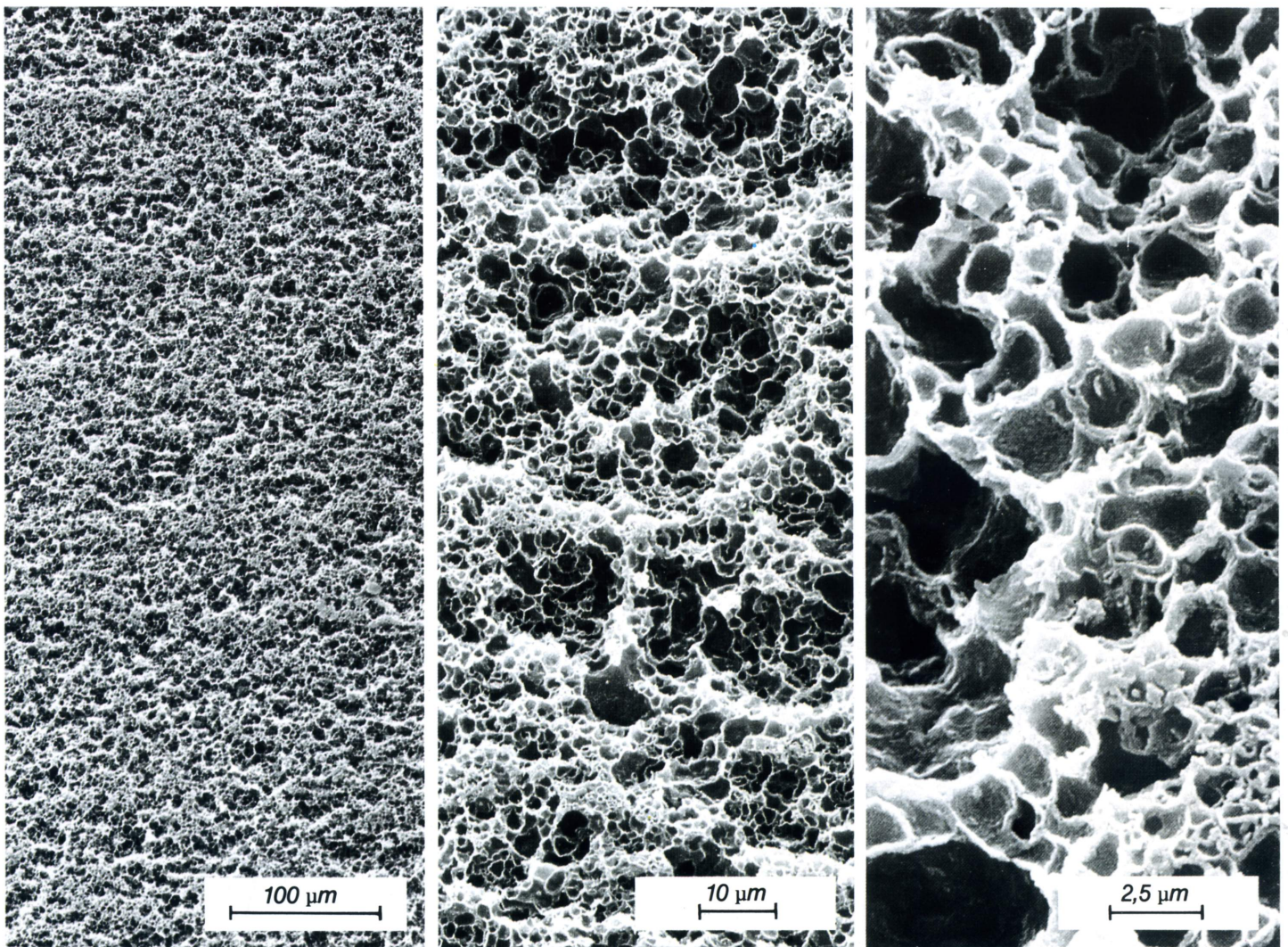


Ozasol Offset

The first stage in the refinement process: Electrochemical graining.



3 stages of enlargement (seen through an electronic screen microscope) of an electrochemically grained Ozasol plate clearly show the finely porous, spongelike surface lacking any orientation.

The surface of the aluminium base is of decisive importance for the quality of an offset printing plate.

The best, but also most complicated method of graining aluminium is the electrochemical process. It is carried out in an electrolyte to which an electric current is applied. The surface of the aluminium is given a definite structure by dissolving away parts of the metal. For this very complicated process many parameters have to be kept within nar-

row tolerances and constantly checked. The resulting grained, microporous surface, without any orientation, has the advantages of excellent bonding of the light-sensitive coating, good water distribution and a very high optical resolution – in conjunction with subsequent anodisation it guarantees very long runs.

The cover picture (taken through an electronic screen microscope) shows a section of a press-ready, positive Ozasol plate. The sharp structure of the halftone dot (magnified 1000 times) is clearly shown.