

Introduction

This booklet is part of a kit designed by Pira to introduce a standard Specification for lithographic colour reproduction.

The purpose of the standard is to improve the quality and consistency of colour printing and, in particular, to overcome the problems associated with matching proofs on the production press. To do this we have devised a technical Specification which can be used by repro and proofing houses, platemakers and pressrooms. The idea of the Specification is to help everyone work to the same standards even though the machinery and working conditions may vary. The Specifications in this kit have deliberately been made compatible with many that are already in use, both in the UK and in Europe, and also reflect typical performance of offset litho printing presses. Only the minimum of alteration to the production press should therefore be required.

At present the standard covers positive platemaking methods only, and printing using BS4666 inks. Specifications are given in the kit for gloss coated papers and super calendered web offset (SCWO) paper. Later the Specification will be extended to other papers.

The Specification is based on two ideas: the measurement of solid density and dot gain, and accurate communication between the different stages of the printing process. These ideas are connected: if proof makers and pressrooms worked to the same dot gain then reliable quality lithographic colour reproduction is within reach.