

DIGEST

The lithographic plate manufacturers, when producing new products, have paid particular attention to the problems of environmental pollution and the elimination of hazardous chemicals. This is confirmed by the number of negative working litho plates, developed by water or water-based developers, which have recently become available. This project aims to provide an object assesment of their performance using a popular solvent-developed plate (Marathon) for comparison.

Brief details are given of the range of aqueous plates available from the major UK suppliers.

The experimental work consisted of comparative assessments between the Marathon, two plates developed by water only and nine plates developed with a water-based developer. The full list of plates evaluated was as follows:

Manufacturer	Plate
Howson Algraphy	Marathon
3M Company	Hydrolith HLS
Polychrome	Aqualith
Howson Algraphy	Marathon AQ
Kalle	N3S
Polychrome	Winner
Polychrome	GAN
Polychrome	WRN (Web Runner)
SD Graphics	Lithojet NA
Cornerstone	Aluneg
Fuji Photo Film	FNM
Fuji Photo Film	FNS

The evaluation could broadly be divided into three areas
platemaking, press performance, and developer analysis.