

Requirements for a Good Lithographic Ink

A good lithographic ink must fulfil many requirements. Here is a list of the principal requirements.

- 1) Pigments should not bleed into the fountain solution.
- 2) Pigments should not flocculate.
- 3) Ink should dry on the paper within a reasonable length of time.
- 4) Ink must have the right body and tack.
- 5) Ink should not fly during the printing operation.
- 6) Ink should contain no abrasive particles.
- 7) Pigments and varnishes should be chosen so the pigments are thoroughly wetted by the varnishes.
- 8) Ink should not liver on aging.
- 9) Ink should have a press stability of about three or four hours at least.
- 10) Ink should not lose its ability to dry as the ink is aged in the can.
- 11) Ink should be more highly pigmented than a letterpress ink.
- 12) Ink should contain no materials which will tend to grease the non-image areas of the lithographic plate.
- 13) Ink should not strip from the ink rollers.
- 14) Ink should not pile on the rollers or the printing plate.
- 15) Ink should not produce a tinting condition on the sheets.
- 16) Ink should not offset to the back side of the next sheet in the delivery pile.
- 17) Ink should dry without producing a chalking effect.
- 18) Ink should print a good solid and still keep halftone open.
- 19) In printing a color job on a single-color press, the first-down ink must be formulated so that after it has dried the succeeding inks will trap on it.