Dry toner digital printing

Definition
Like offset printing, digital printing uses cyan, magenta, yellow and black to print coloured images. Unlike offset printing, digital printing does not involve printing plates, but instead uses digitally generated images. This means quicker turnarounds, infinite personalisation possibilities, and no minimum quantity.

Dry toner presses are the most frequent digital printing presses which can be used to print creative papers. Recently, this technology has made tremendous progress in terms of print quality and print enhancement. With the latest generation of dry toner presses from the main OEM’s, excellent results can be achieved on high quality creative papers, provided a few guidelines are followed.

Do’s

- Do consider paper textures and turn them into part of the print design. If you select a textured or special surface paper such as Rives Design, be aware that the texture will be visible through the printing to different degrees depending on the dry toner press. Wonderful effects can be achieved if you make the texture part of the design.
- Do consider enhancing prints with special effects. The latest dry toner presses from major OEMs such as Xerox, Kodak, Konica Minolta, Ricoh and Oki offer a wide range of beautiful print techniques including metallic, raised, white and clear print effects and well as the matching of a wide gamut of Pantone® colours.
- Do adjust the press paper weight settings outside the stated paper weight if necessary. Often creative papers have high stiffness and bulk and so a higher than stated paper weight setting might be better for these papers.
- Do allow paper to cool to room temperature before finishing. This is especially true when complex finishing will follow dry toner printing. Dry toner fusing systems heat and dry the paper and this may cause sheet cockling and less than perfect finishing results if the paper isn’t allowed to cool. Ideally, re-wrap printed paper when allowing it to cool.

Don’ts

- Don’t overlook the characteristics of the paper and printing process when designing art work. Different dry toner presses have different strengths and weaknesses in terms of image sharpness and gloss.
- Don’t print very large areas of flat tints, as these tend to highlight dry toner press defects.
- Don’t select standard offset papers on dry toner digital printers unless these are indicated as compatible by the manufacturer. Some offset papers may contain materials that are detrimental to dry toner presses and these should not be used. You can download our full dry toner compatibility chart with the Arjowiggins Digital range chart on arjowigginscreativepapers.com.
- Don’t opt for dry toner prints when subsequent laser printing is required (e.g. for letterheads). Dry toner images will melt on many laser printer fuser rolls.
- Don’t print on paper that hasn’t been allowed to reach the same temperature as the press room as the paper may curl or distort on printing.