

Technical Information

Solvent-based Liquid Systems | Ink series



Gecko[®] Bond Top

Solvent based printing inks for flexible packaging
Lamination Printing

Description

A full colour range of pigmented nitrocellulose printing inks designed for reverse printing lamination applications on flexible films, supplied as finished products or for use as mono component concentrates and system additives with an ink dispensing formulation approach.

Printing Process

Flexographic and Gravure printing.

Applications

Lamination Reverse Printing (for surface application, see the dedicated section below).

Suitable for food and beverage flexible packaging.

Substrates: Coex OPP, BOPP, LDPE, Paper. Acrylic coated BOPP*

* Applicability on acrylic coated PP has to be tested properly in relation to the adhesion promoter already contained in the series.

Minimum surface tension: Coex OPP, BOPP, PE: 38 mN/m (mN/m = dynes/cm)

Secondary Web Coex OPP, PE, CC PET, Met BOPP, Met PET, Met CPP

Use for surface printing Gecko Bond Top can be used on the above mentioned substrates for standard surface printing applications, when overprinted with OPV.

When OPV is not applied, this series can also be used in combination with the appropriate additives (see section Auxiliaries).

If the application in question requires high mechanical resistance or bears high blocking risk, it is strongly recommended to use the appropriate Gecko[®] Frontal ink series. Moreover, for applications where ink-to-ink contact may occur (such as in folded packages, or where packages are stacked), Gecko[®] Bond Top should not be used.

Properties

Adhesion	4-5	Heat resistance	160° - 170° C
Lamination bond	Bonding values depend on substrate quality as well as adhesive type and solids applied.		

Rating scale: (1 to 5 based on Gecko product range) 1= worst value, 5= best value

Note: All technical properties are a guideline only and depend on pigment choice and final application. For details about exact test methods which are the basis for info about fastness properties given above please refer to the general test method overview.

Printing Viscosity

Diluents	Flexographic Printing 20 – 25 s FCB4	%	Gravure Printing 13 – 15 s FCB4	%
Slow	n-Propanol/n-Propyl Acetate/ Ethoxy Propanol	80:10:10 to 70:10:20	Ethanol/n-Propyl Acetate	50:50 to 75:25
Standard	n-Propanol/n-Propyl Acetate	90:10 to 70:30	Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate	50:50 to 30:70
Fast	Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate	90:10 to 70:30	Ethyl Acetate	100
Retarder	Ethoxy Propanol		Ethoxy Propanol	

Auxiliaries

- White** In order to increase bonding values, the special products Xtreme White is highly recommended. Please consult tech support for more details.
- Metallics** A full range of Gecko® imitation gold and silver inks is available.
- Additives** For surface printing applications, the addition of 2 to 3 % of wax paste (Please consult tech support) can increase mechanical resistance. Too high addition of wax paste may reduce gloss. For specific surface printing requirements (e.g. block resistance, rub resistance, COF, other resistance properties) etc. please use the appropriate Gecko® Frontal ink.
- Process Inks** A range of slow drying Flexo half-tone process colours is available (GBT raster).

Instructions for the use of printing inks for the production of primary food packaging

For information on the use of printing inks, varnishes and additives for the manufacture of food packaging please refer to the respective „**Statement of Composition**". This information is provided to allow the calculation of possible levels of migration of evaluated substances in a worst case situation.

Migration tests at **huber**group laboratories with printed samples made from commercially available OPP film (film thickness: 35 u, printed wet ink: 6 g/m², with 95 % ethanol as the food simulant) and PE film (film thickness: 50 u, printed wet ink: 6 g/m², with 95 % ethanol as the food simulant) showed no migration of substances above legal limits. Based on the results of these migration tests, we expect that the printed inks enable the final printed products to comply with the legal requirements for packaging for all kinds of foodstuff.

The manufacturer of the finished article and the filler have the legal responsibility to prove by appropriate migration testing that it is fit for its intended purpose.

In order to maintain low residual solvents concentration in the printed film, the printer must ensure sufficient drying of the product, especially when retarders have been added. Residual solvent content must be regularly monitored.

The products must not be used in the manufacture of packaging where the printed ink layer is intended to come into contact with foodstuff (direct food contact).

There are restrictions for the use of printing inks for applications where temperatures above 100 °C f or extended periods of time are applied. For details, please see document "Food Packaging Inks for High Temperature Applications".

Health & Safety

The material safety data sheets contain all relevant information for the generation of appropriate internal plant instructions. The user is responsible for all local legislation requirements.

Ink Handling

Please refer to General Guidelines for handling inks for flexible packaging.

Storage Conditions

Store the material in the original packaging at a temperature not below 5°C and not in direct contact with sunlight.

Contact addresses for advice and further information can be found under www.hubergroup.com

Due to the many variables in material for printing, design construction, processing conditions and test criteria, this Technical Data Sheet can only be of an advisory nature. Our data reflect the latest state of our knowledge and are based on the characteristics established in the laboratory and on practical experience. Because there are many factors under the control of the user which may affect processing or application/use, it is necessary for the user to carry out appropriate tests to determine whether the product(s) is technically and safely suitable for the particular purpose, prior to use. hubergroup disclaims any liability for applications for which this ink series is not foreseen. No warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, are made regarding the products here described. The English version is the master document, on which to refer for any translations.