

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Tracing paper's natural translucency is obtained by beating the cellulose fibres to obtain a "jelly", which is tinted, drained and dried to give a brightly coloured translucent paper. is a real stock dyed translucent paper.

Tracing paper is made from paper pulp from well managed forests and has the FSC label. The paper is naturally free on chlorine and 100% recyclable.

The high beating needed to make the paper translucent makes tracing paper more reactive to humidity and variations in temperature than conventional paper. It is more compact (bulk=0.8) but therefore less porous and compressible.

The key features for the user because, although tracing paper gives magnificent and highly original results with conventional techniques, it requires special care. A pre-test is recommended for any delicate operation.

You will find hereafter some technical advice. However, for any new operation, we recommend pre-test.

STORAGE AND USE CONDITIONS

Store the unopened packs in the press room for a minimum of 24 hours, longer if previously stored in very different conditions. Ensure that conditions are normal before opening, i.e. temperature 17-23°C (63-73°F), 50% humidity. The paper must be covered with plastic between operations.

HP INDIGO

Cromatico Digital Transparent has been specifically developed for the HP Indigo printing process. Ink adhesion is excellent on Cromatico Digital. Cromatico Digital printed on HP Indigo gives excellent results with dense flat tints and rich blacks. The ink is already dry when the sheets come off the press. To optimise the print run, set the press as follows:
Create a Cromatico Digital Transparent script for each paper weight and record the specific data for each one. Tick "Transparent" in the box at the bottom of the screen to adjust the sensitivity of captors in the press.

Cromatico Digital Transparent	110 G	32 x 46 cm.	Thickness: 0.09 mm.
Cromatico Digital Transparent	150 G	32 x 46 cm.	Thickness: 0.12 mm.
Cromatico Digital Transparent	200 G	32 x 46 cm.	Thickness: 0.15 mm.

Cromatico Digital Transparent sheets have a silver strip at each end to activate detector cells in the press.

Before printing, deactivate the following cells by ticking the boxes as shown below:

Outfeed conveyor	Perfector 2	Perfector to stacker	Perfector to duplex	Paper duplex	Paper input feed roller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper feeder:

Do not leave the paper in the paper feeder for long periods. The paper must be rewrapped between runs.

If the paper curls in the paper feeder, turn the stack over (the detection strip still works when the paper has been turned over).

Duplex printing: Cromatico Digital Transparent is suitable for duplex printing on HP Indigo presses. Duplex printing is useful when the transparent is inserted in a section of 8 or more pages.

If problems arise, despite our concern to share our experience, please feel free to contact us at: technique@thibierge-comar.fr

MGI DP60, KODAK NEXPRESS M700 AND KONICA

Cromatico Digital Transparent prints very well on MGI DP60, Kodak Nexpress M700 and Konica presses.

OFFSET PRINTING

Air sheets during loading.

As for all papers, best results are obtained by printing across the grain.

Tracing paper is very dense and non absorbent. To avoid long drying times, use fully oxidising inks as used for plastics. 1-2% of a drying agent can be added to the ink.

Our advice :

Excessive damping slows ink drying and can make the paper fan out. Avoid large areas of solid colour. Reduce damping to a minimum, using a slightly acid solution pH 5-6.

13-15 % alcohol may be used. Use inks absorbers in the margin if possible. Apply maximum pressure.

Tracing paper is a very dense paper, scarcely more porous than a film. Conventional inks require longer drying times.

Airing the sheets speeds up the oxidation of the ink.

Sealing with UV varnish can reduce the risk of set-off.

Sudden changes in temperature can cause curling.

Avoid high temperature drying operations;

Restrict racks to 4-5 cm and use fine powder (15-20 microns) to prevent set-off. Allow sufficient drying time before the next operation.

When using metallic inks (gold, silver) and opaque white, two light passes give better results.

OFFSET PRINTING WITH UV INKS AND DRYER

This technical dries the ink immediately and eliminates set-off. Make sure that the UV dryer is equipped with a thermal filter to control the temperature.

SILK SCREENING

Tracing paper allows use of very fine screens.

Our advice :

Water based inks must be applied sparingly and high temperature drying should be avoided.

LASER COPYING (B & W AND COLOUR) :

Laser printing and copying in general give excellent results on the smooth surface of translucent paper. However, with high-speed machine, the heat may cause the paper to curl and jam the machine. A pre-test is recommended (one sheet is enough).

INK JET PRINTING (B & W AND COLOUR)

Ink jet printing gives good results, particularly on machines of a recent design which use a very fine spray. On older models, the ink may take a few extra seconds to dry. A pre-test is recommended (one sheet is enough).

FOIL STAMPING

This technique gives excellent results, but requires special care, particularly on 200 gsm.

As tracing paper is not compressible, contact with film must be exact: use a precision ground blade and a platen press in good condition with a resilient material (blanket) on the paper cylinder, instead of card or Bakelite.

Our advice :

Increase pressure until the paper is on the verge of distortion. Respect the temperature recommended by film suppliers (100-200°C). Use dry film with standard adhesives (HC films from Kurz or 859BU from Oeser).

VARNISH

Glossy varnish gives a very elegant contrast with the matt surface. Use a spray or UV varnish. With UV varnish, one application is generally sufficient

FOLDING – SCORING – EMBOSING

Tracing paper is fragile and folds will not stand up to repeated opening and closing. Scoring marks the fold but does not make it more flexible as it does for conventional papers. To avoid damaging the paper, the channel width and depth must be carefully adjusted and the creasing rule slightly dull. Use a soft cylinder and light pressure.

Tracing paper whitens when distorted, which can heighten the effect of a fold or embossed pattern; But be careful because it indicates a slight weakening of the paper.

Our advice :

If you have to fold Cromatico 200 gsm, use a very wide creasing rule (4 pts) on a 4 mm card cylinder, or better still, use double creasing. Scoring is essential for thick tracing paper, but unnecessary for thin papers. Do not apply pressure to the fold. Restrict the depth of the channel.

PERFORATION – CUTTING

Tracing paper is suitable for perforation and cut-outs. Cut in small racks, because the paper is very hard and could damage the blade. Laser cutting gives excellent results when the sheets are fed into the machine singly.

Our advice :

Do not exceed racks of 5 cm thickness.

TRIMMING

Tracing paper is a dense, hard paper. A slightly dull but polished 23° - bevel angle blade is ideal to avoid flaking.

Our advice :

Do not exceed racks of 5 cm thickness.

BINDING

Tracing paper can be glued, stitched or stapled.

Our advice :

When the outside fold of a brochure is to be stapled, reinforcing is recommended. Water-based glues tends to make the paper curl. Use glue sparingly, along the grain. Solvent-based glues and hot melts are recommended.

INSERTS

Tracing paper may be inserted in coated or uncoated paper, provided that both papers have similar relative humidity (RH 50%) even after printing.

