

Digital Imaging of "Thick" Photopolymer Films

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Abstract – Digital workflow in printing and other imaging applications is now the rule rather than a rarity. From digital data entry from work stations or PC's, or image capture from digital cameras, through digital transmission of data via satellite, ISDN line or the Internet, information is then modified or transformed in digital mode into the final presentational format. The data is then ready for output: to a monitor, or to a film, or, in the most common form, to paper or other printed substrate. This presentation will review and analyze the ways in which digital image information is output to create printed media. It will the way digital graphics are output to produce package printing on unusual substrates such as plastic films, corrugated boxes and the like via flexible photopolymer printing plate products used in flexographic printing. This process uses laser based "photochemistry" in a unique way to produce intimate exposure masks on the surface of thick photopolymer printing plate media ready for UV exposure and conventional processing into press-ready printing plates.