

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Agfa Azura Thermal

The next technology advancement in Computer To Plate Thermal Plate Imaging

Application:

The Azura technology delivers robust, high resolution plate performance. The Azura is able to deliver the highest quality press results with remarkable chemical resistance and extraordinary processing latitude thanks to the use of physical, rather than chemical plate processing. This means simple platemaking with consistently high quality, plate after plate without the variables seen with other thermal technologies. The Azura is daylight working for maximum convenience and can be processed in all plate processors. The Azura delivers the ultimate in convenience, reliability and quality to the most demanding pressroom.

Physical Imaging:

By using the innovative Azura Technology, plate processing is dramatically simplified. The Azura coating is made from millions of individual NANO PEARLS. The NANO PEARLS melt and fuse together, as well as bonding firmly to the substrate in the exposed areas. The Azura is negative working, so the 830 nm thermal laser diodes expose the image. The NANO PEARLS melt and fuse together in the regions exposed and heated by the 830nm laser diode.

Processing at it's simplest:

In the unexposed areas, the PEARLS are very easily removed by washing the surface with a mild, environmentally friendly ER Solution. Since the method of removing the non-image area is physical, rather than chemical, there is the widest possible processing latitude. Small variations in temperature, pH, activity or replenishment settings have little or no impact on the final press-ready plate. This ensures that platemaking is simple, predictable and reliable - plate after plate. The bath life is extremely long at up to 50,000 square feet and the Azura can be processed in any existing CtP or analogue plate processor.

Superior Press Performance:

The inherent simplicity of platemaking with the Azura ensures that the pressroom is supplied with the highest quality plates. The new technology used in the Azura coating offers excellent chemical resistance, making the Azura suitable for a wide range of press applications for sheetfed, web, alcohol founts and even hybrid/UV ink work. Baking will at least double the run length.

High Quality Printing:

Plate to plate, week to week, the highly stable Azura technology means that images are highly predictable and not prone to change because of the ER Wash Out environmentally friendly solution, NOT a developer that oxidizes with age. This stability is important for reprints - you can be confident that the image will match time after time. The plate stability comes from the elimination of exposure and processing variables that are seen with chemically developed plates.

Environmental Benefits:

The Azura Wash Out Solution is used to remove the non-image areas at a rate of about 50mls/m². This is a significant reduction over other CtP technologies and reduces waste generation and disposal costs. The Azura Wash Out Solution gives long bath life's. Only the image area remains. The plate is finished and ready for press. The remarkable cleanliness of the Azura system means exceptionally clean processors even at the end of a long wash out solution cycle.

Specifications:

Sensitivity:	180 mJ/cm ²
Resolution:	1-99% with :Sublima 240, 200 lpi. 25 μ FM
Developer:	Azura Wash Out Solution or Azura Scratch Resistant Wash Out Solution
Finisher:	Azura Rinse – Dilute 1 to 1
Replenishment rate:	30-50mls/m ²
Availability:	All standard sizes and gauges
Run length:	Up to 200,000* unbaked, 500,000 baked
Processors:	All standard processors, analogue or thermal processors or new single bath scrubber
Substrate:	High quality grained and anodized aluminum

* depending on press and imaging conditions.