

Digital UV thermoformable inks

EFI™ VUTEK® GS-TF and GS-CF flexible UV-curable digital inks are formulated for first-surface interior and second-surface exterior and backlit applications where common thermoplastic is specified. VUTEk GS inks exhibit outstanding elongation characteristics while maintaining excellent adhesion and opacity for thermoforming applications. Both ink sets provide ideal characteristics for heat bending and routing of acrylic sheets with no chipping or loss of adhesion.



Optimised for the following EFI VUTEk GS hybrid printers:

- VUTEk GS2000x Pro
- VUTEk GS3250x Pro

Typical applications:

- Outdoor signage
- POP signage and displays
- Promotional products and beverage lights and signs
- Vending and gaming
- Automotive
- Industrial

Recommended substrates:

- Polystyrene
- PETG
- Polycarbonate
- High-impact polystyrene (HIPS)
- PVC
- Acrylic

Performance properties:

- Excellent elongation for draw depth (deep-draw application)
- Superb resistance to moisture and water
- Flexible for multilayer applications and die-cutting
- Elevated colour strength for backlit applications

They do have some differences:

- VUTEk GS-TF inks
 - Extreme elongation (>1000%) suitable for thermoforming on most thermoplastics for your 3D printing needs
 - Ink can come in contact with smooth mold materials only (aluminium and Teflon-coated molds)
 - The ink becomes stretchable when exposed to heat during thermoforming and then hardens after the cooling process is complete
 - Great for deep-draw, high-elongation applications in commercial graphics (POP, display graphics, and backlit signage), consumer and industrial segments
- VUTEk GS-CF inks
 - Good elongation (>200%), for gentle thermoforming without blocking or smudging
 - Suitable for all common commercial graphic media types
 - Great release on smooth and porous mold materials (plywood, MDF, and resins used for in drape-formed backlit signage applications)
 - Excellent adhesion qualities (including difficult media types, such as corrugated plastics, acrylic, and coated metals)

The benefits of having both:

- Top-loadable on each other, requiring no flushing, only purging
- Identical pigmentation in CMYKcmyk+W
- Offer extreme colour gamut and saturation

Durability/performance

The VUTEk GS-CF/TF inks use automotive-grade pigment for best-in-class light fastness properties. Accelerated weather-fastness data has been obtained for the inks on numerous occasions. The best data comes from real-life applications in the field where the true service life of the product has been measured and validated. These ink formulations have been used in the field for close to a decade and have shown outstanding performance. While EFI Armor coatings can protect these inks for up to five years, these performance expectations also depend on appropriate media, file manipulation, colour strength, colour selection, and end-use geographic location. When these variables and parameters are taken into consideration, graphics printed and coated with the Armor UVF clear can withstand more than five years of exposure.

Storage

Care should be taken to store ink in tightly closed containers located in a cool 15-27 °C, dark place. With suitable conditions, unopened ink is expected to have a shelf life of approximately twelve (12) months from date of manufacture.

EFI fuels success.

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