



Gecko® Frontal Uni

Solvent based printing inks for flexible packaging
Surface printing

Description

A full colour range of highly pigmented plurisolvent nitrocellulose printing inks designed for surface printed applications on flexible films, supplied as finished products or for use as mono pigmented concentrates and system additive.

Printing Process

Flexographic and gravure printing.

Applications

Surface printing.








Suitable for food and beverage flexible packaging.

Substrates: LDPE, HDPE, BOPP***, Coex OPP***, CPP, PET chem., acrylic PP*, OPA, Paper, shrinkable films (OPP, PE**, PET-G and OPS)
* Applicability on acrylic coated PP has to be tested properly in relation to the adhesion promoter already contained in the series.
** in combination with White GFZ.
*** Surface applications on anti-fog-treated substrates could bear increased blocking risk, hence a preliminary industrial test has to be carried out in order to confirm the suitability of the series.

Minimum surface tension: Coex OPP, BOPP, LDPE, HDPE, CPP: 38 mN/m
OPA: 48 mN/m (mN/m = dynes/cm)
This ink series already contains Adhesion Promoter.

Adhesion Promoter All inks in this series already contains Adhesion Promoter, with the exception of coloured metallic inks, which are adhesion promoter free. For coloured metallic inks, the addition of 2 – 3% of Adhesion Promoter (70GH278345) press side before printing is needed.

Properties

Adhesion		Water resistance	
Rub resistance		Deep freeze resistance	
Scratch resistance		Vegetable oil resistance	
Heat resistance	160° - 170° C	C.O.F. (dynamic, range)	0.20 – 0.30
Gloss		Light fastness	3 – 8 (*)

■ = positive rating point on a scale from zero to max. Ten points for highest value / best suitability. (*) for Light Fastness: 3 = half tone, 8 = full tone, but for a specific and correct light fastness to take as a reference the values indicated for each C.I. in the TDS Annex I (11.P.018).

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.

Auxiliaries

- Metallics:** A full range of Gecko imitation gold and silver inks is available.
- Additives:** A full range of additives is available to modify the performances of Gecko Frontal Uni.
- Process Inks:** A range of slow drying flexo half-tone process colours is available (GFU raster).

Printing viscosity

Diluents	Flexographic Printing 20 – 25 s DIN 4	%	Gravure Printing 13 – 15 s DIN 4	%
Slow	n-Propanol/n-Propyl Acetate	90:10 to 70:30	Ethanol/n-Propyl Acetate	50:50 to 75:25
Standard	Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate	90:10 to 70:30	Ethanol/Ethyl Acetate	50:50 to 30:70
Fast			Ethyl Acetate	100
Retarder	Ethoxy Propanol		Ethoxy Propanol	

Gecko Frontal Uni inks from Concentrates

With mixing stations or other equipment, it is possible to produce ready-made Inks of the Gecko Frontal Uni Series using the concentrates of the Gecko Base Series and the appropriate System Additive Gecko Frontal Uni (00GU278145) or System Additive APF; GFU (00GU512006) for coloured metallic inks.

For this operation, it is required a mixing ratio of:

- 20% of System Additive (00GU278145 or 00GU512006 for coloured metallic inks).
- 60% of Gecko Base products (Colour Concentrates and NC varnish 00GB274057).
- 20% of free solvent

No warranties can be given if products from other manufacturers are mixed with **hubergroup** products.

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 µ, printed wet ink: 6 g/m², with 95 % ethanol as the food simulant) and PE film (film thickness: 50 µ, 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 for 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 10°C and not in direct contact with sunlight.

Storage Precaution: in the event of storage at temperatures lower than the minimum specified, some components of this product(s) may crystallize or agglomerate. To reverse this phenomenon and dissolve the solidified components, please store the product at 20° C for some hours and stir well with a mechanical stirrer with adequate sheer strength, until the product is homogeneous again. Your local Technical Support can advise on special measures to deal with specific situations.