

## Cracking the automatic gap adjustment code

AS reported in PPM September 2019, Durban-based VR Print ventured into the digital printing market with a Screen Truepress Jet L350UV and Ecoline RDF 330 digital label converting and finishing system, which were installed and commissioned by Rotocon in June.

In October, the company replaced the RDF 330's standard die-cutting station with South Africa's first Wink SmartGap Touch adjustable anvil system (that automatically sets die pressure) following its demonstration on Rotocon's stand at Propak Africa in March.

According to VR Print MD, Hilton van Rensburg, although other options were sought at Labelexpo, an equivalent was not found.

'The aim of digital production is to turn things around as quickly as possible to push out the maximum number of jobs in a day,' he remarks. 'The Wink SmartGap Touch is world-class in terms of minimising wastage, maximising efficiencies and obtaining perfect die-cutting results time after time. It represents the future of die-cutting and, as we operate in a niche market, it's the type of investment we need to make to maintain our competitive advantage.'



The investment also represents the next phase of getting VR Print's operators used to working with touchscreens and moving away from mechanical analogue job set-ups – learning to analyse the information displayed, to recall jobs or scan QR codes to get perfectly accurate and repeatable die-cutting results.

'We've seen a huge increase in throughput because the RDF 330 operator can recall stored data for reuse and doesn't have to set up a particular die-cutting job repeatedly,' Hilton states.

Among VR Print's biggest concerns during long runs was the die heating up and cutting through the liner. The Wink SmartGap Touch makes automatic adjustments and eliminates the need to conduct a test every 1 500 running metres to ensure this isn't happening. In addition to achieving higher levels of precision, the operator can make fine manual adjustments to reduce pressure settings and enhance the die's lifespan.

'The adjustable anvil gives us the flexibility to obtain the maximum lifespan from our tooling because we can still use it when we change to different micron liners from different suppliers,' he explains.

Each flexible die ordered from Wink comes with a data matrix label QR code affixed to the outside of the relevant canister, simplifying scanning. 'Once the code is scanned and the SmartGap system retrieves and saves the data, it



VR Print's MD, Hilton van Rensburg, and Ecoline RDF 330 operator, Rall Pillay, are excited about the efficiencies provided by the Wink Smart Gap Touch adjustable anvil system. Pictured with them is Rotocon's Durban branch manager, Akmuth Sayed, who installed and commissioned the Wink system and trained the operator within two days.

automatically sets the die pressure, providing significant set-up time savings,' says Rotocon's Durban branch manager, Akmuth Sayed.

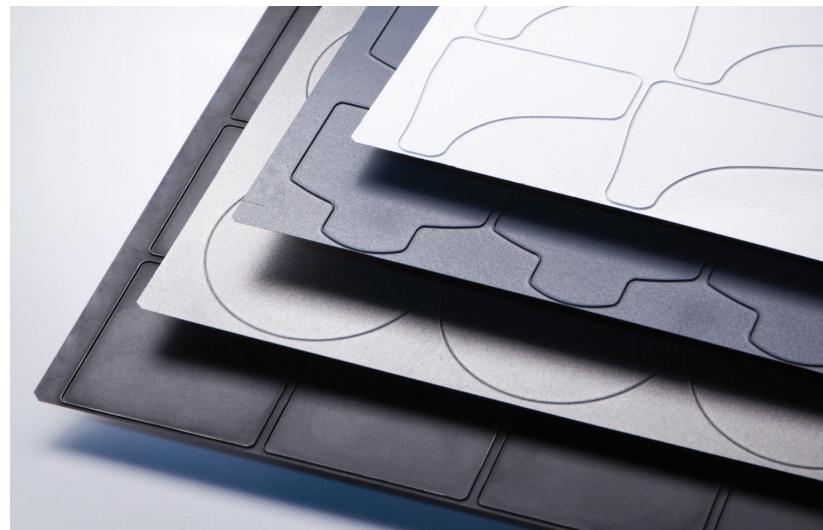
'The digital touchscreen makes the system user-friendly for the operator and comes preloaded with a troubleshooting advice manual, including pointers on what to check and how to identify and solve particular problems,' he adds.

### Driven by service excellence

Hilton van Rensburg confirms that a Wink SmartGap Touch Advanced system (soon to be launched) has also been ordered. This system includes a sensor that automatically applies more pressure in a specific area to rectify any problem. 'Its ability to automatically carry out corrections, store and recall all jobs will be a real boon in our business,' he emphasises.

VR Print's confidence in Rotocon as the Wink agent has been the deciding factor in these investment decisions. 'We knew we'd received the best level of expertise and added value in terms of the installation, commissioning, training and after-sales support,' Hilton comments. 'We believe Rotocon has the edge because it's the only supplier completely dedicated to the narrow-web industry, offering a full basket of solutions and expertise.'

And, as Akmuth Sayed adds, Rotocon is committed to backing up each installation with service excellence, spare parts inventory and technical support in all regions of the country, giving customers complete peace of mind. 'We also



pride ourselves on providing expert consulting advice to ensure that customers buy the right equipment to meet an operation's precise needs, and that it's correctly specified to deliver optimum return on investment,' he comments.

Over the past decade, Rotocon has created an ever-faster, safer passage from Europe to South Africa through refining relationships with international freight forwarding companies such as UPS and DHL. These partnerships provide customers with the confidence that they won't have to wait weeks for parts or consumables to arrive.

### DIE CARE GUIDELINES

To get the best possible performance from and extend the lifespan of your cutting tools, follow these handy tips for correct use, gap checks and storage.

#### Careful handling

- Never bend a flexible die or put it down on the blades.
- Always clean the reverse side of the die thoroughly with Rotocon Iso pro before mounting it onto the magnetic cylinder.
- Only use a Wink-lifter to remove flexible dies from the cylinder.
- Remove all paint and glue residue after use and lightly oil both sides of the die with anti-corrosive **Rotocon Protec**.

#### Press pressures

- Check for exact positioning of pressure-bridge on the cylinder bearers.
- Ensure that bearings and shafts are running free from backlash.
- Pay attention to adequate pressure between magnetic, rotary and anvil cylinder.
- Increase cutting pressure very slowly.
- Clean and oil the bearers and pressure rollers regularly with felt strips.
- We advise the use of pressure cells.

#### Cylinder savvy

- Clean the cylinders thoroughly with Rotocon Iso pro before use.
- Lift cylinders into and out of the machine carefully.
- Never put a magnetic cylinder down on the magnetic area.
- Don't ever place a rotary cylinder on the cutting lines.
- Regularly remove paint and glue residues with Rotocon Iso pro.
- Control damage to cylinders by avoiding excessive bearer pressure.
- Oil the cylinder with Rotocon Protec before storing.

#### Mind the gap

- Measure the gap regularly.
- Check or change the magnetic and anvil cylinder, if the gap is one-sided or the tolerance is too large.
- Consider gap changing when ordering new cutting tools.
- Inspect bearers, bearings, pressure rollers and gears regularly.

#### Safe storage

- Wrap each flexible die separately in oil paper.
- Store the dies in suspended file pockets or in the original cardboard tubes in which they've been supplied.
- Ensure the blades are facing upwards during storage.
- Keep the certificate of quality and the cutting sample provided.