

Easy Cleaning System

BÖTTCHER #productivityprovider

Personalisation, special editions, brand owners' desire for maximum flexibility, along with economic constraints and the need to reduce inventories and work in progress – all these factors continually push run lengths in packaging production downwards. Given this megatrend, reducing the down time between jobs becomes crucial in running a productive plant and maintaining a competitive edge. In metal decorating, where the number of spot and special colours is particularly large, many printers are searching for ways to cut down maintenance time, speed up job and colour changes and generally achieve more productive uptime on their machinery.

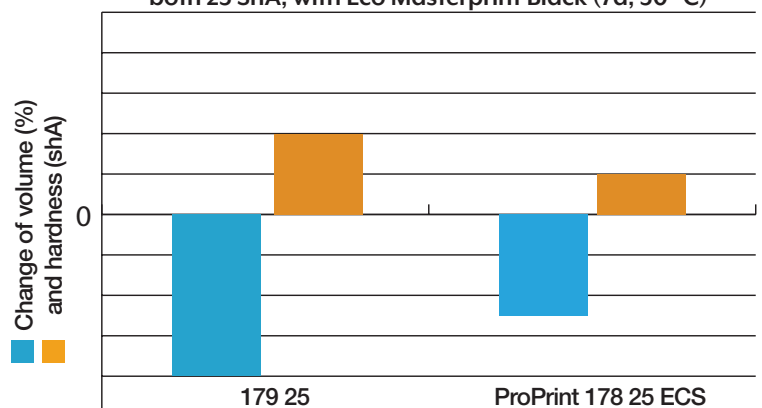
Böttcher supports metal decorators in achieving these goals with a brand new series of rubber roller compounds: The ECS compound series (ECS = Easy Cleaning System) is designed to speed up colour and job changes while at the same time reducing waste and wash consumption (dependent on job structure, savings of 30-40% have been recorded). ECS compounds incorporate special polymers and additives which enhance the cleanability of the rollers and get the press back up and running faster than is possible with conventional roller coverings. Special surface finishing techniques produce an ultra-smooth roller surface, reducing the volume of ink in the roller train and thereby enhancing the speed with which alterations in ink settings take effect.

The ECS product range covers the whole spectrum of offset printing and ECS compounds are available for both conventional and UV inks, and for printers looking for maximum flexibility by alternating between conventional and UV on the same press.

For conventional inks, the 178 25 and 378 35 compounds are available (the last two digits denote the hardness in Shore A). For metal decorators who prefer to work with softer form rollers, Böttcher recommends the 25 Shore A 178 25 compound, while 378 35 is best for the distributors. In addition to their easy cleaning properties, both compounds are

extremely shrink-resistant, retaining their dimensional stability and original hardness for much longer than standard roller compounds. This equates to more consistent print quality, less operator intervention and longer roller life.

Comparison between ProPrint 178 25 ECS and 179 25, both 25 ShA, with Eco Masterprint Black (7d, 50° C)



The effects can be maximized by using 378 35 in all positions. The logic is simple: the softer the rubber, the more plasticizer it contains, which can be extracted by inks and aggressive washes. The 35 Shore A 378 35 contains less plasticizer and is therefore even less susceptible to shrinkage than its softer counterpart.

For printing with UV-curing inks, the ECS 718 40 compound is the rubber of choice. This compound offers the same advantages as the 178/378 compounds, coupled with excellent compatibility with UV inks of all types and generations.

To round off the series, the ECS 277 30/377 35 compounds are available for dual purpose (UV and conventional) presses. While immensely popular among carton printers, the number of metal decorating presses set up to run in mixed mode is limited, but the '77 series ECS compounds offer this facility to metal decorators.

*Standard compound
after cleaning*



*ECS compound
after cleaning*

As one of the world's leading manufacturers of cleaning and maintenance products for graphic applications, Böttcher supports its new roller compounds with washes developed to offer both chemical compatibility with the rubber roller coverings and excellent cleaning power, while fulfilling all H&S and press manufacturers' demands and specifications. Böttcher will also provide on-site support to any metal decorator looking to optimize their job changeover routines and increase productivity.

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