ONYX

THRIVE
INFORMATION FOR GROWTH

July 2008 Issue

What's New:

A Perfect Solution: Mutoh and ONYX Team up Again

Mutoh America and ONYX Graphics, two highly recognized leaders in the digital printing industry, are working together once again. Mutoh's high performance ValueJet 1608 BIO Hybrid printer is bundled with ONYX® RIP-CenterTM, a perfect solution to help their mutual customers reduce costs by saving time and effortlessly producing flawless quality prints.

"We are excited about the new partnership we have just formed with ONYX Graphics. I feel this is the right software for the new ValueJet 1608 BIO Hybrid printer," said Randy Rickert, General Manager of Mutoh America.

ONYX RIPCenter is designed to enable users to immediately begin producing professional color prints. ONYX RIPCenter includes a PostScript® RIP, so both raster and PostScript files can be processed and printed. The product will ship with media profiles for 20 different substrates and 50 different print modes. Other features include job nesting to reduce media waste, ink tracking for job cost estimates, RIP and print on-the-fly, easy recalibration, and PANTONE® Spot Color matching.

"ONYX Graphics has worked closely with Mutoh to ensure that RipCenter complements the powerful features included in the ValueJet 1608 BIO Hybrid," said Jeb Hurley, President and CEO of ONYX Graphics. "We are pleased to be working with Mutoh to deliver an enhanced level of compatibility and output quality that our mutual customers expect."

The ValueJet 1608 BIO Hybrid uses Mutoh's Drop-On Demand-Piezo Drive Method that is supported by ONYX Graphics. The ValueJet 1608 BIO Hybrid uses Mutoh's Patented Intelligent Interweaving Print Technology (i2) where ink is laid down carefully in optimized wave forms, resulting in virtually no banding. A combination of these features reaps many benefits to the user, saving time and obtaining impeccable print quality every time.

For more information please visit **www.mutoh.com**

ONYX Introduces Changes at Recent ICC Group Meeting in Japan

ONYX recently met with the ICC group in Tokyo, Japan. At the meeting, ONYX introduced changes to the specification for the floating point encoding in ICC profiles (originally proposed by Adobe and ONYX and approved by the ICC in Nov 2006). This floating point encoding specification offers the means of providing the basis for standardizing spectrally managed color which will lead to greater color constancy in color management. Members within ICC are currently working on a standard sRGB v4 Appearance Model color profile, which will be implemented for color consistency between software applications and printers. An ICC developed, sRGB v4 ICC Preference profile will be released with the upcoming 7.2 version of Onyx products. More details regarding 7.2 will be announced in August.

The International Color Consortium (ICC) is an organization established to create global standardization for color management systems and components. The ICC is made up from a leading group of industry vendors such as: ONYX, Adobe, HP, Microsoft, Apple, and X-Rite.

Max Derhak, ONYX's color scientist, chairs the ICC Architecture Working Group which develops and evaluates improvements to the ICC specification and Color Management workflow. ONYX is the only large-format RIP software manufacturer to participate in the ICC to drive color management innovation with other industry leaders.

Mutoh America Holding an Open House: "How to Go Green and Make Money"

Mutoh America Inc. has teamed up with partners in the Printing Industry; 3M, EFI-Inkware, Korographics, ONYX Graphics, Neschen Americas Hotwiredtech, Inc, ST Media, UltraFlex and Xanita, to bring you an Open House: 'How to Go Green and Make Money.' It will take place August 21st & 22nd, 2008 at Mutoh's facility located at 2602 S. 47th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034.

Mutoh has discovered a new meaning for 'Going Green.' Do you want to produce extraordinary prints while protecting the environment and saving money all at the same time?! We have found the perfect solution with the combined efforts of our partners that will be presented at our Open House. Learn how to: "Go Green" while increasing profits. Participate in an in depth session on the production and installation of vehicle wraps, operate software, design and print, and see demonstrations on a number of special applications; learn how to print, laminate and apply.

For further information or to register, visit **www.mutoh.com**

New Driver Support for DGI and Dilli Printers

ONYX is pleased to announce new driver support for DGI and Dilli Printers. All supported DGI and Dilli drivers are included in the GRANDPAK which can be added to ONYX ProductionHouse packages. The full list of supported DGI and Dilli printers are below or visit **http://www.onyxgfx.com/printermatrix.html** to view the full printer driver list from the ONYX website.

DGI DR-1904
DGI OJ-62_Series
DGI VT-100 98 92 Series
DGI VT IV Series
DGI XP-3204T
DGI PS-3204D
DGI DR-1904T
DGI PS-3206
DGI VT-62 Series
DGI XP-2506
DGI STII-1806
DGI MJ-3206
DGI SPACEJET-3250P
DGI VTIII-98 DP & DS
DGI XP-2506D
DGI XP-1804D

Dilli:
NeoVenus 2506
NeoPlus 2506
NeoTitan 1606
NeoPlus 1606

Hooked On ONYX

ONYX Customers Share Their Stories of Success

Shannon
LARGE FORMAT PRINTING

Shannon NV started in 1989, by Antoon Van Duffel (CEO) as an information technology company selling large format inkjet printers from Encad. In 1995, Shannon added printers from Raster Graphics and software from ONYX to its portfolio. In 1995, Antoon was joined by his son Dimitri Van Duffel who saw how the company could help its customers as well as turn a profitable business. Promoted as a quick-start concept for Shannon's customers, the idea quickly grew. Shannon would act as an outsource partner for large format prints, while its customers were gaining a foothold in their own businesses. This would enable Shannon's customers to build capital before investing in larger, production-grade printers. This concept worked well for a few years and by 1998, the company ceased the printer distribution business and became a service bureau full-time.

Starting with a Salsa 3-meter solvent machine, the Van Duffels kept on the leading edge by regularly investing in new printing and workflow technology. Another Salsa printer, an oil-based Seiko, two Durst RHO printers, a Canon IPF9000 printer, an AGFA Grand Sherpa Universal printer and an OKI C9600 proofing device were added along the way. Recently, Shannon refocused its efforts to providing a total solution, including in-house finishing. To that end, the Van Duffels added a Zünd automated cutter with i-Cut software, a Fotoba cutter and a high speed grommeting machine.

Since its inception as a large format service bureau, Shannon had always relied on ONYX Graphics software to drive its printers. But now it needed a total workflow solution. And once again, the Van Duffels turned to ONYX Graphics.

"Since the beginning in 1995, we have trusted the stability of ONYX products," said Dimitri Van Duffel, Manager, Shannon Large Format Printing. "ONYX has been growing with our company. In 1998, Wasatch was bundled with the Salsa, but ONYX developed the driver for the printer on our request, so the complete workflow in our shop was back again with ONYX."

Shannon uses ONYX ProductionHouse V7 to manage its workflow productively and profitably. The company is a believer in the client / server architecture in ONYX ProductionHouse. By using this workflow process, any person in the Shannon studio can open a job in Preflight and send it to a queue for processing anywhere on the network. This gives Shannon the ability to keep separate ONYX servers, and maintain the right profiles and settings of the correct media channels.

Shannon cites consistent color as a main business benefit of using ONYX ProductionHouse software. The company creates all its own media profiles, which is greatly streamlined with the new Media Manager in V7. This version includes a redesigned user interface with a wizard-driven workflow that reduces the time and effort needed to calibrate and profile media. All color management is performed in ONYX ProductionHouse. "We specifically like the color matching profiles," said Dimitri. "All material printed by us is profiled by us. This enables us to print the job right the first time without manually adjusting color channels." This speeds throughput time, reduces media waste (because re-runs of jobs are eliminated) and ensures the client gets the right color.

From start to finish, Shannon appreciates the entire workflow solution offered by ONYX ProductionHouse. "This package has it all, on any printer that in our shop, with the client / server solution, we can use either i-Cut, Fotoba or eyelet marks, and the finishing department can finish the job," said Dimitri.

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Product Feature Focus:

Variable Data Tool

The Variable Data tool in Layout allows you to create large batches of print jobs that you can customize by adding data such as, variable text, images, and barcodes. You can import data fields from database files and preview the results on-screen before using unnecessary ink and media. The Layout Tool will then automatically place it for as many copies as desired. This tool is great for creating signs, promotional items, advertisements, and full-color labels. Variable Data is a standard feature in the Layout tool, included in ONYX ProductionHouse.

Tech Tips

Helpful Tips From the Experts

Processing Time

Customers have mentioned that under some conditions ONYX software processing (RIP) time is slow. However, the reality is that while continued code optimization and other speed enhancements are essential, you can achieve significant speed improvements through using an optimal system configuration (hardware and software).

ONYX recommends the following Minimum System Configuration for all ONYX Products

- 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB DDR2 667 MHz Memory
- 74GB SATA Disk Drive C: for OS and Application
- 74GB SATA Disk Drive D: for Temporary Processed Data Storage

Achieve greater speed increases by using the Optimal System Configuration for all ONYX Products

- 2 Intel Dual-Core XEON 3.2 GHz Processors
- 4GB DDR2 667MHz Fully-Buffered ECC RAM
- Four 74GB, 10,000 RPM SATA Disk Drives
  - One for OS and Application
  - One for Temporary Data Processing (Bandhome)
  - One for output device 1
  - One for output device 2
  - Note: Add additional drives for additional output devices

To characterize this, a third-party independent test group compared RIP times between ONYX version 6.5 Rev 3 on a brand new system running minimum requirements to ONYX version 7.1.0 on the same system. The group then tested ONYX version 7.1.0 on a system built by an independent hardware vendor as an optimized system.

Each file was printed individually without color correction applied. They determined that significant RIP speed improvements were possible when using the latest version of the ONYX software on the Optimal System Configuration.They achieved speeds up to 5x faster when using just an optimized system and 7.1. They achieved speeds up to 20x faster when using the latest version of software on the optimal system.

ONYX recommends the following in order to get the greatest RIP speed:

- Use the most recent version of ONYX software (ONYX v7.2 on line release is August 1st)
- Use the Optimal System Configuration
- 2 Intel Dual-Core XEON 3.2 GHz Processors

- 4GB DDR2 667MHz Fully-Buffered ECC RAM
- Four 74GB, 10,000 RPM SATA Disk Drives
  - One for OS and Application
  - One for Temporary Data Processing (Bandhome)
  - One for output device 1
  - One for output device 2
  - Note: Add additional drives for additional output devices
- Optimize your software configuration
  - Configure your Advanced Quick Sets options.
  - Disable Anti-Virus or Firewall Apps from scanning the ONYX, Bandhome, and work folders.
  - Place other applications on a separate computer and access RIP-Queue through your network.
- Reference the Maximizing RIP Speed white paper for additional ideas to improve RIP speed.

Max-imize Your Color

Tips from our Color Scientist Max Derhak

Using Achromatic UCR

The ONYX ICC profile build options provide the ability to use UCR or "Under Color Removal" for the purposes of black generation for achromatic (or gray) portions of images.

If the UCR option is turned off (the default) the Start Black option defines where "black" ink is introduced relative to CMY inks in the color Mix. The above figure shows this relationship.

Note: This is the traditional method of performing black generation.

This results in potentially smoother highlights as the light areas are made up of CMY dots. However, the gray balance can be more unstable if the CMY target ink densities are not properly color balanced, and the use of CMY inks to render grays can also be less color constant (IE: they can change appearance to different observers or in different lighting conditions).

If the UCR option is turned on, the Start Black option defines where CMY inks are introduced relative to "black" ink in the color mix (IE: the CMY inks are removed from the highlights). The above figure shows this relationship.

This results in potentially coarser highlights as lighter areas are only made up of black dots. However, if light "black" ink(s) or gray ink(s) are available in the print mode this is usually not a problem. With only "black" ink being used to render the highlights the gray balance will be much more stable and color constant.

TIP: If you are profiling to print black & white photography on a printer that has light blacks, consider using the UCR option get better grayscales.