

Eight-Color Full-Size Perfector Drives Printing Vision

Lithrone S40P

Challenging spirit leads to Lithrone S40P and FM screening expertise

Founded in 1926, Konishi Print has long generated a bright light in the Kansai region, the second center of the Japanese economy (the first being Tokyo). In 1930, the company was one of the first in Japan to commission an automatic Heidelberg platen press. Konishi Print set its sights on offset printing in the 1970s, and later built up prepress and postpress capabilities. Becoming the first Japanese printer to install a Creo Lotem 800V CTP in 1999, Konishi now offers fully digital production, with more than 90 percent of plates imaged on the CTP system. Finally ready to take on significant new challenges, Konishi Print commissioned an eight-color Lithrone S40P in January 2005, specified with the industry-renowned Komori Full-APC system.



"Our company grew through a corporate culture that always stressed the newest and latest in technologies and processes. From acquiring the automatic platen press to our takeup of the offset process to our eight-color Heidelberg in 1996 as well as our fully digital setup and thermal CTP system, we have taken the lead in Japan." So says President Junzaburo Konishi. The printer made a full shift to Staccato FM screening, and today outputs more than 3,000 plates a month by this method, accounting for 80 percent of all print production. The outstanding reproduction characteristics of images such as photos plus color tones that are completely free of color variation and moiré thanks to FM screening are highly valued by clients with high-resolution, high print quality work, such as bridal

publications and catalogs of luxury wristwatches and fishing gear. "Our business policies aimed at facilitating 'one-stop products' — the capacity for quick turnaround of high-quality products through integrated production — have accelerated the advancement of our company and its technologies," says Mr. Konishi.

Machine potential

So, why the decision to invest in the powerful new Komori Lithrone S40P when the company was already running three Heidelberg machines? "Our work has always been mostly four-over-four, making an eight-color machine a definite requirement. We'd always depended on Heidelberg, but I was seeking to stimulate our employees, reinvigorate the company, improve quality and expand our business with the new Komori press.

"Would the new press really solve the characteristic perfector problems of scuffing and marking? Would Full-APC be the solution from the viewpoint of raising productivity? Could the S40P handle two-sided printing on 0.3mm sheets? Would it lower the operator's workload? Every angle and filter of analysis led us toward the Lithrone S40P."

President Junzaburo Konishi



In deciding which machine to select, I set the capability for maximizing our profits while handling short turnaround and small lots as our main criteria. And my most important duty was to single out a machine which would be easy to use even for operators without lengthy experience. After thorough comparative tests of the top-of-the-line machines from several manufacturers, I decided on the eight-color Lithrone S40P perfector, and shortly after the press was installed, I felt great satisfaction with this pick," beams President Konishi.

Heavy stock capability

Explaining the background of his investment, President Konishi says, "We were very familiar with the high productivity made possible by two-sided printing, but we were concerned that with our current machines, two-sided printing with stock

of 135kg and heavier was impossible because of the fine jacket pattern used for printing the first side. So two-sided printing on heavy 0.3mm sheets was my first requirement for the new press."

Katsushiro Hirai, the production manager at Konishi Print who played a critical role with President Konishi in selecting the new machine, adds, "Dot reproducibility on heavy stock is exceptional, and changing all eight plates in less than four minutes thanks to the Full-APC system makes the LS-840P ideal for short-run work and a very significant contributor to high productivity and better profits. This press is digital-ready in every respect, meaning CIP3 data can be sent to the press online and complete color management is available via the color control bar, so working efficiency is outstanding. The

sheet scuffing and marking issue typical with conventional perfectors is completely eliminated, and we can print on 0.3mm heavy stock with stable paper transfer throughout the press. Operation is utterly predictable at 13,000sph in perfecting mode. The total power of these varied factors taken together finally solidified our decision to acquire the LS-840P."

3x the productivity of 4C press

"Including effects that aren't really visible, we estimate that we will see productivity improvements roughly three times that of a four-color straight press. One of the most important benefits is the higher motivation of all the staff involved with the Lithrone S40P. Operators' reports are uniformly positive. That has made a real difference."





From left: Marc De Vos, printing plant manager, Sabin Naeye, financial director, Frédéric Schaubroeck, managing director

“The Komori’s printing performance cannot be compared to other presses I’ve worked with. It offers an extremely high level of user convenience and hands-off automation, and it is a lot easier to train a printer on this press than on any other printing machine,” says Marc De Vos, printing plant manager at Schaubroeck n.v.

The Lithrone S40P impact

LS-840P Turns Schaubroeck Into a “Full-Komori” Plant in 72 x 102cm Format



Over the past 47 years, Schaubroeck n.v. has gained a reputation for being able to handle a wide variety of complex print jobs. Originally specialised in printed materials for government agencies, the Belgian firm transformed itself into a full-service provider for the commercial print market. Schaubroeck’s customer base draws from Flanders, the Brussels area, and the north of France.

When Schaubroeck needed to add maximum flexibility to their production capabilities, their choice was the Komori Lithrone S840P, the newest addition to the Lithrone S40 range of

two- to 12-colour presses. The results? Marc De Vos, Schaubroeck’s printing plant manager, sums it up in one word: “Fantastic!” De Vos continues, “We’ve never experienced such a flawless installation and start-up on an offset press. And the results are astonishing!”

The Komori eight-colour Lithrone S40 has received an enthusiastic response from customers ever since it was introduced at Drupa 2004. It was an ideal match for Schaubroeck’s need for the ultimate in flexibility – the LS-840 accommodates a maximum plate size of 800 x 1030mm and

a maximum paper format of 720 x 1030mm, with a maximum printing area of 710 x 1020mm.

Their operations are standardized in a 72 x 102cm printing line with a Komori convertible Lithrone 240 (a 1/1 two-colour press), a five-colour Lithrone 40 + Coater, and now the eight-colour Lithrone S40. Both large Komori presses are supplied with ink from a large central ink supply system. A second 36 x 52cm printing line consists of a five-colour Heidelberg Speedmaster SM 52 and a two-colour Heidelberg GTO perfecta.

Marc De Vos comments:

“The Komori’s printing performance cannot be compared to other presses I’ve worked with. It offers an extremely high level of user convenience and hands-off automation, and it is easier to train a printer on this press than on any other printing machine.”

Stress-free paper throughput

The set-up time for the LS-840 is extremely short, and De Vos reports that paper waste and downtime have been reduced to a bare minimum. Changeover from low to high paperweight

fer mechanism integrates air control systems and ceramic-coated jackets on the second set of the four impression cylinders, resulting in a spotless transfer of the reversed sheet from the perfecting unit up to the paper delivery. A wide range of paperweights, from 60 to 300gsm, can be printed on both sides at high throughput speeds of up to 15,000 impressions per hour.

Most of the job orders at Schaubroeck consist of 4-, 5-, and multiple colour jobs for magazines, catalogues, brochures, promotional

provide advanced colour management. The press is fully compatible with future or existing CIP4/JDF applications and Schaubroeck is evaluating the benefits of implementing JDF. However, Production Manager Peter Fauconnier is taking a prudent approach and waiting

advantage. Marc De Vos identifies the LS-840’s high speed, superior quality and impressive productivity levels as key benefits that are already delivering a strong return on investment. “We’ve experienced a very positive impact upon cost reduction and delivery times,” concludes De Vos.

Accurate and easy colour management is crucial for Schaubroeck’s demanding job requirements. The LS-840 provides a complete solution with the Komori ColorProfiler software suite.



or board is easy and quick. The press provides an extremely reliable and fast perfecting system, which De Vos appreciatively describes as a “stress-free paper throughput.”

The LS-840 eight-colour press incorporates the award-winning design and modular technology features of the popular Lithrone S40 series. The press is also equipped with a unique three-cylinder perfecting mechanism, which flawlessly transports the printed sheet, thus providing the highest reproduction quality on both sides of the sheet throughout the entire print run. This trans-

print work, billboards, and year-end print work with calendars and pocket agendas, as well as books. The firm also prints cardboard boxes, and maintains a digital printing department where print-on-demand jobs are executed.

Colour management

Accurate and easy colour management is crucial for Schaubroeck’s demanding job requirements. The LS-840 provides a complete solution with the Komori ColorProfiler software suite, a breakthrough productivity tool designed to streamline the workflow from design through production and

to see reliable results from software developers first, citing problems with current JDF applications.

Schaubroeck’s Komori-powered print line has gained increased flexibility as well as a profitable





Komori America Product Manager Doug Schardt at Open House

Precision Offset Open Doors with Komori 10C Long Perfector

'No one else in our market has a 5/5 or even a 4/4 perfector, so we're able to pass on our savings to customers. Plus having the 10/0 capability allows us to print fine art (Hexachrome, metallic process, spot colors) and agency work. It's opening doors for us in all areas.' Kevin Smith, Sales Manager

10-color Lithrone S40P



Precision Offset in Irvine, California, played host to Komori America customers from around the United States who came to see the world's first 10-color Lithrone S40 perfector with coater. Visitors saw two complete jobs: a 10-color straight job and a 5/5 perfecting job printed in a matter of minutes. Komori America Product Manager Doug Schardt

walked attendees through the features on the LS perfector. Precision Offset is also home to a five-color Lithrone 28 and a six-color Lithrone 40. "The 10-color long perfector is already paying big dividends," says Kevin Smith, sales manager at Precision Offset.

5/5 and 10/0 capabilities
"Being able to print both sides of the sheet in one

pass makes us very competitive on our signature work and long-run brochures. No one else in our market has a 5/5 or even a 4/4 perfector, so we're able to pass on our savings to customers. Plus, having the 10/0 capability allows us to print fine art (Hexachrome, metallic process, spot colors) and agency work. It's opening doors for us in all areas."

Convertible perfector scuffing and marking hassles?

