

Curious Collection - Print Guide

Curious Touch Soft

Applications

Curious Touch Soft is ideal for distinctive brochures, report covers, folders, dividers, book covers, box wraps, high-end packaging, unusual attire and countless other applications that call for a very unusual and touchable surface.

Technical Information

Because of its unique finish, we only recommend printing on Soft with UV inks.

Print Techniques

Soft is suitable for offset lithography - subject to the technical provisos regarding UV inks detailed below - as well as embossing, debossing, screen printing and foil-blocking. Please be aware that heavy ink coverage will compromise the Soft effect.

Offset Lithography

For best offset litho results we only recommend printing the unique Soft finish with UV inks. The untreated side can also be printed using UV inks. It is possible to use conventional fully oxidising inks on the untreated side only, providing exceptional care is taken: i.e., use an anti-set-off spray of at least 35 microns; always rack printed sheets in small piles; and use under-colour removal for images with large dark areas. (Again, if UV inks are used the above precautions are not necessary.)

Screen Ruling

When printing on Soft excellent results can be achieved with screen rulings of 133 to 150 lpi. However, finer rulings may be used with careful ink control, including the use of under-colour removal. Stochastic screenings may also be used.

Blind Embossing

Soft is ideally suited to blind embossing. The corners of the die should be rounded off to avoid creases.

Hot Foil-Blocking

Curious Touch Soft can be foil-blocked. However, due to the unique surface the foiled image may appear to have a matt finish. Ensure the use of a compatible film.

Silk-Screening

UV silk-screen printing gives very acceptable results, as does conventional silk-screen printing in conjunction with drying ovens.

Varnishing

It is possible to varnish Curious Touch Soft - though, to be honest, we can't imagine a situation where you'd want to cover up the wonderful soft-effect side of the latter. Silkscreen UV varnishing is the only method to achieve good gloss results. Ensure the sheet is sealed with an acrylic or glycol sealer beforehand. Lay a matt UV varnish just to seal the surface and then use gloss UV varnishes to get the desired effect. Repeat varnishings may be required to achieve high gloss results.

Sealing

Sealing is not recommended for the Soft side of this product, although there may be benefits in sealing the untreated side to help prevent marking. We recommend pre-testing to ascertain the level of quality.

Laminating

We doubt that anyone would want to laminate Curious Touch Soft on the specially treated side, as the 'soft' effect would be lost. However, the untreated side laminates easily. Please note that some 'silvering' may occur. Increase laminating pressure and apply excess adhesive to help reduce silvering.

Folding & Creasing

To guarantee good folding results, prior creasing is recommended using a creasing rule and matrix system for the 300g product. Always fold into the bead. The 120g product can be folded easily on a buckle plate or knife folding machine.

Compatibility

Curious Touch Soft is not guaranteed for inkjet or laser compatibility. However, acceptable results can be obtained on some inkjet printers. A trial is, therefore, recommended.

Handling of Envelopes

Due to the special nature of the Curious Touch Soft envelopes, we recommend manual labelling and hand enclosing.