

# 5th Color in 4 Color Printing Importance of Substrate

**Presented by: David Hunter** 

2nd Tuesday January 9, 2024

# Agenda

#### The Importance of Substrate

- Supply chain issues related to availability and consistency
- Affects Color reproduction due to G7 curves, and ICC profiles
- ChromaChecker 5 Step process ensuring substrates meet needs
  - Define a "production standard"
  - Benchmark substrates
  - Find "best match" alternatives
  - Track Substrate over time
  - When adding new, compare first
- Using consistent substrates is critical to matching color



# **Substrate Greatly Affects Printed Result**

#### Flint Ink Sample

Same ink, same ink film thickness, 15 substrates



# **Substrate Greatly Affects Printed Result**

#### Flint Ink Sample

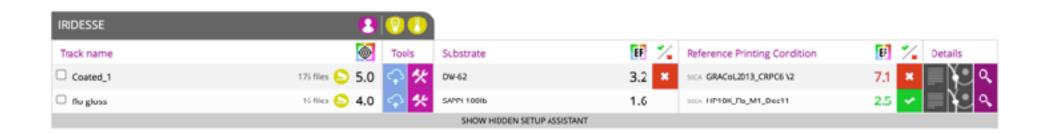
Same ink, same ink film thickness, 15 substrates = 15 different colors



# 1. Defining Production Standard

#### Determine Required Process Color Expectations

- Allowable Substrate variation should be 50% of E-Factor Goal
- Set Production Standard for Substrate: alerts operator if bad
- Wrong substrate is #1 reason why prints are rejected
- Operator needs to catch before error before print



#### 2. Benchmark Your House Substrates

#### Choose Appropriate Measurement Devices

- Spectrophotometer 45/0 for flat, even substrates (M0, M1 and M2)
- ISO 13655 White/Black Backer
- Micrometer Gauge- Thickness
- Glossmeter- Gloss
- Scale- Weight

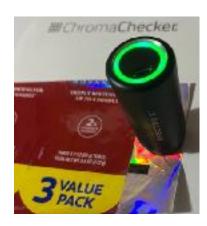








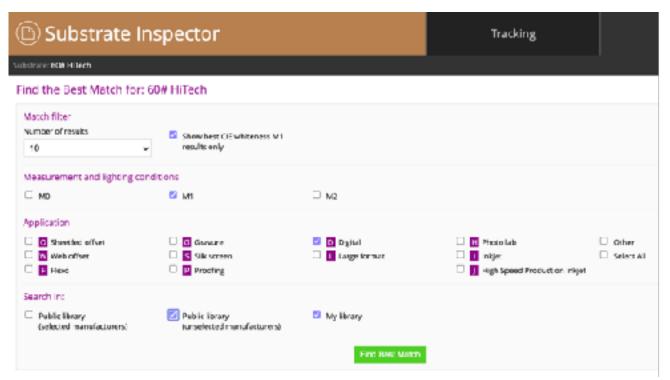




# **Adjust Substrates? Allow for Substitutions**

#### Find Best Match Substrate (per print application)

- ΔE (00) formula doesn't work well for defining perceived difference
- 2016 TAGA Paper (Chung) on combination of metrics= differences
- Implemented in ChromaChecker Best Match Substrate Inspector

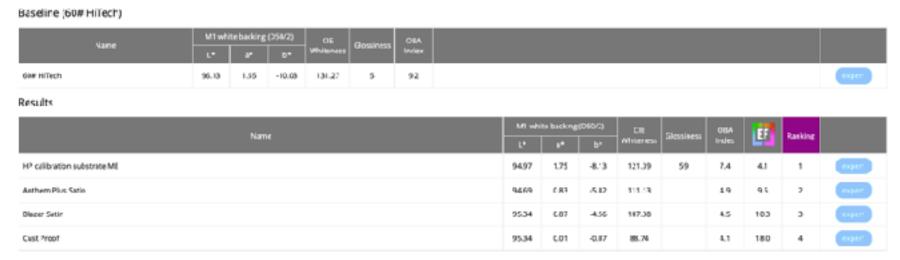




#### **ChromaChecker Best Match Substrate**

#### Find substrates support existing G7/ICC workflows

Specific M Condition, specific print process



Previews predicted visual match:

Light booth (D50, sRGB)

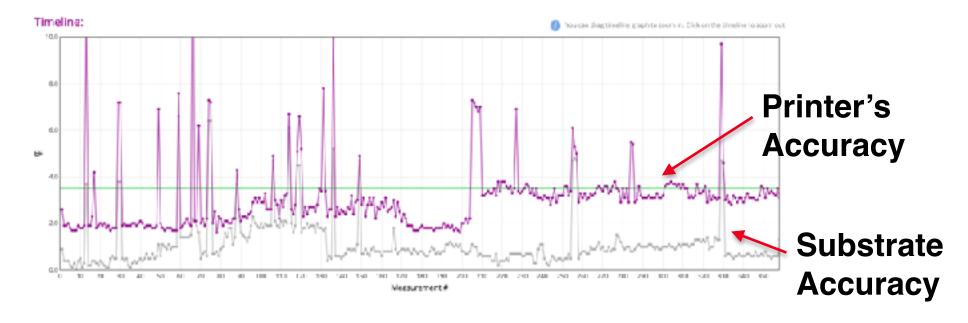




#### 3. Track Substrate Realtime with Printer

### Every production measurement compares substrate

- Associate substrate benchmark with print process
- Color bar requires substrate patch

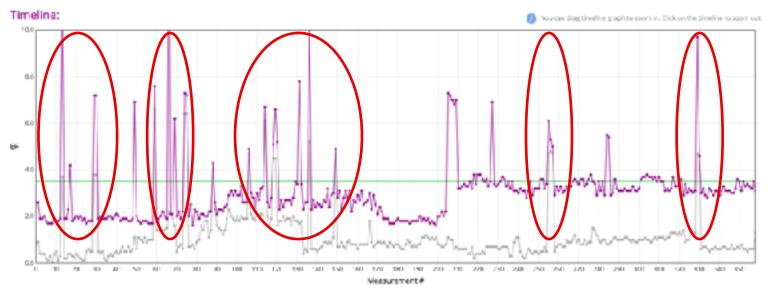




## When Substrate Fails, Print Not Salable

#### Every production measurement compares substrate

- Associate substrate baseline with print process
- Color bar requires substrate patch



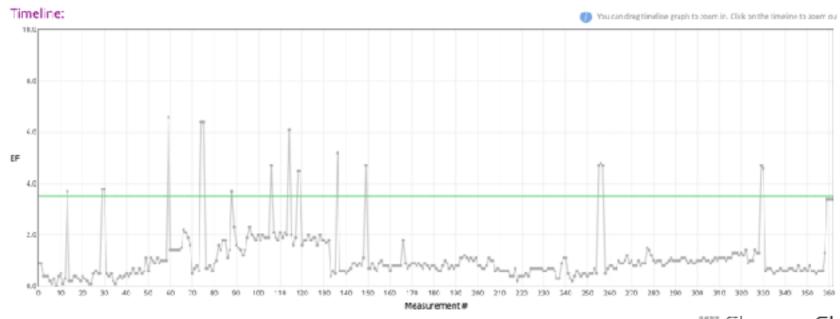




# **Hold Suppliers Accountable**

#### Every production measurement compares substrate

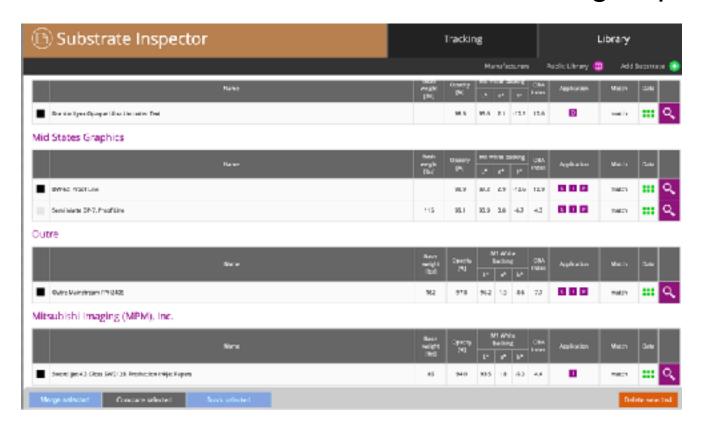
- Track consistency of substrate over time
- 20+ customers told us this provided recourse with their suppliers
- ◆ If using G7 Curves or ICC Profiles- change in substrate ruins result



# 4. Adding New Substrates? Intelligently...

#### Baselining New- Compare with Existing substrate

- Optimize inventory, and pricing
- Build G7 Curves or ICC Profiles to work with groups of substrates

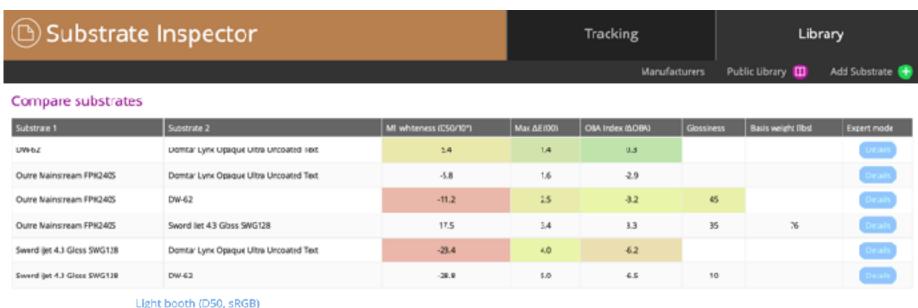




# Compare Inventory of Substrates

#### Baselining inventory- which can be mixed/matched

- Optimize inventory, and pricing
- Build G7 Curves or ICC Profiles to work with groups of substrates



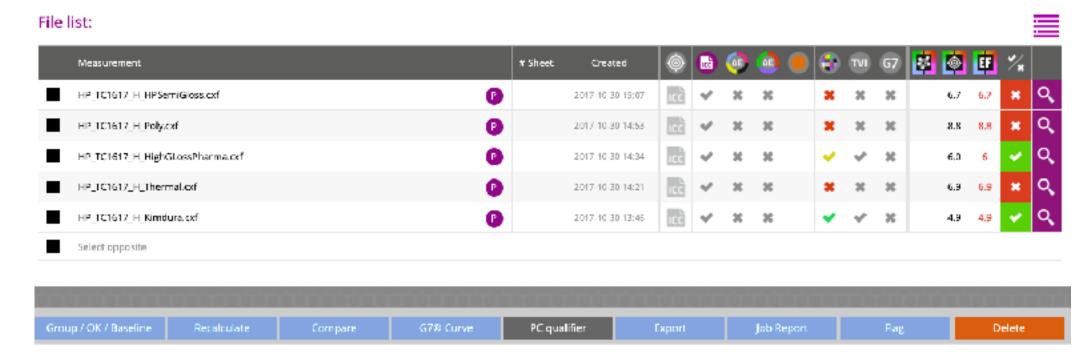
	M0 white	M1 white	M2 white	MO black	M1 black	M2 black
Sub. 1						
Sub. 2						



#### **Printed Color on Substrate- Ultimate Test**

#### How ink/toner interacts with substrate= Appearance

- Print small color bar (proofing wedge, CC84) on all substrates
- Use Print Condition Qualifier to determine which substrate to G7/ICC

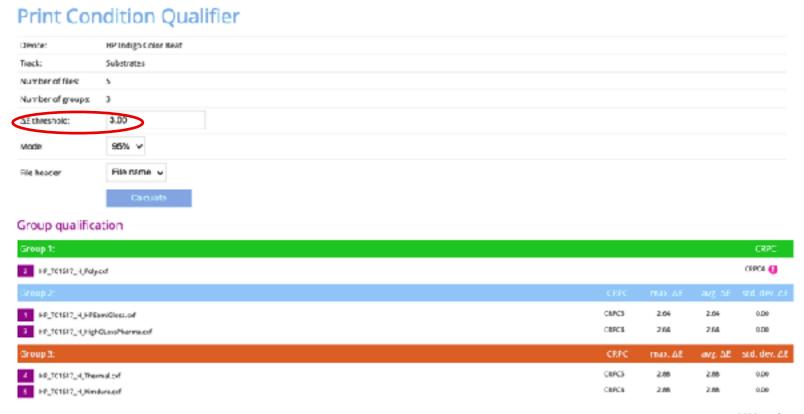




#### **Print Condition Qualifier:**

#### **Apply Production Standard**

Smaller (3) the Production Standard, the more work, time, money





# **Print Condition Qualifier: Optimize Efficiency**

#### **Apply Production Standard**

Larger (5) the Production Standard, the less work, time, money



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# Substrate Summary- 5th color in 4 color

#### Follow ChromaChecker 5 Step Process

- Apply a Production Standard to your substrates
- Benchmarking provides ability to substitute, minimize inventory
- Best Match allows sharing G7 Curves and ICC between substrates
- Alert Operators before they print on wrong substrate
- Substrate compare allows you to add new substrates intelligently
- Print Condition Qualifier helps to minimize workflows, G7, ICC
- Provides more efficiency and productivity for manufacturing color