

# Understanding hybrid presses and opportunities

**Michael Fairley** 

Founder Label Academy
Strategic Consultant Labelexpo



### Evolution of digital finishing and embellishing

Digital standalone press with off line finishing



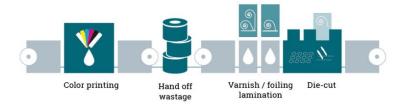




**Started off-line with separate** finishing line

Digital with near line finishing

Moved to near-line finishing....



Digital in-line finishing

....and then to in-line finishing



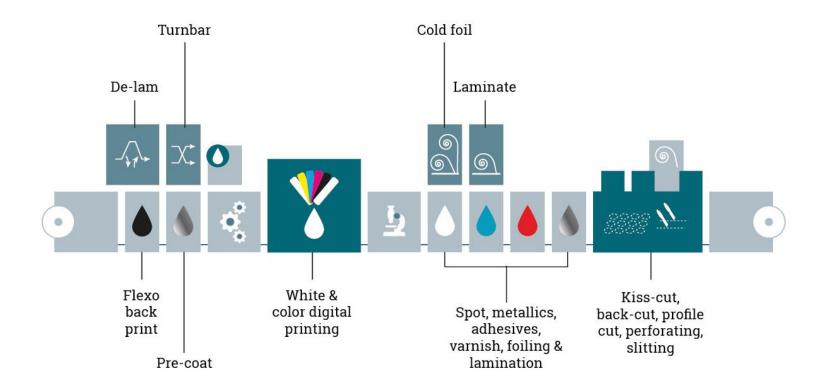
White & color digital printing

foiling & lamination

Kiss-cut, back cut, profile cut, perforating & slitting



### Arrival of the hybrid analogue/digital press



A relatively complex hybrid construction with UV flexo units before and after the digital inkjet printing, and including de-lamination and lamination, turner bar, pre-coating, cold foiling, metallic printing/coating, varnishing, die-cutting, perforating and slitting



### So, how do we define a hybrid press?

The most common formats of a hybrid press can incorporate:

- A minimum of a CMYK + White digital inkjet unit
- Between two and seven UV flexo printing stations (may also include a screen or offset unit)
- The flexo stations may be split before and after the inkjet unit
- Add unwind and re-wind stations
- Some machines include de-lamination and re-lamination capabilities
- Add varnishing and die-cutting as a minimum
- More complex hybrid presses can include metallic ink printing, cold foiling, hot foiling, embossing, brand protection features



### How does a hybrid press provide anything new?

Put all the elements together in one (bespoke) in-line hybrid press

Link them together with fully automated set-up and changeover, computerized controls, advanced web inspection, and integrated with MIS

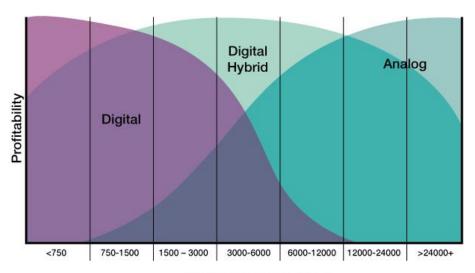
To create new products, new market applications and solutions

That are way beyond anything that current analogue or digital presses on their own can provide



# They also provide a cost-effective and profitable solution for short or medium long runs

Ideal for the majority of your label needs for short to medium runs



Run length in linear feet



Let's look at some common hybrid label press configurations



**Gallus Labelfire 340 Hybrid** 



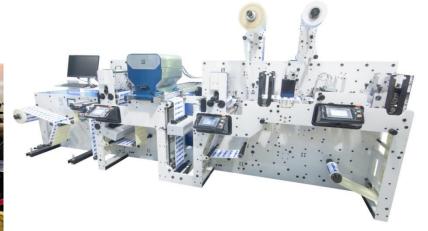
**Mark Andy Digital Series HD Hybrid** 



**Graphium FL3 Hybrid** 



**PPSI DICEweb Retrofit Hybrid** 



Focus d-Flex Hi-Q Hybrid



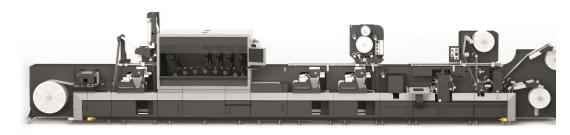
#### Let's look at some common hybrid label press configurations





Nilpeter Panorama Hybrid

**MPS EF Symjet Hybrid** 





Canon Océ-LabelStream Hybrid

**Omet/Durst XJet Hybrid** 



#### There are also retrofit hybrid label press configurations



**Colordyne Technologies 3600 Series Retrofit** 



**PPSI DICEweb Retrofit** 



**Industrial Inkjet Ltd ColourPrint iS Retrofit** 



**IPT Digital/JFLEX 870 Retrofit** 



#### What about carton and flexible packaging hybrid press?



**Heidelberg Primefire 106** 



**KBA VariJet 106 Hybrid** 



Landa W10 Nanographic flexible packaging press



**Canon Océ LabelStream 4000 Hybrid** 



## What does a hybrid press offer the label or package printing converter?

- 'A complete one-pass production tool'
- 'Single pass productivity.'
- 'More flexible and versatile capabilities'
- 'Eliminates cost and set-up time of moving from a digital press to offline or nearline finishing'
- 'Streamlines job data storage, workflow automation and integrated with MIS'
- 'Suits market trend for shorter but more complex run lengths'
- 'New opportunities for product differentiation'
- One operator, one make-ready, one reel change, one web inspection, one lot of waste, and the job comes off the press ready for shipping.
- 'Flexibility to create and adapt designs more freely'



# How do the economics and profitability of hybrid presses compare

- 'Dramatic reduction in waste'
- 'Requires less set-up material'
- 'Minimizes overruns'
- 'Lower lead time'
- 'We've been able to save money'
- 'Higher productivity'
- 'Faster changeovers'
- 'More economical'



## A cost-effective and profitable solution for short or medium long runs

Some converter quotes:

"We expect a 20 percent saving in overall production costs and will benefit from faster start-up times, which will enable us to offer a wider product range. On a 4-color job, we expect to increase the productivity of the machine by 40 percent with faster set-ups. In addition, we will be saving around 70 percent in material waste by using digital hybrid."

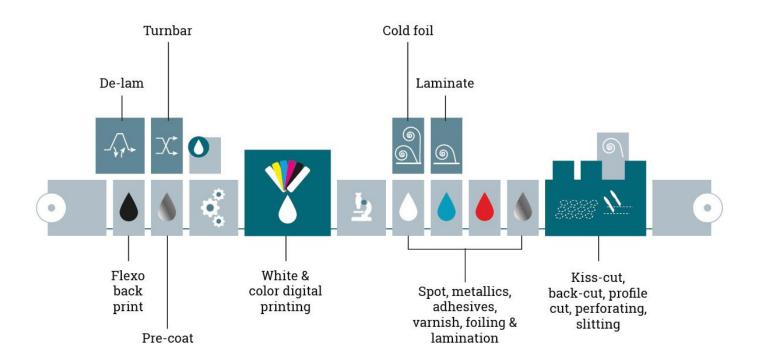
"We don't want a separate workflow and separate cost centre models. What we need and want is all the benefits of digital printing, but all integrated with our existing flexo operation and presses."

### New hybrid market solutions

Flexo units are typically used in a hybrid press to cater for a growing market demand for metallic image effects, with many high-end labels now specified with printed silver, gold or other metallic ink colors.

A requirement for flexo units before the inkjet heads is often the need for good solid opaque whites or PMC spot or brand colors, often reverse-side printed.

### Customized hybrid solutions can be created to meet the printing operation's specific needs and requirements in one financial investment.





#### Tailor-made solutions

Customized hybrid solutions can be put together that are 100% tailored to the individual printing operation or customer specific needs in one financial investment.



### Special constructions

Some hybrid presses have been specifically built to create a variety of special label constructions, namely adhesive-side printed, dual layer, piggyback, peel and reveal – but where variable text, multi-versions or variations, sequential coding or numbering – are required



### Hybrid installations today

### Estimated total global installed base of hybrid label and package printing presses 2014 - 2018



