

GUIDE TO ROYAL SOVEREIGN LAMINATORS

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1: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Failure to comply with any of the following safety procedures could result in serious injury. Please read the instructions carefully and keep for future reference.

- 1. Only a licensed electrician should install wiring and outlet for the laminator.
- 2. Ensure the unit is plugged into a properly grounded outlet with the correct voltage.
- 3. Keep hands and clothing (e.g. neckties) away from rollers. The rollers have pinch points that can trap body parts or clothing and cause serious injury.
- 4. Keep flammable and wet objects away from the machine.
- 5. Place machine on a level surface.
- 6. Avoid excessive sunlight, humidity and extreme temperatures
- 7. Ensure the unit is turned off, cooled, and unplugged from the outlet prior to moving and/or repairing.
- 8. Keep out of the reach of children.
- 9. Only Royal Sovereign authorized maintenance and service technicians should make repairs.
- 10. Do not attempt to laminate items that exceed the total recommended material thickness for the unit.
- 11. When cleaning the machine, don't use flammable sprays or materials
- 12. Do not touch the rollers when they are hot.
- 13. Do not place foreign objects inside the laminator.
- 14. Do not cover the surface of the machine until the machine has completely cooled.

2: LAMINATOR KEY COMPONENTS



NUMBER	PART DISCRIPTION
1	SAFETY COVER
2	EMERGENCY SWITCH
3	PAPER GUIDE
4	FEED TABLE
5	MAIN ROLLER
6	STAND ASSEMBLY
7	REMOTE CONTROL
8	FOOT PEDAL
9	TENSION CONTOL KNOBS
10	PRESSURE LEVER
11	CONTROL PANEL
12	UPPER IDLE BAR
13	RELEASE LINER TAKE UP

Note: Components may vary by machine model.

3: CONTROL PANEL IDENTIFICATION AND USE - RSH, RSR, RSS SERIES

When the machine is initially turned on, the LCD window will display the last working preset memory setting.



Illustrations of Control Panels

LCD Display



- 1. **READY** When the preset temperature is reached this will be displayed.
- 2. WAIT Blinks until preset temperature is ready.
- 3. **STND-BY** This will be displayed if the Stnd-By button is manually pressed or if the machine is standing idle for 2 hours, the temperature will automatically reset to 176F (80°C). After one more hour the power will automatically shut off.
- 4. **UPPER TEMPERATURE** Displays upper roller set temperature.
- 5. **LOWER TEMPERATURE** Displays lower roller set temperature.
- 6. **SPEED** Displays set speed.
- 7. **PRGM** Displays set memory.

Control Panel Buttons



- 1. **UPPER** To change the upper roller temperature by pressing the button and then the up or down arrow. (Range: 32-320°F or 0-160°C)
- 2. **LOWER** To change the lower roller temperature by pressing the button and then the up or down arrow. (Range: 32-320°F or 0-160°C)
- 3. **SPEED** To change the speed of the rollers by pressing the button and then the up or down arrow.
- 4. **MEMORY** To recall or change presets. To recall the settings, press MEMORY and the up or down arrow. To save the settings, set the desired temperatures and speed and then press the MEMORY button twice. Up to 9 presets can be stored.
- 5. **C/HOT** To change the mode from hot to cold or cold to hot lamination. In cold mode the speed defaults to 2 (Speed 1-4 settings) and standby function is disabled.
- 6. **T-CHECK** To check current upper and lower roller temperatures. Display automatically returns to previous display after 5 blinks.
- ST/BY Press this button to change to standby mode (temperature will automatically reset to 176°F-80°C). While is this mode, all the buttons on the control panel are disabled. Press the ST/BY mode button to resume normal operation. The laminator will go into STAND BY MODE if no activity is made within 2 hours after each use. After one hour in STAND BY MODE, the laminator will go into POWER OFF MODE.
- 8. **REV** To reverse the rollers. You must press and hold the button to activate.
- 9. **STOP** To stop the rollers from turning.
- 10. **RUN** To start the rollers turning.
- 11. **RESET** To reset the substrate and length counters.

(Available as option on some RSH Series)

- 12. **FAN** To activate the cooling fans.
- 13. MEAS To display the substrate and length counter

(Available as option on some RSH Series)

4: CONTROL PANEL IDENTIFICATION AND USE - RSC SERIES



- 1. **TEMPERATURE DISPLAY** Displays current Temperature.
- 2. SPEED DISPLAY Displays current Speed.
- 3. **TEMPERATURE BUTTON** To change the Temperature. (H Series maximum122°F/50°C, HR Series max 266°F /130°C
- 4. **SPEED BUTTON** To adjust the speed of the rollers. Change the speed of the rollers by pressing the Up or Down arrow buttons.
- 5. **RUN** To start the rollers turning.
- 6. **STOP** To stop the rollers turning.
- 7. **REV** To reverse the rollers, must be pressed and held.

5: ROLLER NIP SETTINGS

It is important to adjust the roller nip settings to the appropriate thickness of the board being used. Use this guide below to adjust to the correct position.

Thickness of Board				
No.	Inches	Metric		
		(mm)		
1	Lamination	Lamination		
Closed	Only	Only		
2	1/25"	1		
3	3/16"-1/4"	5-7		
4	3/8"-1/2"	10-13		
5	3/5"	15		



These settings are typical for all Royal Sovereign free standing laminators. For table top laminators please reference the Owner's Manual.

NOTE: When you have finished laminating and are no longer using the laminator, please place the pressure lever to the Open position (5) in order to eliminate any pressure between the rollers.

6: LOADING THERMAL FILM

Loading films onto the upper and lower film shafts:

Remove the upper and lower film shafts from the machine. First lift the shaft from the slotted side and then pull the shaft from the hexagon retainer on the opposite side.



Determine which type of film core attachment is supplied with your Royal Sovereign laminator.

There are two possibilities:

Core Plugs 💿 Auto Grips 📎



With Core Plugs:

Note the orientation of how each of the supply shafts would be placed back onto the laminator and the direction the film is wound onto the roll. This will determine how to place the rolls of lamination film onto the machine. All Royal Sovereign films are wound with the adhesive side facing in. If you are using another vendor's product, the winding of the film must be ascertained.



Bottom film supply with Core Plugs:

Insert a core plug into the side of the roll with the orientation of the film as shown in the photograph to the right. (Film coming from the bottom and pulling to the left.)

Insert the film shaft into the core plug and then through the other side of the roll of lamination film.

On the opposite side of lamination film, install the second core plug onto the film shaft and into the film core.

Install the film supply shaft back onto the bottom of the machine while using caution because the rolls of lamination film can be heavy.









With using a tape measure, center the roll of film onto the laminator. Always measure from the SIDE PLATE to the EDGE of the film, not the core plug.



Left Side

Once centered, tighten both core plug screws with a slotted screwdriver or coin.



Right Side



Top film supply with Core Plugs:

Insert a core plug into the side of the roll with the orientation of the film as shown in the photograph to the left. (Film coming from the bottom and pulling to the right.)



Insert the upper supply shaft into the core plug then through the roll of lamination film.

On the opposite side, install the second core plug onto the shaft and into the film core.

film supply while using caution because the rolls of lamination film can be heavy.

Install the film supply shaft back onto the top







With using a tape measure, center the roll of film onto the laminator. Always measure from the SIDE PLATE to the EDGE of the film, not from the core plug.



Left Side

Tighten the core plug screws with a slotted screwdriver or coin.



Right Side



With Auto Grips:

Slide the four auto grip adapters onto the Supply Shafts, two required for each shaft.



Locate the Auto Grip adapters on the shaft so that when the roll of lamination film is centered on the lamination machine, the Auto Grips will be located just inside the ends of the core of the roll of film. Lock the Auto Grip adapter down onto the supply shaft with the Allen wrench (2.5mm) provided. Note: There are two Allen screws per Auto Grip.



Slide the rolls of lamination film onto the center of the film supply shafts. Note proper orientation of lamination film below.



Bottom Feed



Top Feed

Load the two loaded supply shafts onto the laminator while using caution because the rolls of film may be heavy.

Center the rolls of film by measuring from the EDGE of the roll of lamination film to the SIDE PLATE of the laminator on each side. Do this for both the top and bottom film supplies.



Left Side





7: THREADING THERMAL LAMINATE THROUGH THE LAMINATOR.

Follow all of the steps in section five (Loading Thermal Film).

Turn the power switch on (I position). Power switch is located in the rear of the laminator.

Set the upper and lower roller temperature to the recommended film temperature.

Take off the Feed Table and Paper Guide. Reference Section 2 for location. When facing the front of the laminator, the Feed Table can be removed by lifting it up slightly in the front and then pulling it toward you. The Paper Guide must be lifted and disengaged before coming out. This varies between models.

Thread the film over the Upper Idle Roller and underneath the Safety Cover until the film rests over the upper roller (**Caution: Upper roller may be hot**).



Carefully pull up the laminate from the lower roll around the back side of the lower chrome idler roller (**Caution: Lower roller may be hot**).

The film lying over the upper roller should be tacky from the heat from the roller. Tack the lower film over the upper film that is resting on the upper roller. Make sure that both edges are aligned with each other.



Reinstall the Feed Table and Paper Guide and close the Safety Cover.

Adjust your nip setting to the thickness of the leader board. (A board used to guide the laminate through the entrance rollers and back through the rear of the laminator exit.)

Place the leader board on the feed table and insert by pushing the board until it reaches the front nip point. The leader board should be as wide as the film that you are feeding and 18-24 inches long.

Press the Run button while pushing the leader board between the pair of main rollers.

Once the leader board has exited the back of the machine, stop the laminator and set the nip to the Laminating position.









Depress the run button and view the film running over the rollers. Make sure that both rolls of film are still running aligned with each other and that there are no wrinkles in the film as it approaches the nip. A full explanation on adjusting to eliminate wrinkles is covered in Section 13.

To adjust alignment, move one of the rolls of lamination film to the left or right depending on the need to realign the films exactly over each other.

Once you are satisfied with all of your adjustments, cut the waste film away from the rear of the laminator. Please reference Section 9 on using the cross cutter.





8: ENCAPSULATION WITH THERMAL FILMS

Follow the steps in Sections 5 and 6.

Set your nip setting to the Laminating setting.



Set the upper and lower roller temperature to the recommended film temperature. The laminator will give you a WAIT message and then a READY message once it is up to the correct temperature.

Press the RUN button and let several feet of lamination film run through the rollers in order to even out the heat on the rollers and eliminate any possible hot spots.

Insert your images into the nip of the laminator and let it run in between the two layers of lamination film.



Once the image has exited the pull rollers in the back of the laminator, stop the machine by depressing the STOP button on the front panel or on the rear remote. Remove the print from the laminator by using the rear cross cutter (Refer to Section 9). Finally, trim the print down on a paper cutter but be sure to leave a minimum of 1/8 inch of lamination film extruding past the edges of the print in order to fully encapsulate your image.

9: LOADING PRESSURE SENSITIVE FILM ON THE TOP FILM SUPPLY

Royal Sovereign Laminators are supplied with a top Release Liner Take-Up which is used as a separator for Pressure Sensitive films. These films are comprised of a sandwich made up a three layers, film, adhesive and release liner. During the laminating process, the release liner must be separated from the adhesive-backed film before it reaches the nip of the main film rollers. In doing so, the film's adhesive is exposed in order for it to be applied to the surface of your graphic.

Remove the Feed Table and Paper Guide from the laminator.

Remove the upper film shaft from the machine. First lift the shaft from the slotted side and then pull the shaft from the hexagon retainer on the opposite side.

The film should be placed on to the supply shaft with the orientation of the film as shown in the photograph to the right. Film pulling from underneath and to the right. All Royal Sovereign pressure sensitive films are wound with the laminate out and release liner in toward the core.

Lay the roll of pressure sensitive film onto a table. Slide the two Auto Grips onto the Supply Shaft.







Orient the two Auto Grips so that when the film is centered on to the Supply Shaft, the Auto Grips will just be slightly inside the film core.

Tighten both Auto Grips with the (2.5mm) Allen Wrench.

Slide the Supply Shaft through the core of the lamination film and center the film on to the shaft. Note: Insert the hexagon end into the core first (and not the end with the knurled wheel) as seen in the photograph to the right.

Install the Supply Shaft back on to the top feed of the laminator.

Thread the film under the top chrome idler roller and down over the top roller.









Separate the release liner back from the pressure sensitive lamination film.



Pull back enough of the release liner so that it can be taped across the back of the film liner take up core.



Core Plugs: If your laminator is supplied with Core Plugs instead of Auto Grips please refer to Section 5 page 9.

Notes:

Top Lamination: You will need to load Kraft paper to the bottom supply shaft or use a Sled to perform top lamination.

Decaling: (Lamination film on top of your image and adhesive on the underside) When decaling, adhesive will need to be loaded to the bottom supply shaft and webbed through the laminator. Refer to Section 14.

Below is the typical webbing configuration with Pressure Sensitive Films.



Note: Most typically you would run Kraft Paper, adhesive or a backing film on the lower Film Supply depending on your application. Refer to the above diagram for proper lower Film Supply webbing. With any product that has a Pressure Sensitive Adhesive, you would need to bypass the Lower Idle Bar to prevent the adhesive from sticking to the bar.

10: USING THE CROSS CUTTER

The cross cutter is located above the rear exit table of the laminator.

After lamination, make sure that the laminator is stopped. Move the cutter approximately to the center of the completed application at the desired point of detachment. Press the point of the cutter down into the film in order to pierce the blade down through the film.







With the blade depressed into the film, slide the cutter first to one end of the application.

Now bring the blade back to the center and slide the cutter to the other end of the application.

Note: With some films you may have to keep the film taut in order to obtain a clean cut.

11: USING THE FOOT PETAL

Find a convenient place to position the foot pedal on the floor in front of the laminator.

The foot pedal is provided for "Hands Free Operation" of the laminator.

To activate the machine to run, press the foot pedal ONCE and then release.



Depress the foot petal and release to stop the machine.

12: USING THE REMOTE CONTROL

When facing the rear of the laminator, the remote control is located on the right hand side.

The remote can be removed from the right hand side panel, where it is held by Velcro, by giving it a slight tug. This gives you the ability to use the remote from many positions behind the machine.

Press the **RUN** button to activate the rollers.

Press the **STOP** button to stop the rollers from turning.









Press and hold the **REV** button to reverse the rollers. This is especially useful in case of a jam or misfed media.



When you are finished laminating, replace the remote onto the Velcro pad.

13: ADJUSTING BRAKE PRESSURE

Brake is the process in which hold-back tension is applied to the roll of lamination film in order to remove wrinkles in the laminate as it rolls over the main rollers. Start with little or no resistance applied to the supply roll of lamination film.

The brake adjustment knobs are located on the right side of the supply rolls when you are facing the laminator.



To check the brake tension on the roll of film, place your hand on the roll of laminate and see how much resistance is apparent when you spin the film back and forth on the supply shaft.



You should always start with a slight amount of brake tension on the roll of film. Adjust the brake tension by slowing increasing or decreasing the pressure on the break spring. Turning the knob clockwise increases the tension and counterclockwise decreases the tension on the roll of film.



Once you have this set, run some lamination film through the laminator and observe if you have any wrinkles in the film as it passes over the main roller and into the nip. If you see wrinkles, turn the break tension knob clockwise about half turn increments at a time. It will take several feet of film to run through the laminator before you see the full effect of your adjustment. Adjust the brake tension until the wrinkles disappear. Do this for both the top and bottom rolls of lamination film.



Wrinkles in the lamination film



No wrinkles after brake adjustment.

Note: When encapsulating or putting film on both side of a graphic, it is important to have equal amounts of brake tension on both rolls of film. If more tension is placed on one of the rolls you may experience an upward or downward curl to your finished images.

Corrective measures:

If the image curls up: Decrease the top roller tension or increase the bottom roller tension.

If the image curls down: Increase the top roller tension or decrease the bottom roller tension.

14: MOUNTING A DECALED IMAGE

Decaling is the process in which the image has laminate on the top side and an adhesive on the bottom forming a sticker.

Lay the decaled image face down on a flat surface. Carefully peel back the release liner (1 inch/25 mm) and put a crease along the edge of the liner.

With the image face up, align the image squarely onto the board. Tack the print down to the edge of the board by pressing firmly in the center and sliding your fingers out to the edge of the print.

Adjust the nip opening on the laminator to the appropriate thickness of the mounting board.

Starting with the edge that you just tacked down, insert the board into the nip of the laminator.



Flip the decaled image over the safety guard and upper roller.



Grab the end of the release liner and press the foot petal once or the run button. Slowly pull the release liner back as the board travels through the main roller nip.



Depress the foot pedal or the stop button when the board has completely exited from the rear of the laminator. Trim as necessary.

15: MOUNTING A PRINT TO A PRECOATED BOARD

Precoating:

You can precoat mounting boards by running a pressure sensitive adhesive on the top supply roller, setting your laminator nip to the appropriate setting for the thickness of your boards and then running the mount boards through the laminator. Once the boards exit the back end of the laminator, trim any excess. If your boards are narrower then the width of the roll of adhesive you may find that you will need to run a roll of Kraft paper on the bottom supply roller in order to keep the excess adhesive from sticking to the laminator during operation.

Mounting:

Peel back the release liner about 1 inch/25mm from the leading edge of your precoated board. Run a crease down the length of the release liner.

Position your print so that is squarely on the board. Starting from the center, tack the print down to the edge of the board by pressing firmly in the center and sliding your fingers out to the edges of the print.

Adjust the nip opening on the laminator to the appropriate thickness of the mounting board.







Starting with the edge that you just tacked down, insert the board into the nip of the laminator.

Flip the image over the safety guard and upper roller.

Hold the end of the release liner and press the foot petal once or the run button. Slowly pull the release liner back as the board travels

through the main roller nip.

Press the foot pedal or the stop button when the board has completely exited from the rear of the laminator. Trim as necessary.





16: INSTALLATION OF THE FRONT FEED OPTION (RSC-1400C, 1650C-H-HR, RSH -1650/1651)

This option is to be installed by an authorized Royal Sovereign Reseller.

The Front Feeder option includes 2 brackets, one spindle and mounting hardware.

Remove the Feed Table and Front Film Supply Shaft before attaching the brackets.

Below is the proper mounting orientation and placement of the brackets when facing the front of the laminator.



Left Side

Secure the brackets with four screws (1/4"/M6) per side and fastened to the inside of the side panel frame.



Right Side



Once the supply shaft brackets are secured, place the spindle on the laminator. First insert the spindle into the right side bracket and then secure the left side into the slot provided.

17: INSTALLATION OF THE REAR REWIND OPTION (RSC-1400C, 1650C-H-HR, RSH -1650/1651)

This option is to be installed by an authorized Royal Sovereign Reseller.

Make sure that the laminator is unplugged.

The Rear Rewind option includes the motorized rewinder, bracket, spindle, and mounting hardware. RSC-1400C kit has an additional wire to connect the motor to the main PCB.

Remove the left and right side covers by using a Phillips screwdriver. There are four screws that attach each cover to the laminator side plate.

Remove the back panel. It is attached on both ends, bottom and through the side plates of the laminator.

On the back of the laminator, install the left rewind motor to the outside of the side frame with the six Phillips head screws provided.

Disassemble the main power switch bracket by removing the two screws from the opposite side of the laminator.







Install the stationary bracket to the outside of the frame with the six Phillips head screws provided.

Reattach the laminator main power switch bracket to the rear rewind bracket.

RSC-1400C models: You will need to insert the supplied wire cable to the main PCB board. The slot should read CN6 T-UP on the main PCB board. Run the other end of the cable through the hole in the laminator side plate.

RSC-1400C models: Push the other end of the wire cable through the hole in the side plate of the laminator.





Connect the wire connectors together that power the motor assembly.



Reinstall the side covers and rear cover to the laminator.

Note: On some models when replacing the side covers, a slot may have to be made in the cover in order to accommodate the Rear Wind Up mounting brackets.

18: RSC-1400C UNCRATING AND STAND ASSEMBLY

Most Royal Sovereign laminators are shipped from the factory fully assembled with the exception of the installation of the feed table and paper guide. The RSC-1400C is shipped with the body of the laminator assembled but separated from the stand assembly. The following steps will help explain proper unpacking and assembly of the RSC-1400C model.

Place the laminator shipping crate on a level area where you will have room to work around the crate. It is best if it is positioned near the final position of where the laminator will be operated.



Locate the two metal banding strips on the outside of the crate and remove by cutting with a pair of metal snips. Please use caution when cutting because these straps may have pressure and will snap when cut.



Starting from the top, use an 8mm socket wrench or power screwdriver to remove all of the screws that hold the crate together. Set top, side and end panels of the crate aside when completed.





Remove cardboard box liner, foam end caps and plastic over laminator.



Cut the center two white plastic straps that hold the laminator to the bottom of the packing crate.



Locate the two legs, leg cross member and screws needed to assemble the base.

Assemble the leg cross member to the legs using the four hex screws provided and a 6mm Allen wrench. Two screws are needed for each side. Make sure that the locking casters are positioned across from each other during assembly and not one to the front and the opposite side to the rear of the stand.



Once assembled, take note of the location of the locking caster wheels. The locking caster wheels will be oriented to the front of the laminator during final assembly.

Lock the two caster wheels in the ON position to keep the base from moving while the laminator is positioned on the stand.

With a minimum of two people, grab the ends of the laminator and position over the stand assembly.

PLEASE USE CARE BECAUSE THE LAMINATOR IS HEAVY.

Position the laminator main assembly onto the leg assembly.

The stand leg uprights seat inside the laminator open box frame.









Attach the laminator to the stand with the four bolts, lock washers and nuts provided, two for each side, with a 1/2 in/13mm wrench.



FINAL ASSEMBLY VIEW



19: MAINTENANCE

Cleaning the body of the laminator.

To clean the machine body, dampen a cloth with water only and gently wipe the machine clean.

Removing Adhesive Build Up.

Remove the film from the laminator.

Use a damp (water only) cloth and a rubber gum eraser to remove the adhesive on the Teflon (metal) and Silicone rollers.

NOTE: Rub firmly but do not scrub the rollers vigorously as this may scratch the surface. Do not use sharp metal objects, steel wool, or abrasives, as these may also damage the rollers. Solvent cleaners should never be used because of electrical or heat combustion.

20: TROUBLE SHOOTING

Symptom	Cause	Possible Solution
Machine will not turn on.	 a. Power plug not plugged in. b. Power switch in on "O" (off) position. c. Tripper circuit breaker d. Blown main power fuse. 	a. Plug the power cord into appropriate outlet.b. Put the power switch to the "I" (On) position.c. Reset the circuit breaker.d. Replace the fuse.
There is power but the rollers are not turning after the "RUN" button is pressed.	 a. Emergency switch(es) is (are) in engaged. b. Safety cover is not closed. c. Paper guide is not installed correctly. d. Blown motor fuse. 	 a. Disengage the emergency switch(es). b. Close the safety cover to activate the safety switch. c. Properly install the paper guide so that the micro switch is activated. d. Replace the motor fuse.
The unit is not heating up.	a. The machine is in "COLD" mode.b. Set temperature is lower than the room temperature.	a. Switch to "HOT" mode.b. Raise the temperature to the recommended film temperature.
Curled Lamination.	a. Upward curl. b. Downward curl.	a. Loosen the top roll film tension or increase the bottom roll film tension.b. Loosen the bottom roll film tension or increase the top roll film tension.
Unclear Lamination.	a. The main roller temperatures are too low and/or lamination speed is too fast.	a. Raise the roller temperature and/or lower the lamination speed on RSH models or increase the speed RSS/RSR models.

21: COMMON LAMINATING PROBLEMS

Problem: Straight wave lines across the output.Cause: Excessive front roller pressure.Measure: Loosen the front roller pressure	
Problem: Concave waves in the lamination.Cause: Excessive rear (pulling) roller pressure.Measure: Loosen the rear back roller pressure.	
Problem: Angled waves on both sides of output.Cause: Insufficient rear roller pressure.Measure: Tighten the rear roller pressure.	
Problem: Angled waves on one side of the output.Cause: Insufficient rear left (or right) side roller pressure.Measure: Tighten the rear left (or right) side roller pressure.	
Problem: Straight waves in the output.Cause: Excessive heat at the nip rollers.Measure: Lower the roller temperature.	
Problem: Wake waves.Cause: Insufficient heat at the nip rollers.	

Note: Any adjustments should be carried out by an authorized RS Service Technician.

22: GLOSSARY OF LAMINATING TERMS

Adhesion

The holding of two substrates by surface attachment.

Abrasion Resistance

The ability of a film to withstand rubbing without showing scuff marks.

Accelerated Aging

A means whereby the deterioration of a film encountered in natural aging may be accelerated and reproduced in the laboratory.

Accelerated Weathering

A means whereby the deterioration caused by outdoor exposure may be accelerated and reproduced in the laboratory.

Acrylic Resin

A glassy thermoplastic made by combining several acrylic acids used as coatings and adhesives; used in Pressure Sensitive Adhesives.

Adhesion Build-Up

An increase in the peel adhesion value of a pressure sensitive film after it has been allowed to dwell to the applied surface.

Adhesive

(Noun) A substance capable of holding materials together by surface attachment, in this case acting as the mechanism which attaches film to a graphic arts media. (Adjective) Type of bonding interaction between a thermal adhesive and the surface of a graphics media or film to which it is laminated.

Brake

The amount of hold back tension that is placed onto the supply roll of film during the lamination process.

Bond Strength

Refers to one of three conditions:

- 1. Anchor strength of adhesive to the substrate in laminating film
- 2. The anchor strength of the laminating film to the product that has been laminated
- 3. The strength of adhesive-to-adhesive bond when two layers of film are laminated together.

Cast Vinyl

A premium vinyl lamination film used in the vehicle wrap industry because of its high durability and conformability characteristics.

Cohesion

(Verb) The process or interaction that opposes separation within a layer of a multilayer structure. (Noun) also known as COHESIVE STRENGTH. The ability of a material to resist splitting or separating into layers within itself; or the minimum force required to separate the material.

Cold Flow

The tendency of a pressure sensitive adhesive to act like a heavy viscous liquid over long periods of time. Such phenomena as oozing and increases in adhesion are the result of this characteristic.

Color Shift

Change in the apparent color of the ink/toner after laminating.

Color Stability

The ability of a film to retain its original color, particularly when exposed to light.

Conformability

The ability of film to fit snugly or make essentially complete contact with the surface of an irregular surface without creasing or folding.

Contamination

Foreign substance in the film, i.e., bugs, wax, fiber, trim, drool.

Copolymer

The combination of two or more polymers used in the formulation of lamination adhesives.

Core

The cardboard tube to which the laminate or adhesive is wound too. The size is referred to the inside diameter of the tube.

Corona

or Corona Treat. Method of treating films to increase DYNE levels, promoting adhesion.

Curl

Tendency of laminated product to roll up or down at edges after cooling. Curl tends to be magnified by excessive heat and/or tension.

Decaling

The process in which the image has laminate on the top side and an adhesive on the bottom forming a sticker.

Delamination

Most commonly referred to as the separation of the lamination film from the substrate that it was originally adhered to in the finishing process.

Dimensional Stability

The ability to retain its shape with temperature and or humidity shifts.

Dwell Time

Amount of time that the laminating film is exposed to the heat source in a laminator.

Dyne

Measure of surface energy (surface tension) of a surface. Important for adhesion and ink receptivity.

Elastic Memory

A tendency of some BACKINGS or BASE FILMS to attempt to return to their original length after being elongated.

Encapsulation

A finishing term when the end product is totally encased with the lamination film on the top and bottom side and usually at least at 1/8 of an inch of lamination film bleeds past the image on all sides. The image is totally sealed with lamination film on the top, bottom and particularly the sides.

Film Gauge

Refers to the total thickness of a particular film construction including its individual layers. The gauge is measured with a micrometer. The unit of measure is in thousandths of and inch (mils) or microns.

Film Ratio

or **Film-To-Adhesive Ratio** or **Thickness Ratio**. Ratio of the thickness of the base film to the thickness of the adhesive layer in a laminating film.

Flush Cut

The trimming of the excess lamination film from the edges of the laminated image.

Gap

The amount of distance between the top and bottom feed rollers of a lamination machine.

Glossy

The surface of the lamination film having a shinny or glass like appearance.

Lamination

A product made by bonding together two or more layers of material and the process of bonding them.

Master Roll

The term used to describe the manufactured roll from which the narrower rolls of material are cut or slit from.

Matte

A type of lamination film having a dull or none reflective surface. Used when the low reflectivity from lighting is required of the image.

Micron

A measurement of thickness of material. 25 micron is equal to 1 Mil.

Mil

The term used for the thickness of lamination film. In measurement, 1 thousandth of an inch.

Examples: 1 Mil = .001", 3 Mil = .003", 10 Mil = .010"

MSI

Abbreviation for thousand (M) square inches (SI). A commonly used unit of measure for thermal laminating films

Nip

On a lamination machine, the contact point of the top and bottom lamination rollers.

PET

An extremely strong grade of polyester.

Polyester

Thermoplastic Polymer used as the base film of many laminates. Also known as Polyethylene Terephthalate. It is produced from chemical substances found mainly in petroleum.

Pressure Sensitive

Lamination film or adhesive that is applied to the image by the use of pressure and not heat.

PVC

Short for Polyvinyl Chloride. One of several films used as the base of laminates or adhesives. Commonly referred to as "vinyl".

Ratio

A number that corresponds to the thickness of the film base vs. the adhesive. Example: 5 mil laminate with a ratio of 3/2 would be 3 mil base film thickness and 2 mil adhesive thickness.

Release Liner

A paper stock coated on the inside with a silicone layer used with pressure sensitive laminates and adhesives.

Satin

A middle reflectance laminate surface between glossy and matte. Sometimes also referred to Pearl of Luster.

Silvering

A term used when air is trapped between the laminate and the image during finishing, giving it a metallic or silver look. Caused by insignificant pressure or tack of the adhesive when using pressure sensitive films.

Sled

A board used to start the laminate through the lamination machine. Also used as a carrier board when only face laminating an image.

Splice

How film ends are jointed together to make a straight continuous web.

Squeeze Out

When the adhesive of thermal or heat activated film is forced out of the edges of the lamination film by excessive pressure or heat.

Textured

A type of lamination film having embossed surface pattern. Examples would be the look of canvas, leather, artists brush strokes, or weave.

Thermal

Laminate of adhesive that is applied with heat to melt or activate the bonding agent.

Tunneling

A term used when the print separates from the mounting substrate causing tunnels to appear across the image. The image raises off the mount board and creates linear tunnels.

UV

or **Ultraviolet**. Wavelength band of light, particularly prevalent in sunlight. UV can be used to cure inks or adhesives. UV can also cause inks and media to degrade.

Web

The term used when routing the lamination film through the machine.

Wetting

With thermal film, when the adhesive goes from a dry to the touch state to a tacky or wet state. Usually at the point where the film goes from cloudy to clear when heated.

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