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DOUBLE-SIDED LATEX PRINT JOB WORKFLOW IMPROVEMENT

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Double-Side Latex Print Job Workflow Improvement

Abstract: Printing of small-width, double-side latex print jobs is performed with a 25% improvement in productivity by simultaneously printing the first side of each print job on separate media rolls.

This disclosure relates to the field of latex printers.

A technique is disclosed that improves workflow productivity by 25% when printing small-width, double-side blockout print jobs.

Mid-volume latex printers are often used by customers in industrial environments who prints under high production schedule pressure. One desired functionality for providing solutions for points of purchase is double-side blockout printing capability. Some latex printers provide this capability automatically. It requires registration marks to be printed on side A of a print job. The registration marks are then read by an optical sensor when printing side B of the print job, and used to ensure proper alignment between the two sides of the print job.

However, in some printers the registration mark can only be optically detected at one specific portion of the print zone (the printable width of the printer). As a result, only one roll at a time can be read to detect the marks for printing side B. In other words, only single-roll double-side print jobs are supported by the printer. Accordingly, printing two different double-sided print jobs requires four separate workflow operations, one for each side of the two jobs.

According to the present disclosure, and as understood with reference to the Figure, the first side of two small-width print jobs (i.e. jobs that collectively occupy less than the printable width of the printer) can be printed simultaneously on two different rolls, and then the second side of each print job are printed sequentially on the proper roll.

In a first workflow operation 10, side A of two small-width print jobs 20, 30 are simultaneously printed on separate media rolls. A dual-side mid-volume latex printer performs full-width printing passes regardless of the width of the media roll, so as to avoid non-uniform hardware wear and the potential image quality problems that could result therefrom. Thus approximately the same printing time is used whether one or two jobs are printed in a workflow operation.

In a second workflow operation 40, side B of the print job 20 is printed. In a third workflow operation 50, side B of the print job 30 is printed. At this point, both double-side print jobs 20, 30 are complete.

Thus the disclosed technique prints the two double-sided print jobs 20, 30 in three workflow operations 10, 40, 50. This is one less workflow operation than required using previous techniques. Hence a 25% productivity improvement is achieved.

Disclosed by Bhisma Hernandez Martinez and Roque Bonilla Lucas, HP Inc.

