

Flexo Tech Article - Anilox cleaning

Count: 488 words - 1 picture of the NANO cell structure from ALT

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ANILOX CLEANING

Adrian Morton Sales Director of Anilox Laser Technology commented on the care and cleaning of the anilox roll:

Cleaning of the anilox roll has always been a very important daily routine for the flexo printer but as customers expectations, plate screen counts, anilox screen counts and colour control has evolved to the level we see today the need for the anilox surface and cell to be clean, free from stains and in top class condition has never been more apparent.

There are a number of methods available, let's take a closer look at these options:

1. Ultrasonic cleaning
2. Powder blasting
3. Laser cleaning
4. Power washing systems
5. Chemical manual cleaning

The golden rule whichever method is selected is simple - "FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES"

Engraving technology has moved on so much in the last few years and we at ALT have been striving to ensure our geometry is at the cutting edge of the technology.

We have pioneered our unique NANO geometry to ensure this cell offers the maximum release during the print run but also helps greatly with the quick and efficient cleaning of the cells and the walls.

All the rolls engraved at ALT are done utilising state of the art lasers using the latest LED Fibre optic technology - this ensures a very clean and accurately formed cell. These cells are much easier to manage and keep clean.

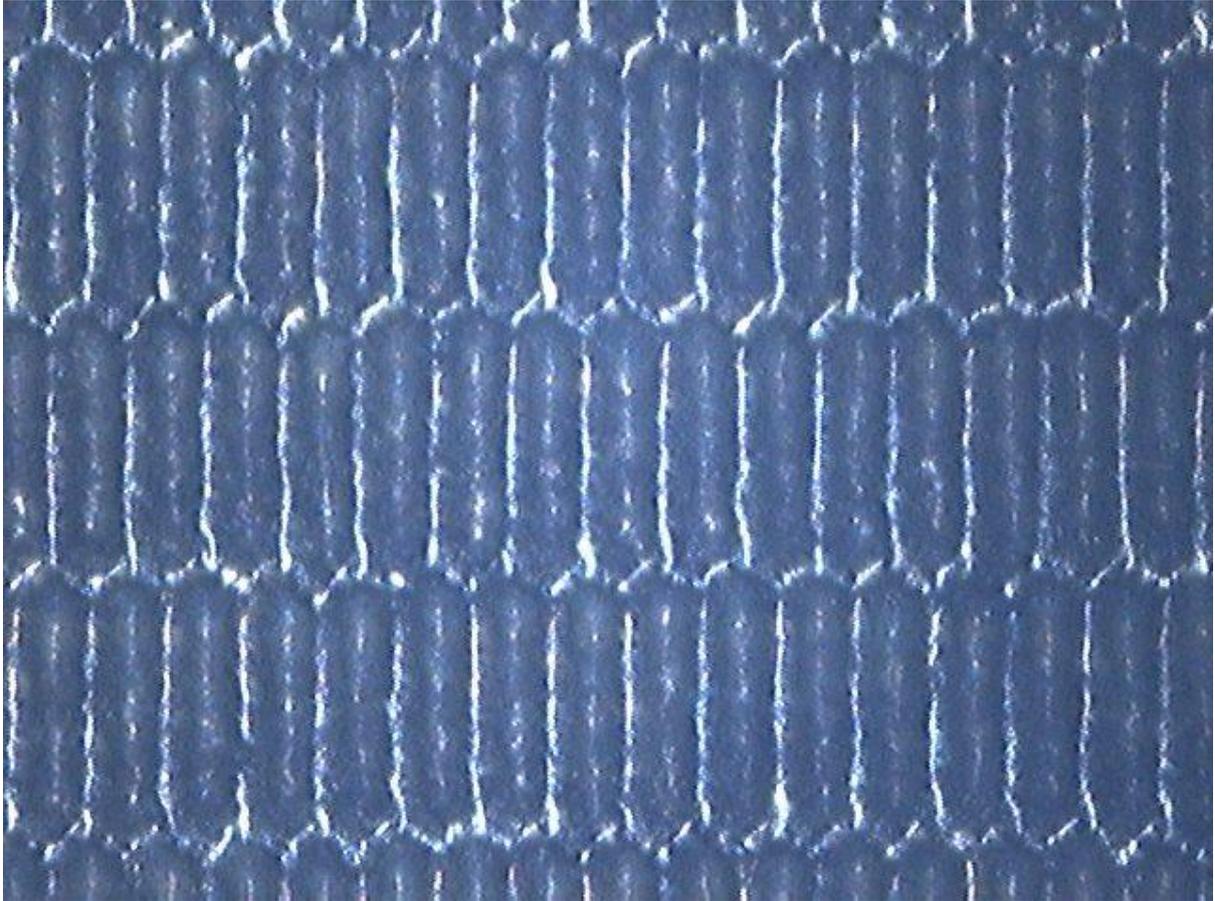
It is important that whichever cleaning method is used the flexo printer must have a means of checking the roll prior to entering the clean cycle and then inspection after the cleaning cycle and this can be done by any of the following methods:

1. High powered microscope with depth facility
2. Microscope with software package
3. Controlled Density colour proofing (printing a solid cyan and recording density operators side, middle and drive side of the anilox)

Using high a powered microscope can help greatly in controlling the amount of time anilox rolls spend in cleaning cycles as we often see rolls are placed in a cleaning system and then left for a period of time, we find these cycles can be reduced if measuring kit is available as the cell can be

seen and depth checked, ALT have helped customers out with this as we see this is an important focus area as it will save time, energy, life of rolls and offer more uptime on press.

Below is a picture of the unique NANO technology available exclusively from ALT - this cell geometry is very easy to maintain and keep clean.



The anilox roll is the very heart of the press and must be maintained and cleaned to ensure we can continue to build on the success of Flexo and keep successfully converting more work from offset, gravure and digital.