

ABOUT OUR PRINTING INKS (Rollaco Engineering information sheet)

Suitable for lino, wood cuts, lithography, collagraphs and surface rolling on intaglio.

These high quality inks feature pigments ground with the utmost precision and inspected for quality at each stage of the production process. These inks are consistently of the same high quality batch to batch, year to year and colour to colour. RB (stay open) and OIL (oil based) inks have a much higher density of pigment than many other types of inks. This makes the printed colour denser and more vibrant.

Oil based is the most popular type of ink and can be used in all printmaking processes. It dries by oxidation and can be used on most papers. It can be thinned with thin plate oil or tack reducer.

RB ink is sometimes called 'stay open' ink as it takes a very long time to dry on non absorbent surfaces such as rollers and metal printing plates. RB inks dry by absorption and can only be used on waterleaf and absorbent cartridge type paper. When used with very absorbent paper a thin film of ink sets and dries very quickly (seconds). When overprinting one colour onto another, drying times will be extended. In these cases a drier (drier paste B) must be used to shorten drying times. RB ink is more economical than oil based ink as it does not skin in the can so there is less wastage.

Tinting medium, also referred to as 'extender', is a transparent ink available in both RB and OIL types which can be added to other colours to produce a more transparent ink. Some artists also use tinting medium to make their own inks, by adding pigments or oil paints to it.

Tack reducer is added to ink to make it less sticky and can be used to prevent the paper sticking to the printing plate.

Drier paste B can be added to both OIL and RB ink to speed up the drying time.

Anti-skin can be sprayed on the surface of open cans of OIL based ink to prevent skinning and reduce wastage.