Friesens

BOOKS HOW & WHEN YOU WANT THEM



PLANS FOR 2015 – THE NEW PRESS

While we have many plans for this year, all of them are overshadowed by the purchase of a new press. After several years of looking and testing we have bought a new MANRoland 900 XXL 8-colour perfector press. While the manufacturer may be the same as the one who manufactures our large format presses now, this new press is considerably larger and more automated.

Moving to such a large format from the tried and tested smaller presses is something that Friesens has done several times in the past. When we got into the book business we were using 16 page presses. Contrary to what our competitors were doing we moved up to 32 page presses. (both printing one side of the sheet only). This new press takes us from that to one that can now print a 64 page sheet on BOTH sides on one pass. In a nutshell this means four times the capacity of the large format presses we have now!

We did not purchase the press because we expect our business to double. Rather we did it so that we could be more efficient and put jobs through our press area faster. With our present equipment we print one side of the sheet only. We then have to let the ink dry, turn the sheet over and print the other side. We will now be able to print both sides in one pass. The press sheet size is 73 x 50 inches meaning that we get almost double the sheet size we have now. At the delivery end of the press the sheet will be slit into two sheets of approximately 36.5 x 50 inches. It will go directly to our bindery where folding can begin as soon as the ink has dried.



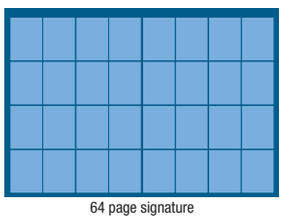
This is an enormous step for us but we are confident that we will be able to make the transition successfully. When we started in the book manufacturing business we had presses that could print 16-page signatures. We needed to get more pages into the bindery faster so we moved up to presses that could print 32-page signatures. Now we are moving up to 64 pages.

With automation that will now be in-line we will be using it for the same run lengths as our present equipment. MANRoland has developed automation and measuring systems that put this press far ahead of anything that has been built before. On-line automation means faster make-ready and reduced waste. In-line colour measurement means that once the desired colour has been reached the pressman no longer has to make tweaks and changes … they are done automatically by the densitometry equipment on the press.

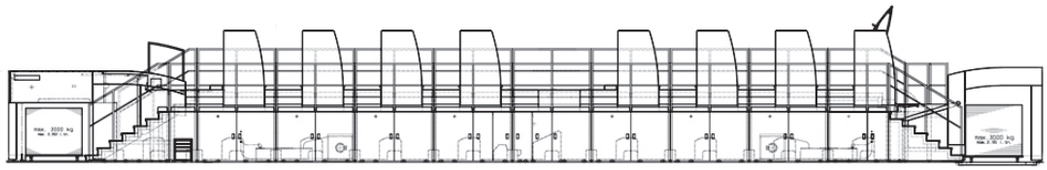
We have been testing this press in Germany for more than a year and are confident that it can do what the press manufacturer says it will do. There are only two other presses like ours that have been made. Ours will be the only one outside of Europe.



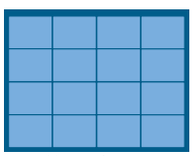
The press is being installed and should be running colour signatures mid to late May.



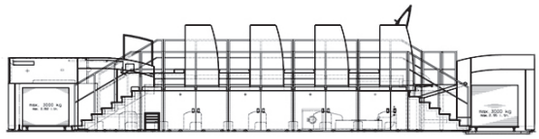
64 page signature



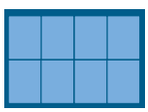
New 73 inch 8c Press



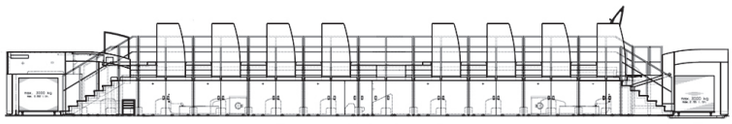
32 page signature



Present 50 inch 4c Presses



16 page signature



Former 40 inch 8c Press