

WELL, DUH!

By Mick Orr
Applications Training Specialist

Have you ever sat around a table of guys at a local café for breakfast? The conversations start out talking about inter-relationships; how good looking this one is and so forth. It's almost impossible not to talk about autos somewhere between hash browns and eggs. The conversation goes something like this: First person: "It was just going along and it just stopped! I had plenty of gas, the battery is only 10 years old, I think." Second person: "Did you check the carb?" (You always gotta ask this). Third person: "Did the plugs look good?" First person: "Duh! All I know is that the car doesn't work. I turned the key and it didn't go." Second and Third person: "Well Duh. Maybe you should learn."

Exposure equipment can be a lot like an auto. Everything is going along just fine until one day it just quits working. The screens are weak, exposures are erratic. Pushing the button over and over isn't doing any good. Either it's time to call a repairman or fix it yourself.

If you have a Chromaline UV Minder, you will be able to check to see how your exposure unit is working as well as ensuring that you have the correct exposure for each screen. It is very easy to use, and compact. A nine volt battery is all that is needed. The UV Minder can't repair the exposure unit; but it will aid you in making decisions as to when to replace a lamp, or modify the exposure time or distance.

The UV Minder has two functions: 1. Measuring Milliwatts per square centimeter (mW/cm^2) and 2. Measuring Millijoules per square centimeter (mJ/cm^2 .) The mW/cm^2 will measure the ultraviolet intensity of your exposure unit. With this feature, it is possible to focus the light source to ensure that the light distribution is equal across the glass. The second feature will tell you how long the exposure should take. This measurement is displayed as mJ/cm^2 . By multiplying the light intensity number displayed on the UV Minder by seconds you will get mJ/cm^2 , or you can just push the silver button to mJ/cm^2 and it will do it automatically.

This is a very handy tool not only for sales reps when visiting customers but for customers themselves. I like to think of it as a quality control device. If you know how to control the exposure of your screens you are no longer at the mercy of the machine. You are the master. So that the next time you're sitting around the table shooting the breeze and the conversation turns to proper exposures you can say with pride: "My 5K was acting up so I checked it out with my Chromaline UV Minder and determined it was time to change the lamp." A hush all around the table ushers in a new respect for the screen maker instead of the typical "DUH."



Looking for insight on the wonderful world of screen making? Consult the writings of Chromaline's Technical Guru, Mick Orr, Applications Training Specialist.

Mick has been in the screen printing industry since 1970 with printing experience in a wide range of applications from membrane switches, to textiles, specialty graphics to faceplates and more. His hands-on seminars have been appreciated by screen makers around the world.



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