Flexo Grayure Global

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A reliable system for flexo plate cleaning

The Leading Technical Magazine for the Paper, Film and Foil Package Printing and Converting Industries

A reliable system for flexo plate cleaning

Drint jobs are increasingly processed "on time" and the run lengths are steadily declining. With repeat jobs, flexo printing plates may be used several times. However, this requires thorough and careful cleaning of the plates after each print-run. For this purpose flexo plate cleaning devices are available which offer clean and dry plates ready for storage or re-use. Processing plates with such devices is recommended as manual cleaning may result in damage. Also, automatic cleaning is time-saving as a belt conveyor moves plates of all thicknesses into the device where they are cleaned and dried and subsequently moved out of the device again. This is a simple, fast and clean process.

The FlexPlateCleaner

With FlexPlateCleaner, German company D.W. Renzmann offers a new family of flexo plate cleaners suitable for every kind of printing ink. The washing tank, water rinsing sections and all side casings of the device are made of AISI 304 stainless steel which ensures resistance to every kind of chemical and offers a long working life. Moreover, the steel used for all structural parts is treated with an anti-acid and anti-scratches special coating. Due to the sturdy construction and the use of high-quality stainless steel the device is very robust and deformations or breaks in the tank are very rare.

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The cleaning section

The device is provided with two brushes. The mechanical action of the first rotating brush for cleaning in the longitudinal direction and the mechanical action of the power traverse brush in the transverse direction, ensures a very thorough cleaning without compromising the integrity of the processed plate. The water rinsing section is assisted by an immersed re-circulating electric-pump and a solvent spray bar.

Another special feature of the FlexPlateCleaner is the fact, that the detergent heating system is directly controlled in the reservoir. This solution gives fast results, safe processing and high productivity, as warm detergents produce more accurate cleaning of the plate. This is achieved with four adhesive silicone heating resistors positioned on the external walls of the detergent tank. A sliding stainless steel drawer equipped with two reservoirs deals with the supply of the liquids.

Every reservoir is supplied with level sensors and respective automatic detergent filling devices to ensure the effective cleaning performance of the FlexPlateCleaner. In addition, the rinsing section is supplied with a closed loop re-circulating system.

The cleaning cycle starts automatically through the use of a photoelectric cell and the cycle and working parameters are controlled by a dedicated micro-computer. The automatic stopping of the cleaning cycle is performed by an electronic step counting encoder or manually by pressing the emergency stop pushbutton.

The plate transport system

The patented plate transport system is designed to prevent jamming, curling or deviation of the plates. The automatic input conveyor is 1.5 metres (59") long and offers adjustable transport speed with a manual potentiometer. The stainless steel rollers are covered with a special cotton to facilitate reliable transport of the plates during the processing, which avoids scratches or uneven cleaning.

The self-adjusting roller pressure system ensures a highly accurate processing of all plate thicknesses. The use of sponge rollers, also covered with special cotton, gives very effective squeeging of the plates which results in an almost completely dry plate. Finally, a receiving basket for the finished plates is integrated into the machine body.

Machine controls

The power and electronic control boards of the FlexPlateCleaner are installed inside the front casing. For control of the solvent and water reservoirs, a minimum level sound and visual signal system is incorporated. In addition, the device also offers a cycle in progress signal through the colour of the main LED pushbutton. A centrifugal motor-fan is coupled to a electric resistor with a set and controlled temperature reaching a maximum value of 70 °C.

Professional cleaning

Considering all the features mentioned above, the FlexPlateCleaner is a reliable professional machine with a sturdy construction and high performance level. For everyday use, it offers very easy disassembly and cleaning of the internal components.

In addition, it is also an ecological biased product, as the SSF (Simple Saving Flexo) option offers the possibility to keep the machine cleaner to minimize the maintenance requirements and to recycle and re-use the detergent several times.

To speed up cleaning D.W. Renzmann also offers the speedyFlex-PlateCleaner. Offering the same construction elements as the Flex-PlateCleaner, it is provided with a three brush system. Two rotating brushes facilitate the cleaning of the plate in the longitudinal direction and the mechanical action of the power traverse brush in the transversal direction, grant a thorough plate cleaning within an even shorter timeframe.

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