



THE FINISHING TOUCH

More than 35 sources of laminators to add luster and protection to print jobs.

By Paula Yoho Weis

These days, it isn't enough just to print a stellar wide-format product, with perfect color saturation and clarity, on media appropriate to the job's intent. Your clients expect more—a finishing touch, that extra “something”—to add pizzazz, and maybe even a little protection, to a job that is a work of art in its own right.

A laminator can help you seal the deal, adding a quality finish to any project, no matter how big. Choosing the right machine for your shop, however, can be an overwhelming task when you consider the wide range of options available. To help you find the perfect finishing solution, we've assembled the following roster of more than 35 companies producing laminators that use pressure-sensitive and thermal films (hot, low-temp, and heat-activated), as well as those that utilize liquid laminates, to protect, encapsulate, and mount wide-format graphics.

This sourcelist provides a good sampling of laminators from each company; but we haven't listed every laminator model from each company (visit their websites for a complete equipment roster).

Advanced Greig Laminators *aglinc.com*

AGL's 82-in. Compadre is a heat-assisted cold laminator that comes with a multi-media twist: It offers optional built-in video training and music. With top-headed rollers, the Compadre can hit top speeds of 15 ft/min. It features a rotary dial with pre-set gap adjustments from 1/16 to 1 in., auto-grip core chucks for tool-free material changeovers, and pneumatic controls to raise and lower the roller nips. With the optional Zune upgrade, users can view how-to videos on the machine itself, and also add some music to liven up the workplace (the machine also connects to the AGL

website to download updates, as well as new techniques and instructions).

The company also offers the 62-in. Encore series of entry-level machines for pressure-sensitive and heat-activated films, including the NH, a cold laminator optimal for direct-to-vinyl; the SH, with a single top-heated roller for one-sided thermal films and pressure-sensitive overlams; the higher-performance DHR, which builds upon the SH; and the even more advanced Maxim model.

Advantage Distribution *advantagedistribution.com*

Available in 25-, 61-, and 80-in. widths, the Advan-Tac EZ Mounter is a cold laminator that allows for single-sided lamination and is able to coat boards up to 1/2-in. thick. The AD JetMounter is a 53-in. cold mounter designed for pressure-sensitive laminates and adhesives.

Aeromatrix

aeromatrix.com

The Orasign 1600EH is a hot/cold laminator; the Orasign 1600EC is a cold laminator. Both machines work with media up to 63-in. wide and 1-in. thick.

Agfa

agfa.com

The Jeti Cyclone UV liquid laminator, designed for flexible and rigid substrates up to 3-in. thick, is available in 60- and 80-in. widths. The Jeti Cyclone features large-sized rollers to ensure full-width, edge-to-edge coating with a speed range of 30 to 110 ft/min. The machine also features a nine-nozzle air-separator system designed to allow lightweight materials to be coated without sticking problems.

Artgrafix

artgrafix.com

The Ademco Phoenix 44-in. laminator comes in three models—Base, Roll, and Pro—and accepts media up to 1/4-in. thick. All three models use pouch boards but can be converted for roll films.

Autobond

autobondlaminating.com

Wide-format offerings include the thermal Mini, in widths ranging from 29 to 41 in.; the 30 x 41-in. Edgemaster 76 E encapsulator; and the 41-in. 105 CTP aqueous coater.

Banner American Products

banam.com

The Entry 4500 offers top and bottom heat and is available in 36-, 42-, and 44-in. widths and can manage materials up to 1/2-in. thick. The ValueLam 4500 comes in the same widths and with the same standard features, but has a more basic design. Additional products include the 27-in. Mighty Lam 2700, Easy Lam, and Easy Lam Green, designed to save energy with its standby mode.

Bienfang

forframersonly.com

The Bienfang Roller Press is a 42-in.-wide cold laminator/mounter with an adjustable thickness setting that can accept media up to 1-in. thick and an easily adjustable roller-speed.

Clearstar LP

clearstarcorp.com

Its StarLam 1600R roll-to-roll liquid laminator can handle substrates up to 64-in. wide. Designed for single-operator use, it boasts a speed of up to 4 ft/min.

Coda

codamount.com

Coda's Cold-Mount System combines its Cold-Mount tabletop laminator with a roll-feed with automatic scrap rewind and floor stand. Available in widths up to 54 in., the system accepts media up to 2-in. thick, can be run by one operator, and can be retrofit to existing Coda tabletop laminators in use at production sites. Other features include: self-locking 3-in. supply/takeup mandrels; spring-loaded top roller; safety motor stops; and more. The Cold-Mount tabletop laminator units are also available as strictly tabletop units (same sizes).

Contech

contech-usa.com

The 3M-approved, variable speed Omega SRA comes in hot and cold models, with adjustable pressure and web-tension control.

D&K International

dkgroup.com

With hot, cold, and pocket laminators offering capacities from 42- to 83-in. wide and accepting media up to 1-in. thick, D&K's wide-format offerings include: the 83-in. Exp 83 cold laminator with a heated upper roller; the 63-in. Exp 63 thermal laminator with heated rollers; the 62-in. Exp 62 Plus for both thermal and pressure-sensitive lamination; the 44-in. Exp 44 Twin for low-temperature laminating; the 42-in. Exp 42 Plus, a heavy duty

laminator designed for laminating low-temp, thermal, and pressure-sensitive films; and the 42-in. Exp 42 Pouch tabletop laminator.

Daige

daige.com

Daige's Solo Cold Laminator accommodates boards up to 1/2-in. thick and comes in 25-, 38-, 55- and 65-in. widths. Features include top and bottom nip rollers covered with hard silicone, steel cores, automatic take up, spring-loaded top rollers, and a heavy-duty motor. A print holder in front makes it easy to laminate long prints, reports the company. Also offers EZ Glide Applicator, a non-electric tabletop liquid laminator in 48-, 55-, and 62-in. widths.

Demco

demco.com

The Demco Seal-Xtreme is a 27-in. hot and cold laminator with variable heat control and the ability to seal media up to 1/16-in. thick.

Drytac

drytac.com

Drytac's AFC aqueous flood coaters are available in 63-, 75-, and 128-in. widths. They feature: TruSpeed Compensator, Dual Quick Disconnect Supply Tanks, and an optional secondary IR heater/fan unit. All are compatible with most roll-to-roll solvent, eco-solvent, and pigmented inkjet printers and can protect inkjet graphics on



Encore
ADVANCED GREIG LAMINATORS

laminators

vinyl, PSA, non-porous textiles, wet-strength wall coverings, canvas, and other flexible substrates; they can also function as flash-drying devices for hard-to-dry inks.

The VersaCoater XL is a wide-format, digitally controlled, high-speed, liquid coating machine available in 60- or 80-in. widths. It can process speeds up to 110 ft/min and is designed to handle flexible or rigid cut sheets up to 3-in. thick, as well as roll-to-roll media (with optional adapter).

Its JetMounter cold laminators are designed for pressure-sensitive film and available in 26-, 44-, and 54-in. widths.



64TLX
QMLS

Eastsign

eastsign.com

Hong Kong's Eastsign offers its BU series of cold laminators, ranging in width from 25.5 to 80.3 in., with manual, auto-feeding, and electric models; a BU series of liquid laminators, ranging in width from 63 to 126 in.; and a BU series of thermal laminators, ranging in widths from 25.5 to 90.6 in. Also available is its FM Series of roll laminators, available in widths up to 41 in.

GBC

gbc.com

The 2064Ct wide-format laminator with heat-assisted top roller handles film up to 64-in. wide and 10-mil thick and can run at speeds up to 30 ft/min for roll-to-roll applications. Additional

features include a simple LCD display for controlling pressure and temperature; swing-out film shaft; a pressure plate to flatten the leading edge of curled prints; and more.

Other products in GBC's line of laminators include: the Catena (25- and 41-in. wide) and Arctic (40- and 61-in. wide) cold laminators; the 79-in. 2080WFt, a top-heat laminator for pressure-sensitive films; and the 31-in. Discovery 80, a heat shoe laminator that uses infrared technology. GBC also offers hot and cold machines such as the 31-in. 5031TS, the 64-in. 2064WF, the Signmaker (25- and 43-in. wide), the Titan (43- and 61-in. wide), the 64-in. Falcon 3064WF, and the 64-in. Orca 4064WF.

Graphica Technologies

graphicatech.com

Graphica Tech produces the Bondmaster series of large-format laminators, which includes thermal, cold, and hot/cold models in widths ranging from 38 to 62 in.

HOP Inc.

hop.ca

HOP offers the tabletop TCC2700, a 27-in. roll laminator.

Keundo Corp.

keundo.co.kr

Its SupraCoater LR1600 (63 in.) and LR3300 (126 in.) liquid laminators offer speeds up to 3100 and 4134 sq ft/hr, respectively. Both offer two coating nozzles.

Lami

lami-corporation.co.jp

The LamiGorilla is available in heated, low-heat, and pressure-sensitive models (all 55-in. widths). The LamiMonkey machines, available in hot and hot/cold models, are available in 28- and 44-in. widths.

Ledco

ledcoinc.com

The Digital is designed to laminate large graphics using films up to 10-

mils thick at speeds up to 12 ft/min. Available in 42- and 60-in. versions, the Digital mounts with hot or cold adhesives, and can simultaneously mount and laminate. Also features pressure-release control and swing-away heat shoes.

Other Ledco machines include: the 25-in. HD 25 Workhorse, the 30-in. HS 30 Thoroughbred, the Industrial series (38 and 60 in.), the 25-in. Premier 4, the 27-in. Professor, and the XL Pouch (27 and 44 in.). The Econocraft (44 and 60 in.) is a cold laminator. The Signmaster 44 is a hot/cold machine.

Neolt

neolt.it

Neolt, based in Italy, offers the NeoLam M (43 and 65 in.), Dual F (65 and 81 in.), S (43 and 65 in.) and H (43, 65, and 80 in.) series of hot and cold laminators. The 65-in. 1650E laminator offers a heated upper roller for cold lamination; and the CE (43 and 55 in.) and C (43, 65, and 81 in.) laminators are for cold lamination.

Neschen Americas

neschenamericas.com

Under its Seal brand, Neschen offers an array of laminators, including the Seal 80 Pro, an 80-in.-wide mounter, laminator, and encapsulator that accommodates materials up to 1.5-in. thick. Other features include: feed table with integrated tensioning rollers, roll/image trough, and flip-down image guide; flip-up pull rollers; combi-supply shafts; ergonomic touch pad control panel on a pivot arm; output slitters; automatic upper take-up shaft; and more.

Also available: Seal Image 600md (61 in., dual-heat, bi-directional); 62 Pro; Image 62 Plus; 54/62 Base; Ultra-Plus Series (five models total); and the ProSeal 44 pouch laminator. Neschen also produces a variety of liquid coat-ers, including: the 52-in. AccuCoat Giclée Sign Coater; 60-in. AccuCoat 1600; 129-in. AccuCoat 3300; Accu-Cure 60 UV and AccuCoat 80 UV

(60- and 80-in. wide, respectively), and the 72-in. AccuCure 72XUV.

Optima International

optima-int.com

The 54-in. Optima RCS 5400 Mini-coater uses water- or solvent-based laminates; the 36-, 56-, and 76-in. 110/220 V models can accommodate vinyl, canvas, photo-paper, Tyvek, and other types of media.

Pacific Studio Supplies

coatac.com

The ACL460 is a cold laminator designed for print providers and framers. The company's MCL260 is a 26-in. motorized laminator geared toward professional photographers.

Polisigns Supplies

polisigns.com

Offers the ENTM series of cold laminators and the ENHTM series of hot laminators, all in 54- and 66-in. wide models, as well as the 63-in. PLAIH liquid laminator.

Professional Laminating Systems

pro-lam.com

PLS offers the 27-in. PL227HP, 38-in. PL238WF, and 44-in. PL244WF thermal laminators. The 227HP and 238WF can laminate substrates up to 1/4-in. thick; the 244WF can accept media up to 3/16-in. thick. The 244WF features variable speed control, 12-in. diameter roll capacity, digital temperature readout, and more.

QMLS

qmls.com

Its Quality 64TLX is a 62-in. top-heated mounting/laminating machine with a top roller for thermal lamination and a bottom roller that can be used for self-adhesive films. Features photoelectric nip protection circuit; removable front and rear tables; and auto and foot pedal running modes.

Remington Laminations

remingtonlaminations.com

The M65 Mini Mounter tabletop cold

laminator is 27-in. wide and accepts media up to 3/8-in. thick.

Royal Sovereign International

royalsovereign.com

Its hot and cold machines include the 27- and 41-in. models of RSS Hot-Shoe and RSR Rolling-Shoe as well as the 41- and 65-in. RSH Hot-Roller series.

The RSC cold-roll laminator offers pressure-sensitive lamination for images up to 65-in. wide.

Splash of Color

splashofcolor.com

The Cool-Lam 640C is a cold laminator for pressure-sensitive media up to 63-in. wide. Features include a motor-

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laminators

reverse function, single set of main rollers, powered take-up shaft, and more.

3M

3m.com

The LS1050 Scotch cold laminating system accepts media up to 25-in. wide and 3/16-in. thick.

USTech Inc.

bestdgi.com

Its heat laminators, the Pro S Series (single roller) and Pro D Series (dual roller), are available in 44-, 55-, and 65-inch widths. Four new cold laminator models include the Worf MJ Series, which features a 1.5-in. nip opening and three sizes: 44-, 55-, and 65-inch wide.

USI

usi-laminate.com

Its heated roll laminators include the Samson Plus 4200/6200/6300 (42, 62, and 63 in., respectively). The 6300 is a heavy-duty machine featuring variable speed, heated rollers, reverse, independent upper/lower electronic temperature controls, and can accommodate substrates up to 1-in. thick. Also features: three emergency stop buttons, release liner rewind, foot control pedal for hands-free operation, length cutters, more. USI's heat shoe laminators include the 40-in. and 42-in. CRL models, and the 40-in. MRL42 combination laminator/mounter.

Wesco Machine

wesco-machine.com

Heat options include the 30-in. F30, 38-in. F38, and the 54-in. W56 model. The F30/F38 feature flat composition wood-grain laminate tables, 3-in. silicone rubber rolls, forward brake, and reversible variable DC control. The W56 can handle any substrate up to 2.5-in. thick.

Western Magnum

westernmag.com

The company offers the XRL Hot Roll laminators in 24-, 36-, and 48-in. widths. Although primarily used in the circuit-board industry, these laminators can also be used for laminating large-format graphics. ■



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