



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## HANDLING

### How should 5LP Plates be stored?

5LP Laser Plates should be stored flat in the original package in a clean and dry location. When removing a sheet from the polyethylene wrap, retain protective sheets on top and bottom of stack to prevent polyethylene oils from transferring to 5LP Plates which could cause random imaging.

### What special steps should be used if a 5LP Plate needs to be trimmed?

If trimming of a 5LP plate is required make sure to back trim the leading edge going in to the laser printer to ensure correct feeding of the plate.

## IMAGING

### What type of laser printer can be used?

For best results use a high resolution, dry toner laser printer. A resolution of 1200 DPI or higher is best for halftone images. A 600 DPI printer will produce good results for line art or text. Printers that output 4-12 pages per minute are recommended.

### What brands of laser printers are recommended?

A Hewlett-Packard 5000/5100 is the recommended laser printer for use with 5LP Plates. However, other printers with specifications as noted above can also produce excellent results.

### What kind of resolution can be expected?

With a 1200DPI laser printer line screens in excess of 120LPI are possible. However, 106LPI is the optimum line screen for this resolution.

### What should the toner density of the laser printer be?

Density should be at the lowest setting to start with increases of one step at a time if necessary. If toner density is not already set to the lowest position you will need to print an image on 15 or more sheets of paper to clear any excess toner. A lower toner density setting will allow the image to fuse better to the plate and reduce possible toner scatter particles on the background of the plate. To minimize toner build-up inside the printer, and to reduce toner scatter, maintain the lowest possible toner density setting for all printing.

### What types of jobs can a 5LP Laser Plate run?

The 5LP Laser Plate is capable of running any job that is currently run on silver or electrostatic plates, or where the copy can be imaged using a dry toner laser printer. Business cards, newsletters, invitations, announcements, sales literature and work containing halftones, solids, screens and 5 point type can all be output using 5LP Laser Plates. They are also ideal for business forms and check printing.

### Can 5LP Laser Plates be imaged on a copier?

Yes, for short run jobs 5LP Laser Plates can be imaged on good quality dry toner copiers. To increase the number of impressions when imaging on a copier, first pass the 5LP through a laser printer 2 to 4 times without imaging, this will improve fusing of the toner when running through a copier.

### What side of the plate should be imaged?

Both sides of the 5LP Laser Plate can be imaged. Image both sides prior to printing from either side. Print from the last imaged side first with the first imaged side facing the roller. Then flip the plate over and use the first imaged side for the second print run.

### How to get the plate to feed all the way through the laser printer.

Check the page size in the Page Setup menu. It should be as large, or larger, than the plate being run.

### Available sizes.

5LP Laser Plates are available in eleven of the most popular sizes from 10 x 15 to 13.875. See chart on page 2. Other sizes are available as special cut. Minimum order requirements may apply.

### Recommendations for reducing toner scatter.

Maintaining the lowest possible toner setting will help minimize the possibility of toner scatter. Also, regular cleaning of the laser printer, or copier, will help ensure a clear plate image. If possible, dedicate a laser printer exclusively to producing 5LP Laser Plates. If it is not possible to have a dedicated printer it is a good practice to image two or more sheets of plain paper prior to producing each 5LP. This will help reduce toner scatter and increase fuser temperatures.

### Should the 5LP be punched before or after imaging?

Punch the 5LP Laser Plate after imaging. A pre-punched plate can catch toner as it goes through the laser printer which will deposit particles on the image area. Punching plates before running through the printer could also damage the drum.

### What should be done after the plate is imaged?

After imaging, the 5LP is ready to prepare for the press. It can also be stored "as is" until it is needed. Keep the plate flat and store in a dry, clean area.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## PREPARING 5LP TO PRINT

### Preparing the 5LP Laser Plate to for press.

Use a soft, low-linting cotton pad to ensure the plate surface is evenly wet with fountain solution. Start up as usual. Run dampening rollers for 10 to 15 seconds then drop the form rollers to begin the print cycle.

### What fountain solution should be used?

Following the dilution recommendations of the manufacturer it is OK to use your current fountain solution. Do not use at full strength. The higher the pH level of the water, the more fountain solution will be needed to achieve a proper fountain solution pH. Optimum pH is 5.0 to 5.5. You can use any metal or silver plate fountain solution mixed/diluted as usual.

### Are there any fountain solutions that could cause problems if used with a 5LP?

Electrostatic fountain solutions that are old, or weak, can cause background toning. If using an electrostatic fountain solution do not use at full strength to wet the plate. Use diluted fountain solution to wet the plate prior to start-up.

### Can an automatic converter be used?

Yes, however only mixed fountain solution should be used as the 5LP Laser Plate requires no conversion.

### Should the 5LP Laser Plate be baked?

5LP Laser Plates do not require additional fusing or post-baking. However, these processes may increase run length if using a laser printer with a fuser unit that produces a reduced level of heat.

### Is a dark room, or special lighting, needed?

5LP Laser Plates are not light sensitive so there is no need for a dark room or safelight conditions.

## ON THE PRESS

### Important!

Be sure that solvent cleaners do not come in contact with the 5LP Laser Plate and that cleaned surfaces are dry before starting the press.

### What should the fountain solution pH be?

Recommended fountain solution pH is between 5.0 and 5.5. Non-metal plates are more sensitive to contaminants on press. Maintaining a proper pH level can reduce the chance of toning in the non-image areas.

### How many impressions can be produced?

Testing has found that the 5LP Laser Plate can produce 10,000 or more impressions depending on conditions. This number will be affected by things such as roller pressures, inks, laser printer temperatures, paper used, etc. For best results set the press with minimum roller pressures to maximize run length and minimize dot gain.

### What type of ink can be used?

Any type of ink can be used with 5LP Laser Plates. Oil and acrylic based inks seem to yield the best results. When using soy or rubber based inks a tack reducer may be needed.

### How thick is a 5LP Laser Plate?

5LP Laser Plates are .004 inches (100 microns) thick. Use press packing as required.

## CLEANING

### Removing fingerprints or marks from a 5LP.

To remove fingerprints or dirt marks apply a quality plate cleaner. Using small circular motions wipe the affected area and then re-prepare the plate. Be sure to rinse all plate cleaners off the plate surface before running the plate on press.

### 2-Sided Polyester Laser Plate

Eleven standard sizes available  
.004" (100 microns) thick  
100 plates per box  
Packaged in plain white box

Other sizes available  
Minimum order requirements apply  
Allow additional time for delivery

5LP01	10	X 15
5LP02	10	X 15.5
5LP03	11	X 18
5LP04	11	X 18.5
5LP05	11.25	X 18.5
5LP06	11.75	X 18.5
5LP07	12	X 18
5LP08	12	X 19.375
5LP09	12.5	X 19.375
5LP10	13	X 19.375
5LP11	13	X 19.875