

## EZCOATER APPLICATOR OPERATING GUIDE.

### Important:

1. Always test a small piece of the printed media you need to coat before doing your production, to be sure the coating is compatible with your prints.
2. When using water based laminates, this applicator is designed for use with water resistant media printed with pigmented or solvent based inks. For non water resistant media (i.e. regular canvas) printed with dye based inks, you need to use a solvent based laminate.
3. We recommend you print your material with a 4" white border on the leading end of the print (the sides and trailing end can have 1" borders).
4. If you do not have a 4" border, then you need at least a 1" border and you need to make a reusable "leader" piece that you can attach to the print.

Using the same type of material you are printing on, cut out a leader 5" wide by the same width as your print (i.e. if your print is 48" wide, then your leader should be 5" x 48" long). Butt up the edge of the leader to the edge of the print. Using masking tape, apply the tape over the seam on the back of the print (do not tape on the image side or the coating can run off the tape into the image). Be sure the leader is taped securely to the print.

### Set Up:

- Take the two aluminium braces and insert the upper ends into the slot under the back of the tray – opposite side from red wiper. Once in the slot, they can slide across so you can position them properly.
- Place the applicator on the table and hook the braces on to the end of your table. This keeps the applicator from moving forward while in use.
- Slide the clear tube over the drain. Be sure it goes to the back of the drain.
- Pour the coating into the tray. The applicator takes about ½ gallon. We suggest you start with the minimum and refill as needed. You must always keep the coating up to the minimum fill level. Be sure the applicator is on a level surface – if not, level the applicator. Do not fill past the maximum fill level.

### Application:

1. Be sure there is enough room in front of the applicator for your print to come all the way out.
2. Grab the lip of the top handle, swivel the coating rod out of the tray and leave it in the up position. If you are coating a large print, you can roll it up with the leading edge coming from the top of the roll, to reduce drag.
3. Starting from the back of the applicator, slide the leading edge of your print, image side up, (with the 4" border or leader) over the tray until the first 1 1/2 " is overhanging the front of the tray.
4. Push down on the handle until the coating rod is completely down and lock it down using the Velcro tabs. The blade behind the silver coating rod will submerge the print in the coating. **Look in the tray, behind the blade, and be sure the coating has flooded the entire print. You must wait until it is flooded (this normally takes a**

**few seconds).** Grab the leading edge of the print and pull it through the applicator. Keep the print parallel with the table (i.e. do not pull it up at an angle). Pull at a steady speed, but do not stop. If you go too fast on very long prints, the coating may not replenish fast enough.

5. The print comes out with a smooth coating on one side and completely dry on the opposite side (the red silicone rubber wipes off the entire back of the print).

6. Place the print on a flat, horizontal surface and allow it to dry for approximately 20 minutes.

**Important:** After you are finished coating each print, swivel the coating rod to the up position. Using a damp cloth or paper towel, clean off the coating rod. If you do not clean it, the coating will dry up on the rod and affect the coating pattern on the next print. If the coating goes dry on the rod, then you need to clean it with lacquer thinner or Simple Green. For best results, use a scotch brite pad to clean off rod with the thinner or Simple Green.

## Solving Coating Problems

- **Missed areas on print:** level applicator, keep laminate above the minimum level in tray, wait until the coating floods the print before pulling, do not pull too quickly.
- **Streaks on print:** Clean the coating rod. It must be wiped off with a damp cloth or paper towel after each run. If you let the coating dry on the rod, you may get streaks. If the coating is dry on the rod, then you need to use lacquer thinner with a scotch brite pad to clean the rod thoroughly.
- **Bubbling:** Heavy bubbles that dry into craters are due to the type of pre-coat that comes on your media. It is very porous and the laminate gets into the pores resulting in bubbles. The only solution is to change media brands.
- **Beading:** The coating beads or puddles up after coating. This may happen when using media that does not have a pre-coat and is due to the plasticizers in the media repelling the laminate.

## Cleaning

At the end of the day you must drain and clean the EZCOATER as follows. (It normally takes 2 minutes to drain and 3 – 4 minutes to clean the rod and tray).

- 1) Remove the two screws on the top left.
- 2) Take off the handle/rod from the tray.
- 3) Place the brace under the left end of the tray.
- 4) Remove the cap on the tube, place the end of the tube in the bottle and drain out the coating.
- 5) While the laminate is draining, clean the coating rod with water (or a solvent cleaner if the coating has dried on the rod).