



While ink jet technology has been around for many years, it has not really impacted the print market like it will now. Wide format web presses are now making inroads into various print markets. On-demand or short run books, publications, trans-promo, transaction, etc., are projected to be major markets for these new presses.

**HP** – HP has seven ink jet webs on the market right now, which include the T200, T230, T300, T350, T360, T400 and the T410. All seven ink jet web presses are configured as four-color devices. All units have the ability to print, what HP calls, a bonding agent. This material is printed anywhere ink from the ink jet nozzles print. The bonding agent will improve image density.

- The other differences between the presses are web width and speed. Widths range from 20.5” inches to 40” inches depending on the model. Speeds also vary depending on the model, with the T200, T230, T300 and T350 printing four color at 400 ft/min up to web speeds of 600 ft/min. The T400 printing 400 ft/min full color and 600 ft/min monochrome. The T360 and T410 run at 600 ft/min full color and 800 ft/min monochrome. Ink drying takes place on all models. Again, speeds and web widths depend on the model. Another feature of the higher end presses is that they have ability to print Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) encoding.
- All the HP ink jet webs have the ability to print both sides in one pass.
- **Kodak** - Kodak has introduced three ink jet web models using their Stream ink jet technologies. The first model, the Prosper 6000 can go to speeds of 600 – 1000 feet per minute based on line quality (166 lines per inch(lpi) vs. 133(lpi). The Prosper 5000XL which is a four-color unit printing up to speeds of 650 ft/min at a maximum web width of 24.5”and printing both sides in one pass. The Prosper 1000 is a monochrome unit. The speeds and web widths are the same for this model as the 5000 XL. Both models have on press drying to completely dry the ink.
- **Xerox** – They recently announced they will be introducing a new wide web format ink jet press which is called the CiPress 500. Unlike HP or Kodak the Xerox ink jet press will print with waterless ink, which I suspect much like their dry inks used in their desktop printers. The ink used is a phase change type ink that is delivered in a granular form and melted onto the paper.
  - This press prints four color, both sides in a single pass with speeds up to 500 ft/min with web widths ranging from 9” to 20.5”. Xerox big claim is that this press prints on all types of uncoated paper and that paper needs no special treatments since no water is involved. The press also supports a wide range of basis weights of uncoated paper. At this time coated paper does not work. The press is in beta testing at this time and it is suspected that Xerox will introduce their ink jet web to the market by 2012.
- **Others** - There are many other press on the markets such as the JetStream series from Océ or the InfoPrint series from Ricoh/IBM, The Dotrix from Agfa, etc.

International Paper has several grades available for all of these devices and a check on the web site will display the various offerings for the HP T200-400 presses, which contains ColorPro Technology, and the Kodak Prosper series presses paper, containing ImageLok Technology. Grades included both Accent Opaque and Williamsburg offset including 7 and 9 point Reply Card and a cream white book grade. The Converting paper side also has good, best and better grades available for many ink jet roll presses. While these grades are suitable for these pigmented based press, there are grades available for dye based roll presses. A check at the International Paper web site will give you far more information on all grades available.