

Introduction:

There are many factors determining the final quality of the print. Among these the ink absorption of the rubber blanket is one of them. The absorption is influenced by the structure of the blanket. So, if there is a difference in the absorption between two rubber blankets, there is a difference in the structure and this can lead to a certain difference in the print quality, although the blanket has been saturated with ink during the printing process. The method described in this leaflet W61 is carried out at a speed of 0.7 m/s and has one, two or four interval times on one strip. The method in W79 is carried out at 0.2 m/s and can have 4 or 10 interval times on one strip.

Principle:

A strip of the rubber blanket to be tested is fixed on the sector of the printability tester. This strip is inked by printing with an inked printing disc. After certain times the inked rubber blanket is brought into contact with a blank strip of a standard set off paper. Part of the ink, which is present at the surface of the rubber blanket, will smear on the set off paper strip. The more ink is being absorbed by the rubber blanket, the less ink will smear on the set off paper strip. The density of the smeared ink will be a value for the absorption.

The complete range of recommended set off times is about: 0.1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 30, 60 and 120 s. All these times can be tested with the IGT AIC2-5T2000 and Global Standard Tester 2; with the IGT Global Standard Testers 3 and 3H only the longer times can be tested.

For blankets with little absorption, longer times may be of importance.

Method of operation:

- It is recommended to execute the test in the standard atmosphere; to most standards it is 23.0 ± 1.0 °C (73.4 ± 1.8 °F) and 50 ± 2% rh.
- For the operation of the AIC2-5T2000, Global Standard Tester, High Speed Inking Unit 4 and ink pipette follow the instructions of the manuals, IGT information leaflet W100 and the displays accurately.
- Handle the samples carefully.

Preparation:

1. Condition the blankets, the paper, the ink and the equipment during >6 hours in the standard atmosphere.
2. Cut the blanket strips (preferable 55 x 340 mm in the machine direction, 3 strips per sample) and mark them with a code for the type of blanket.
3. Shorten the set off strips, IGT code Ka, to a length of 200 mm.
4. Take off the brush from the tester.
5. **For AIC2-5T2000 only:**
 - 5.1 Mount a strip of rubber blanket on the sector. See W100.
 - 5.2 Adjust the printing force of the printing disc shafts to 625 N and pay attention for the right backlash. See W100.
 - 5.3 Adjust the printing speed to 0.7 m/s in the constant speed mode (□).



Fig. 1: Absorption of rubber blanket with Global Standard Tester 2

Materials / testing conditions

1	IGT AIC2-5T2000 or IGT Global Standard Tester 2 or IGT Global Standard Tester 3 or IGT Global Standard Tester 3H	710.000.000 412.000.000 416.000.000 467.000.000
2	IGT High Speed Inking Unit 4	466.000.710
3	(Top roller with 4 segments for conventional inks)	(466.003.003)
4	IGT ink pipette	408.000.200
5	Printing disc, aluminium, 50 mm, ø 65 mm (2x)	402.331
6	IGT Density ink	404.003.001
7	Strips of art paper, APCO II/II, IGT code Ka, 55 mm	404.009.025
8	Sector with clamps (for GST 2/3)	361.000.000
9	Strips of rubber blanket to be tested, preferable 55 x 340 mm, 3 strips per sample	
10	Densitometer (if required)	
11	Lint free rags	
12	Cleaning naphtha	
Printing- and set off force		625 N
Printing and set off speed		Constant, 0.7 m/s
Times between printing and set off		At choice
Ink film thickness (volume)		2.4 and 4.8 µm (0.10 and 0.20 cm ³)

- The numbers 1 thru 8 are available at IGT Testing Systems.
- The numbers 5 thru 7 can be obtained as Absorption Set Rubber Blankets for AIC2-5T2000 and Global Standard Tester 2, 3 and 3H, article number 479.000.412.
- This leaflet contains article numbers per January 1st, 2006 ◀.

6. For GST 2/3/3H only:

- 6.1 If not present, mount the sector with clamps. See W100.
- 6.2 Mount a strip of rubber blanket on the sector. See W100.
- 6.3 Select the menu "Rubber set off" in the display.

7. For GST2 only:

- 7.1 Select the sub menu "2 fields" or "4 fields":
 - "2 fields" for a test strip with 2 different interval times
 - "4 fields" for a test strip with 4 different interval times
 NOTE: The menu "10 fields" is described in W78
- 7.2 If the menu "4 fields" is used, adjust the speed at 0.7 m/s.

8. Check the functioning of the tester following the instructions in the chapter "Execution".
9. Fill the ink pipette with the density ink.
10. Adjust the High Speed Inking Unit with the following settings:
 - Water bath: 23.0° C (73.4° F)
 - Top roller: 4-segmented, rubber for conventional inks
 - Mode: 2
 - Starting time: 5 s
 - Distribution time: 10 s
 - Distribution speed: 1.2 m/s
 - Inking time printing discs: 5 s
11. Check the functioning of the High Speed Inking Unit.
12. Take off the strip of rubber blanket from the sector.

Execution:

1. Mount a strip of the rubber blanket to be tested on the sector. See W100.
2. Mount a strip of the set off paper with a piece of tape at the beginning and the end of the strip on a clean printing disc.
3. Apply 0.10 cm³ of ink to the inking unit and distribute the ink. NOTE: It is not advised to add some ink after a test.
4. Place a printing disc on the printing disc shaft of the inking unit and ink the printing disc during the preset time.
5. Take the printing disc from the inking unit and place it on the (top) printing disc shaft of the tester.

6. For AIC2-5T2000 only:

- 6.1 For 2 short interval times (< 10s) with interval timer only:
- 6.1.1 Adjust the desired interval time (see W100).
 - 6.1.2 Place the disc with the set off paper on the bottom printing disc shaft.
 - 6.1.3 Turn the disc into the position that the beginning of the set off paper is pointing upwards.
 - 6.1.4 Move the printing discs into printing position against the test strip.
 - 6.1.5 Make a print in which the rubber blanket strip is inked and the ink is transferred from this strip to the blank paper strip. See W100.
- 6.2 For 1 long interval time (≥10 s) only:
- 6.2.1 Set the interval timer on 0 s.
 - 6.2.2 Move the sector into starting position.
 - 6.2.3 Start the stopwatch.
 - 6.2.4 Move the printing disc into printing position.
 - 6.2.5 At a certain time (e.g. 10 s) make a print. See W100.
 - 6.2.6 Take off the printing disc from the shaft.
 - 6.2.7 Place the disc with the set off paper onto the upper printing disc shaft.
 - 6.2.8 Turn the disc into the position that the beginning of the set off paper is pointing toward the sector.
 - 6.2.9 Move the sector into starting position.
 - 6.2.10 After the desired time on the stopwatch, make a print during which the ink is set off from the printed rubber strip to the unprinted paper. See W100.

7. For GST2 only:

- 7.1 For 2 short interval times only:
- 7.1.1 Adjust the interval time.
 - 7.1.2 Place the disc with the set off paper on it on the bottom printing disc shaft.
 - 7.1.3 Turn the disc into the position that the beginning of the set off paper is pointing upwards.
 - 7.1.4 Make a print in which the rubber blanket strip is inked and the ink is transferred from this strip to the blank paper strip. See W100.
- 7.2 For 4 short interval times only:
- 7.2.1 Adjust the interval time.
 - 7.2.2 Place the disc with the set off paper on it on the bottom printing disc shaft.
 - 7.2.3 Turn the disc into the position that the beginning of the set off paper is pointing toward the sector.
 - 7.2.4 Make a print in which the rubber blanket strip is inked and in a second rotation the ink is transferred from this strip to the blank paper strip. See W100. NOTE: If the interval time is < 5 s, keep pressed both the buttons until the end of the print. If the interval time is > 5s the side buttons can be released during counting down. When the interval timer has count down to about 2 s, press the side buttons again to rotate the sector a small part to set off the ink from the blanket to the unprinted paper. See W100.
 - 7.2.5 Repeat point 8.6 for every interval time.

8. For GST 2/3/3H for 1 long interval time only:

- 8.1 For GST2 only: Set the interval timer on 0 s.
- 8.2 Start the stopwatch.
- 8.3 At a certain time (e.g. 10 s) make a print. See W100.
- 8.4 Take off the printing disc from the shaft

- 8.5 Place the disc with the set off paper onto the (upper) printing disc shaft.
 - 8.6 Turn the disc into the position that the beginning of the set off paper is pointing toward the sector.
 - 8.7 After the desired time on the stopwatch, make a print during which the ink is set off from the printed rubber strip to the unprinted paper. See W100.
- 9. Take off the set off strip from the printing disc.
 - 10. Mark the strip with the set off times.
 - 11. Store the strips during > 4 hours in a safe and preferably to the standard atmosphere conditioned room.
 - 12. Measure the test result as described in the chapter "Assessment".
 - 13. Take the printing disc and the set off disc from the shaft(s) and clean them with rags and naphtha.
 - 14. Clean the rubber blanket with rags and naphtha.
 - 15. Clean the rollers of the inking unit or use the next segment for the following test.
 - 16. Repeat points 2 thru 15 for the same test strip of rubber blanket for the next interval time.
 - 17. Repeat points 2 thru 16 with 0.20 cm³.
 - 18. Repeat points 1 thru 17 for the next test strip of rubber blanket. It is recommended to perform the test at least three times per sample.
 - 19. After having finished the tests clean and store all parts as described in the manuals.
 - 20. Make an accurate record of the conditions and the results of the test.

Assessment:

1. After > 4 hours after making the print measure the contrast density of the set off strips.
2. Calculate the average of the measured densities per set off time per type of blanket.
3. If desired calculate spreading and/or standard deviation. Sometimes it may be useful to not the highest and lowest values as well.
4. If desired make a table or graph.

Notes:

1. The test results of the AIC2-5T2000, AIC2-5 and Global Standard Testers 2, 3 and 3H, compare well with one another on the condition that the tests have been carried out under the same testing conditions.
2. The maximum storage life of the IGT Density ink in the original, closed packing is 1 year; in an opened packing 3 months.

► In comparison to older IGT leaflets, this leaflet is valid for the AIC2-5T2000 and Global Standard Testers as mentioned

This information leaflet has been compiled with the utmost care. However, may you find any inadequacies or if there are any comments, we kindly request you to send these to IGT Testing Systems, Sales Department.

