

Darwill, Illinois (USA)



Darwill Leverages In-Line Finishing with Hunkeler Generation 8 to Improve Inkjet Quality, Productivity

New opportunities drive need for efficient finishing that can keep pace with high speed press.

Darwill made a transformational move to production inkjet printing in 2014 with the acquisition of two inkjet presses with in-line Hunkeler finishing.

"Our volumes continue to grow," says Mark DeBoer, the company's Director of Customer Experience. "We knew we needed to add capacity due to some new opportunities we have with new and existing customers who want high quality and shorter delivery times. We wanted to make sure we had the most efficient finishing operation in place." The Darwill team consulted with the Standard Finishing team to learn about



Mark DeBoer, Director of Customer Experience (left), and Tim Brennan, Digital Operator, discuss roll-to-stack job.

the latest developments from Hunkeler and Horizon to determine the best finishing configuration for the new press. "We implemented Hunkeler equipment with our first two inkjet presses," DeBoer adds. "We have developed a good working relationship with Standard and Hunkeler and received excellent support from them. Plus, we wanted to keep all of our equipment similar to reduce the amount of operator training required, so Hunkeler was an easy choice to make."

Darwill installed a Hunkeler UW6 Unwinder on the front end of the press. On the back end,

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Darwill installed a Hunkeler UW6 Unwinder with web cleaner iPEM on the front end of its new press. On the back end, the DP8-II Dynamic Perforator feeds into a CS8-II Rotary Cutter and LS8 Stacker to deliver cut sheets ready for further finishing.

the DP8-II Dynamic Perforator feeds into a CS8-II Rotary Cutter and LS8 Stacker to deliver cut sheets, offset stacked from 1-up to 4-up for near-line finishing. The system also includes chip-out, gutter cuts, and edge trimmers for full-bleed finish.

DeBoer points out that ink drying can be an issue with the increasingly heavy ink coverage customers are demanding as they replace offset applications with inkjet and take advantage of the fast turn and variable data capabilities digital printing offers. "When you feed that heavy ink coverage into a roll rewriter," he explains, "heat and moisture can be trapped in the roll because you don't have a lot of dwell time under the dryer. That can cause damaged output when unwinding for further finishing. By going directly to sheets, we eliminate that problem since there is more air between the sheets, and we can also fan them for better drying. We are also very pleased with

the Generation 8 configurations because we can now print across three channels, instead of the two we had before, to improve throughput."

Since Darwill produces a lot of postcards, the company also needed a print/cut solution that could handle heavier stock. "We are printing postcards and self-mailers 3-up on 9-point standard offset stock," DeBoer notes. "With this new configuration, we can take the output right to our Horizon CRF-362 Creaser/Folder for folding, then to wafer sealing and mail sorting, taking some steps out of the process for faster time to market." DeBoer also says that the company needed a finishing solution that could keep up with the rated speed of the new press, and applauded Hunkeler for ensuring its Gen8 solution handles the press speed and more.

"We especially appreciate the proactive support we get from the Hunkeler Dealer

Standard Finishing" DeBoer concludes. "They check in on us frequently to see what we are doing and how they can help. It makes a big difference!"

darwill

Headquartered in Hillside, Illinois, Darwill is in its third generation of family ownership since 1951. The company has evolved from printing signs for local shoe companies to a national operation with 200 employees and offices in Illinois, Colorado, and Georgia. A premier provider of complex marketing products including direct mail, employee communications, and marketing collateral, Darwill is growing in a market that can often be challenging.