

rotec® User's Advice

For the professional handling of rotec® sleeves and adapters

rotec® sleeves and adapters are manufactured using the very latest production technologies. The materials used are subjected to constant quality control procedures carried out at our facilities. In order to utilize the product properties of rotec® sleeves and adapters in the most efficient manner and to increase the life time of your sleeves/adapters, you should comply with the following recommendations.

In case of questions or technical problems, please consult our customer service or one of our sales representatives.

Air pressure

- The air pressure measured at the air cylinder, should be between 6 and 8 bar (87-116 psi).
- The air volume flow should not fall below 12 litres per second (0.42 cubic ft/sec.).
- Please ensure that the air can pass freely, i.e. the tube is not pinched or damaged.
- Unnecessarily long or branching supply lines may lead to a drastic fall in air pressure.
- The compressed air system and cylinder surfaces should be free from moisture, oils, lubricants & inks.
- Check for blockages in the air outlet holes from time to time.

Cleaning and care of rotec® sleeves and adapters

- Please inspect sleeves/adapters routinely for damages of the inner sleeve, the surface and notch as well as register pin of adapters before usage. Damaged sleeves/adapters should not be used for printing.
- Oil, lubricant, ink and tape residues should be removed as quickly as possible to maintain the surface properties for as long as possible.
- Stronger residues can be removed with a soft nylon brush.
- Suitable cleaning solutions are ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, or water.
- Never use solvents containing grease or oil as they negatively affect the surface properties.
- Never treat the sleeves/adapters with acids, alkaline solutions, and salt solutions or with any sharp objects that could damage their surface.
- The entire surface should be cleaned with minimal amounts of cleaning solution and a clean cloth. Residual solvent should be wiped off immediately.
- As solvents are poorly evaporating from plate/tape gaps, plates should always be demounted after use. When cleaning sleeves or printing plates while mounted, please make sure no solvent remains between the tape and sleeve.
- Leave the sleeves/adapters to dry at least 30 minutes after cleaning to allow the solvents to evaporate completely.
- The sleeve ends should be protected against liquids at all times.
- To assure permanently good mounting characteristics, the inner base should be cleaned with an appropriate cleaner.
- Glass fibre filaments which loosened from the inner base can be ground off, but should never be pulled out.

Attention:

Special advise for conductive rotec® sleeves/adapters with compressible surface

- To assure a permanent conductivity, please do not expose the sleeves/adapters to high temperatures, e.g. removing the plate with a hairdryer, hot-air-radiator or other similar equipment.
- Do not apply isolation materials like hairspray, varnishes or other additional layers as they have a negative effect on the conductivity.
- Do not treat the surface with abrasive paper or hard brushes.

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Omega Surface Technology

- rotec® sleeves and adapters have been developed with the Ω -Surface Technology to prevent inadmissibly high electrostatic charging when printing inks and varnishes containing solvents on flexographic presses.
- rotec® sleeves and adapters with Ω -Surface Technology comply with BG information, status 11/2003, Order No. 452 and Atex 95, meeting the required bleeder resistance of a maximum of $10^6 \Omega$.
- The rotec® Ω -Surface Technology enables electrostatic charges on the complete surface to be conducted.
- The bleeder resistance should to be checked each time before use.
- The functional principle only works when the air-cylinders are grounded.
- The Ω -Surface Technology sleeve is only necessary, if total wall thickness (sleeve + tape + plate) is greater than 4 mm.
- No liability is accepted for sleeves/adapters if they are reworked by manufacturers other than Flint Group Flexographic Products.

Plate mounting

- Oil, lubricant, ink and tape residues affect the adhesion properties of the tape.
- To apply the tape without bubbles on the sleeve the use of a soft plastic roller is recommended.
- The plate must be mounted bubble-free on top of the tape – a soft plastic roller is recommended.
- Exposed surfaces of the sleeve can be protected effectively with PVC/PE adhesive tape.
- If an edge sealer is used, never apply it directly on the sleeve – apply the edge sealer on the tape only!
- Cutting might damage the surface, therefore please use the rotec® Cutting Ruler.
- Adjust the tape gap and the plate gap by a minimum of 30° in order to avoid edge lifting of the plate.

Plate demounting

- Remove the plate slowly and carefully with a constant tension – too much tension may damage the plate.
- Remove the tape by slowly pulling it back from the corner at an angle and pull it off in one piece.
- Remove any tape residual immediately (see Cleaning and Care).

Storage of rotec® sleeves and adapters

If you do not use a storage system for sleeves, please pay attention to the following points:

- In principle, sleeves/adapters should be stored in an up-right position.
- Sleeves/adapters should not be stacked on top of each other.
- Sleeves/adapters stored upright must be secured to prevent them toppling over.
- Constant weight loads and stress may affect the TIR (Total Indicated Runout) of the sleeves/adapters.
- High air humidity at higher temperatures (tropical climates) affects the service life of the sleeves/adapters.
- Specified outer diameter is valid only at a storage temperature of 20-21 °C (68-70 °F) and 50% humidity.

You are welcome to contact us for further information.

Flint Group Flexographic Products
Solmsstraße 83
48683 Ahaus
Germany

T +49 711 9816-541
F +49 711 9816-801
info.flexo@flintgrp.com
www.flintgrp.com

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