



# AQUARIUS

**FLEXO**

**(Prefix MA)**

**DESCRIPTION**

Aquarius inks are water based inks formulated for general use on papers and boards (both coated and uncoated).

**TYPICAL PROPERTIES**

The properties of Aquarius inks can be summarised generally as-  
Good dry and wet rub when properly dried during printing.  
High colour strength and good transfer properties allowing reduction if required.  
(As with all water based inks frost damage is irreversible - store above 5°C)

**SUBSTRATES**

Aquarius inks are suitable for printing on paper, multi bags, corrugated boards and tissue. Aquarius inks dry quickly mainly by absorption into the substrate and, dependent on substrate, can be over-printed in line and reeled or converted directly into bags etc. without smearing/scratching. The use of warm, high airflow driers allows printing at relatively high speeds on today's modern presses.

**REDUCERS**

Inks should be reduced with water and can be run at a wide range of viscosity according to the particular substrate and conditions.  
Water/alcohol mixtures can be used with some Aquarius inks to accelerate drying - consult Mirage Inks' technical department for advice and recommendations.

N.B. All water/alcohol mixtures must be premixed before addition to inks.

**COLOUR RANGE**

Aquarius can be supplied as a blend range or pre-matched to our customers' preferred shades.  
Prolonged exposure to light will necessitate the selection of special pigments.  
Colours are matched in daylight/ under daylight tubes unless specified with order.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Products with the prefix and product name specified above are Quality Controlled to Mirage Inks Test Specification No.6 as described in the test manual.

The information given above is supplied as a guide only and the properties achieved under laboratory conditions. Mirage Inks Limited strongly recommends that you satisfy yourself as to the suitability of the product with trials. Please consult our laboratory to discuss any different requirement.

As particular conditions of use and variations in quality of materials and substrates being used are outside our control, it is not possible to guarantee the performance of our products.

Products supplied under this ink name / prefix, are best used within a six month period from the date of manufacture (as specified on the product label).

In-line with Mirage Inks Ltd ISO 9001 procedures, retained batch samples for any product supplied under this ink name / prefix, are retained & stored at room temperature for a period of six months from the date of manufacture.

Should the product be used outside of this six month period, Mirage Inks Ltd. have no reference sample for comparative & test purposes, so cannot investigate or be held responsible for any print related problems.

Mirage Inks Ltd will not accept liability for any claim arising as a consequence of a laboratory colour matching being offered to our customer in good faith, and then subsequently Mirage's customer failing to obtain approval from their customer prior to printing / production.

## Additives:

### Foaming

Over a long print run the Aquarius inks may foam in the pump.  
Mirage supply a selection of defoamers to counter this (as detailed below):

### Waterbased Defoamer Selection

	AX272	AX405	AX305	AX52207	AX430	UX33388
AQUARIUS	*	**	***	****	*****	*****

NR=Not Recommended

#### *NOTE:*

*Number of \* refers to the defoamer 'activity'.  
Care must be taken as the higher the \* rating the more likely the defoamer is to cause surface defects on the print..  
Therefore, use the lowest possible \* rating to counteract foaming problems.*

*AX272 contains a 'mineral oil' based defoamer which can cause swelling of photopolymer plates if used in high concentrations.*

*AX430 is to be prediluted with water (1 part AX430 to 2 parts water) & then applied to the ink with a spray.*

For more detailed information – such as the recommended addition level, refer to the defoamer's technical data sheet.

### Stabiliser

When small detailed designs are printed there is very little ink usage. Therefore the small amount of volatile amine in the ink is lost.

If the print is seen to be deteriorating it is recommended that Mirage stabiliser **AX319** be added at the addition level of 200g to 10kg of ink at the maximum rate of once every four hours.

### Dirty Print

If dirty working occurs during a print run, stop the press and clean the stereos.  
*To avoid contamination of the ink with the detergent based cleaning solution (used to clean the print units at the end of the run), use stabiliser **AX319** on a lint free cloth to wipe the stereos.  
This will act as a very effective cleaning solution and will not cause problems with contamination.*

If the problem still occurs, add stabiliser AX319 at the recommended addition level.

If this does not correct the problem, add waterbased retarder MS195 at the recommended addition level (0.5% additions to a maximum of 2.0% in the Aquarius ink system).

If the problem still occurs consult Mirage Inks Limited Technical department for further guidance.

### **Cleaning Guide**

Mirage recommends **AX381** for general cleaning. (Refer to product data sheet for more detailed information).

This is used at 1 to 10 with water to produce a cleaning solution.

To clean the unit firstly drain all the ink and retain for future work.

Then pump the cleaning solution described above around the print unit. Do not allow ink washings to return to the ink.

Keep the 'dirty' cleaning solution separate for approved disposal by the local authorities.

On completion of a print run thoroughly clean the anilox immediately with the cleaning solution before storage.

Also follow the specialist advice from any on-site anilox cleaning machines for periodic cleaning.