

MCS CASE STUDY

- Inventory Control Barcoding and Labeling

The MCS Array System Brings New Applications & New Customers To Prominent Forms & Label Printer

Well-known supplier of high quality printed forms and labels, C & J Forms and Label Company was founded by J.C. Calvert in 1985. Located in Fort Smith Arkansas, C & J offers a wide range of products that include roll, sheetfed and fanfold labels, product labeling and ink-jet numbering. Typical jobs feature die cutting, laminating and UV coating.

Retiring an older Domino machine that was no longer keeping pace with C & J's growing demands and diverse applications, C & J installed an MCS Array Image Pro 800 in the spring of 2007. "We chose a four-inch wide MCS system and installed it inline on our existing flexo press. We use the MCS to produce consecutive numbers and barcodes, on a variety of materials, including polypropylene," explains Calvert.



KEY FACTS

• Client

C & J Forms and Label produces forms and consecutively numbered labels with very large fonts and barcodes with high ink coverage. Used by a wide variety of industries for inventory logistics and management.

• Challenge

Significantly increase the font range and physical size of labels produced while increasing production throughput and improving print quality on a variety of materials, including polypropylene.

• Solution

By adding an inline MCS Array System to an existing flexo press, C & J has been able to excel at producing extremely large print on a variety of substrates with vastly improved quality and productivity.

• Results

The addition of the MCS Array System has allowed C & J Forms and Label to excel at new applications, find new customers and expand their business.

"It's the simplicity of it. It's real easy to use."

Large fonts bring in new customers

Norman Moore, the person in charge of the Flexo Department, characterizes C & J's applications as "unique". "We use very large fonts for our consecutive numbering applications, ranging in size from 12 to 136 points. MCS does an outstanding job of producing very clear highly-readable fonts from very small to very large sizes," says Moore.

One particular job that C & J runs uses bold fonts that are 15/16" high by 3-1/2" wide. Used in an inventory control application, these very large numbers can be easily seen by forklift drivers, allowing them to organize pallets and record warehouse inventory, without getting down from their forklifts. "This results in a significant time savings for our customers," explains Moore.

According to Calvert, "The MCS Array gives us a competitive advantage, allowing us to serve new applications and new customers that we were not previously able to accommodate".

A second dryer was added to keep pace with MCS' increased throughput

Even though C & J processes very large numbers with maximum ink coverage, the MCS Array System continuously runs at 250 ft. / minute. "Run speed is better than our previous equipment," states Moore. "We had to add a second IR heater to dry the ink on our polypropylene substrate to keep up with the throughput of the MCS."

Simplicity

The MCS Array System can be summed up in a single word—"Simplicity," says Moore. "It's real easy."

- Simple to set-up
- Simple to use
- Simple to maintain
- Simple to make changes

Easy to use—like your home PC

"Anyone familiar with a windows-based home PC, can use the MCS system," says Moore. "I have the MCS software on my PC at home and often do job set ups there—it's very easy. Any questions I initially had were quickly answered by MCS' excellent training personnel."

Simple to operate—like your home printer

"The MCS Array System is like your printer at home—very simple to operate. When it runs out of ink, you just snap in a new cartridge, hit PRINT and it just runs," explains Moore.

Due to the large font sizes they routinely print, C & J consumes great quantities of ink annually, "But less than our previous system," affirms Moore. They are currently working with MCS on larger ink reservoirs that will reduce cartridge changes for their unique, high-coverage applications.

The staff at C & J especially likes the MCS ink supply monitors—referred to as ink gauges—that provide an accurate indication of the remaining ink volume. "MCS ink gauges are always visible for a real-time indication of the remaining amount, so there are never any surprises," states Moore. "Once the ink level gets to a certain point, there is a low level warning—you are never surprised about running out of ink and are always able to plan ahead."

Simple to make corrections and production changes

C & J usually runs 1 million numbers at a time, with a minimum of waste. "If there is a hiccup in printing—a correction, a bad barcode, a bad number—and we need to stop & go back, it's a straightforward and simple process," according to Moore.

"The overall simplicity of the MCS Array System is wonderful—it saves all of the data needed on the main screen," Moore comments. "If the ink runs low at number 900, all I have to do is go into the system, back up a few numbers, put in a new ink cartridge and hit PRINT, with minimal down time."

MCS ARRAY INKJET PRINTER

The MCS Array Inkjet system incorporates the most advanced software in the industry today and its digital workflow—including remote job setup and digital proofing—separates it from all others in the industry. All software and hardware components are designed and manufactured by MCS—giving customers a unique single point for support.

ABOUT MCS

MCS provides industrial inkjet imaging solutions for the mailing and industrial markets. MCS' imaging software and hardware, provides the integration cornerstone for high-speed mailing and hybrid inkjet printing, matching systems for inserters as well as invisible ink matching. The software is unique in its ability to simultaneously control multiple imaging heads and allow powerful graphic layout features along with exclusive workflow features such as client and production print-proofing. MCS incorporates the latest HP technology inkjet print heads.