

Scan-Plast Metalgraphics Ltd. Signs Up With TherMark

The Challenge: Getting The Color Right



Founded by partners Bob Fletcher and Rick Beliveau, Canadian signage solutions company Scan-Plast Metalgraphics Ltd. offers a versatile suite of services to customers across a range of businesses. Scan-Plast works with architectural firms on sign design and production; oil and gas companies with identification, informational and directional sign requirements; and electronics companies with illustrative overlay and keypad design. Fletcher and Beliveau built up the Edmonton, Alberta-based company during the last 35 years, and it has grown to seven employees.

“We’re a sign manufacturer, and we got a job that required us to mark stainless steel,” said Fletcher. “The job involved producing marks with vivid contrast. And, I mean really black text on a stainless steel background.”

After experimenting with other laser marking products, they still couldn’t produce the depth of color they needed to satisfy the customer’s needs.

“We tried other marking methods, including direct laser marking, but we just couldn’t get the marks dark enough when we lasered the images onto the stainless steel,” Fletcher said. “Then Rick was looking on the Internet and found TherMark.”

The Answer: TherMark’s LMM 14 Black Delivers Deep Color and Contrast

Scan-Plast Metalgraphics’ laser engraving process is largely automated. Using Nutfield Scanware (Version 3.1.1.97), a laser-scanning control operating software, the company can produce permanent markings on a number of metal surfaces using a 100-watt Nd: YAG laser. After applying TherMark’s LMM 14 Black laser marking material in liquid format, they use a power setting of 22 percent and a speed rate of 1.2 inches per second. The resulting image includes dense, dark lettering clearly contrasted against the bright light-colored metal.

VERTICAL:
Sign Manufacturer

REGION:
Canada – Alberta Province

PRODUCT:
LMM 14 Black

SURFACE:
Stainless Steel

CUSTOMER:
Scan-Plast Metalgraphics Ltd.
— Bob Fletcher/Rick Beliveau,
Partners



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The oil and gas industry along with its related businesses is one area that Scan-Plast serves. A typical example of their work in this field would be using TherMark’s LMM 14 Black ink to permanently mark #4 finish stainless steel that is used for valve identification and vessel certification.

“In addition to being simple, the whole TherMark process doesn’t take long,” said Fletcher. “Once you spray the ink, it dries very quickly. Then, you just laser it — and no problem.”

Marks produced by the TherMark process are extremely durable and permanent. They stand up extremely well to mechanical and chemical abrasion, high temperatures, corrosion, sea water and salt spray, weathering, sunlight, and deep space. TherMark’s LMM 14 Black is especially designed for laser marking graphics or text on a range of metal surfaces including stainless steel, iron, copper, bronze, chrome, titanium, and aluminum.

Additionally, Scan-Plast not only needed a high-contrast mark, but it also required the mark to have repeatable consistency in color — from one sign to the next. And, according to Fletcher, they have definitely received that benefit with TherMark’s laser marking material.

The Result: Consistency, Consistency, Consistency

By using TherMark’s LMM 14 Black ink, the safest, most effective, water-based product currently available, Scan-Plast Metalgraphics delivers consistent laser marking of permanent, high-contrast, black images on stainless steel for customers as varied as schools, hospitals, tank manufacturers, and businesses within the oil and gas industry.

“Scan-Plast has definitely seen an upswing in its use of LMM 14 Black,” said Fletcher. “So far, no complaints, and we’ve used quite a bit of it in the last eight or nine months. The feedback from our customers is very positive, so it must be working for them.”

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- Bob Fletcher, Scan-Plast Metalgraphics

