GerberColor™ Transparent (GCT) Series Foils

DESCRIPTION

GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils are durable, dimensionally stable, resin-based, pigmented foils designed for use with the GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with EDGE READY™ materials. GCT Cartridges produce printed graphics capable of withstanding severe weather and handling conditions in both commercial and industrial applications.

Colors	
GCT-617 Blue	GCT-37 Sapphire Blue
GCT-629 Brown	GCX-111 SpectraShade
GCT-49 Burgundy	GCX-030 SpectraTint
GCT-105 Gold	GCT-13 Tomato Red
GCT-116 Green	GCT-625 Yellow
GCT-128 Plum Purple	GCT-614 Orange
GCT-643 Red	

When printed on white EDGE READY materials, GCT-617, GCT-116, GCT-643 and GCT-13 meet the color visibility safety standards ANSI Z535.4-1991 for OSHA and 3864-1984 (E) for ISO. In addition, GCT-629 meets the color visibility safety standards ANSI Z535.4-1991 for OSHA only.

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INTENDED APPLICATIONS

This unique transparent feature allows the characteristics of the base EDGE READY material to come through and be enhanced - reflectives reflect, metallics sparkle, chrome-finished films shine brightly, and translucents light up like never before. GCT Foils can also be used on opaque films for traditional spot color applications.

GCT Foils can be used to enhance reflective, metallic, and holographic materials, vinyls, etc. Unlike the opaque GerberColor Spot (GCS) Series Foils, GCT graphics will not cover a film's visual properties. Retro-reflectivity, mirror finish, metallic chips, etc. are retained and colors can be overprinted to create new shades. GCT Foils are well suited to backlit or opaque applications. To ensure color consistency, we recommend "double hitting" transparent graphics that will be backlit.

Since these colors are transparent, the color may shift when printed on substrates other than white or clear. The user should determine the suitability of all substrates.

Most materials that GCT Foils would be printed on are not intended for use where they may be exposed to petrochemical spillage. If petrochemical contact is anticipated, refer to the section below on protecting graphics.

PERFORMANCE LIFE

When printed on EDGE READY materials and applied vertically, GCT Foils will have an expected performance life of three years.

Performance statements are based upon field experience and exposure tests conducted throughout the United States using solid fill prints. Substrate selection, exposure angle, environmental conditions, and maintenance of markings will affect actual performance. Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunny days will result in decreased performance. This product is not recommended for horizontal applications.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Printed graphics should be applied within one year. GerberColor Foils, film and printed graphics (with or without premask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Store foils at 40ºF to 90ºF (4ºC to 32ºC) and 40% to 60% humidity. When not in use, cartridges should be kept in their package sleeves.

Use a paper interleaf between printed materials that are rolled or stacked. Do not store printed graphics face to face.

PRINTING

GCT Foils are compatible with EDGE READY materials. GCT Foils are also compatible in overprint combinations (GerberColor Spectratone™) with the following GerberColor Series: GerberColor Process Pro™ CMYK (GCP), GerberColor Spot (GCS), and GerberColor Medal (GCM). GCM Foils should not be used as the underlayer in an overprint construction. GCT Foils are not compatible with Heat Transfer Paper.

If your software color selection palette does not have GCT Foils, select a corresponding GerberColor Spot Series Foil. (Contact your distributor or Gerber Tech Support for a palette upgrade.)

Recommended working environment is as follows:

- Operating temperature: 50ºF to 95ºF / 10ºC to 35ºC

- Recommended temperature for assured printing accuracy: 68ºF to 78ºF / 20ºC to 26ºC

- Operating humidity: 20% to 90% relative humidity, non-condensing (maximum range;

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actual range varies by material used)

PROTECTING GRAPHICS

Gerber Technology offers products that are designed to protect vinyl and printed graphics.

Gerber Guard™ manufactured by 3M is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlaminate. This film has a petrochemical-resistant construction and is intended to be used when markings may be exposed to petrochemical spillage and/or severe handling conditions.

Gerber UVGuard™ is a custom-formulated, 1-mil, clear, TEDLAR polyvinyl fluoride (PVF) laminating film designed to further expand the resistance to weathering of printed graphics up to five years.

Gerber UVGuard™ 9 manufactured by 3M is a 2-mil, glossy, clear, mildew-resistant, polyvinyl fluoride laminating film with a petrochemical-resistant adhesive system. It is designed to further expand the resistance to weathering of printed graphics up to nine years. Gerber UVGuard 9 has the highest protection from UV fade.

Gerber StrikeGuard™ is an 8.0-mil, clear, glossy overlaminate film designed for a variety of applications. This heavy-duty overlaminate film is ideal for the protection of graphics, up to two years, and is especially beneficial where printed graphics experience severe handling and forceful impact. Gerber StrikeGuard is not recommended in applications that require petrochemical protection or where additional UV or vandal resistance is desired.

Abrasion Guard™ SPF (Sign Protection Formula) is a clear, top-coat GerberColor Finishing Series (GCF) Foil designed for use with EDGE® Series thermal transfer printing systems, to protect graphics from moderate contact and exposure to harmful effects of UV rays. It has an expected performance life of five years (when printed by itself). When applied as a protective overprint on other GerberColor Foils, Abrasion Guard SPF will extend the life of the base color by up to 30%.

Matte Clear is a clear matte finish, top coat GerberColor Foil designed for use with EDGE® Series thermal transfer printing systems, to reduce glare and protect graphics from moderate contact or handling. It has an expected performance life of three years.

APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Gerber standard tack application tape is required for all EDGE-printed graphics. Printed graphics should be allowed to cure for 15 minutes prior to application of transfer tape.

MAINTENANCE

To clean printed graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives. Automated vehicle washing systems that use rotary cleaning brushes should also be avoided.

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PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Foils	
Pigment	Resin Based
Color Coat	3.5 to 4.1 microns
Liner Thickness	5.7 microns
Foil Length – *minimum*	49.21 yards (45 meters)

Cartridge	
Cores	Polyethylene
End Shell	ABS Plastic
End Plugs	ABS Plastic
Side Rails	ABS Plastic
Cartridge Weight	1 lb. 12 oz.

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (Printed on Gerber High Performance Series 220)

Chemical Agent	Exposure Time	Results
Water	24 Hours	No Effect
SAE 20 Motor Oil	24 Hours	No Effect
50/50 Ethylene Glycol/Water	24 Hours	No Effect
10% Hydrochloric Acid	10 Minutes	No Effect
10% Ammonium Hydroxide	10 Minutes	No Effect
Mineral Spirits	10 Minutes	No Effect
Dish Detergent/Water	24 Hours	No Effect

RELATED LITERATURE

Refer to Product Bulletins of relevant foils and materials for product-specific handling, production, and finishing information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860) 644-1551. Visit us on the Internet at www.gspinc.com to learn more about our many other foils, materials and equipment.

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