Release Notes for ThermoFlex Narrow With Offset Option Controller Software Beta Version 1.32.352.004

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Overview

These version 1.32.352.004 release notes describe the additions and enhancements that were made since the last release of ThermoFlex® Controller software, to support the ThermoFlex Narrow with offset option.

The offset option enables you to image offset plates on a ThermoFlex Narrow platesetter. The pre-punched offset plates are loaded manually onto the drum with the help of registration pins.



Figure 1: Plate loaded on drum with registration pins

After the plate is loaded, it is secured with the approved tape (3M® aluminum foil tape 425, 1.5 in x 60 yd) on the leading and trailing edges. No clamping is required.

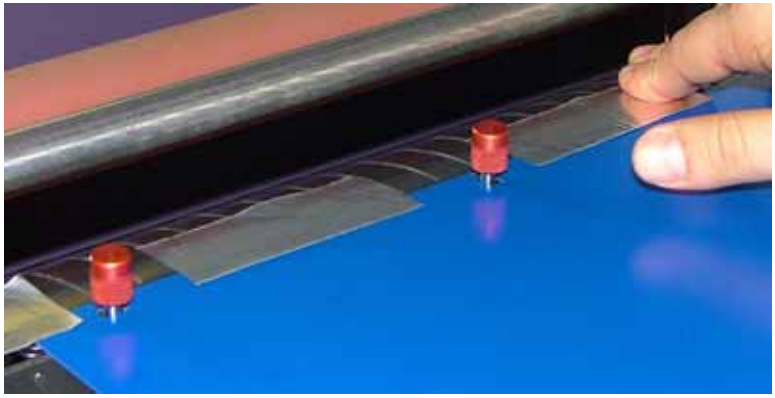


Figure 2: Leading edge of plate secured with approved tape

The pins are then returned to the pin holder, which is connected to the mechanical interlock system.



Figure 3: Pin holder

The offset option enables you to image one or two plates simultaneously.

Note: To achieve the required image quality for offset (99% at 175 lpi), the 1:2 lens was replaced with a 1:3 lens to achieve a 20-micron spot with a 60-micron fiber head.

Prerequisites

- TIFF FE 3.00.73
- Strobe 7 board
- Local3 board

Installing Version 1.32.352.004

➢ Insert the version 1.32.352.004 CD in the CD-ROM drive, and follow the instructions in the wizard.



Note: During installation, a dialog box appears in which you can select the configuration of the device. The default value is for offset.
To disable offset, in the Advanced Media Properties dialog box, change the value of the **Plate Type** option from Offset to **Flexo** (see Figure 6 on page 7).

New Features

- Hardware additions for offset are supported:
  - Offset drum: the offset drum has a registration bar with openings for registration pins.
  - Registration pin holder: after you load a plate, you must return all pins to the pin holder connected to the mechanical interlock system.
  - UDRC BP and BF vacuum sensor: the sensor is located on the nozzle inside the platesetter. (For more information, see the debris removal site on TechPlanet)
    a. To select the relevant unit, in the registry, select **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\SCITEX\Projects\LotemFlexo\Machine**.
    b. Update the **UDRC Installed (NONE=0, UDRC_BP = 1, UDRC_LC = 2, UDRC_BF = 3)** parameter value as required:
       - **UDRC BP**—1
       - **UDRC BF**—3
  - Manually operated roller with side-to-side detector: to detect if registration pins are left in the drum, a side-to-side detector was added. At the beginning of the exposure process, the drum revolves twice at a very low speed to enable the side-to-side detector to detect the registration pins.

- Warning message: during Controller start up, and when opening the platesetter cover, if any of the registration pins are not returned to the pins box, the following warning message appears:
  `Not all the registration pins are installed in the pin holder. To continue, verify there are no pins left on the drum and reinstall all the pins into the pins holder.`

  This warning message is the result of the open mechanical interlock.

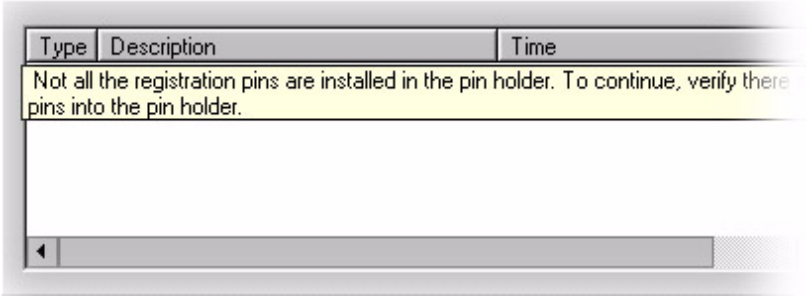


Figure 4: Missing registration pin warning message

- Error message: before exposure starts, if the side-to-side detector detects a pin on the drum, the following error message appears, and exposure is aborted:
  `Check for registration pins on drum!`



Figure 5: Registration pins on drum error message

- Carriage moves to home position (HP): when you open the front door from Controller, and during startup, the carriage moves to HP when you open the top door to prevent a collision in case pins are left in the drum.

- In the Media Advanced Properties dialog box, you can select the plate type—**Flexo** or **Offset**.

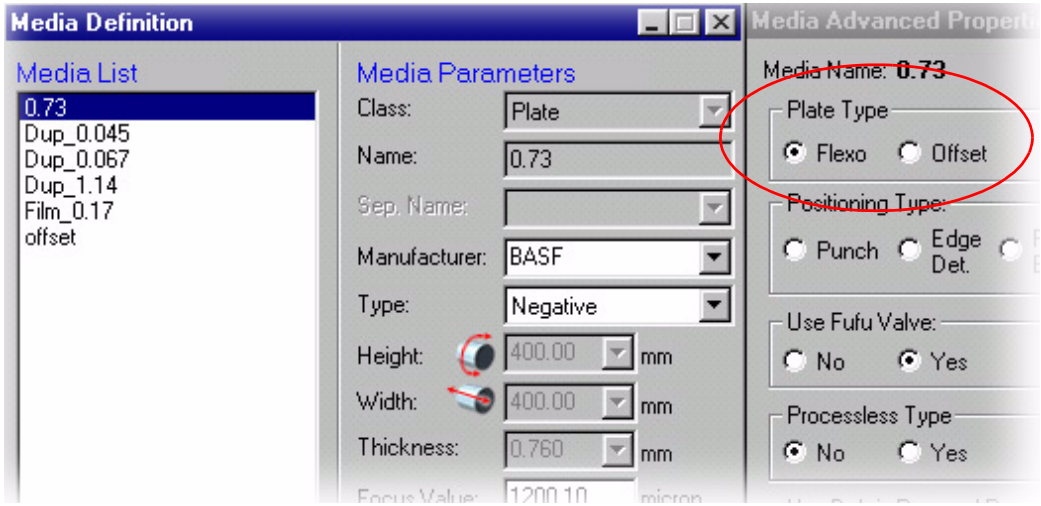


Figure 6: Select plate type

- In the Media Definitions dialog box, there is an option not to use drum vacuum. This option is only for exposing steel-backed plates, for which vacuum is not required.

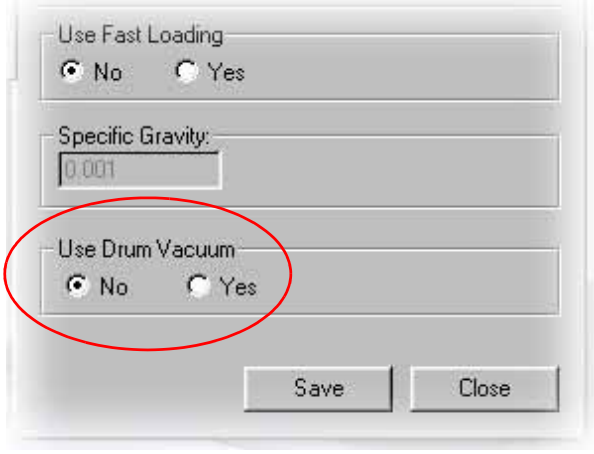


Figure 7: Drum vacuum option

- Uninstalling the version is supported.
  To uninstall the version, select **Start > ThermoFlex2630 > Uninstallation**.

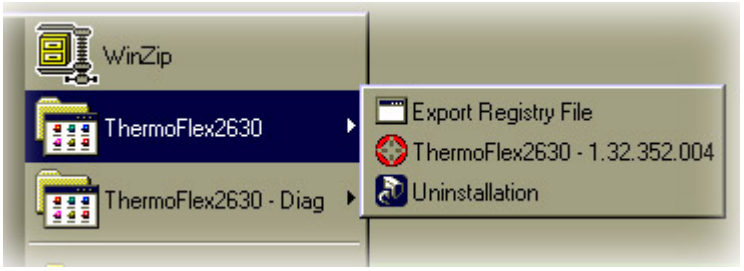


Figure 8: Uninstallation option

Enhancements

- The appearance of the device in the software is updated, and the image of the top door appears green when you move the mouse over it. When you double-click the top door, the top door of the platesetter opens.
- In offset devices, the default **Max Speed App Value** parameter value (**Hardware tree > Drum System > Drum Motor**) is **500**, and not 300 as in the previous non-offset software version.
- The MCF firmware is improved for better reliability.

Limitations

- When you shut down the device, you must shut all doors and panels so that the interlocks will close and the focus motor will move to HP.
- When you open the door for preventive maintenance, the carriage is in HP and not in the middle of the drum, as it is with other configurations.
- During shutdown, if one of the doors is open, a message appears, asking you to close the door. If you click **OK**, Controller shuts down properly, but does not move the focus motor to HP. This can cause lens-plate collision when a thicker plate is loaded on the drum. See Figure 9 on page 9.

Fixed Problems

- When you clicked the Preventive Maintenance button, after the top door opened, two error messages appeared:
  - `Machine interlock activated, perform emergency stop to the machine`
  - `Laser interlock activated`

  After these error messages appeared, the device went to Offline status and you had to change the mode to **Ready**. This has been resolved.
- On the ThermoFlex Narrow platesetter, in the Media Definitions dialog box, two media sizes appeared that were only appropriate for Mid II devices. This has been resolved.
- During shutdown, if one of the doors was open, Controller froze and could not shut down (no message appeared). Now, a message appears, asking you to close the door. If you click **OK**, Controller shuts down properly (but does not move the focus motor to HP).

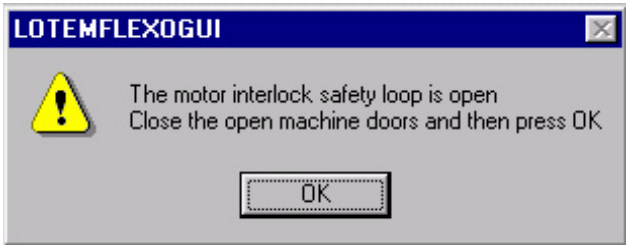


Figure 9: Quitting Controller

- When loading the version after a crash, in the resolution table, Resolution 94.448 was not correct and you had to change it to **94.488**. This has been resolved.

- The following registry parameter default settings were changed:
  - **Balance System\Weight Actuator Configuration\Weight Actuator Position (mm)**—changed from 582 to **550**
  - **Balance System\Weight Actuator Configuration\Weight Detector Potision**—changed from 17916 to **17100**
  - **Focus Motor\Velocity [Steps/Sec]**—changed from 5 to **18**
  - **Laser Group\Last Expose Laser Active**—changed from 23 to **47**
  - **Laser Group\Last Laser Active**—changed from 23 to **47**
  - **Laser Group\Max Possible Laser Power**—changed from 600 to **1000**
  - **Light Detector\High Dac Factor**—changed from 6.06667 to **3.5**
  - **Light Detector\Low Dac Factor** —changed from 6.06667 to **3.5**
  - **Loading System\Media On Drum Height Size (mm)**—changed from 1030 to **762**
  - **Loading System\Media On Drum Width Size (mm)**—changed from 770 to **762**
  - **Loading System\System Is Init For Media Height Size (mm)**—changed from 1030 to **762**
  - **Loading System\System Is Init For Media Width Size (mm)—** changed from 770 to **762**
  - **LOTEMFLEXO\EXPOSE\Default Drum Speed (rpm)**—changed from 150 to **200**
  - **LOTEMFLEXO\EXPOSE\Default Intensity (mw)**—changed from 600 to **900**
  - **LOTEMFLEXO\EXPOSE\Default Last Laser Number**—changed from 23 to **47**
  - **LOTEMFLEXO\EXPOSE\Maximum Width Expose Area (mm)**—changed from 700 to **757**
  - **LOTEMFLEXO\MACHINE\Max Media Width Size (mm)**—changed from 690 to **762**

- **LOTEMFLEXO\MACHINE\Min Delay Value (mic)**—changed from 118 to **80**
- **LOTEMFLEXO\MACHINE\Width Start Image Area (mm)**—changed from 20 to **5**

Known Problems

- When working with TIFF Expose, when you shut down the device, a debug message appears.

  Workaround: Quit TIFF Expose before shutting down the device.

- During preventive maintenance, the message to open the door appears after the solenoid no longer enables opening the door.

  Workaround: Do not look at the monitor; instead, listen for the sound of the opening of the solenoid.

- The `Light Activator Task` message relates to a future feature.
- The temperature control (TEC) system works, but is not accessible from the software.