# User Guide For Eurocalco Desensitizing Ink

The **Eurocalco Desensitizing Ink** is applied over de sheets **Eurocalco CF** and **Eurocalco CFB** where the reproduction of the copy is not desired.

The **Eurocalco Desensitizing Ink** has been developed to be printed in wet offset; nevertheless, it can be also used in dry offset and typography.

The desensitizing ink neutralizes the Lewis acid of the filler, which is the main component of the CF coating lay. This avoids the reaction between the colorant of the microcapsule and the Lewis acid of the filler, so, the desensitized part does not develop the color.

It has to be applied on the face of **Eurocalco CF** or **Eurocalco CFB**, which contains activated clay.

The desensitizing ink is transparent and can be used over white and colored papers. It is appropriate to desensitize sheets as well as reels.

**Wet offset desensitization**

An adequate dose of desensitizing ink must completely deactivate the area reserved for copying by using a significant amount of ink (>2.5 g/m2). Nevertheless, before final printing, tests should be carried out to determine whether there is an optimum desensitizing effect using a minimum amount of ink. The amount of ink used has to be added gradually, progressively increasing it until the desired results are obtained.

- Place the ink in the last printing cylinder, ensuring that the inks of the other cylinders are resistant to alkalis and alcohols, in order to avoid possible defects.
- Periodically control the amount of indicated ink applied to ensure a perfect desensitizing effect. It has to be observed under UV light (366 nm).
- Be sure that the desensitizing ink does not accumulate in the guide rollers during the printing process, and that it does not spread over other undesirable areas.

- The wetting water can be the usual one, but it should not have an alcohol content higher than 15%. Desensitizing ink for wet offset needs more water than regular offset ink.
- The pH of the wetting solution should be between 4,8 and 5,2.
- Desensitizing ink can be used in the majority of printing plates. As a general rule, these must be resistant to solvent. However, some plates are sensitive to solvent and may be attacked by the ink. Therefore, testing should be done beforehand.

Testing may be carried out as follows:

Spread a layer of desensitizing ink over a colored image area of the plate. If the transparent layer does not acquire color in 24 hours because of the plate's ink, it can be considered the plate resistant to the desensitizing ink.

- The **Eurocalco Desensitizing Ink** can be used for positive as well as negative p-plates.
- Storage: the **Eurocalco Desensitizing Ink** can be stored for a period of two years in the appropriate storing conditions.
- Do not use polyurethane inking rollers with desensitizing ink.
- Regular solvents, such as petroleum or “White spirit”, can be used to wash the machine (blankets, plates and inking rollers).

**Monitoring the desensitizing effect**

Checking if desensitization is correct can be done by taking a CF o CFB previously desensitized (wait 5 minutes after the printing to permit the correct penetration of the ink in the coating lay) and placing a transmitting CB sheet over the sheet. Exert pressure over the desensitized area with a pen. If the copy only appears in the zone where the desensitizing ink has not been applied, the desensitizing ink effect is proved.

The desensitizing effect is considered good if does not appear any visible coloration in the desensitized surface of the paper.

Nevertheless, it is more practical to use the **Eurocalco Spray Developer**. It should be sprayed 20/30 cm from the desensitizing area. When it is correctly desensitized, the area becomes completely white.

**Properties of the Desensitized Zone:**

- It is suitable to be written with a pen.
- Definitive desensitizing effect even exposed to an extended solar light.
- Resistant to water and humidity.