Production 101

Presented: May 5, 2025



Agenda

Printing:

- Flatwork
- Envelopes
- Ink
- Paper
- Finishing

Data Processing

Personalization

Mailshop

USPS, Postal Logistics and Mail Tracking

Production Workflow

Common Production Oversights



Printing: Flatwork





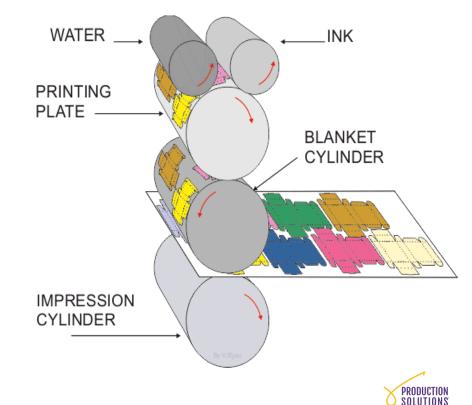




Offset Lithographic Printing Basics

- ✓ Printing Plate contains the image to be printed
- Plate is dampened, and ink adheres only to dry area (image)
- ✓ Image rolls onto Blanket Cylinder
- ✓ Paper pulled through and pressed against Blanket Cylinder by Impression Cylinder

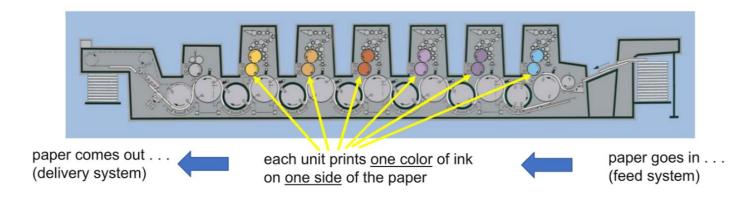




Flatwork: Sheet Fed Press



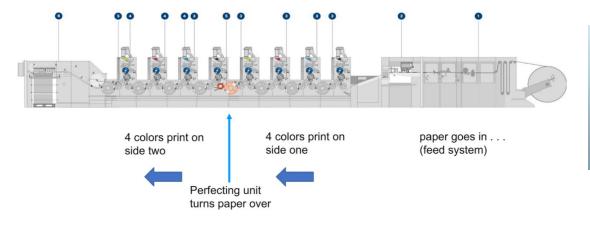
- ✓ Press that prints on single sheets of paper
- ✓ Bindery functions produced offline
- ✓ Common sheet sizes from 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" up to 28" x 40"





Flatwork: Web Press

- ✓ Web offset prints at high speeds on large rolls of paper often on both sides simultaneously, using in-line printing units and finishing systems
- ✓ Web presses are bulky and expensive, but widely used for large volume applications
- ✓ Common sheet sizes from 11" x 17" to 22½" x 40"







Printing Flatwork: Sheetfed vs. Web Print

SHEETFED PRINTING:

- ✓ Prints on large sheets of paper
- Effective for short to medium quantity runs
- ✓ Capable of superior print quality
- ✓ Unlimited paper options
- ✓ Flexibility in size of printed piece
- ✓ Generally, more expensive than web printing (Unless small quantities)



WEB PRINTING:

- ✓ Prints from roll of paper
- ✓ Effective for long print runs
- ✓ Good print quality, less consistency
- ✓ Limitation on size of printed piece
- ✓ Limited on paper stocks
- ✓ Only some in-line bindery functions
- ✓ Generally, less expensive than sheet fed





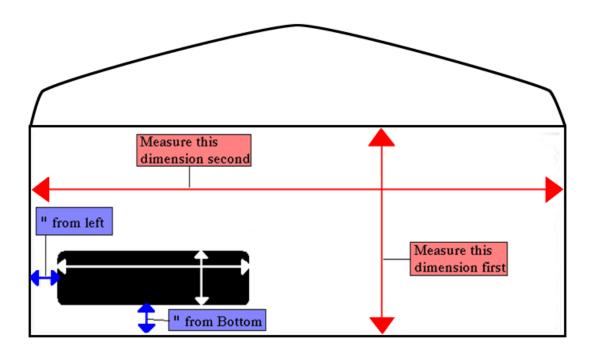


Printing: Envelopes





Envelopes: Measuring



Standard Envelope & Padded Mailer Sizes

Standard Envelope Sizes

Туре	Size	Decimal		
#6 ³ ⁄4	3 ½ x 6	3.5 x 6		
#6 ³ ⁄4	3 5⁄8 x 6 1⁄2	3.625 x 6.5		
#7	3 ³ ⁄4 x 6 ³ ⁄4	3.75 x 6.75		
#7 ³ ⁄4	3 ½ x 7 ½	3.875 x 7.5		
#8 ¾	3 5∕8 x 83⁄8	3.625 x 8.375		
#8 %	3 5∕8 x 8 5⁄8	3.625 x 8.625		
#9	3 ⅔ x 8 ⅔	3.875 x 8.875		
#10	4 ¼ x 9 ½	4.125 x 9.5		
#11	4 ½ x 10 3⁄8	4.5 x 10.375		
#12	4 ¾ x 11	4.75 x 11		
#14	5 x 11 ½	5 x 11.5		
6 x 9	6 x 9	6 x 9		
9 x 12	9 x 12	9 x 12		
A2	4 3⁄8 x 5 3⁄4	4.375 x 5.75		
A6	4 ³ ⁄ ₄ X 6 ¹ ⁄ ₂	4.75 X 6.5		
A7	5 ¼ X 7 ¼	5.25 X 7.25		
A8	5 ½ X 8 ½	5.5 X 8.125		
A9	5 ³ ⁄4 X 8 ³ ⁄4	5.75 x 8.75		
A10	6x 9 ½	6 x 9.5		

Padded Mailers

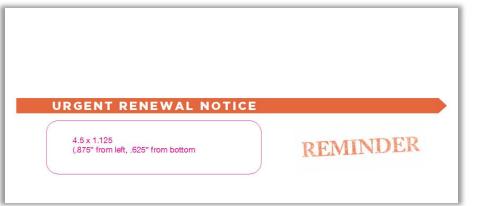
Туре	Size	Usable		
000	4 x 8	4 x 6 ½		
00	5 x 10	5 x 8 ¼		
0	6 x 10	6 x 8 ¼		
1	7 ¼ x 12	7 ¼ x 10 ¼		
2	8 ½ x 12	8 ½ x 10 ¼		
3	8 ½ x 14 ½	8 ½ x 13		
4	9 ½ x 14 ½	9 ½ x 13		
5	10 ½ x 16	10 ½ x 14 ¼		
6	12 ½ x 19	12 ½ x 17 ¼		
7	14 ¼ x 20	14 ¼ x 18 ¼		





Envelopes: Windows

- ✓ Standard Window Sizes and Placement
 - ✓ Standard Left Window (SLW)
 - ✓ From Left: 7/8"
 - ✓ From Bottom: 5/8"
 - ✓ Height x Width: 1 1/8" x 4 ½"
 - ✓ Poly vs. Open vs. Glassine





Envelopes: Jet Offset Printing



- ✓ Printed AFTER envelope is converted (Folded)
- ✓ Good quality
- ✓ Machine limitations
 - ✓ No Large solids
 - ✓ No Bleeds
 - ✓ No Heavy screen coverage
 - ✓ Can Print up to 4 colors
 - ✓ Fastest to print standard size envelopes



Envelopes: Flat Sheet Litho Printing

- ✓ Printed BEFORE envelope is converted
- ✓ Printed prior to die cutting and converting
- ✓ BEST quality
- ✓ Most expensive and time-consuming process



✓ No limitations!





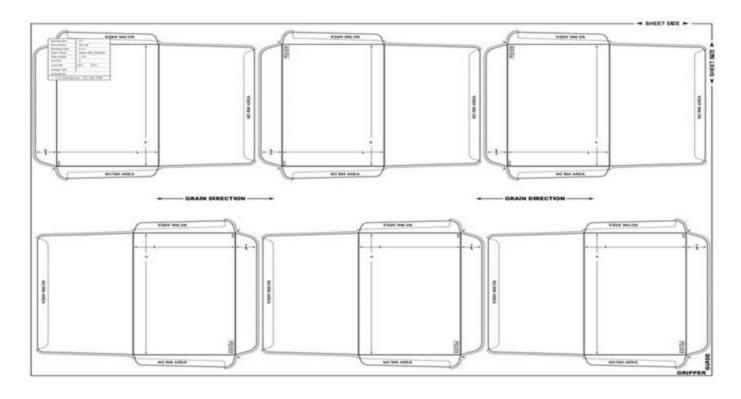


Envelopes: Flexography Printing



- ✓ Printed AS envelope is converted
- ✓ Typically for simple line copy where quality not as important, i.e. return envelopes
- ✓ Enhanced Flexo 4cp
- ✓ Economical for large print runs 100M+
- ✓ "Rubber stamp" look

Envelopes: Flat Sheet/Flexo Press Sheet Example







Printing: Ink





Printing: Ink Basics



- \checkmark Ink Dries by absorption and oxidation
 - ✓ Some colors require more time than others, i.e. Reflex Blue
- \checkmark Types of inks:
 - ✓ Quickset, Heat-set, Non-Heat-Set, UV inks
 - ✓ Soy Based, Water Based (Environmentally friendly)
- Laser personalization requires specially formulated inks



Printing: Pantone Ink Matching System

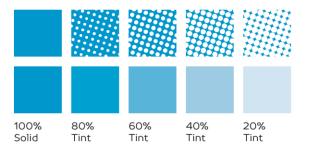
- ✓ Pantone guide most common in USA
- ✓ Guide ONLY
- ✓ Pigment and other raw material used to make ink is constantly changing
- ✓ Ink manufacturers adjust formulas to match expectations that Pantone sets



Printing: Ink Screen Tints



- Color created by dots instead of solid ink coverage
- ✓ Appear less dense than solid coverage to simulate shading and lighter colors
- Two or more tint colors may overlap to create additional colors







Printing: Ink Halftone



- Traditional photograph consists of continuous tones tonal transitions of color hues
- ✓ Printing press cannot produce such continuous tones
- ✓ Instead combines printed and non-printed surfaces of paper to achieve a similar effect to naked eye
- Printed image divided into very small parts, which referred to as halftone screening
- ✓ In light areas, dots are small; in darker areas, dots are large



Printing: Ink Duotone

Photograph reproduced using two halftones printed simultaneously.



Black printer





Process blue printer

Duotone



Printing: 4-Color Ink Process

Printing technique using process colors — Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black (CMYK) — to simulate full color images



Printing: When it Comes to Ink, Paper Matters

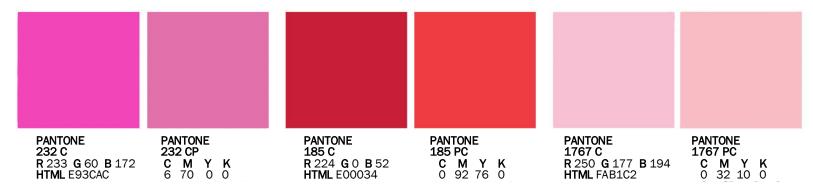
Here's the same ink on a variety of paper stocks.







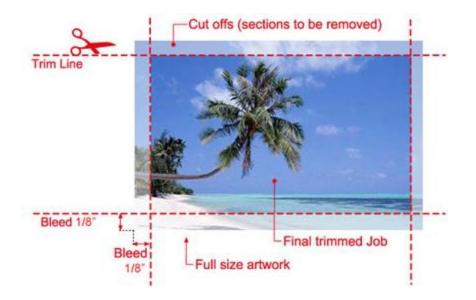
Printing: Using 4-Color Process to Create PMS Builds



- ✓ 4-color builds can be produced of any PMS color but are NEVER 100% match
- ✓ Instead of using special spot color mixing to create PMS Color, using Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black to replicate PMS color
- ✓ Result is often "color shift" which typically mutes color or flattens it out



Printing: Ink Bleeds



- Printing that extends to edge of sheet or page after trimming
 - ✓ To accommodate for bleeds, printer must print bleed area larger than final trim size
 - ✓ Page then trimmed through to bleed area
- ✓ Requires more paper and production time (>\$)



Printing: Post Print Coatings



Aqueous Coating

- ✓ Liquid Polymer used to coat and protect a printed sheet.
- ✓ Dries faster than varnish
- Can come in various textures
- ✓ FLOOD COAT ONLY



Varnish

- ✓ "Clear" ink
- ✓ Can come in various textures
- ✓ Flood Coat OR SPOT VARNISH (requires additional plate)



Printing: Paper





Printing: Paper Weights

Basis weight equals the ream (500 sheet) weight of the base size sheet. The heavier the basis weight, the thicker & sturdier the paper.

Common Direct Mail Paper Weights/Types:

Bond/Wove = Often used for envelopes. ✓ 20# ww, 24#ww, 28#ww

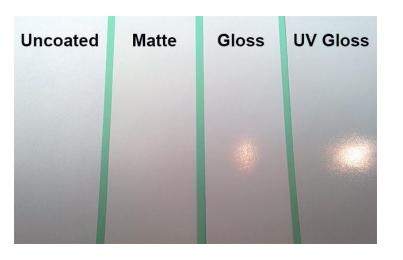
Offset/Text - Often used for letters, inserts \checkmark 60# text, 70# text , 80# text

Cover Weights - Used for cards, thicker inserts ✓ 80# Cover, 100 # Cover

-	- 1.				- 75		2000	1000
Bond Ledger		Cover	Tag 	Index	Points	*Caliper (inches)	millimeters 	Metric (grams/sq meter)
16	40	22	37	33	3.2	.0032	0.081	60.2 gsm
18	45	24	41	37	3.6	.0036	0.092	67.72 gsm
20	50	28	46	42	3.8	.0038	0.097	75.2 gsm
24	60	33	56	50	4.8	.0048	0.12	90.3 gsm
28	70	39	64	58	5.8	.0058	0.147	105.35 gsm
29	73	40	62	60	6	.0060	0.152	109.11 gsm
31	81	45	73	66	6.1	.0061	0.155	116.63 gsm
32			74	67				120 gsm
35	90	48	80	74	6.2	.0062	0.157	131.68 gsm
36	90	50	82	75	6.8	.0068	0.173	135.45 gsm
39	100	54	90	81	7.2	.0072	0.183	146.73 gsm
40	100	56	93	83	7.3	.0073	0.185	150.5 gsm
43	110	60	100	90	7.4	.0074	0.188	161.78 gsm
44	110	61	102	92	7.6	.0076	0.193	165.55 gsm
47	120	65	108	97	8	.0078	0.198	176.83 gsm
53	135	74	122	110	9	.0085	0.216	199.41 gsm
54	137	75	125	113	9	.009	0.229	203.17 gsm
58	146	80	134	120	9.5	.0092	0.234	218.22 gsm
65	165	90	150	135	10	.0095	0.241	244.56 gsm
67	170	93	156	140	10.5	.010	0.25	252.08 gsm
72	183	100	166	150	11	.011	0.289	270.9 gsm
76	192	105	175	158	13	.013	0.33	285.95 gsm
82	208	114	189	170	14	.014	0.356	308.52 gsm
87	220	120	200	180	15	.015	0.38	312 gsm
105	267	146	244	220	18	.0175	0.445	385.06 gsm



Printing: Coated Vs Uncoated Paper



COATED TYPES

- ✓ Gloss: High Degree of Light Reflectance, "Shiny" Surface
- ✓ Dull/Matte: Little or No Gloss; Sheen Rather than Shine

UNCOATED TYPES

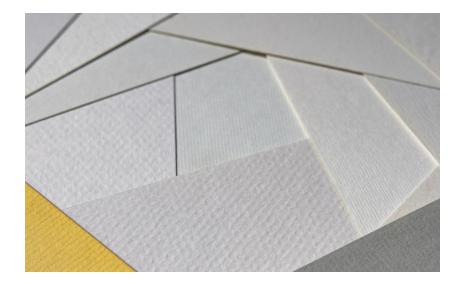
- Newsprint: Manufactured from Ground Wood Pulp Specifically for Web Printing of Newspapers
- ✓ Offset/Text: Manufactured for Lithographic (Offset) Printing
- ✓ Opaque: Offsets with Extra Opacity to Prevent Show Through



Printing: Paper Finish - Uncoated

TYPES: Finish that imparts a look and feel

- ✓ Smooth: perfectly smooth to barely textured
- ✓ Wove: quite smooth, even sided
- ✓ Vellum: "toothy" feel
- Laid: subtle linear pattern consisting of vertical "chain lines" and horizontal "laid lines"
- ✓ Felt: elegant, "toothy" texture
- ✓ Linen: captures look of linen cloth





Printing: Paper Brightness

Paper Brightness: The higher the brightness number, the whiter and brighter the paper looks. The whiter and brighter the paper, the more contrast – which means your documents will have bolder images, crisper text and brighter colors.

GRADE LEVELS

- ✓ Premium = 88.0 to 95.0 Brightness
- \checkmark Number 1 = 85.0 to 87.9 Brightness
- ✓ Number 2 = 83.0 to 84.9 Brightness
- \checkmark Number 3 = 79.0 to 82.9 Brightness
- \checkmark Number 4 = 73.0 to 78.9 Brightness
- ✓ Number 5 = 72.9 and below



Printing: Paper – Green Information

Recycled vs. Recyclable

Post-Consumer Waste

✓ 10% vs. 30% vs. 100%

FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) vs. SFI

(Sustainable Forestry Initiative)

 Purchasing wood and paper products from certified, reliable sources





Certified Chain of Custody Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.sfiprogram.org

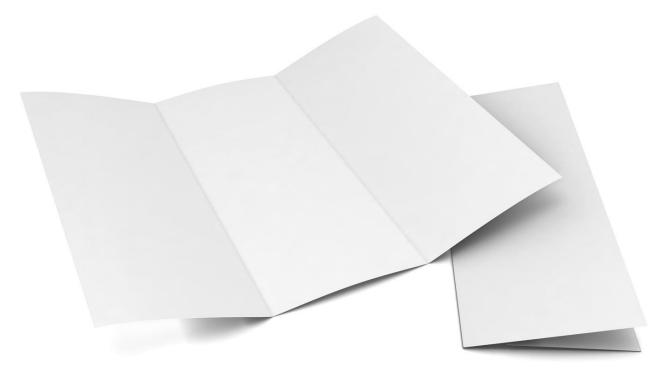


Recycled Supporting responsible use of forest resources

Cert no. SCS-COC-00389 www.fsc.org 0 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

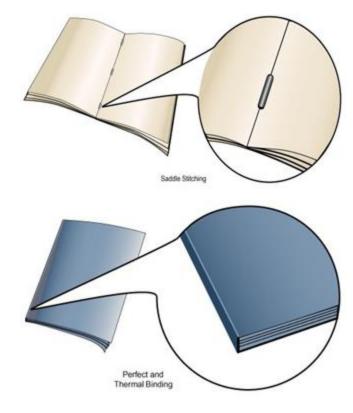


Printing: Finishing



Printing: Finishing Types

Stitching and Glue Binding





Scoring

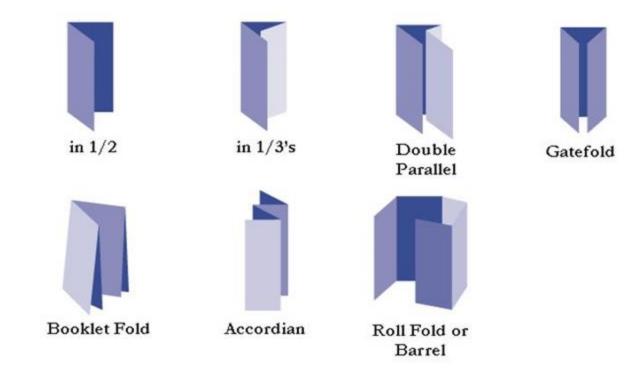


Perfing



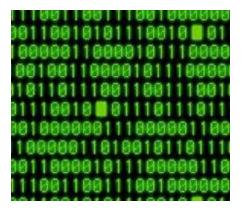


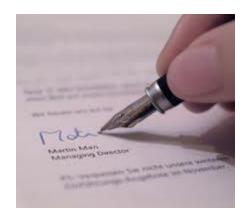
Printing: Folding





Data Processing, Personalization and Mailshop









Data Files

- ✓ House Files: Names maintained and supplied by NP organization
- Acquisition Files: Names leased by NPO from 3rd party provider

Formatting

- ✓ Upper/Lower Case
- ✓ Punctuation
- ✓ Address Abbreviation/Expansion





CASS (Coding Accuracy Support System)

- ✓ Validates accuracy of supplied address information against USPS master file
- Certifies the mailshops' Address Matching software that makes minor updates to city, state and zip code
- ✓ Appends required information to build a unique barcode
- \checkmark All presorted data must run through CASS

NCOA (National Change of Address)

- ✓ Checks supplied data (name & address) against USPS NCOA file
- ✓ NCOA will append person's new address if donor/customer has submitted a formal address update with USPS
- ✓ All presorted data must run through NCOA within 95 days of mailing



Presort

✓ Process to sort data based on geographic location specified by the USPS
 Automation (Barcode)

- ✓ Address specific barcode that USPS uses to process bulk mail
- ✓ All presorted mail must be automated, otherwise a non-automated surcharge applies

Intelligent Mail Barcode. Service Graphics, Inc. 17W045 Hodges Rd. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 Արկիների հերույնի հրարդուներությունը

Select/Segment

✓ Method by which supplied production file should be broken out to create multiple package files



Suppression

- ✓ Removal of particular records based on certain criteria
- ✓ Zip Codes, States, ID Numbers, Gift Amount/Gift History, Source Codes

Source Code/Mail Code/Key Code

- ✓ Analytical codes used to track campaign results
- Codes typically consist of: Mail Date, Mail Package, Donor Type (Acquisition, Appeal, Renewal, Sustainer), Giving History (\$1-\$10, \$11-\$25, \$25-\$50, etc.)

ID Number/Finder Number

- ✓ ID Number (House Files): Unique number associated with each donor; assigned by nonprofit when donor is added to house file
- ✓ Finder Number (Acquisition): Unique number associated with each acquisition name; assigned by data provider



Builds (Address, Salutation, Ask)

- ✓ Address Build: Address fields to be used and what order to put them in (Name, Address 1, City, State, Zip, etc.)
- ✓ Salutation Build: Salutation fields and/or parsed name fields to be used and what the defaults should be
- ✓ Ask Builds: Gift history fields to be used and what type of calculations are to be made
- ✓ HPC Highest Previous Contribution
- ✓ MRC Most Recent Contribution
- ✓ Build Example: ASK1 = HPC; ASK2 = HPC x 1.5; ASK3 = HPC x 2

□ YES!				ncil member to	end hunger and poverty. Please use
	my gift to help a fai	mily in need. E	nclosed is:		
	□ \$600	□ \$900	□ \$1,200	□ \$2,500	□ Other \$



Personalization: Pre-Print and FPO

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Personalization: Basic Terms

Simplex Laser vs. Duplex Laser

- ✓ Simplex: 1 Sided Lasering
- ✓ Duplex: 2 Sided Lasering

Continuous Form Lasering

- High output, decent quality, variable black ink*, simplex/duplex, low cost
 - ✓ Some mailshops have capability of printing in black + one additional color

Cutsheet Lasering

- Low output, good quality, variable black ink*, simplex/duplex, medium cost
 - Some mailshops have capability of printing in black + one additional color





Personalization: Basic Terms

Digital Press (Cutsheet or Roll-to-Roll)

 Medium output, great quality, variable CMYK ink, simplex/duplex, high cost



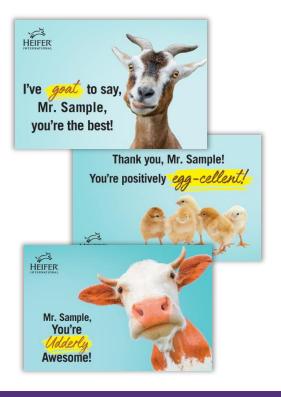




Personalization: Digital Printing - VDP

- ✓ Use of information from a database or external file
- ✓ Mass customization of documents







Personalization: Basic Terms



DOWOR INFO MAME ADDRESS I ADDRESS Z CITY, STATE ZIP

Inkjet (Envelope Personalization)

- ✓ High output, decent quality, black ink*, simplex, low cost
- ✓ Some mail shops have capability of inkjetting in colored ink

Single Head vs. Double Head

- ✓ Single Head: Typically, 1.5"- 2.0" horizontal zone of personalization space (edge-to-edge)
- Double Head: Typically, 3"- 4" horizontal zone of personalization space (edge-to-edge); double head will have increased cost



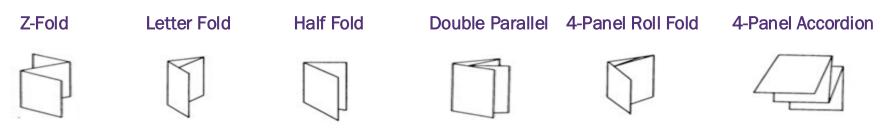
Mailshop: Basic Terms

Bowe & Trim

✓ Removes pin feeds & trims form to final name size
 Folding

✓ Folds personalized component to final size

Common folds:





Mailshop: Basic Terms

Drop-cut/Nesting

 ✓ Allows for two personalized pieces to be combined on one pre-printed form, lasered, then separated prior to insertion.

Tabbing/Wafer Seals (Self-Mailers)

 \checkmark Made from paper or plastic with multiple sizes based on USPS requirements

Inserting

- ✓ Machine Inserting
 - ✓ Match versus no-match
- ✓ Hand Inserting
 - ✓ High touch & multiple matching

Postage Affix

✓ Stamps/Meters inline on inserter

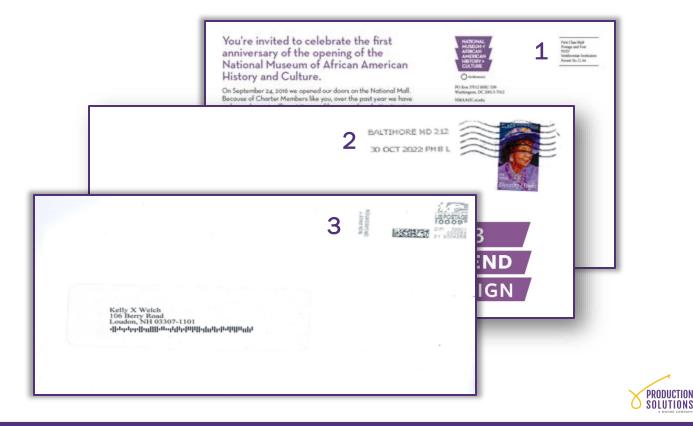




Mailshop: Basic Terms

Postage Types:

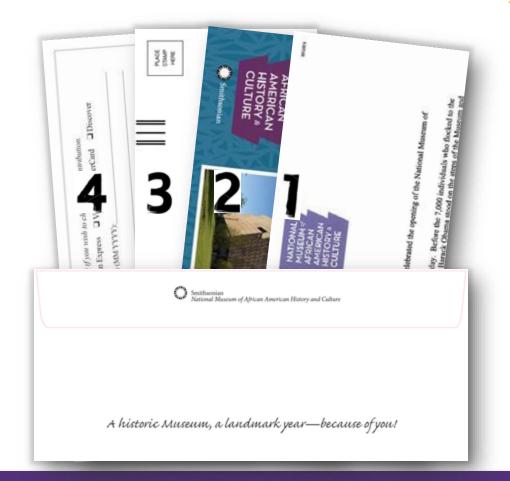
- 1. Indicia
- 2. Live Stamp
- 3. Meter Imprint





Insertion Order

- ✓ Fanned Sample
- ✓ Flat Samples
- ✓ Inventory Codes
- ✓ Fronts/Backs
- ✓ Postage Treatment





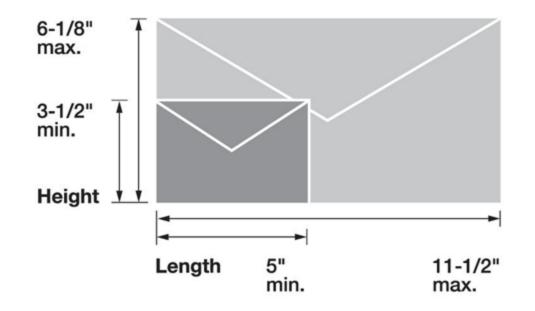
USPS, Postal Logistics and Mail Tracking



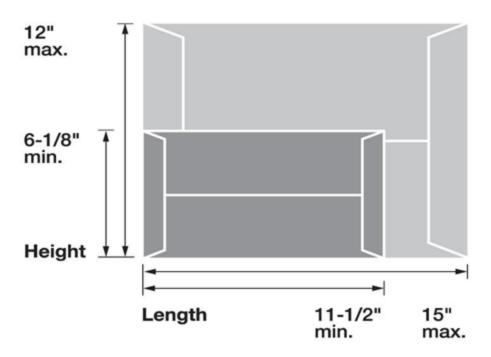


Letter Size (General Rules)

- ✓ Length: 5.0" 11.5"
- ✓ Height: 3.5" 6.125"
- ✓ Weight: up to 3.5oz
- ✓ Thickness: .007" .25"
- ✓ Aspect Ratio 1.3 2.5
- ✓ 200 pieces or 50 lbs. min







Flat Size (General Rules)

- ✓ Length: 11.5" 15.0"
- ✓ Height: 6.125" 12.0"
- ✓ Weight: up to 16 oz.
- ✓ Thickness: 0.009" 0.75"





Post Card (General Rules)

- ✓ Length: 5.0" 6.0"
- ✓ Height: 3.5" 4.25"
- ✓ Weight: up to 1 oz
- ✓ Thickness: 0.007"* 0.016"
 - ✓ Minimum is .009" if card more than 4.25" tall or 6.0" wide
 - ✓ Receives special Postcard Postage Rate



Self-Mailer

 Rules are continually changing; Please check with PS Account Manager before designing a self-mailer



First Class Mail

- ✓ Full Rate (Letter Rate Less than 1oz): \$0.73 & 3-5 Business Days
- ✓ Presorted (Letter Rate Less than 3.5 oz): \$0.59 (Avg) & 3-5 Business Days

Marketing Mail - Commercial

- ✓ Local Entry (Letter Rate): \$0.40 (Avg) & 12-16 Business Days
- ✓ Commingle (Letter Rate): 8% Savings (Avg) & 8-12 Business Days

Marketing Mail - Nonprofit

- ✓ Local Entry (Letter Rate): \$0.23 & 12-16 Business Days
- ✓ Commingle (Letter Rate): 8% Savings (Avg) & 8-12 Business Days





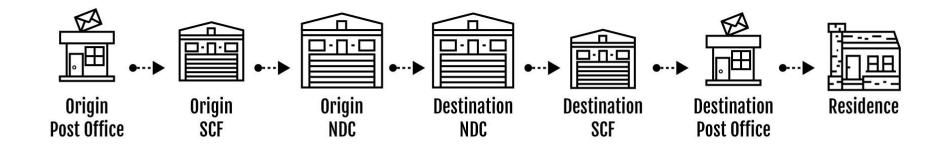
Mail Shop



Postal Logistics: Basic Terms

Local Entry (12-16 Days)

- ✓ Mail dropped directly at mail shop's local USPS facility
- ✓ Slower delivery times and higher postage costs







Mail Shop

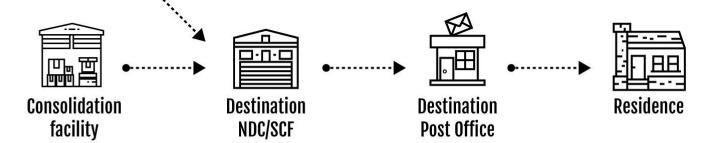




NDC/SCF Drop Shipping (8-16 Days)

- ✓ Mail trucked and dropped at one or more NDC's/SCF's
- Slightly faster delivery times and slightly reduced postage costs

 \checkmark Additional freight costs associated with drop shipping



Co-Palletization



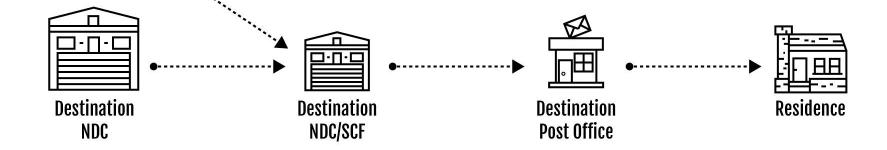
Mail Shop



Postal Logistics: Basic Terms

Co-Palletization (8-16 Days)

- Multiple mailings trays combined at one mail shop, palletized together and Drop Shipped to one or more NDC/SCFs
- ✓ Just as fast as Drop Shipping, but deeper postage discounts
- ✓ This service must be offered by the mail shop producing the mailing
- ✓ Only applies to letter rate mail







Mail Shop



Postal Logistics: Basic Terms

Commingling (8-12 Days)

- Multiple mailings sorted together and drop shipped to a large network of NDC's/SCF's
- Some mail shops process commingling in-house, and others use
 3rd party commingler which sorts multiple mailings from multiple
 mail shops allowing for even deeper savings
- \checkmark Faster than drop shipping and the deepest postage savings





Company Datal	
Company Detail Company Name	
Address	
Contact Name	
Phone Number	
Profit Indicator	P.
PS Form 3607R - Mailing T	ransaction Receipt
Account Holder Account Number	25900
Associat Holder Permit Number	1879
Account Holder Permit Type	25
Account Holder CRID	4515631
Post Office of Permit	MERCHARD, VA 21116-0004
Post Office of Mailing	401-5015 Mail 2010/01/2010/02/20110-0000 March 2010/01/2010/02/2010-0000 401000/2010/01/2010 201000/2010/2010
Post Office of Permit Cost Center	\$19547-0641
Post Office of Mailing Cost Center	100047-5447
Mailing Agent Name	
Walling Agent Naria Walling Agent CRID	
Mail Owner Name Mail Owner CRID	
Wall Owner CRID	
0.800	00001262
Customer Reference ID	
CAPS Transaction Number	
Class of Mail	First-Class Mat and First-Class Package
	Service
Processing Catagory	Service Letters (mey exclude Poemarde)
Processing Category Postage Balament ID	Leters (ney include Poenards) 1404 (2016
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USPS Forms

- ✓ 3602/3607 -- Mail Certification
- Verifies the quantity and date the mail was received from the mail shop
- ✓ 3607 replaced the 3602, is an electronic verification form; all of the same details, but lacks the physical red stamp that was previously used on the 3602



Mail Tracking Basic Terms

Seeds

 Several mail owner names added to each package; Results do not provide good sampling of nationwide delivery times as seed file typically consists of only local addresses.

GrayHair Tracking

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- ✓ Intelligent Mail Barcode (IMb)
- ✓ Allows USPS to track more than 85% of all mail as it travels through delivery process (the 15% of mail that is not tracked is typically due to either human error or non-functioning PO equipment)
- ✓ Insurance, Information, and Preparedness





Production Workflow



Pre-Production

- ✓ Client: Specifications / Preliminary Artwork for Pricing
- ✓ PS: Mock-Up (Weight, Thickness, Inserting, etc.)
- ✓ PS: Budget
- ✓ Client: Artwork / Data Release with PDFs
- ✓ PS: Pre-Flight Artwork
- ✓ PS: Authorization to Proceed (ATP)

Printing

- ✓ PS: Proofs per Component (PDF vs. Contract Color)
- ✓ Client: Approval (If Approving)
- ✓ PS: Print Samples



Production Workflow

Data Processing/ Personalization/ Mail Shop

- ✓ Client: Data Release
 - ✓ Mail File with File Layout
 - ✓ Mail Plan
 - ✓ Seed List
 - ✓ DP Instructions
- ✓ PS: Input/Output Counts
- ✓ Client: Approval
- ✓ PS: Postage Request
- ✓ PS: \$Build Report (If Needed)
- ✓ Client: Approval (If Needed)
- ✓ PS: Input/Output Dumps, Personalization Setups
- ✓ Client: Approval





Production Workflow

- ✓ Client: Postage Check
- ✓ PS: Insertions (PDF)
- ✓ Client: Approval
- ✓ PS: Lives (Hard Copy)
- ✓ Client: Approval

IN THE MAIL!

Post-Production

- ✓ PS: Inventory Report (On-Going Mail Programs)
- ✓ PS: Package Samples
- ✓ PS: Invoice (Print and DPLM sent separately)
- ✓ PS: Package Costs





Common Production Oversights

- ✓ Artwork delays
- ✓ Data delays
- ✓ Using 4CP to build one color images or text
- ✓ Printing cutsheet when should print continuous
- ✓ Not under-sizing form with bleeds
- Designing package with a non-standard envelope/ window size
- Altering size of one component without confirming how it affects the whole package

- Proofing 4CP image for color using computer or photo
- Using proofing process as last round of edits = AA's
- ✓ Data not checked prior to release (fields missing)
- ✓ Artwork not designed for maximum address lines/size



Questions?





Thank You!



