



# Kodak Approval Precoat

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## Overview

With continuing innovations in flexible substrates, packaging shapes, and flexographic printing techniques, more and more printing is done on flexible materials, including plastics, foils, shrink-wrap and other non-paper substrates.

The **Kodak Approval** Digital Color Imaging System can produce proofs displaying accurate color with true halftone dots imaged on flexible substrates to simulate a final packaging product. The proof can even be converted into a 3-D mock-up or prototype.

To keep pace with the growing need to transfer onto more flexible substrates, the development team for the **Kodak Approval** System has created a new material that will enable the **Kodak Approval** System to transfer onto even more of these flexible substrates.

**Kodak Approval** Precoat will be introduced into the consumable portfolio for the **Kodak Approval** System as a complement to the existing **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate.

**Kodak Approval** Precoat should be used:

- o To complement **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate when laminating onto flexible substrates.

**Kodak Approval** Precoat should not be used:

- o Without **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate.

## Kodak Approval Precoat Information

Part Number	Product Name	Sheet Size Inches	Sheet Size mm	Sheets per Box
20018070	<b>Kodak Approval</b> Precoat	21.65 in x 27.64 in	550mm x 702mm	50
20018069	<b>Kodak Approval</b> Precoat	14.33 in x 21.65 in	364mm x 550mm	50

*Additional information:*

- o **Kodak Approval** Precoat is produced with two notches.
- o **Kodak Approval** Precoat can be used only once in the proof production process.



## Using **Kodak Approval** Precoat in Proof Production

When using a **Kodak Approval** System to proof flexible substrates, it is recommended that both **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate and **Kodak Approval** Precoat be used in the proof production process.

As a general rule, the desired substrate must have a surface energy higher than 38 dynes. If the surface energy is higher than 38 dynes, **Kodak Approval** Precoat may not be needed. If the surface energy is lower than 38 dynes, **Kodak Approval** Precoat must be applied for successful transfer.

### Step 1. Creating the Carrier Sheets

In order to protect the flexible substrate from the heat of the **Kodak** 800XL Laminator, it is recommended that carrier sheets be created. These carrier sheets can be used repeatedly. Please use discretion in determining when new carriers need to be created.

- o To create the top sheet of the carrier, laminate two spent (used) pieces of **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate /PO2 emulsion to emulsion through the **Kodak** 800XL Laminator.
- o Using two additional sheets of used **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate, repeat the process to create the bottom sheet.

### Step 2. Preparing the Flexible Substrate

To prepare the substrate,

1. First, place the bottom carrier sheet on the **Kodak** 800XL Laminator table.
2. Then, place the substrate on top of the bottom carrier sheet.  
Note: Image placement needs to be aligned with direction of flexible substrate during the heating process.
3. Next, place the **Kodak Approval** Precoat on top of the substrate (the Precoat should be gloss side up).
4. Place the top carrier sheet on the **Kodak Approval** Precoat.
5. Send combined pack (bottom carrier sheet, flexible substrate, Precoat, and top carrier sheet) through the laminator using a test speed dial setting of slow at 40 and high temperature setting on the **Kodak** 800XL Laminator.  
(Temperature and speed settings may need to be adjusted to achieve proper transfer of the Precoat.)



### Step 3. Pre-laminating the Flexible Substrate

Once the laminated pack from step 2 exits the laminator, return it to the laminator table.

1. Remove the top carrier sheet.
2. Remove the backer sheet from the **Kodak Approval** Precoat.
3. Place a cut piece of **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate / P02 just inside the area of the **Kodak Approval** Precoat surface.
4. Place the top carrier sheet on top of the **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate.
5. Send pack back through laminator using your test speed and temperature settings.  
(Temperature and speed settings may need to be adjusted to achieve proper transfer of the **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate.)

### Step 4. Removing the Support Backing of the **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate

Once the laminated pack from step 3 exits the laminator, return it to the laminator table.

1. Remove top carrier sheet.
2. Remove the support backing from the **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate.
3. Check for proper lamination.

### Step 5. Transferring the Image from the Intermediate Layer

1. Place the imaged **Kodak Approval** Digital Intermediate Layer (image side down) on top of the **Kodak Approval** Prelaminate.
2. Place the top carrier sheet on top of the **Kodak Approval** Digital Intermediate Layer.
3. Send pack back through laminator using standard speed and temperature settings.  
(Temperature and speed settings may need to be adjusted to achieve proper transfer of the Intermediate Layer.)

### Step 6. Releasing the Image

Once the laminated pack from step 5 exits the laminator, return it to the laminator table.

1. Remove top carrier sheet.
2. Remove top sheet of the Intermediate Layer's support backing.  
Note: If a haze or frostiness is evident then proceed to step 7 before completing step 6.
3. Remove finished substrate from bottom carrier sheet.



## Step 7. Removing “Frostiness” or “Haze” from the Flexible Substrate

If after the completion of the proof the substrate has a haziness or frost effect, apply this technique only once to reduce this effect.

1. After removing the top sheet of the Intermediate Layer’s support backing, flip over the spent (used) **Kodak Approval** Intermediate Layer’s shiny side to image and place on top of imaged flexible substrate.
2. Place top carrier sheet on top of imaged flexible substrate.
3. Send pack back through laminator using standard speed and temperature settings only once.
4. Remove top carrier sheet.
5. Remove finished flexible substrate from the bottom carrier sheet.
6. End of process. At this point you should have successfully transferred the image onto the flexible substrate.