

LB-801 Chemical-free Water Dampening System Testimonial

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**Title obtained by passing an official examination in Japan. Mr. Narita is also a print consultant to many printing companies in Japan.

Translation:

The first time I saw the LB-801 was two years ago at a trade show. I was asked to see the printed samples printed with only water without neither alcohol nor fountain solution...."Ummm, do you know whom you are talking to? I am a fountain solution specialist." Basically, my work involves developing fountain solutions and I was a member of a development team creating a very popular fountain solution that has the largest market share in Japan. For me, the idea to print without fountain solution was very ridiculous.

I experienced and know firsthand the problems and difficulties using various fountain solutions. I had tested more than 50 types of fountain solutions by myself. I am cautious on the various fountain solution formulas because a small difference in ingredients can make the printing condition change remarkably and immediately make printing impossible. This means it is impossible to print without good fountain solutions. I was asked to see the printed sample only with water. I thought it was a waste of time, ridiculous and exasperating to see the samples. However, I did see the printed samples with little or no expectations.

At that time, the LB-801 was not so good and the printed samples' quality validated my initial reaction. There were spots in dots and the solids' quality were bad. I could only imagine that the press operator worked hard to print the samples. After I saw it, I left the comment, "As the sample printed with only water, you did good work." It was the first contact with the LB-801 and I soon forgot about the LB-801 for a year.

I was interested in the improved LB-801 because of a printed sample that I received from the inventor. He read my article in the Internet that criticized the LB-801 severely and he brought me a sample to rebuttal my claims. I still have the sample with me. Whenever I see it, the quality is admirable. The wood-free paper was used with the sample. The title was printed with cyan and magenta and the tints are very beautiful even when only observed with my eyes. The print quality was exceptional. When I see it with 25x magnifier, the quality of the dots is perfect like nothing I have ever seen before.

The paper of the sample is not coated paper but wood-free paper. No fountain solution was used in the dampening water and only tap water was used. Why the incredibly high quality is possible with the LB-801? To make me more surprise, it was printed not by sheet press but web press. With my printing experience, all of these were impossible.

"All right. Please let me use the LB-801." I could not understand the quality without experiencing myself. My technical expertise is being challenged since I was not sure why it was possible that the quality of the printed dots on the wood-free paper is better than the ones on the coated paper. Moreover, it was printed with only tap water as the dampening water. In addition, it was printed on a web press and not a sheetfed press. It was hard for me to believe.

It has taken 1 year since we started using the LB-801 with our press machine in our factory. I know the LB-801's advertisement such as "It is good for environment because the fountain solution is not needed for the dampening water. It reduces cost of the alcohol and the fountain solutions." However, I am not interested in these since it is only the by-product. I am very impressed on the incredibly good quality dots made possible with the LB-801.

The printed paper is just a paper. When the paper's surface is wet, the strength becomes weak immediately. The dampening water is used with the normal offset printing and the dampening water goes from plate to the blanket and reaches to the printed paper surface. The strength of the printed paper surface becomes weak immediately. It prevents the paper from taking ink well and the dots' quality becomes low. It happens clearly with the wood-free paper because the surface is not processed.

Recently, the fountain solution's principal ingredient is active agent. The active agent is a kind of foamy. The strength of the paper's surface becomes weak only with water. When the surface is immersed with the foamy water, the strength is much lower than with water. Both the paper surface and inks are affected with the high performance fountain solution.

When I tested fountain solutions, I saw many times that the high active agent makes ink density low and impossible to put the ink on the paper. During my fountain solutions development, I was wondering whether it was better not to use the fountain solution if possible. When the water supplying system has been fundamentally improved and printing without alcohol and fountain solution is possible. The highest print quality and performance of the paper and ink can be available. It has taken more than 20 years after the serial water supplying system became popular. Unfortunately, the improvement has not made so far.

The LB-801 has an excellent ability to achieve high quality prints. The level of quality enhanced by using the LB-801 is unrivaled. I hope you experience it with your own press and you must not miss this true quality with your eyes.