

1. General

A number of issues need to be considered when selecting the best print method for CD / DVD printing. Not every image/label is equally suited to Offset or Silk-screen printing. Both print methods have advantages and disadvantages.

**Another crucial issue is the need for a white background coating.
Always remember that proofs and screen images are always presented on a white background!**

Printing on a blank CD/DVD would result in false colours.

If you have any questions concerning print methods, please get in touch with our preprint department

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2. Screen printing

Screen printing is a print method which, because of the greater ink volume applied, is better suited for the printing of texts, strokes, lines and larger colour areas than Offset.

The use of true colours, in this case Pantone colours, results in rich, glossy print finishes.



(max. 6 colours)

Screen printing can also be used to print raster images although care must be taken because the coarse raster structure of the silkscreen method may result in loss of fine detail (max. 54 lines/cm).

The raster pattern itself may also result in abrupt colour changes (disruption of colour gradient).

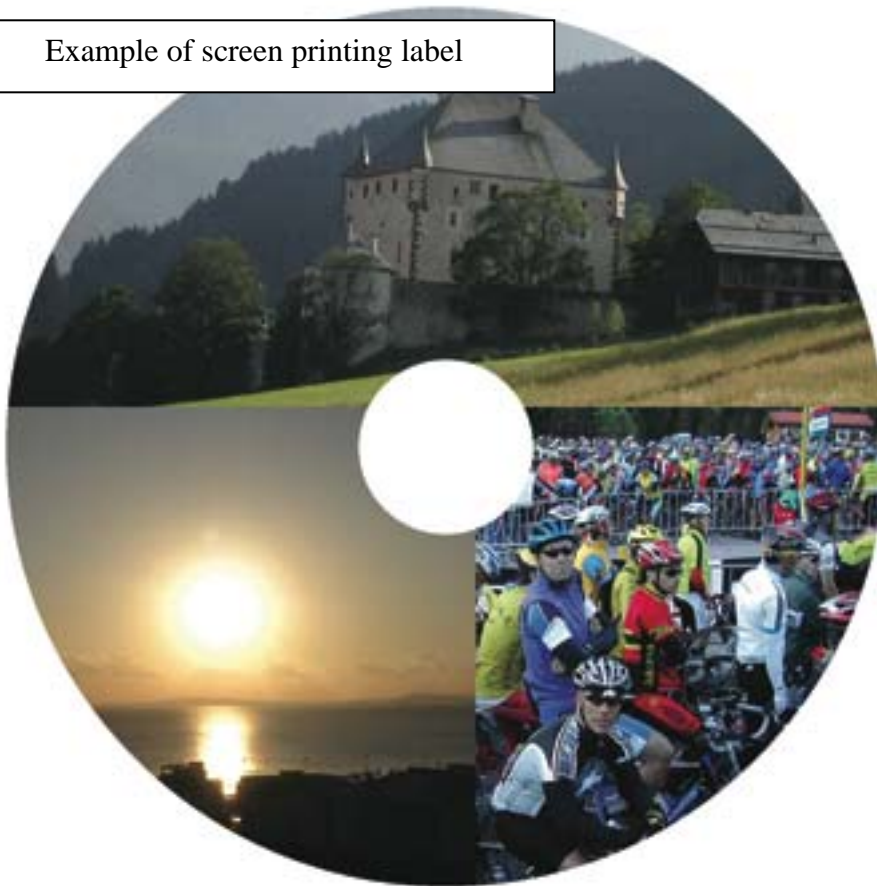
Moiré formation is also possible. Moiré is a unwanted visible effect resulting from interference between the raster pattern of the film and the raster pattern of the silk screen. This cannot be totally avoided.

3. Offset-printing

Offset is better suited for raster graphics images to create photo-real results because of its higher resolution (max. 80 lines/cm).

The lower ink quantity also allows finer detail and more even colour gradients. However, the colours in offset printing are less glossy and less intense than silkscreen colours. This can be compensated to some extent by an additional gloss coating.

Example of screen printing label



Offset is less well suited for printing large, even colour areas. This is due to the lower quantity of ink applied resulting in fluctuations of ink thickness, making the result appear cloudy.

It is also pointed out that the fluctuations in ink thickness mean that an intense black colour can only be achieved on a background coating of 60% cyan, yellow and magenta.