

## **Holographic hot stamping foils without seam lines**

Fuerth, February 2006: Leonhard Kurz GmbH & Co. KG will introduce a new program of stamping foils, that according to the firm offers a “quantum leap in the manufacture of continuous holographic foils”. The program named Light Line Select is made up of diffractive, continuous stamping foils characterized by the absence of visible seam lines in the design.

Ever since continuous design foils arrived on the market, producers have searched for ways to avoid these so-called shim lines. Color play in holographic stamping foils is achieved through refraction of light by ultrafine microstructures. These structures are transferred onto foil using specially rotary tools called shims. The shim edges have always been recognizable on the foil as faint seam lines, and, until now, attempts to eliminate them, or make them less visible, have been unsatisfactory.

Some time ago, Kurz developed a new manufacturing technique for eliminating these shim lines and since 2002, the company's product range has included virtually seamless stamping foils with a large-area rainbow color effect. These foils, called Laser Select, have enjoyed great success in the market place, according to Kurz. Consequently, Kurz is now also applying its new manufacturing method to a variety of diffractive designs. They no longer have any repetitive shim lines width wise. For foil widths less than 620 mm, no seam is visible in the foil travel direction either. Starting from April 2006, the new Light Line Select stamping foil is available off-the-shelf in five designs, in silver, and in qualities specifically geared for use in the graphics industry. Additional colors and designs may be made to order.



**About Kurz:** The Kurz group, the recognized global leader in hot stamping technology, represents over 100 years of experience in hot stamping. The range of applications for Kurz foils is virtually without limit - on greeting cards and packaging, electronic and household products, cosmetic articles, textiles, furniture, automotive parts and lots more. With over 2,600 employees located at nine plants in Europe, the USA and the Pacific region, together with 17 subsidiaries and 70 agencies strategically placed around the globe, the Kurz group manufactures and distributes a comprehensive product range for the surface finishing, decorating and counterfeit proofing sectors. A complete range of stamping machines and tools rounds off its product offering. Kurz, with research and development departments in both Europe and the USA, coupled with customer service and on-site technical assistance, supports its customers internationally with a full breadth of products comprising foils, application machines and stamping tools.

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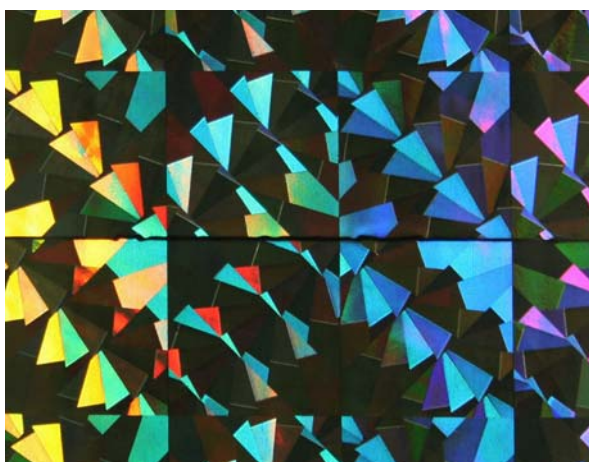
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## Holographic hot stamping foils without seam lines

(Figure caption)

A thing of the past for many Kurz foils: manufacturing-related shim lines.



Hot stamping foil with shim line



Hot stamping foil without shim line