COATERS & LAMINATORS

AT APPPEXPO 2016
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*All items on this list are hotlinks.*
Introduction

It has been known for the last several years that the production of most of the laminators and coaters sold in Europe and America come from Chinese manufacturers, although some of these machines may have been rebranded.

Rebranding this type of equipment is a common practice now a days, but the problem is that unless you know the actual factory name, you may not get the appropriate tech support or the assistance from an expert in your country that knows how to handle the machine or calibrate it according to your environmental conditions, thus affecting your final product or print quality.

To avoid this, it is always good to do research on the brands and companies you are planning to buy from, search for feedback, and reviews on the web to help you make your final decision. It is absolutely essential to know the original factory name, and the only way to learn this is to go to APPPEXPO in Shanghai, where all the actual factories exhibit.

We cannot recommend one brand over another since we haven’t run quality tests, experienced first-hand how the machines work or visited any end-users to determine whether you get what you are paying, but we do know how to identify emerging brands and also companies that have a record of innovation and expertise. For us to evaluate a laminator we would need to be in the factory demo room.

In this report we list all attending coaters and laminators brands we saw at the show in 2016.
Coaters and Laminators

The lamination process is needed when you have to protect a print from environmental factors such as sun and humidity.

Coaters are generally used to create different textured patterns or surface effects, for example making a rubberized texture or adding gloss or shine to specific areas of a print. Or sometimes you may prefer a matte finish; again, a coater can do this.

Coaters can also generate protective layers, it mostly depends on the machine being used and the selected substrate, these factors determine if the coating needs to be applied as a solid (film or foil), as a liquid (spraying) or as a gas (vapor deposition). But for sun protection, a good laminate is better than a coating.

We saw some new brands at this year’s show, we sure felt curious about their history and technology, but time was not on our side so we were lucky just to have time to visit their booths.
AUDLEY

They not only have laminators they also have solvent printers, we have seen this brand in past years when we have attended at APPPEXPO.
Audley automatic pneumatic low temperature laminator 1600 C5+
We first saw DMAIS at APPPEXPO 2013, they have a variety of laminators. This year they didn’t exhibit all of their laminator models, just some of them, we understand that bringing all available models for display is quite expensive, but they did exhibit several laminator models for various needs.
Fulei is a laminator machine factory, they exist since 2005, we first saw them at APPPEXPO on 2009 and they are very experienced with lamination equipment.

Their factory occupies an area of 36 acres; with a research and development facility where they developed all of their lamination and calendering machines.
These are one of the few liquid laminators that possess wheels for easy transportation.
Geni-Lami is a small laminator company that manufactures roll laminators, laminating films, self-adhesive rolls and thermal activated films.
Kindlion is a new division of a well-known company, Suncrown, founded on 2015. Kindlion is focused on lamination film but they also develop different laminating technologies and materials.
MEFU

They have been on the market for over 9 years, develops and produces laminator films, cutters and laminating machines.

They were one of the few companies exhibiting a flatbed laminator.
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MEFU MF1700-F1 hot and cold laminator

MEFU MF1700-C5 cold laminator with cutter
One of the new lamination companies is Opai, they claim to manufacture low-heat thermal laminating equipment.

Based on several years studying the different laminators displayed at shows, Opai’s laminators seem to have some design characteristics as Mefu’s machines, but this is no surprise since many laminator companies sell/buy their basic structure designs, some even sell the frame structure itself.
OPAI LP-1600/2300-A1 heat-assisted cold laminator

OPAI LP-1600/2300-R1 heat-assisted cold laminator
Yingkai was founded on 2004. They manufacture laminators and CNC engraving machines, but they displayed one of the few flatbed laminators at APPPEXPO 2016, but they didn’t exhibit CNC engravers this year.
Most laminators and coaters have digital measuring devices.

YINGKAI FY-1700 hot and cold laminator

YINGKAI FY-1600CUT electric trimmer
We look forward to seeing you at APPPEXPO 2017

If you skipped APPPEXPO 2016 because of Drupa or FESPA, it is essential to return to APPPEXPO in 2017.

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