

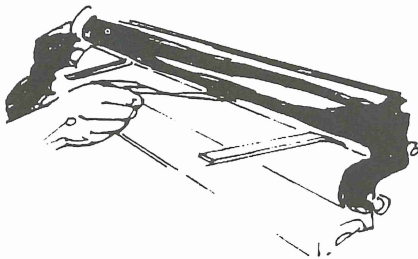
For Optimum Performance of Rogers Dampening Sleeves: Check Adjustments

Dampening Roller Adjustments

Incorrect pressure settings or roller alignment anywhere in the dampening system will make it difficult or impossible to achieve the proper ink/water balance during running. Use of the following guidelines are recommended to check rollers in the dampening system for alignment and pressure settings.

All rollers are to be set evenly. This is done by inserting a thin strip of plastic, oiled paper, stainless steel, etc., between the two rollers at each end and in the center. Then proceed by jogging the press until the strips are caught in the nip. Check for firm, even pressure at both ends and in the center of the rollers by pulling the strips out of the nip. (The pull strips may be between two wider strips of oiled paper to protect the plate and roller surfaces.)

The oscillator roller is the reference roller which must be parallel to the fountain roller and the plate cylinder. Alignment should be checked periodically by the press mechanic.



Uneven or excess pressure will cause poor dampening, sleeve walking and plate life problems.

Guidelines

1. Pack the plate to the press in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
2. Ductor Setting to Fountain and Oscillator (Vibrator) Rollers

Insert strips between the fountain and ductor rollers approximately 2"-3" (51 mm-76 mm) at each end and in the center. Jog the press until the ductor roller has maximum contact with the fountain roller and check for even pressure at all three points. If pressures are not firm and uniform, adjust as necessary. Repeat this procedure for the ductor and oscillator rollers.

3. Dampening Form Roller(s) Setting to Oscillator Roller

Dampening form roller(s) should be driven by the oscillator roller and not by the plate to obtain uniform dampening. The pressure between the dampening form roller(s) and the oscillator must be greater than the dampening form roller(s)-to-plate pressure to obtain this condition.

Insert thin strips between the dampening form roller and the oscillator, and check for even pressure. If pressures are not uniform, adjust as necessary.

4. Dampener Form Roller(s) Setting to Plate

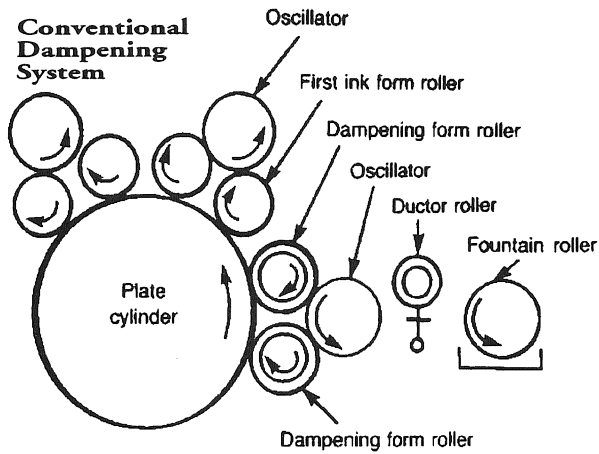
Note: The dampening sleeves must be thoroughly wet before contact is made with the plate to prevent ink pickup or sleeve damage. This procedure will improve performance and life of the Rogers Dampening Sleeve.

Insert thin strips between the dampening form roller(s) and plate. Now drop the dampening roller against the plate and check for a "just snug" uniform pull on all three strips. The "pull" on these strips should be less than that between the dampening form roller(s) and the oscillator roller. The oscillator roller should drive the dampening form rollers – *not* the plate.

5. Running Adjustment

Adjustment to the plate is often obtained by adjusting the dampening form roller for a slight bounce at each end of roller shaft as the dampener enters and leaves the plate cylinder gap.

Summary of Conventional Dampening System



Many conventional offset presses are equipped with dampening systems consisting of a water fountain (pan), fountain roller, ductor roller, distribution roller (oscillator) and dampening form rollers.

The fountain roller rotates slowly in the fountain solution providing a controlled reservoir for the ductor roller. The ductor usually has an absorbent covering and alternately contacts the fountain and oscillator roller. The duration of the dwell time on each roller is generally controllable, thus affecting the amount of fountain solution picked up and transferred to the oscillator roller.

The metal oscillator roller moves back and forth providing a uniform distribution of fountain solution to the absorbent dampening form roller covering.

The dampening form roller is covered with a Rogers Dampening Sleeve. The dampening sleeve retains a reservoir of fountain solution, which is released evenly and precisely onto the plate, yet responds quickly to adjustments.

When using Rogers Dampening Sleeves, press operators can usually run with only one dampening roller. If two dampening rollers are used, both should be covered with Rogers Dampening Sleeves to prevent accumulation of excess water. The top dampener adjustment to the plate should be lighter than the bottom unit to allow proper distribution of water.