



# •Azura TU

**Chemistry-Free Thermal Plate System for Demanding Sheet-fed Commercial Applications. Unlimited printing. Unmatched performance.**

Designed for high-volume printing, Azura TU simplifies platemaking, delivers uncompromising quality and is easy on the environment.

Azura TU is a true chemistry-free plate that can handle print runs up to 150,000 copies. Based on Agfa Graphics' award-winning ThermoFuse™ technology, Azura TU outperforms every other plate in its class. If you insist on delivering the highest possible quality, want to dramatically reduce time-to-press and are concerned for the environment, then this is the plate system for you.

**AGFA** 

STAY AHEAD. WITH AGFA GRAPHICS.

# Azura TU

## Unlimited Printing. Unmatched Performance. A Breakthrough in Chemistry-Free Platemaking



### Unlimited Printing

Azura TU puts the power of chemistry-free production into the hands of the most demanding sheet-fed commercial printers. Runlengths of up to 150.000 copies are now in reach with one single plate.

### Unmatched Performance

#### Uncompromising Quality

With Azura TU, the image is created during exposure and the non-image areas are cleaned out in one simple gumming step. Opposed to conventional platemaking, all processing variables are eliminated. This results in a stable and consistent image, exactly as intended by the original data. Azura TU delivers razor-sharp quality, even up to 240 lpi Sublima screening.

#### Faster Platemaking

With a plate sensitivity of 160 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> a maximum plate throughput can be achieved on most commercial CtP platesetters. In combination with Agfa Graphics' Avalon N8-80XT, a plate throughput of more than 50 B1 plates per hour is now within reach.

#### Easier Handling

Azura TU provides the convenience of daylight operation, and its robust, scratch-resistant surface provides easy handling. The plate's strong image contrast allows for simple visual inspection and quality control and ensures that plates are mounted on press in the right order. Azura TU is made of high-grade aluminum, which reduces remakes of plates and eliminates mistakes during the printing process.





Azura TU's strong image contrast allows for simple visual inspection.

## Better for the Environment

True chemistry-free speaks for itself. As the image formation is a physical process, there is no need for developer or replenisher. No chemicals means less disposal costs, a safer work environment and less waste. Azura TU's environmental advantages encompass the entire platemaking system.

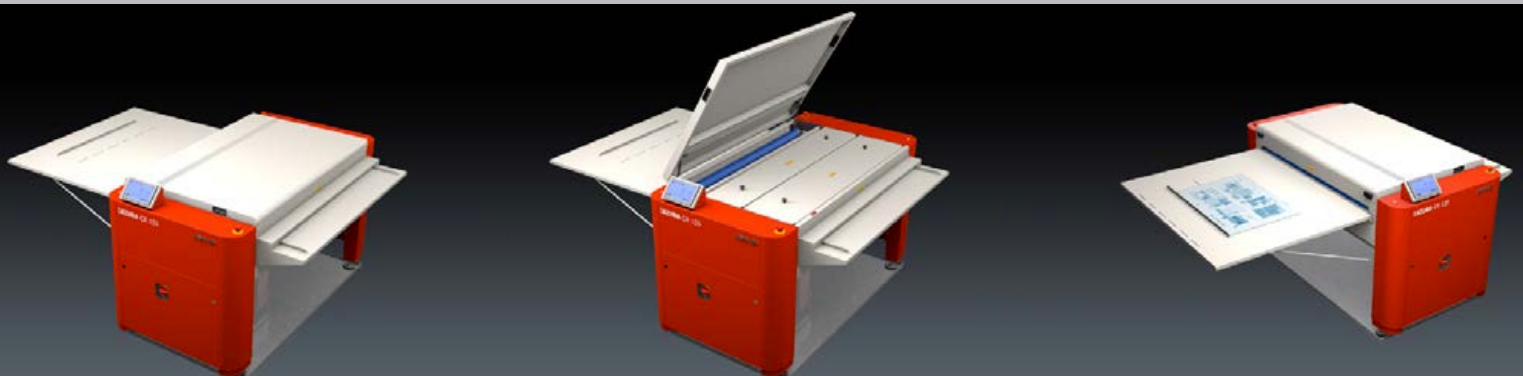
### The Amazing Azura CX Clean-Out Unit

The Azura CX COU completes platemaking with a simple clean-out step. An extremely long gum bath life of up to 7.000 m<sup>2</sup> reduces equipment maintenance to an absolute minimum. On top of that, the time spent on the cleaning is by no means comparable to that of conventional thermal processors, as a simple water flush is all that is required.

There's even more. Switching from a conventional thermal processing system to Azura TU equals water savings of more than 95%. Less water means less waste – less waste means better for the environment.

The Azura CX clean-out unit uses a simple pH-neutral gum. Eliminating critical processing parameters such as temperature or conductivity avoid unwanted process instability and consequent plate image artifacts. The result is an absolutely reliable and consistent plate quality. On press, Azura TU provides excellent lithographic behavior thanks to the gum-protected aluminum surface.

Azura CX Clean Out Unit (COU)  
No developer or replenisher required. Everything is pre-set.  
Cleaned and gumbed in one simple step.



## Proven ThermoFuse™ Technology... Expose. Gum. Print.

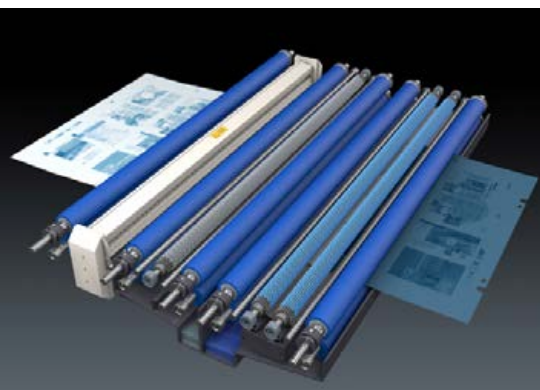
Hailed by the media since 2004, Agfa Graphics' ThermoFuse™ technology continues to make headlines. That's because it is the only system that is truly chemistry-free. Since the launch of the first Azura plate ten years ago, Agfa Graphics' ThermoFuse™ has been the leading technology in sustainable platemaking. With Azura TU, Agfa Graphics expands its reach to serve all sheet-fed commercial printers. All of them can now benefit from the established advantages of the ThermoFuse™ technology.

### Working principle

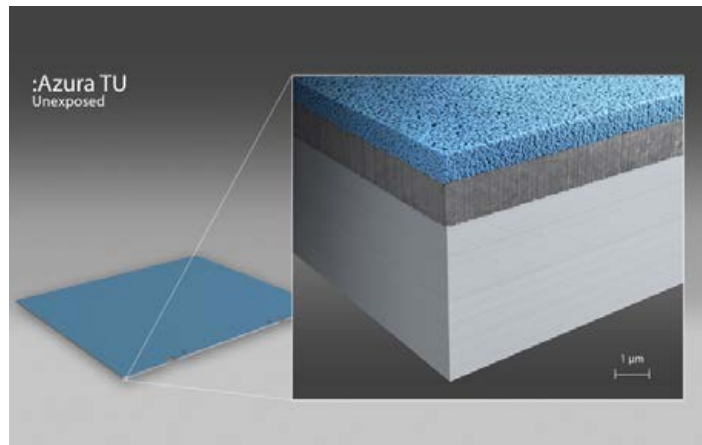
Azura TU comprises Agfa Graphics' Flat Grain Technology — an electrochemically grained and anodised aluminum base that is coated with a single layer, containing ink-accepting ThermoFuse™ particles, small enough to deliver razor-sharp highlight reproduction. During the exposure on standard 830nm thermal platesetters, the coating absorbs the heat. This heat causes these particles to fuse to each other and bond firmly to the aluminum substrate. What were once individual particles now becomes a solid ink-accepting image — tough enough to achieve 150.000 copies.

As such, the Azura TU image formation is a 100% physical process, not a chemical one. The non-imaged areas can easily be washed away with the Azura CX gum in the Azura CX clean-out unit. At the same time, the gum protects the hydrophilic aluminum substrate from oxidation.

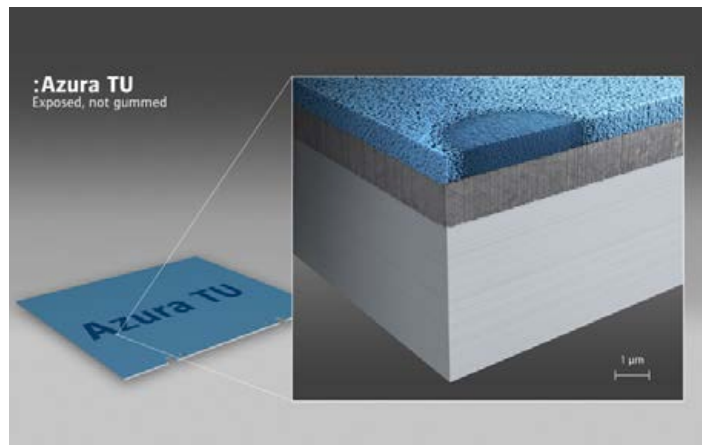
The Azura TU plates are now ready for the press where they print directly from the aluminum substrate, giving the excellent lithographic latitude expected from Agfa Graphics plates — low dampening levels giving bright colors whilst using less ink.



**Unexposed Azura TU plate**  
The single-layer coating contains ink-accepting ThermoFuse™ pearls.



**Exposed Azura TU plate**  
The coating absorbs energy from the 830nm imaging head. The ThermoFuse™ pearls fuse firmly to each other and bond strongly to the grained and anodized aluminum base.



**Gummed Azura TU plate**  
Application of the gum washes away the unexposed plate areas and creates a protective layer. The Azura TU plate is now ready for printing.

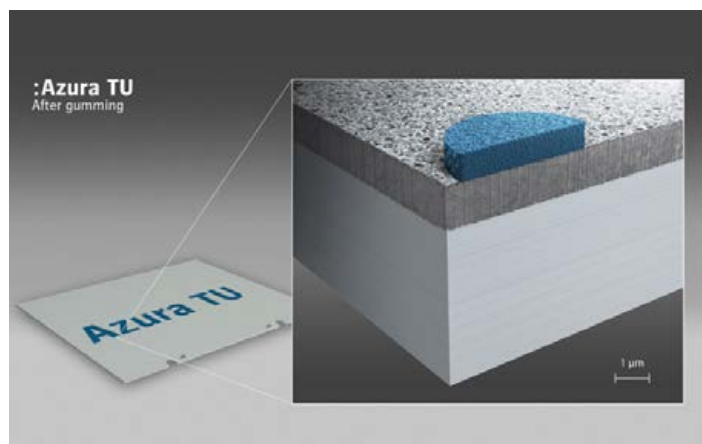


PLATE SPECIFICATIONS	
Technology	ThermoFuse™ negative-working
Substrate	High-quality grained and anodized aluminum
Spectral sensitivity	830nm thermal
Plate sensitivity	160 mJ/cm <sup>2</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>
Platesetter compatibility	Accredited for most common 830nm external drum platesetters
Resolution AM/XM	up to 1-99% at 240 lpi Sublima <sup>(1)</sup>
FM capability	20 µm <sup>(2)</sup>
Daylight resistance	up to 48 hours in full daylight
Image contrast	Excellent. The plates can be measured with all available densitometers and plate readers
Application	High quality commercial sheet-fed and short run web-fed
Runlength	up to 150.000 copies <sup>(3)</sup>
Runlength UV	up to 10.000 copies <sup>(3)</sup>
Post-baking	Not possible
Gauges	0.15 - 0.20 - 0.24 - 0.30 mm
Shelf life	24 months
CLEANING	
Clean-out unit	Azura CX85 and CX125 clean-out unit
Developer	None - (chemistry-free)
Replenisher	None - (chemistry-free)
Gum	Azura CX Gum
Bath life	up to 7.000 m <sup>2</sup>
OPTIMIZED AGFA GRAPHICS PRESSROOM CHEMICALS	
Plate cleaner	Antura CtP plate cleaner
Overnight plate cleaner	Antura clean gum
Deletion pen	KP010 - KP011 - KP012
Desensitizer	PlateEtch Plus
Scratch remover	Reviva plate
Fountain solution	Azura TU is compatible with all Agfa Graphics fountain solutions
Roller and blanket wash	Azura TU is compatible with all Agfa Graphics roller and blanket washes
Storage gum	RC795 for short-term plate storage after printing RC73 for long-term plate storage after printing

AZURA CX CLEAN-OUT UNITS		
	AZURA CX 85	AZURA CX 125
Consumption	7 ml/m <sup>2</sup> 20 ml/m <sup>2</sup>	8 ml/m <sup>2</sup> 25 ml/m <sup>2</sup>
Plate width, min-max	200 - 850 mm (7.9 - 33.5")	200 - 1250 mm (7.9 - 49.0")
Plate length, min-max	310 - 1100 mm (12.2 - 43.3")	
Plate thickness, min-max	0.15 - 0.30 mm (0.006 - 0.012")	
Processing speed	160 cm/min (63"/min)	

- <sup>(1)</sup> depending on imaging device  
<sup>(2)</sup> depending on imaging device and screening algorithm  
<sup>(3)</sup> depending on printing conditions