

What is ... ?



Technical Terms Concisely Explained

Automatic bottom: Pre-folded, glued bottom structure facilitating a fast erection of the box/carton. Also: Rapid folding bottom, crash-lock bottom.

B flute: Single wall corrugated board type with a thickness of approx. 2,2 - 3,1 mm. For instance used for smaller mailing boxes for lighter goods.

BC flute: Double wall corrugated board type with an overall thickness of approx. 5 - 7 mm. For instance used for shipping cartons for heavy goods.

Bleed: Area of the printed motif that goes beyond the edge of the material or product. Also: Bled-off.

C flute: Single wall corrugated board type with a thickness of approx. 3,1 - 4,0 mm. For instance used for standard mailing boxes for light to moderately heavy goods.

Circumferential creasing lines: Additional creasing lines for cardboard or corrugated board mailing bags and envelopes, which allow the packaging to be erected to adapt to thicker contents, at the same time forming an additional edge protecting.

Cover strip: Coated, peel-back paper strip to cover the adhesive strip on the closure flap. Also: Abhesive strip, silicone paper strip.

Crease-to-crease dimension: Dimensions of the packaging describing the distance from the centre of the creasing/scoring lines to the centre of the opposite lines along which the packaging will be folded later on. The crease-to-crease dimension is thus larger than the usable/inside dimension.

Dispersion varnish: Water-based varnish frequently used for offset printing. For glossy or matte finishing and to protect the coloured motif.

Double edge protection: Double-layer glued, lateral edge protection on mailing packaging, which compared to the single-layer edge protection is considerably more solid and secure.

Easy-open tear strip: Recyclable plastic tear-open aid that is already integrated during production. More tear-resistant than perforations.

E flute: Single wall corrugated board type with a thickness of approx. 1,0 - 1,9 mm. For instance used for mailing bags and mailing packages for lighter goods.

Envelope shape: Design of a paper or cardboard sleeve with opening and closure flap on the wide side.

Euroscale: Print colour system consisting of 4 basic colours, so-called process colours: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black ("key colour"). Also: CMYK.

Fill height: Maximum usable inner height of the packaging.

Flexographic printing: Direct relief printing method with predominantly plain print quality. Most commonly used for corrugated board packaging.

Full-tone colours: Print colours with own colour definition, which cannot be generated with the CMYK colour printing process. During the printing process, these are printed together with other colours, but by means of a separate inking unit. Also: Spot colours, special colours.

G-C - Folding box board (FBB): Higher cardboard quality with white, mostly multiple-coated, wood-free top layer. Light/white middle and back layer. Mostly made completely from fresh fibre.

GD - White lined chipboard - Duplex (WLC): Good cardboard quality with white, coated, wood-free top layer. Grey middle and back layer. Very high recycled fibre share.

GT - White lined chipboard - Triplex (WLC): Good cardboard quality with white, coated, wood-free outer liner. Grey middle and light back layer. Very high recycled fibre share.

GZ - Solid bleach sulphate board (SBS): Premium cardboard quality with bright white, very well coated, smooth top layer. Optionally coated on one or two sides. Completely made from fresh fibre.

Grammage in g/m²:

Specification of mass as a function of area. An example: 250 g/m² means the weight of 1 m² of this carton is 250 g.

HKS colour system: The HKS colour system comprises basic colours and full-tone colours (spot colours) and is used for the reproducibility, communication and independent assessability and comparability of certain colour shades in the graphics industry. A distinction is made between N colours for uncoated printing substrates and K colours for coated printing substrates (art printing, illustration printing).

Inside dimension: Internal dimensions of the packaging that can be utilised for the goods to be packaged. Also: Usable dimension.

Mailing bag shape: Design of a paper or cardboard envelope with opening and closure flap on the small side.

Offset printing, subsequent: Customised printing of small series is done by means of subsequent offset printing (overprinting), an indirect planographic printing method where each individual product (finished product / stock item) is printed. Up to 2 colours (cardboard products) or 4 colours (paper products) can be used for printing. There will be no varnishing. Motif restrictions must be allowed for.

Outside dimension (ready for posting): Outside dimensions of packaging in sealed state, ready for dispatch.

Outside glued side seams/flaps: Production method for mailing bags and envelopes with 2 side flaps that are glued on the exterior. More reliable than inside glued flaps.

Over-/underdelivery: Customary quantity tolerance due to technical reasons in the case of customised productions. The smaller the production quantity, the larger the final quantity delivered can deviate from the quantity ordered (see Terms and Conditions, item VI, clause 4).

Pantone colour system: The Pantone colour system (Pantone Matching System / PMS) comprises basic colours and full-tone colours (spot colours) and is used for the reproducibility, communication and independent assessability and comparability of certain colour shades in the graphics industry. A distinction is among others made between C-colours for coated and U-colours for uncoated printing substrates.

Peel and seal closure: Self-adhesive closure with strong hot-melt adhesive strip, protected by a peel-back cover strip.

Printing area: Portion of the print motif area on the material area (100%) to be printed. Specified in %.

Set-off of the printing ink: Transfer of fresh printing ink (set-off) to a product stacked above or below.

Sheet-fed offset print: Individual custom-made products are produced by means of sheet-fed offset print, an indirect planographic printing method, where the whole cardboard sheet is printed and not the individual finished product. Up to 6 colours and 2 standard or special effect varnishes can be used for printing. Sheet-fed offset printing is followed by punching, folding and gluing of the packaging.

Special colours / spot colours:
see: Full-tone colours.

Tuck-in flap closure: Solid tuck-in closure for packages that must be left open for inspection by postal services, such as book and goods shipments. Clearly sturdier than a plain tuck-in closure.

Twist-n-wrap/cross-shaped flat pack carton: Type of mailing packaging that can be stored as space-saving flat-lying carton blank. The outer layer and the inner section that is erected and then turned inwards by 90° together form the cross shape.

UD - Uncoated white lined chipboard - Duplex (WLC): Standard cardboard quality with white, uncoated top layer. Grey middle and back layer. Very high recycled fibre share. More absorbent surface than coated cardboard types, e.g. for inkjet franking.

Usable dimension:
see: Inside dimension

Wrap around packaging: Type of mailing packaging that can be stored as space-saving flat-lying carton blank. For packing, 2 side flaps are erected, the goods to be shipped are inserted, the side flaps are folded down again and then the outer layer is wrapped around and sealed.