

Missing dots

Measure, understand, predict and avoid!

September 2009

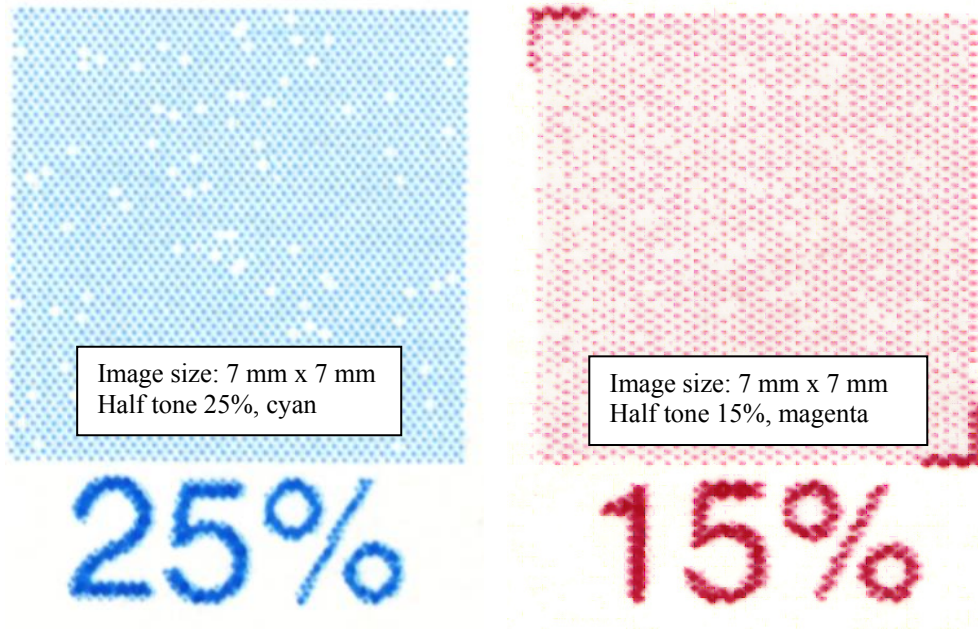
The problem of missing dots occurs especially in gravure printing. Quantifying the amount of missing dots using the right tools allows you to monitor the problem.

Predicting missing dots by studying the unprinted surface of paper or board helps you to understand how the product surface should be improved to get a better print quality.

The combined result of measuring, understanding and predicting saves time and money by reducing the need for print trials.

- We can quantify missing dots and find the best way to predict missing dots on your products.
- We can also provide you with the necessary equipment and software so you can do this at your site.

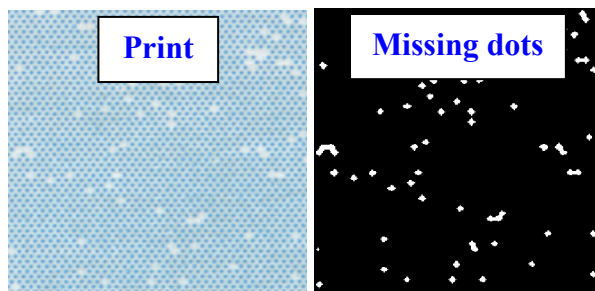
Example



Example: Gravure printed board. The missing dots are mainly caused by surface defects.

What you get

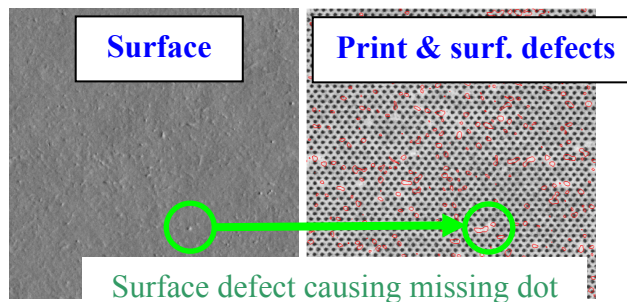
Quantified amount of missing dots



Measurements of the amount of missing dots. Left: the printed image.

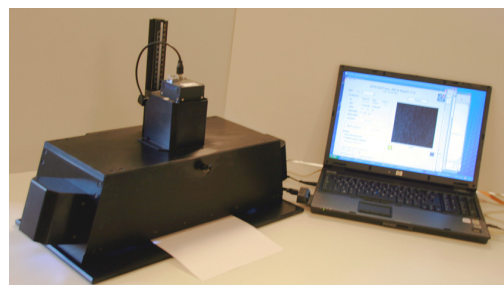
Right: identified missing dots. In this example, 2.8% of the area consists of missing dots. The amount of missing dots is saved to Excel.

Explained reasons for missing dots



Missing dots **prediction** from the paper/board surface structure. Fine-tuned settings are used to find the **relevant** structure defects (outlined in red) and then used on the unprinted paper/board to predict the print quality. Images of the surface and the predicted missing dots are saved to Word and Excel. In this example, the program predicts that 3% of the area consists of missing dots.

Order equipment according to your needs



The **STFI-Mottling Expert** software with the missing dots toolbox is an 'easy to use' software widely spread in the paper/board industry. For scanning, an ordinary flatbed scanner is used.

Using the **OptiTopo**-device is a very fast way to measure topography (within seconds!) that offers the possibility to correlate missing dots to the topography. Suitable both for advanced research and in quality control.

Contact

For more information about the method, prices etc. contact:



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