



# Azura TU

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**CHEMISTRY-FREE THERMAL PLATE SYSTEM FOR  
DEMANDING SHEET-FED COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS.  
UNMATCHED PERFORMANCE.**

# Azura TU



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.

## 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. Azura TU covers all sizes of sheetfed presses from B2 up to sheetfed format 6 and 7 for book and display printing. It also serves the fast growing web-to-print applications that are printed on VLF sheetfed presses.

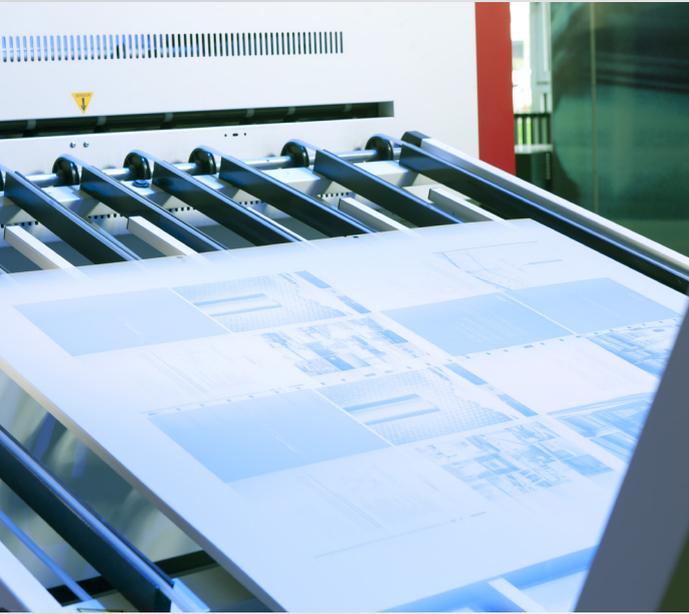
### Unmatched Performance

**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 280 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 N8-90XT, a plate throughput of more than 51 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.

# Better for the Environment



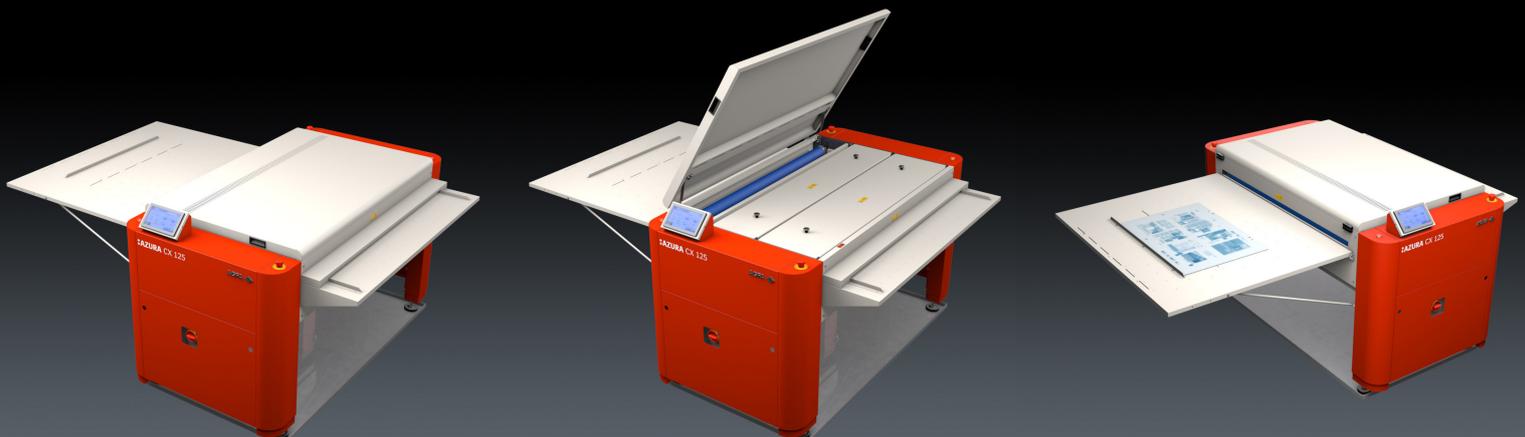
True chemistry-free speaks for itself. As the image formation is a physical process, there is no need for developer or replenisher. No chemicals means less disposal costs, a safer work environment and less waste. Azura TU's environmental advantages encompass the entire platemaking system.

## The Amazing Azura CX Clean-Out Unit

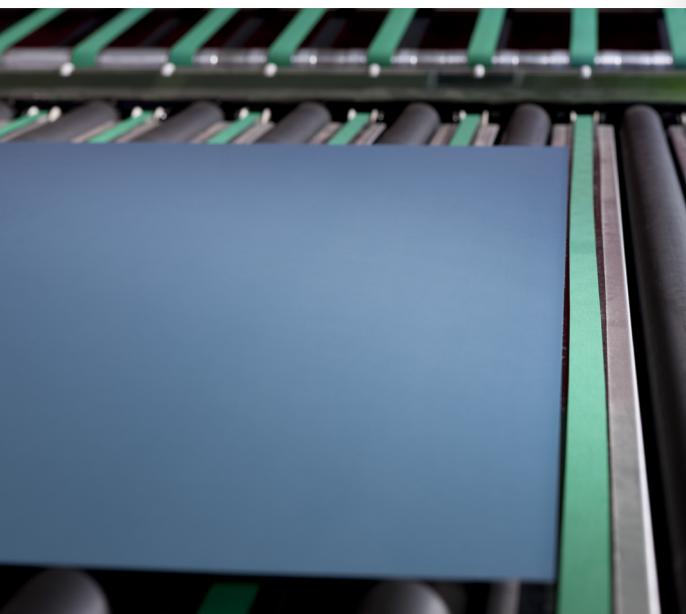
The Azura CX COU completes platemaking with a simple clean-out step. An extremely long gum bath life of up to 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> reduces equipment maintenance to an absolute minimum. On top of that, the time spent on the cleaning is by no means comparable to that of conventional thermal processors, 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 equals 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 avoids 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 gummied in one simple step.



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, 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.

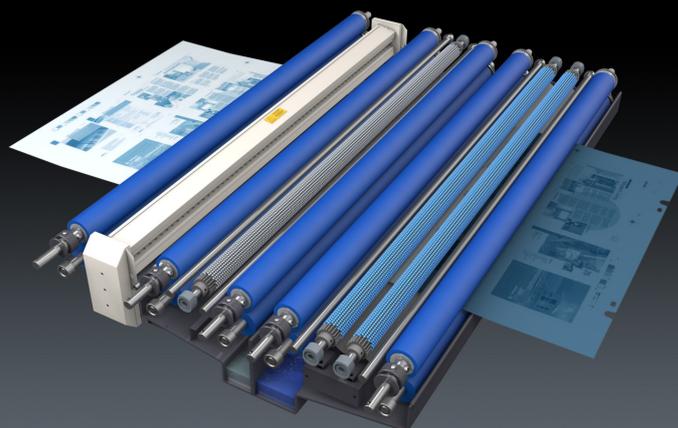
### Working principle

Azura TU comprises Agfa Graphics' Flat Grain Technology — an electro-chemically 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.

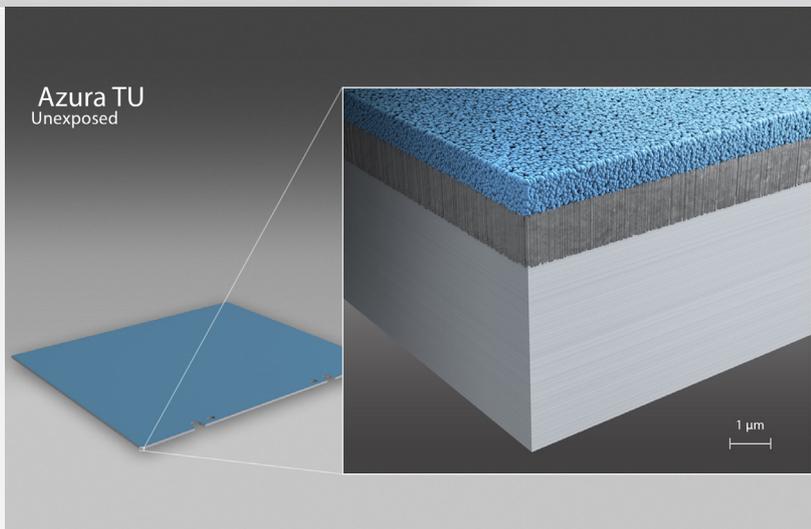
The Azura TU plates are now ready for the press where they print directly from the aluminum substrate, giving the excellent lithographic latitude expected from Agfa Graphics plates — low dampening levels giving bright colors whilst using less ink.

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



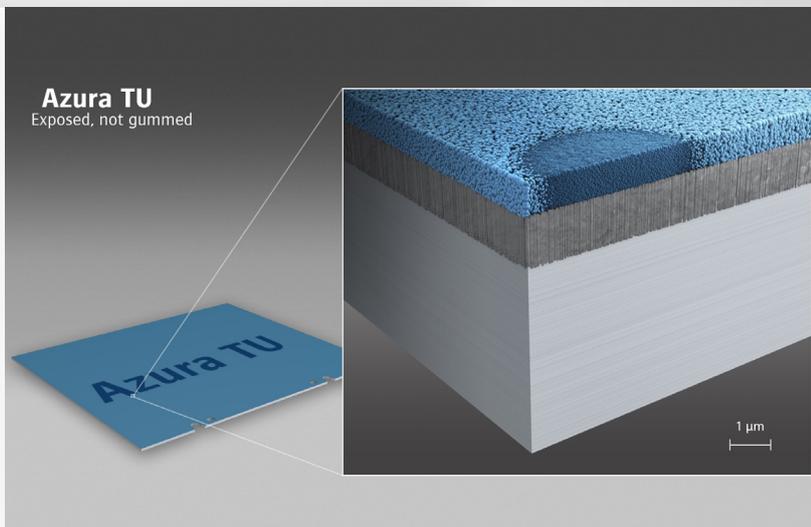
### UNEXPOSED AZURA TU PLATE

The single-layer coating contains ink-accepting ThermoFuse™ pearls.



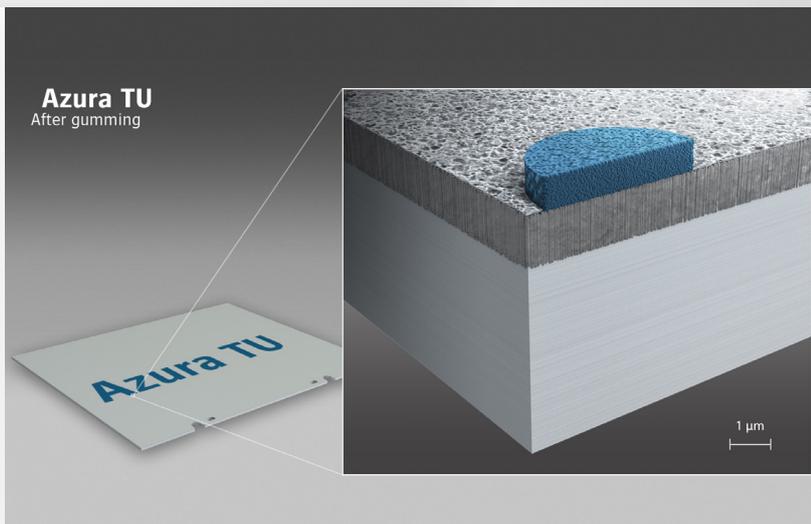
### EXPOSED AZURA TU PLATE

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.



## Technical specifications - Azura TU

### PLATE CHARACTERISTICS

Plate type	Negative-working, chemistry free-ThermoFuse™ offset plate
Substrate	High-quality grained and anodized aluminum
Spectral sensitivity	830 nm (thermal laser diode)
Plate sensitivity	160 mJ/cm <sup>2</sup>
Platesetter compatibility	Compatible with most common 830 nm external drum thermal plateset
Image contrast	Excellent. The plates can be measured with all available densitometers and plate readers.
Plate sizes	Standard sheet-fed and web sizes
Resolution	Sublima: 1-99% at 280 lpi at 2400 dpi - FM 20 (Crystal Raster) at 2400 dpi
Gauges	0.15 mm, 0.20 mm, 0.24 mm, 0.30 mm, 0.40 mm (0.006", 0.008", 0.010", 0.012", 0.016")
Run length	Up to 150,000 dependent on press conditions. Up to 10,000 with UV inks
Shelf life	24 months

### CLEANING

Clean-out gum	Azura CX gum
Bath life	Up to 7,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Clean-out unit	Azura COU CX85, CX125, CX150
Clean-out unit speed	1.6 m/min. in CX85, CX125, CX150

### ENVIRONMENT

Daylight resistance	Up to 48 hours in full daylight
Room conditions (T, RH)	18-24 °C (64-75 °F), < 70% RH
Storage conditions	Ambient temperatures below 50°C / 50°C not to be exceeded for >24 hours

### 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
Ink	CMYKLCm + white and primer
Fountain solution	Azura TU is compatible with all Agfa Graphics fountain solutions
Roller and blanket wash	Azura TU is compatible with almost 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 CX85	AZURA CX125	AZURA CX150
Water consumption	7 ml/m <sup>2</sup>	8 ml/m <sup>2</sup>	9 ml/m <sup>2</sup>
Gum consumption	20 ml/m <sup>2</sup>	25 ml/m <sup>2</sup>	30 ml/m <sup>2</sup>
Plate width, min-max	200 - 850 mm (7.9 - 33.5")	200 - 1250 mm (7.9 - 49.2")	200-1500 mm (7.9-59.1")
Plate length, min-max		275-1100 mm (10.8-43.3")	min 310 mm (12.2")
Plate thickness, min-max		0.15-0.30 mm (0.006-0.012")	0.15-0.40 (0.006-0.016)

Not all plates are available in every region. Contact your local Agfa representative for more information.



### ECO<sup>3</sup>

Agfa Graphics is committed to sustainable innovation that focuses on ecology, economy, and extra convenience—or ECO<sup>3</sup>. We aim at developing cleaner and cost-effective solutions that are easier to operate and maintain, both for chemistry-free and for conventional plate systems.

[www.agfagraphics.com](http://www.agfagraphics.com)