

**TITLE: Solara ion Reminder Note**

Category: Solara ion

Document Number: 08 – 8E

Supplied by: Gerber Service

Last Modified: October 21, 2008

Summary: This Solara ion Reminder Note contains the following items:

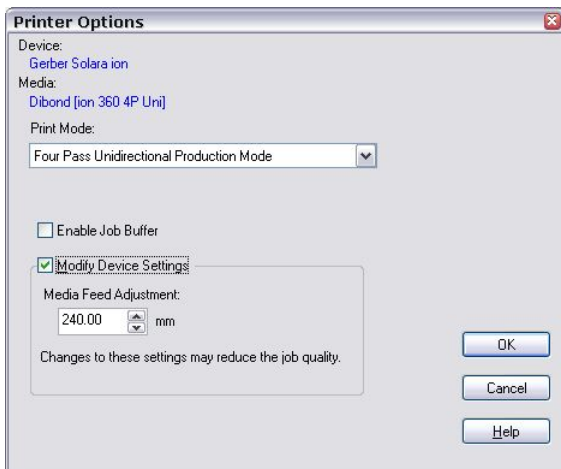
- Media Feed adjustment on Roll-to-Roll
- Limit amount of GerberCAT flush used when cleaning the print heads
- Head clean differences
- Rev B Released
- Solara ion sleep mode
- Working with 10 foot flat bed jobs
- Curled material needs tape
- Workaround for Roll-to-Roll initial overlap
- Updated Site Requirements
- New Profile availability

**Issue: Media feed adjustment on Roll-to-Roll**



*Note: Onyx is the only place you should adjust the media feed for Roll-to-Roll.*

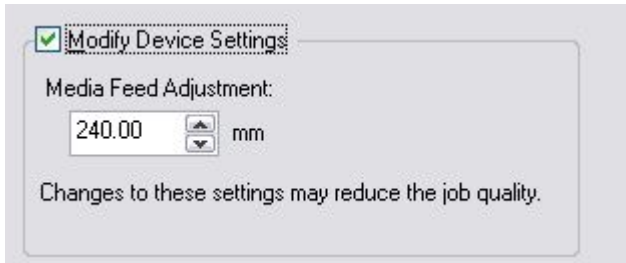
If you have an overlap in Roll-to-Roll, you must decrease the number in the media feed adjustment box. For a gap in Roll-to-Roll, increase the number. You can make these changes in Onyx.



**To change the number in the media feed adjustment box**

- 1 In Onyx, go to Media feed > open Media Manager > View Media Library.

- 2 Pick the profile you want by right clicking on the profile. Click Edit.
- 3 Click Next > Media Options. Choose the Modify Device Settings check box.
- 4 The Modify Device Settings box opens.



- 5 Choose your number in the Media Feed Adjust box:  
For an overlap, decrease the number.  
For a gap, increase the number.

### **Issue: Limit amount of GerberCAT flush used when cleaning the printheads**

Be sure to limit the amount of GerberCat Flush Solution, whenever cleaning the print heads. It is critical to use no more than one drop to saturate the Fisher Scientific foam-tipped swab. Using more than a single drop will over-saturate the swab and may allow the print head vacuum pressure to absorb excess solution into the print head itself. If this happens, the extra solution will dilute the GerberCat ink causing it not to cure properly during printing.



#### **To use the GerberCat Flush Solution properly**

- 1 Moisten each of the four foam-tipped swabs (all heads will be cleaned at the same time) with one drop of GerberCat Flush Solution each.
- 2 Using the four swabs, press both sides of each of the swabs together to evenly distribute the flush solution. (Never use old swabs to clean a print head. Never use one swab on two different color print heads.)
- 3 Wipe the print head(s) using light pressure from back to front three times.
- 4 Dispose of swabs according to local regulations.

### **Issue: Definitions of head clean, purge and power purge**

Below are the definitions for some of the processes for the Solara ion that may be confusing in the field. Following the definitions are a few examples to help explain the differences.

#### **Head Clean**

Definition: A small amount of ink is pumped from the pouch through the nozzles. May be referred to as a “prime”.

Use for: Routine maintenance. If there are a few missing and/or mis-firing nozzles in each head.

#### **Purge**

Definition: A larger amount of ink is pumped from the pouch through the nozzles and the purge valve.

Use for: To remove trapped air in a print head or if there are many missing nozzles in a specific head. Also used if you are filling an ink line (embedded in the “fill ink line” procedure), or replacing a head or reservoir assembly.

### Power Purge

Definition: The same as the “purge” procedure but do not open the purge valve when asked and only allow ink to flow through the nozzles.

Use for: If there are a few missing or mis-firing nozzles that did not clean up with a normal “head clean”. Can be used to remove excess flush or cleaning solution if too much was applied to the head. This “power purge” may not remove trapped air in the head, especially if there are many nozzles out due to a large air bubble.

### Examples of cleanings

Ex 1: My machine has been idle for 3 hours and there are now a few missing nozzles on a couple of the heads.

Solution 1: Perform a “head clean”.

Ex 2: My machine prints poorly with many missing nozzles, but after a few passes the nozzles begin to come back to life and the print quality improves. It is still not perfect.

Solution 2: Most likely I used too much flush solution when swabbing the heads. A “power purge” should remove the excess flush.

Ex 3: My machine prints well but part of the way through the print, the print begins to fade away. Sometimes I even end up missing a complete color by the time the print ends.

Solution 3: There is most likely air trapped in the line somewhere. A “purge” (and sometimes 2 or 3 purges) will help push the air out of the line.

Ex 4: I notice that a large drop of one color appears on my print. There is not a large mess of ink, just one drop here and there.

Solution 4: There is most likely air trapped in the line again. A “purge” (and sometimes 2 or 3 purges) will help push the air out of the line.

### Rev B firmware released

Solara ion Rev B Firmware has been released, the firmware addresses the current lamp warm up time by providing operators with a user-selectable lamp delay feature.

When engaged, this new feature will delay the shut down of the Cold Fire Cure™ lamps for 10 minutes instead of immediately after the job has finished. The Solara ion will remain ready to print within this time window. Remember that if the Solara ion remains idle, the lamps will shut off after the 10 minutes are up. The lamp delay can be easily engaged by the operator.

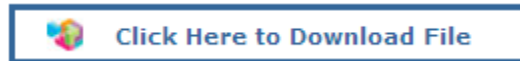


*Note the advanced lamp technology of Cold Fire Cure™ provides extremely long life and the lamps are covered by Gerber under the 12 month Warranty and optional Service Contract, eliminating concerns over prematurely “using up” or “burning out” the lamps even with this new lamp delay feature.*

Rev B Firmware began shipping on September 9, 2008 in new Solara ions and is available for download for any current Solara ion installation on the GERBERnet Software library.

To download from the GERBERnet Software library go to:  
<http://www.gerberscientific.net/GSP/eService/SoftwareDownloads/SoftwareLibrary/Firmware.aspx>.

Locate the Solara ion Firmware Update Rev B and click the **Click Here to Download File** button.



*Note: The Rev B Solara ion Owners Guide is also available for download from GERBERnet which outlines the features and use of Rev B Firmware.*

## Sleep/Idle mode

### After 10 minutes of idle time

When the Solara ion is idle for 10 minutes it will automatically go into sleep mode. When in sleep mode, the UV lamps, vacuum blowers, and roll-to-roll fans turn off and the gantry rises to its home position. During the first two hours of sleep mode, the printer will maintain proper print head temperature and spit ink every 10 minutes to ensure that the printer is prepared to print.

### After two hours of idle time

When the printer has been idle for two hours, the print head heaters automatically turn off and the printer ceases to spit ink. The Clean Head LED blinks to indicate that you should perform the Clean Heads sequence before printing.

Press any key to reactivate the printer. The **Printer Ready** screen (or the last screen active when the unit entered sleep mode) displays. The Clean Heads LED should be blinking indicating that the head cleaning sequence is recommended.

Every thirty minutes when the printer is idle the Gerber Solara ion automatically reestablishes vacuum pressure to ensure that no excess ink drips from the print heads.

## Working with 10 foot flat bed jobs

When using the flat bed feature, the Gerber Solara ion allows you to print up to 10' long. However, when printing materials in excess of 9', where the media comes to rest on the roll-to-roll platen, we highly recommend that you reinforce the platen portion of the vacuum by taping down the last foot of rigid material. This will keep materials from bowing at the roll-to-roll end and prevent the possibility of head strikes that could ruin the job or even worse your print heads.

For jobs shorter than 9', the material will rest fully on the table, therefore no tape is necessary. There are no extra precautions necessary when printing long jobs with the roll-to-roll portion of the printer.

## Issue: Curled material needs tape

If a material has severely curled edges, the vacuum table may not completely pull down. This material may need to be taped (use a light adhesive tape) to the table to prevent head strikes or other damage to the gantry from contact with the material.

## Issue: Workaround for Roll-to-Roll initial overlap

If you identify a slight over lap in the first two passes of a Roll-to-Roll job, use the ONYX Top Offset function, adding a top offset of 1".

This is an interim solution while we resolve this issue.

## Issue: Updated Site Requirements

The site requirements for the Solara ion have been updated. You can find the complete document on GERBERnet.

To access the document on GERBERnet:

<http://www.gerberscientific.net/GSP/eService/Library.aspx> choose Printers-Gerber Solara ion. Find the document "GerberSolara ion Site Requirements Rev C".



*Note: If using GERBERnet, please remember to log in when asked in order to reach the designated file. If you do not have a GERBERnet account please go to <http://www.gerberscientific.net/GSP/eService/default.aspx> to register for an account.*

Updated changes are:

- ◆ Exclude the use of lift gate trucks; they cannot handle the Solara ion crates due to their size.
- ◆ Include the requirement for commercial or industrial rubber mats in installations where the ion will be placed on carpeting; under and around the ion. This is due to excessive static electricity potentially interrupting system operation.

## Issue: New profile availability

New color profiles available by downloading the Solara ION PrnInst and Profiles ONYX 7.2 update. Go to Gerber's website, <http://www.gspinc.com>. Click Support/Downloads and search for the SolaraION\_PrnInst\_V72\_092008.zip file. Choose Click Here to Download File.

**Gerber SOLARA ION**

<b>SOLARA ION</b> <b>PrnInst and Profiles</b> ONYX 7.2 Update	(345 MB) September 20, 2008	<b>SolaraION_PrnInst_v72_092008.zip</b> Includes updated PrinInst file for ONYX® version 7.2 software with additional material profiles and updates.
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