

FUJI

Fuji introduced their first platesetter, the 8-up Celix, in 1997, but this machine was never made available to the US market. Their first mainstream platesetter was the Luxel P-9600, an internal drum device, introduced at Drupa in June 2000. In North America, it was nicknamed the “Saber” to avoid confusion with other Fuji Luxel devices. P stood for photopolymer, as the machine was designed to image Fuji’s photopolymer LP-N2 532 nm plates. The P-9600 was sold as a fully automatic system with autoloader, platesetter, and online conveyor to a processor. The timing of its introduction was somewhat unfortunate, as violet technology was introduced at the same Drupa show. Fuji had to settle for the 532 nm YAG laser in the P-9600, rather than violet technology, probably because of the lack of violet lasers that had power sufficient to image their photopolymer plates. Regardless of the reason, Fuji was in the unenviable position of introducing a green machine as this technology was losing favor. Within a year of the Drupa debut, the industry had virtually eliminated green lasers in favor of violet technology. Fuji did, however, have the advantage of having photopolymer plates, rather than the silver-based plates required by all early violet machines. By 2002, violet lasers with sufficient power to image photopolymer plates were available, and Fuji introduced the violet 8-up V-9600 and VX-9600, and 4-up VX-6000.

The Luxel P-9600 is now completely obsolete. Fuji announced a June 2007 “End of Life” date for the machine, and is making a concentrated effort to remove any remaining green laser machines from the marketplace by offering incentives to current owners to upgrade to a violet Saber or thermal Javelin. Fuji is scrapping the machines that they replace. Fuji is also discontinuing their green-sensitive photopolymer plates, with last shipments targeted for December 2008.

The V-9600, VX-9600, and VX-6000 originally used a 30 mW laser, with a second laser available as an option. The VX-6000 was available with an online processor. The V-9600 and VX-9600 were available with optional autoloaders, online processors, and for the V-9600, punches.

In 2004, the VX-6000 was discontinued and in its place the Saber V-6 and V-6e were introduced as more economical machines for the lower-end 2-up and 4-up market. Both machines have a 60 mW laser. Fuji continued to market the V-9600 and VX-9600 until 2008, when these models were replaced by the V-8 and V-8HS, which were introduced at Drupa.

Follows a chronology of Fuji Luxel models:

Luxel Series Models

| Model | Year | Max. & Min. Plate Size | | Violet Laser - 405 nm (unless specified otherwise) |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| P-9600 Single Beam | 2000 | 45.7 x 37.8 | 19.7 x 15.7 | 532 nm YAG - green |
| P-9600 Split Beam | 2000 | 45.7 x 37.8 | 19.7 x 15.7 | 532 nm YAG - green w/ split beam opt. |
| V-9600 (A) | 9/2002 | 45.7 x 37.8 | 19.7 x 15.7 | 30 mW (C) |
| Vx-9600 (A) | 9/2002 | 45.7 x 37.8 | 19.7 x 15.7 | 30 mW (C) |
| Vx-6000 (A) | 9/2002 | 30.0 x 26.6 | 13.4 x 12.5 | 30 mW (C) |
| 9600 series | 6/2004 | 45.7 x 37.8 | 19.7 x 15.7 | 60 mW |
| V-6 | 6/2004 | (B) | | 60 mW |
| V-6e | 2005 | (B) | | 60 mW |
| V-8 (A) | 6/2008 | (B) | | 60 mW |
| V-8 HS | 4th Q/2008 | (B) | | 60 mW |

(A) Dual laser optional.

(B) Varies depending upon plate gauge and plate orientation (portrait or landscape) - see productivity chart on page 41 for details.

(C) Early mfg. machines have 30 mW diodes, later models contain 45 mW and are programmed to 30 mW, but can be reprogrammed to 45 mW.

At approximately the same time that Fuji introduced their P-9600 internal drum platesetter, they completed negotiations for an OEM agreement with Screen to market Screen's PT-R 8000 8-up and the PT-R 4000 4-up thermal external drum machines, which Fuji sold under their Javelin T-9000 and Dart T-6000 labels. This agreement was ultimately expanded to the full line of Screen 4-up and 8-up thermal platesetters. In 2006, Fuji rebadged these models to more closely identify their product to the comparable model marketed by Screen. Fuji currently sells the rest of the Screen platesetter line (Ultima VLF, PT-R6600, FT-R 2055, News 2000, and FX870 flexo device), but does so with the Screen label.

The full line of renamed Screen platesetters follows.

| Fuji Model - 2005 and prior year | | Rebadged 2006 | Screen Model |
|---|------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 8-up Models | | | |
| Javelin T-9000 | 1998 | None | PT-R 8000 |
| Javelin T-9000II | 2001 | None | PT-R 8000II |
| Not available in 2005 | xxxx | Javelin 8300E | PT-R 8300E |
| Not available in 2005 | xxxx | Javelin 8300S | PT-R 8300S |
| Javelin T-9000HS-S | 2001 | Javelin 8600S | PT-R 8600 |
| Javelin T-9000HS | 2003 | Javelin 8600Z | PT-R 8600Z |
| Not available in 2005 | xxxx | Javelin 8600E | PT-R 8600E |
| Javelin T-9000E | 2003 | Javelin 8300E | PT-R 8100 |
| Javelin T-9800 | 2004 | None | PT-R 8800 |
| Javelin T-9800 | 2005 | Javelin 8800II | PT-R 8800II |
| 4-up Models | | | |
| Dart 6000 | 2002 | None | PT-R 4000 |
| Dart T-6000E | 2002 | None | PT-R 4100 |
| Dart T-6000II | 2002 | None | PT-R 4000II |
| Dart T-6000E | 2005 | Dart 4300E | PT-R 4300E |
| Dart T-6000III | 2002 | Dart 4300S | PT-R 4300S |