

HEIDELBERG

Heidelberg was one of the earliest players in the CTP movement through their acquisition of Linotype-Hell in August of 1996. A year earlier, Linotype had introduced the Gutenberg with great fanfare at Drupa 1995. This was a 532 nm YAG laser internal drum device. At the time of the acquisition, Linotype was also in the process of developing what was to be their adaptation of the successful Herkules imagesetter to platesetting. As late as March 1997, Heidelberg vowed to continue support for the Gutenberg, and to continue development of the Herkules 1064 nm YAG laser platesetter, which had not yet been released as a product.

All of this changed early in 1998, when Heidelberg signed an OEM agreement with Creo to produce Trendsetters, putting the “nail in the coffin” of Heidelberg’s proprietary CTP systems development. A unique aspect of Heidelberg’s agreement with Creo was the manufacturing rights for Heidelberg to actually produce Trendsetters in Germany. Usually in OEM agreements, the original product developer does the manufacturing, and the other party simply relabels it under its own brand name. This was not the case with the Creo/Heidelberg partnership. The units manufactured in Germany by Heidelberg were all marketed as Trendsetters but with a dual Heidelberg/Creo identification badge. This partnership was short-lived, however, as Creo terminated it shortly after their acquisition of Scitex in April 2000.

The failed Creo partnership was immediately followed by a similar partnership with Screen. This agreement also granted manufacture rights that allowed the units marketed by Heidelberg to be produced by Heidelberg in Germany. Products from this partnership became available in August 2000 badged as the Topsetter. Unlike the arrangement with Creo, the rebadging makes no reference to Screen or the PlateRite trademark.

The following Topsetter models were manufactured by Heidelberg. Those sold previous to these dates were manufactured by Screen.

Heidelberg Model	Year	Screen Model
Topsetter 74	12/00-2002	PT-R 4000
Topsetter 102	01/01-2002	PT-R 8000
Topsetter P74	01/02-2003	PT-R 4300
Topsetter P102	01/02-2003	PT-R 8000II
Topsetter PF102	01/02-2003	PT-R 8600

Prosetter

While gearing up to manufacture the Topsetter, Heidelberg was also completing engineering of a machine of their own design, the Prosetter. The Prosetter was first introduced in June 2001, approximately a year after the Creo divorce. It incorporated internal drum architecture and took advantage of newly introduced violet laser technology. The initial Prosetter used a 5 mW violet laser diode. By August 2002, an upgrade to a 30 mW laser (switchable to 5 mW) was available to accommodate photopolymer violet plates. By September 2005, a 60 mW laser (switchable to 5 mW) was offered as standard in the Prosetters.

Follows a chronology of Prosetter models:

Model	Year	Max. & Min. Plate Size		Violet Laser - 405 nm
Prosetter 52	6/2001	26.38 x 20.67	14.57 x 12.72	5 mW
Prosetter 74	6/2001	29.53 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	5 mW
Prosetter F74	6/2001	29.53 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	5 mW
Prosetter 102	6/2001	41.54 x 31.93	14.57 x 12.72	5 mW
Prosetter F102	6/2001	41.54 x 31.93	14.57 x 12.72	5 mW
Prosetter 52	12/2002	26.38 x 20.67	14.57 x 12.72	30 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter 74	12/2002	29.53 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	30 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter F74	12/2002	29.53 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	30 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter 102	12/2002	41.54 x 31.93	14.57 x 12.72	30 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter F102	12/2002	41.54 x 31.93	14.57 x 12.72	30 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter P52	9/2005	26.38 x 20.67	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter P74	9/2005	29.53 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter PF74	9/2005	29.53 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter P102	9/2005	41.54 x 31.93	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter PF102	9/2005	41.54 x 31.93	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter P74	6/2008	29.92 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)
Prosetter PF74	6/2008	29.92 x 26.38	14.57 x 12.72	60 mW (adjustable to 5 mW)

Suprasetter

At Drupa 2004, Heidelberg introduced their Suprasetter, an external drum thermal platesetter. The Suprasetter was originally offered with one to six laser modules, in E (entry), S (standard), H (high speed) models, and two sizes - the 4-up 74 and 8-up 105. In May 2005, Heidelberg announced the A105, a lower cost variation of the 105, but did not make it available to the U.S. market until 2006. The 2-up A52 and the 4-up A74 were not available in the U.S. until January 2007 after being introduced in October 2006 at Graph Expo.

The "A" models of the Suprasetter were engineered to be offered at a lower price point for the same imaging technology as the more powerful and expensive models. These A models were sold standard with just one laser head, substantially reducing the throughput, and precludes the use of Agfa or Kodak processless plates. As of today, there is no speed upgrade path available for the A models to a full-fledged, faster Suprasetter.

At drupa 2008, Heidelberg introduced their first VLF device, the VLF Suprasetter. Like other Suprassetters, it is available with optional autoloader, online conveyor, and plate punches. The VLF Suprassetters can also be upgraded in the field with additional lasers for higher throughput, and smaller format machines can be upgrade to the larger format sizes. There was no information regarding availability of this machine at Drupa, but judging from history, we guess it will be available in 2009.

The following is a chronological list of the Suprasetter models:

Model	Year	Max. & Min. Plate Size		Laser - 830 nm
Suprasetter S 74	4/2004	29.5 x 26.7	14.57 x 12.72	2 modules - 128 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter H 74	4/2004	29.5 x 26.7	14.57 x 12.72	3 modules - 192 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter E 105	4/2004	44.8 x 36.6	14.57 x 12.72	2 modules - 128 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter S 105	4/2004	44.8 x 36.6	14.57 x 12.72	3 modules - 192 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter H 105	4/2004	44.8 x 36.6	14.57 x 12.72	4 modules - 256 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter A105	10/05	44.8 x 36.6	14.57 x 12.72	1 module - 64 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter A52	8/2006	26.3 x 20.6	9.45 x 9.45	1 module - 64 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter A74	8/2006	29.5 x 26.3	9.45 x 9.45	1 module - 64 diodes - 100 mW
Suprasetter 75	5/2008	29.9 x 26.7	14.57 x 12.72	optional 2 - 5 modules - 128 - 320 diodes
Suprasetter A105	5/2008	41.5 x 36.6	14.57 x 12.72	2 modules - 128 diodes - 100mW
Suprasetter 105	5/2008	44.8 x 36.6	14.57 x 12.72	optional 2 - 6 modules - 128 - 384 diodes
Suprasetter 145 VLF	5/2008	57.48 x 56.1	25.5 x 19.6	opt. 3-5-6 modules - 192-320-384 diodes
Suprasetter 162 VLF	5/2008	64.17 x 56.1	25.5 x 19.6	opt. 3-5-6 modules - 192-320-384 diodes
Suprasetter 190 VLF	5/2008	75 x 56.1	25.5 x 19.6	opt. 4 or 6 modules - 256 or 384 diodes

See pages 38 and 40 for productivity specs.