

# ***UNITED FRANCHISE GROUP***

## ***“The Global Leader For Entrepreneurs”***

### ***RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT***

#### **STS Inks for Roland SolJet PRO III Printers**

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Some details and visit supplied by Harry Skeen – Supplier Development Manager

#### **Introduction**

We visited the corporate offices of STS inks which are located in Boca Raton, FL not too far from Signarama corporate headquarters. At their facility we saw how the entire operation is run, how the inks are tested, created and even stored. Orders can be made online or by phone and the entire operation is done right in the USA. Signarama’s R&D department has evaluated the inks from STS inks in relation to the Roland series of printers. The goal is to determine if there is any variation in quality output, color density, saturation, overall printer performance, outdoor durability, resistance to fading as well as their claim of plug a print readiness.

#### **Product price, specifications, product differentiator**

- Roland Eco-Sol MAX 220ml
- Eco-Solvent Based INK STS Price: \$49.99
- Roland Eco-Sol MAX 440ml
- Eco-Solvent Based INK STS Price: \$79.99

Specifically manufactured to match the exact performance & color properties of the ***Eco-Sol MAX*** ink for ***Roland's SOLJET PRO III, VersaArt, VersaCAMM and VersaStudio*** (OEM: ESL3). This STS Ultra Premium Eco-Solvent ink has a stunning color gamut, performance, accurate color reproduction and the ability to print on a wide range of media. Our colors are a dead on match of the original and since it's so incredibly close to the original there is no need to change the color profile or flush the lines. It has virtually no scent and is Plug & Print just like the original Eco-Sol MAX. Environmentally friendly, Water Resistant, Outdoor durability without lamination: similar to OEM.\*

#### **Manufactured**

- The STS inks are in made in the USA at their office in Boca Raton, FL.
- At their facility they have on staff chemists and testing facilities to ensure the quality of their product.
- STS Inks manufactures their own ink in Boca Raton, FL.

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### **About STS INKS**

Founded in 1999, STS Refill Technology is a US based ink manufacturer delivering premium quality inks compatible with most major brands of large format printers. STS currently has worldwide distributors in over 150 countries throughout South America, Europe, Asia and the United States.\* For more information visit their site at: <https://www.stsinks.com/about-sts-ink/>

*\*Information about STS Inks taken from company’s website.*

### **Comparable test against OEM inks**

- 9/10            Quality Output**  
When comparing the same file on the same media and the same color profiles 18 out of 20 times the quality was equal to the OEM ink. Two of the times the fine lines around some of the images seemed a little blurred or not as crisp when looked at very closely with a magnifying glass. Still a very good score keeping in mind that no one will put a magnifying glass to their print.
- 9/10            Color Density**  
We did see some minor differences with the color density in some prints. Out of 50 prints all but 3 had any differences, and that could have very easily been a climate change more than an ink situation. All in all the third party equivalent inks tested very well and none of the differences would ever be seen by the naked eye of a sign professional. A magnifying glass would be needed to see any difference.
- 10/10          Saturation**  
The saturation performed at an optimum level, this ink tested really well and in some cases better than the OEM ink.
- 9/10            Overall Printer Performance**  
The only reason to not give a perfect score is because STS ink did not get a perfect score across the entire test.
- 10/10          Outdoor Durability**  
As with all inks if the substrate is not laminated it will not last long. We saw no visible variation between the OEM sample and the STS ink sample.

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**9/10**

### **Resistance to Fading**

As of now there has been no sign of fading in a degree that would be different than an OEM ink. However we cannot give a perfect score of 10/10 because there hasn't been enough time to evaluate this over the course of years.

**10/10**

### **Plug and print**

We had no issues after multiple times of switching from the OEM inks to STS inks. This happened over the course of 2 months, and probably switching the inks back and forth 75 times.

### **Conclusion**

**We have found that if you are looking to save money on your ink usage, and are out of warranty with your Roland printer than using STS inks is a great way to grow your profits. Also not all third party inks are made the same, some can cause some real damage to your printer so please only use ones that have been certified and tested by Signarama Corporate R&D Department.**

**Furthermore, you want an ink manufacturer that will stand behind their product 100% which STS inks does and that has a warranty that if any part that the ink touches is damaged they will repair it at no charge.**



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