

## Measuring Ink Gloss

Measuring, or better yet predicting, ink gloss can be done using a few key materials and procedures in the lab.

**Sheet Fed:** For conventional sheet fed printing, we use a standard red ink, which is formulated with a mid-range level of volatile oil. This means the ink is fast setting, and not an oil based oxidative ink. Paper gloss is measured on each test print before printing. The ink is printed to the paper to be tested at our standard ink film thickness of 0.05 mil using the TestPress. The sheet is then air dried for 24 hours, and gloss is measured at the required angle. (20°, 60° or 75°)

**Heat Set Web Offset:** For web printing, the paper sample is measured for gloss. The test specimens are then printed using a Heat Set version of our special red ink, at the same ink film thickness as for sheet fed test. The print is then passed through our Heat Set Tester ([See photo on equipment page](#)) at 269-275°F paper surface temperature, chilled to room temperature and then measured for ink gloss. (20°, 60° or 75°) (You will not get an accurate heat set ink gloss reading if using a regular lab oven, or hot air gun).