Proofing / How to use your hand proofer

First, place the stock to be printed on a smooth clean, flat surface, adjust the position of the roller to the desired setting, locking it in this position with the small thumb screws. Then drop about ½ teaspoonful of the ink or coating to be proofed in the nip at the top and between the two rolls of the proofer. Spin the rolls by hand in order to fully "ink up" the anilox roll. Next, hold the proofer so that the rubber roller rests on the stock and draw it toward you, using a smooth, even, moderately fast stroke with just enough pressure to turn the rollers without slippage. You need not bear down heavily on the proofer.

Proofs may be made through a mask if desired, for special effects or to evaluate colors for "trapping" or overprinting. When operated in this manner the handproofer gives a proof on which the ink film thickness and coverage closely matches the results produced by most Flexographic presses. However, the standard engraved roller (180 cells per inch) which is furnished as original equipment with all Pamarco Precision Handproofers, may produce results which differ slightly from the printed results obtained on some presses. This difference is caused by certain variable factors, which are commonly found in commercial Flexographic printing. Some of the differences most frequently responsible for such variations are:

* Ink viscosity. Inks (or coatings) used with the handproofer should be at the same viscosity as actually used on the press under normal production conditions.
* Rubber (fountain) roller hardness on production presses. These may vary from 50 to 75 durometer hardness, as measured on the Shore "A" scale.
* Press Operating speeds. These may range from a low of less than 100 feet per minute to highs of nearly 2000 feet per minute.
* Circumference of proofer rolls vs. production press rolls. Significant solvent evaporation takes place around the circumference of production press rolls, while very little takes place in the case of the small proofer rolls. This accounts for significant ink film differences which are frequently ignored.
* Anilox rolls in the production press may vary from those in the proofer in both cell count and in wear factors.
* Production press ink distribution systems may vary considerably. For instance, fountain to form roll ratios may vary, and doctor blade distribution systems can be markedly different.

To prolong the life of the rubber roller in the handproofer, the design permits the roll in it to be adjusted by means of the small thumb screws at the sides. Any desired adjustment in pressure between the two rollers can by made simply and easily. When not in use, the rolls should be disengaged completely, thereby eliminating flat spots, prolonging the life of the rubber roller, and making the proofer easier to operate. Note

the Pamarco handproofer is so designed that when it is at rest the rolls are raised so that they are not in contact with the supporting surface. The proofer rests on the tip end of the handle and on the two large washers at the base of the frame assembly. No inked surface touches the bench top or stock and the rubber roll will not develop a "flat" as it would if it rested on the working surface.

Information provided courtesy of Pamarco.