

## **Black and White Printing with Advanced Dyes**

I am, generally, not a fan of pigments on glossy paper due to the artifacts that include "bronzing" and "gloss differential." Dyes do not suffer from those problems. Thus, for high impact glossy prints that do not need the longevity of carbon pigments, advanced dyes make an interesting alternative.

Modern advanced dyes are not like the old ones. Wilhelm Research, for example, rates Epson Claria dyes on Premium Glossy paper as having a display life under glass of 98 years. In dark storage they are rated at ">200" years. See, for example, WIR Epson RX595 test results.<sup>1</sup> Other tests have shown that the Claria dyes might be more lightfast than many third party color pigments. In short, these are serious alternatives for many if not most uses.

Epson makes the advanced dyes for Noritsu, which sells them on the open market to photo finishers in large 500 ml carts, at \$187 per cart. I believe these are essentially if not exactly the same inks that Epson sells for desktop units as "Claria" inks.

As a practical matter, the most interesting uses of these materials require that the user do some mixing. For more information on these B&W advanced dye inks, go to <http://www.paulroark.com/BW-Info/BW-Dye.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.wilhelm-research.com/>