DTG Battlecard

RICOH Ri 1000
versus
EPSON SC-F2100

Introduction

Epson launched the SureColor SC-F2100 in 2018. The SC-F2100 is an updated version of the SC-F2000, which was introduced in 2014. Epson claim that the SC-F2100 *'offers a host of enhancements and new features'*, including *'enhanced control panel'*, *'improved ink circulation'*, *'improved reproduction'* and *'fast print modes'*.

Whilst the SC-F2100 is a competitor to Ricoh's Ri 1000 Direct to Garment printer, the Ri 1000 offers numerous advantages over the Epson printer. To help you sell the Ri 1000 against the SC-F2100, this battlecard identifies five 'star' advantages of the Ricoh Ri 1000 over the SC-F2100 and explains how to refute Epson's claims about operation, speed and quality.

Ricoh's 5-star advantages

Easier to use - 7" colour touchscreen

Ricoh's super-sized 7" operation panel simplifies operation and reduces downtime. Eight times larger than the 2½" operation panel of the SC-F2100, it is easier to see and offers better functionality. Designs can be previewed on the panel. It also displays maintenance alerts and essential status information, such as ink levels, temperature and humidity, and guides the operator through essential maintenance tasks.

More versatile - thick garment support

The Ri 1000 supports thicker garments than the SC-F2100, allowing garment printers to expand their product ranges and offer customers a wider choice. The Ri 1000 prints reliably on to heavyweight fabrics, garments with pockets and textiles of up to 30 mm thick and 1.5 kg in weight. The SC-F2100 is restricted to garment thicknesses of 24 mm (or 25 mm with the garment grip pad is removed).

More productive - faster job turnaround

The laser assisted table height adjustment feature of the Ri 1000 helps to reduce turnaround times and improve quality. The Ri 1000 supports precise adjustment in steps of 0.05 mm. By contrast, the SC-F2100 only supports four broad ranges (1-8 mm, 6-14 mm, 10-18 mm, 16-25 mm). What is more, should the gap need to be adjusted, the operator has to manually remove screws and attach spacers.

More economical - lower ink consumption

Ricoh's ink composition and variable drop size technology minimise ink consumption. In comparative tests, the Ri 1000 uses considerably less ink than the SC-F2100, reducing costs and improving profitability. Indeed, when printing a sample colour image (leopard graphic on a white background layer), the SC-F2100 uses approximately 38% more white ink and 16% more colour ink than the Ri 1000.

Easier to maintain - fewer replacement parts

The Ri 1000 is easier to maintain. Smart alerts displayed on the 7" operation panel remind the operator to perform essential maintenance tasks, and the maintenance menu provides step-by-step guidance. The Ri 1000 also requires fewer replacement parts (three) than the SC-F2100 (six), helping to reduce maintenance costs and downtime. To give an example, the Ri 1000 printhead wiper only needs to be cleaned, whereas the SC-2100 printhead wiper is a consumable replacement item.

RICOH
imagine. change.

	RICOH Ri 1000 	EPSON SC-F2100 
Dimensions (W×D×H)	862 x 1,325 x 480 mm (23% smaller footprint)	985 × 1,425 × 490 mm
Control panel	7" colour touchscreen (8 times larger screen)	2½" colour panel (not touchscreen)
Platen change	Magnetic 'easy-change' platens	Manual exchange
Platen adjustment	Manual adjustment (laser assisted)	Manual adjustment
Garment thickness (max)	30 mm	25 mm (with garment grip pad removed)
Print resolution (max)	1200 x 1200 dpi	1440 x 1440 dpi
Print area (max)	406 x 508 mm	406 x 508 mm
Print speeds (Ricoh testing, colour A4 image on white T-Shirt)	- Speed mode (4 pass/600x600 dpi): 53.4 sec Fine mode (8 pass/600x600 dpi): 83.5 sec Super fine mode (16 pass/600x1200 dpi): 186.1 sec	Level 1 (2 pass/720×360 dpi): 32.4 sec Level 2 (4 pass/720×720 dpi): 46.3 sec Level 3 (8 pass/1440×720 dpi): 73.6 sec Level 4 (16 pass/1440x720 dpi): 294.3 sec
White ink circulation	Automatic	Automatic
Maintenance alerts	Yes	No
Regular maintenance (number of instances)	Ink agitation x 1 Cleaning x 8 Replacement parts x 3	Ink agitation x 2 Cleaning x 5 Replacement parts x 6
Durability	5 years or 30,000 prints	3 million scans (approx 27,800 A4 CMYK+W prints in default mode)

Countering Epson's product claims

Faster print speeds

To improve on the print speed of the original model, the SC-F2100 offers a new, lower-resolution, *'level-1'* print mode. Printing onto a white T-Shirt, the SC-F2100 can produce a level-1 colour print in 32.4 seconds (Ricoh test). Whilst quick, the image quality is poor and probably not acceptable for merchandising. In Ricoh tests, Epson level 1 prints exhibited weak definition, poor halftones and image banding.

The Ri 1000 doesn't have a low-resolution print mode. Ricoh's *'speed mode'* and *'fine mode'* are broadly equivalent to Epson's *'level-2'* and *'level-3'* print modes and offer similar print speeds. More tellingly, Ricoh's *'super fine mode'*, which produces images of exceptional quality, is significantly faster than Epson's *'level-4'* print mode. Indeed, in super fine mode, the Ri 1000 is nearly 60% faster than the SC-F2100.

Improved ink circulation

Epson's marketing references *'improved ink circulation'*. It's a great claim but the improvement is against Epson's previous model, the SC-F2000, rather than the Ri 1000. Indeed, the SC-F2100 recirculates ink in much the same way as the Ri 1000. The Ri 1000 automatically recirculates white ink, moving it between the ink bay and the print heads to reduce sedimentation. Ricoh's white ink recirculation system minimises maintenance downtime associated with sedimentation and ensures that the Ri 1000 is ready to print.

Separate cleaning cartridge

Epson's marketing references *'an auto-maintenance mode'* and *'a separate cleaning cartridge'* which, it claims, *'substantially reduce scheduled maintenance'*. Once again, the improvement is against Epson's previous model, rather than the Ri 1000. The Ri 1000 has a number of automated maintenance functions, including head cleaning. What is more, a separate cleaning cartridge was introduced by Epson to combat a specific quality issue. The Ri 1000 doesn't have this issue and doesn't require a separate cleaning cartridge.

Enhanced control panel

We've already covered this as five star advantage! Again, the improvement is against Epson's previous model. The Ri 1000 has a 7" colour touchscreen operation panel. It is approximately eight times the size of the 2½" operation panel of the SC-F2100. It is easier to see and offers better functionality. Designs can be previewed on the super-sized panel of the Ri 1000. It also displays maintenance alerts and essential status information, such as ink levels, temperature and humidity, and guides the operator through essential maintenance tasks.

RICOH
imagine. change.

www.ricoh-europe.com