

GRAPHTEC

PRESS RELEASE

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Cutting machines offering best-in-class performance and designed for ease-of-use

New arrival **The FC8000 Series**

An operating system designed with a special focus on ease-of-use

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One machine to play two roles: The new Dual Configuration function

Equipped with advanced ARMS system for high-precision contour cutting of printed images

The ultimate in cutting performance to support a wide range of applications

Graphtec Corporation has announced to launch sales of the FC8000 Series, its new top-of-the-line grit-rolling cutting machines. Sales from July 8, 2008.

The introduction of these new models rounds out the company's extensive lineup of cutting machines, ranging from the Craft ROBO Series models designed for the consumer arts and crafts market to flatbed models designed for commercial use. Graphtec cutting machines boast an enviable reputation among customers worldwide, a reputation that has earned the company leading market shares (based on research by Graphtec) and high brand name recognition as a manufacturer of cutting machines.

The product of an integration of Graphtec's innovative technologies and know-how, the FC8000 Series flagship models are designed for clients who demand even higher productivity and cutting precision. These cutting machines achieve the ultimate in cutting performance and ease of use.

Touting the high cutting performance of the FC8000 Series as a major selling point, Graphtec is targeting not only the sign and display markets, but a wide range of other sectors in which the highly-acclaimed FC7000 Mk2 Series models, predecessors to the FC8000 Series, are currently in use. These include the decal market, the automotive aftermarket (for cutting decorative and window films), and the stone and monument markets (for cutting sandblast rubber).

By focusing on ease-of-use through features such as a greatly enhanced Cutting Plotter Controller (utility software), an easy-to-use control panel that features a 3-inch LCD, and the new Dual Configuration function, the company is seeking to further strengthen its grasp on existing markets and to forge new markets.

■ Main features of the FC8000 Series cutting machine

1. An operating system designed with a special focus on ease-of-use

The FC8000 Series features a significantly enhanced version of Graphtec's proprietary Cutting Plotter Controller software utility, which enables user control cutting plotter operations and settings from a computer.

The cutting plotter can be controlled from any computer running the application software used to create the cutting data, boosting the efficiency of the overall sequence of operations, from design to cutting.

Up to 100 cutting conditions to suit various types of media can be saved to a media list under easy-to-understand file names. These cutting conditions can also be managed from within the Cutting Plotter Controller.

Media lists to which cutting conditions and actual cutting plotter settings are saved can be saved as files. This enables multiple users to share cutting conditions and cutting plotter settings.

As another example of this special focus on ease-of-use, the FC8000 Series models lets users identify current cutting plotter settings simply by checking the icons displayed on 3-inch LCD control panels.

2. One machine for two roles: The new Dual Configuration function

The FC8000 Series also features the new Dual Configuration function.

The Dual Configuration function lets users save two differing sets of virtually all cutting plotter settings on one FC8000 Series cutting plotter.

This allows two different users to save their own groups of customized settings on the same cutting plotter.

The Dual Configuration feature can also be used to expedite changes in condition settings by saving appropriate cutting plotter settings in advance for two completely different media types, such as masking rubber or marking film, which would otherwise require changes in several cutting conditions and cutting plotter settings each time users switch from one media type to another.

3. Equipped with advanced ARMS system for high-precision contour cutting of printed images

FC8000 Series models are equipped with an advanced ARMS (Advanced Registration Mark Sensing) system for high-precision cutting of printed images.

The ARMS system offers convenient functions such as an Auto Registration Mark Detection function for automatically sensing the registration marks (position alignment marks) used to align printing and cutting positions, facilitating contour cutting of images printed from a printer. The system also features a Segment Area Correction function to ensure accurate cutting over the entire length of a large-format or long-length design, dramatically improving productivity when cutting labels and decals.

Another new feature offered in the FC8000 Series models is automatic sensor sensitivity adjustment. This function detects colored registration marks against a colored background, not just black registration marks against a white background. Given adequate contrast between the colors, once registration marks and background colors are registered in the ARMS system, users can perform contour cutting of printed images in cases involving registration marks printed (for example) in blue against a white background or white against a black background.

In addition to increasing the range of media that can be used with contour cutting of printed images, this new feature reduces print costs by eliminating the need to print black registration marks on sheets where labels have been printed in a single color – say, blue.

4. The ultimate in cutting performance to support a wide range of media

The high cutting force (5.88 N = 600 gf) exerted by the FC8000 Series expands the range of media that can be cut, allowing use of the FC8000 Series not just with film and label film cutting applications in the sign and display industries but in various other fields. These include cutting security film in the crime-prevention market, a market where dramatic growth is expected, and window film cutting for the automotive aftermarket. A fast maximum cutting speed (1,485 mm/s) also boosts productivity.

Another new FC8000 function, a cut-out function enabled by the perforation cutting feature, further expands the range of suitable media.

■ Main specifications

	FC8000-60	FC8000-75	FC8000-100	FC8000-130	FC8000-160
CPU	32bit CPU				
Configuration	Grit-rolling plotter				
Drive	Digital servo				
Max. Cut Area	50 m x 610 mm (164 ft x 24 in) (expanded mode)	50 m x 762 mm (164 ft x 30 in) (expanded mode)	50 m x 1067 mm (164 ft x 42 in) (expanded mode)	50 m x 1372 mm (164 ft x 54 in) (expanded mode)	50 m x 1626 mm (164 ft x 64 in) (expanded mode)
Guaranteed precision cutting area *1	15 m x 590 mm (50 ft x 23.2 in)	15 m x 742 mm (50 ft x 29.2 in)	10 m x 1047 mm (33.3 ft x 41.2 in) 15 m x 894 mm (50 ft x 35.2 in)	10 m x 1352 mm (33.3 ft x 53.2 in) 15 m x 894 mm (50 ft x 35.2 in)	10 m x 1606 mm (33.3 ft x 63.2 in) 15 m x 894 mm (50 ft x 35.2 in)
Mountable media width	Max: 770mm (30.3 in) Min: 50 mm (2 in)	Max: 920 mm (36.2 in) Min: 50 mm (2 in)	Max: 1224 mm (48.1 in) Min: 50 mm (2 in)	Max: 1529 mm (60.1 in) Min: 50 mm (2 in)	Max:1850mm (72.8 in) Min: 50 mm (2 in)
Max. cutting speed	148.5 cm/s (45 degree direction)				
Cutting Pressure	48 steps, 0.196 to 5.88 N (20 to 600 gf)				
Min. character size	3 mm (0.125 in.) alphanumeric Helvetica med. Font				
Mechanical resolution	0.005 mm				
Programmable resolution	GP-GL: 0.1/0.05/0.025/0.01 mm, HP-GL*2: 0.025 mm				
Repeatable Accuracy *1	Max. 0.1 mm/in unit of 2 m (excluding media shrinkage)				
Number of cutters/pens	1 (2 for 2-pen model *3)				
Pen types	Water-based fiber-tip, oil-based ballpoint, and disposable ink pens				
Pouncing tool type	Pouncing tool: PPA33-TP12, 1.2-mm pin diameter) *4				
Compatible media	Mono-vinyl chloride media, fluorescent media, and reflective media up to 0.25 mm thick, high reflective media *5				
Compatible paper for pouncing	Regular paper from 0.06 to 0.13 mm thick				
Interface	USB2.0 (Full Speed)/Network (Ethernet 10BASE-T/100BASE-TX) *3/ RS-232C (Auto switching)				
Buffer memory	2 MB				
Command sets	GP-GL/HP-GL*2 (Control panel switching)				
LCD display	Graphic type (Yellow backlight)				
Power supply	100-240VAC/50-60 Hz (Auto switching)				
Power consumption	160VA max.				
Operating environment	10 to 35° C, 35 to 75% R.H. (non-condensing)				
Guaranteed accuracy environment	16 to 32° C, 35 to 70% R.H. (non-condensing)				
External dimensions (W x H x D)	1128x1219 x715 mm (44.4 x 48.0 x 28.1 in)	1278x1219 x 715 mm (50.3 x 48.0 x 28.1 in)	1578x1219 x 715 mm (62.1 x 48.0 x 28.1 in)	1878x1219 x 715 mm (73.9 x 48.0 x 28.1 in)	2138x1219 x 715 mm (84.1 x 48.0 x 28.1 in)
Weight (Including stand)	38 kg (83 lbs)	42 kg (92 lbs)	46 kg (101 lbs)	54 kg (119 lbs)	59 kg (130 lbs)

*1:When the basket and Graphtec-specified media are used under certain condition settings.

*2:HP-GL is a registered trademark of Hewlett-Packard Company.

*3:This function is a factory-installed option. It cannot be retrofitted.

*4:The PPA32-TP12 pouncing tool cannot be used

*5:The CB15UA cutter blade and a reinforced backing sheet must be used when cutting high-intensity reflective film.