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[\[Image PDF \(695K\)\]](#) [\[References\]](#)**Printing Plate****5. Letterpress Printing Plate/Flexo Printing Plate**Shinji TANAKA¹⁾

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Abstract

Letterpress printing plate and flexographic printing plate are categorized as “relief printing plate”. Since photopolymer - based letterpress plate has replaced metal-based one, its characteristics are hard and compatible with oil-based ink. Flexographic plate was originated from rubber plate, whose characteristics are elastic and compatible with water-based ink, and solvent based ink, and now photopolymer type is major. CTP letterpress and CTP flexo system came into the market, as well as offset field. Currently, mask-ablation type, ink-jet type, and laser-engraving type of CTP system are offered into the market, and mask-ablation type of CTP system has the majority. Laser-engraving CTP system is expected as the future technology, which is actual “process-less” CTP system, which doesn't need exposure and wash-out procedure unlike conventional system, while mask-ablation type and ink-jet type are, so to speak, “negative-film less” CTP, which we need exposure and wash-out procedure.

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