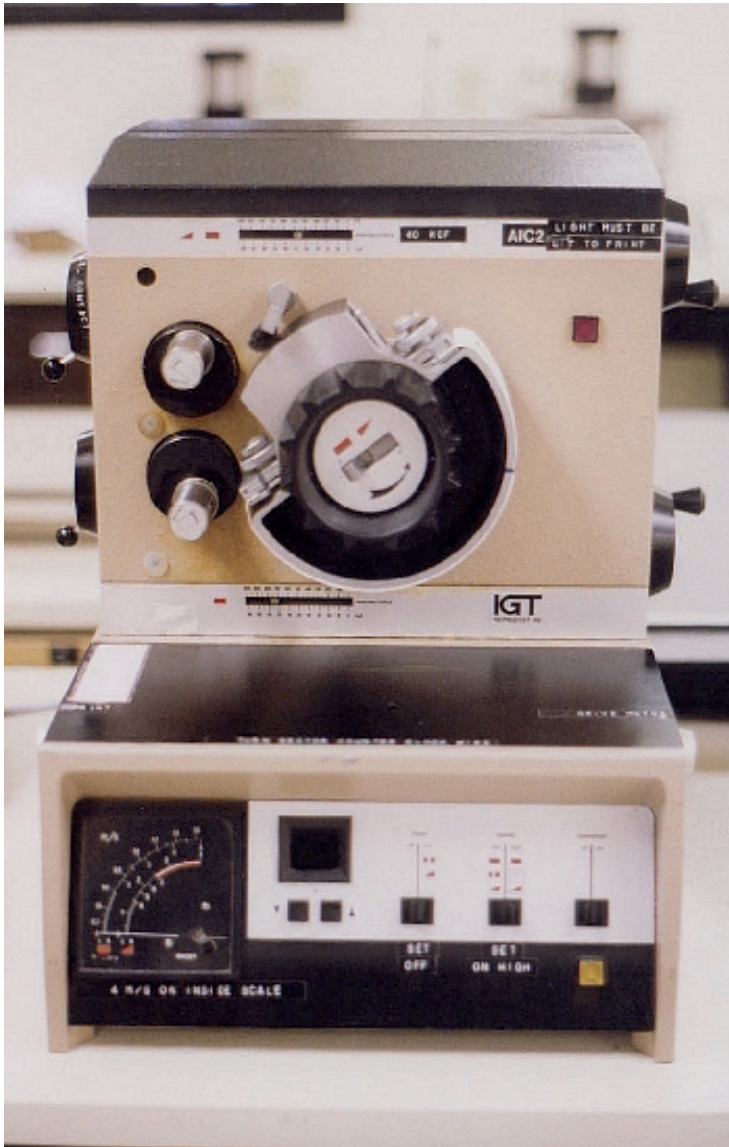


## IGT Pick & Blister

This test measures the ability of the coated surface to resist picking or blistering during offset printing. The test device operates by applying a known film thickness of polybutyne oil, which has a known viscosity, to the coated surface of the samples while under acceleration, i. e.; the applicator speed increases from 0 m/s to 4 m/s during the application. The oil creates a pulling action on the coated surface, like offset ink, resulting in picking, blistering, or both. The point at which the picking and blistering starts is the end point of the test. The reported units for both pick and blister are viscosity-velocity product (vvp). At a known oil viscosity, this indicates how the velocity or press speed that can be achieved before the sheet is damaged.

Typically it is expected that a coated surface to be offset printed should have pick and blister resistance (vvp) greater than 50 to 60. Anything in the 50 to 60 vvp range is very marginal and would be a concern.



This instrument can be used for many print and surface tests, in addition to pick & blister testing. It has two print stations for applying ink and coatings. Various combinations of ink applications are possible. Other tests such as back trap and water interference mottle evaluation can be investigated. The instrument can also be used to measure diverse paper surface properties, like water and oil absorption or surface roughness.