

RISO Snapshot of Success

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Kevin LaHay, Owner/Operator
PB Copy



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Founded in 1986, PB Copy is an owner-operated full-service digital print shop serving the Surrey, British Columbia area. With many years of experience, PB Copy offers a level of skill and dedication to quality that's difficult to match. The company focuses on quality, service, and environmentally friendly printing. Today, the print shop now offers “off-the-electrical-grid printing” on its pedal powered RISO digital duplicator!

PB Copy purchased its RISO digital duplicator about three years ago, realizing that one large print job that had been outsourced, voter information cards, could be printed in-house. “This is the biggest single thing we do,” said owner/operator Kevin LaHay. “For the recent federal election we ran 140,000 of the cards.” The print shop also uses the RISO digital duplicator to print business cards, flyers, prescription pads for doctors, and lots of envelopes. Another factor in the decision to

purchase the RISO printer was the duplicator's 2-up feature. LaHay comments, “We can do bigger volumes while consuming less power.”

Reducing power consumption and being green has always been important to PB Copy. The idea to go green came to LaHay while he was attending the Green Living Show, where he met a vendor who had a display of recycled paper. The vendor supplied PB Copy with a couple of boxes to try and LaHay found it to be as good as or better than non-recycled paper. PB Copy began to use the 100% post consumer recycled stock for any order that did not require special or colored paper.

The decision to manually power the RISO came about when LaHay and his girlfriend decided to get fit. She wanted a treadmill and he wanted an exercise bike. Having heard that a TV could be powered from pedaling a bike,

LaHay wondered if there were anything at work that could be powered in the same manner.

The RISO digital duplicator, drawing just a few watts of power, was ideal. The bicycle is used to turn a generator which in turn charges two sealed batteries and a 1 kilowatt inverter. “We have a RISO printer that draws 600 watts—although I truly believe it is less than that,” remarks LaHay. “With our solar panel and the bike, we run it on 100% renewable power.”

The bicycle/solar powered RISO digital duplicator helps PB Copy achieve its goal of providing unparalleled customer service at very good pricing—all while being friendly to the environment. “When we use the RISO digital duplicator, we are zero carbon footprint,” states LaHay. “Add to that the power saving and the fact that we use only recycled paper, and we are very environmentally friendly.”