

COMPARISON OF STAMP TYPES PRODUCED BY ROANOKE STAMP & SEAL CO.

October 2013

	SELF-INKING STAMP	PRE-INKED STAMP	TRADITIONAL HAND STAMP
BRANDS	Plastic Units: Trodat, Shiny, Ideal and 2000+. Most are also available in a metal, heavy duty unit for industrial or heavy duty commercial applications	Xstamper and Royal Mark	No brand names
HOW THEY WORK	The printing die rotates and picks up ink from a concealed ink pad to deposit it on paper	The printing die contains micro pores saturated with ink to deposit it on paper	The printing die picks up ink from a separate ink pad to deposit it on paper
COST	Best - Moderately priced	Good - Cost is approx 20% more than self-inking stamps	Better - About the same price as a self-inker when cost of the stamp pad is included
VALUE	Best - A good blend of positive features and price	Better - A very good stamp, but the premium price can make the self-inker a better value	Good - Mediocre features with a price roughly equal to a self-inker when cost of stamp pad is included
USEABILITY	Your best buy for ease of use, imprint quality, cleanliness and repeat stamping	Best imprint quality when used correctly, also allows for infrequent re-inking	Best for infrequent use when imprint quality isn't critical or when special inks are needed
DURABILITY	Plastic Units recommended for home, office and commercial use. Metal units recommended for industrial and heavy duty commercial use	Recommended for home, office, commercial & light industrial use	Recommended for industrial use
CLEANLINESS	Best - Very clean due to unexposed pad and the optional use of replacement pads instead of re-inking existing pads	Better - Relatively clean because it seldom need re-inking and ink is applied directly to the printing die or into inkwells	Good - Can be messy with the exposed rubber die and separate stamp pad as well as the need to re-ink the pad with liquid ink
EASE OF USE & IMPRINT QUALITY	Best - Just press and print, the mechanism controls the amount of ink laid down on the paper. Outstanding imprint quality	Better - The amount of pressure can slightly affect the imprint quality. Extremely good imprint quality	Good - The amount of ink on the pad and the pressure used will significantly affect imprint quality. Fair imprint quality due to having to hold stamp very flat during use
LIFE OF STAMP	Better - Plastic Units: 100,000+ impressions with re-inking or pad replacement after 7,500 prints. Metal Units: 250,000+ prints with same re-inking as plastic units	Best - 100,000+ impressions with re-inking every 25,000-30,000 prints	Good - 100,000+ impressions with pad re-inking every 2,500 prints
RANGE OF SIZES	Better - 25+ sizes, some with special applications	Best - 40+ sizes, special applications: inspection, pencil cap, pocket	Good - Full range of sizes, limited special application
USE WITH SPECIAL INKS	Good - SOME special inks can be used, but are limited in their effectiveness due to air infiltration which can dry the special inks in the pad	Not applicable with standard pre-inks - Requires special Xstamper Industrial stamps with limited sizes and inks	Best - With the die made of RUBBER the stamp can be used with a wide range of special inks