

Haloid/Xerox – the design development of the early equipment. written by Stuart Yearsley 2024

I have been reading much historical information about the birth of Xerox. None of them tell the full story of the design development of the early equipment, and some are blatantly incorrect in certain aspects. However, I have finally stitched together the full story, which is represented in the attached 8 photos. In order, they are:



1 - The original Haloid XeroX Box. (note the 2 big Xs) Literally a wooden box, held together by dovetail joints. It comprised a very rough camera, with exposure timer, on top of a rudimentary processor unit. Only the Developer Trays and Heat-fuser (not shown) are close to the final design. Plates were charged by a bar with ion-discharge needles. (this was similar to the Xerostat later fitted to 720 feedout to stop copies sticking together.) This charger-bar was scanned back and forth manually, by the handle on the right-hand side of the box.



2 - Haloid XeroX Model A. The production version of the Ox Box had a much better engineered camera, with a Platen Cover latch and exposure button. The processor is basically the same as the Ox Box, with needle-spray charger. The same fuser was supplied.



3 - On the left-hand of this photo is the **Haloid XeroX Model B.** This has a very much improved version of the Camera. The exposure button has been moved adjacent to the timer. The Platen Cover latch is now heavy duty and the cover also incorporates a paper holder. This is shown holding 2 boxes of Offset Litho plates. The camera sits on top of an almost fully developed Processor unit. This now contains the motorised Scorotron, which is activated by pressing the right-hand button. Adjacent to the scan-button are the 3 screws holding the Scorotron lead-screw front mount. Central, is the red- neon, which lights whenever the EHT unit is active. The button on the left switches the Scorotron from DC (charge and transfer) to AC (pre-transfer and pre-clean.) On the right-hand side of the photo, the operator is using the optional, stand-alone camera. This is a slightly larger format and contains improved exposure lamps and lens. When the full kit was ordered, as shown, it became the Haloid XeroX Model C.

**Haloid/Xerox – the design development of the early equipment.
written by Stuart Yearsley 2024**



4 - Haloid XeroX Model D. The integral camera has now gone. It has been replaced, on top of the Processor Unit, by a Plate Storage unit. This stacker incorporates a low wattage heater, to relax used plates, and a knob for ejecting the lowest plate. The processor now has a two-way control, with a pointer, to switch between DC and AC. In all other respects it is identical to the previous version. The camera is the same as with Model C. Also shown are the later Heat and Vapour Fusers, which are not Labelled Haloid but have been placed with this kit for display purposes.



5 - This is exactly the same kit as photo No. 4 but now simply badged as Xerox. The Haloid badging has gone! Note that, in this museum display, the Heat Fuser has been disabled, by removal of its asbestos tray, for health & safety reasons. The useless handle now sits on top.



6 - This shows the stand-alone version of the American VR (variable ratio) Camera. It sits on a short chassis, mounted on a heavy-duty tripod stand. There is no copy-board or exposure lamps, so originals needed to be wall mounted and effectively lit, the camera then being rolled up to them. The control panel is on a 'remote' fly-lead, so that operating it wouldn't disturb the camera. The processor sits to the rear.

**Haloid/Xerox – the design development of the early equipment.
written by Stuart Yearsley 2024**



7 - The Standard Xerox. American version of the one-piece, long chassis version of the VR Camera kit. There is now an integral copy-board and exposure lamps. These are just unshaded reflector-bulbs, mounted on swivels. The arms are rigid and do not fold in. The camera control is now mounted on the side of the camera. The installation, as shown, is purely for display purposes and could not actually be used. In reality the camera would be fully on one table and the rest of the kit on the second. The tables would then be separated some distance, to allow the operator to stand fully behind the camera for magnification and focussing purposes.



8 - And finally, your own full VR camera kit, as finally redesigned by Rank Xerox and renamed the 1385. The long-chassis camera, with integral copy-board, sits on the optional, compact, utility desk-unit. The 4 x 200 watt photoflood bulbs are encased in directional shades and the processor is split into two, to fit on the under-shelf. The desk unit contains separate storage solutions for developer, toner, rayon-wool and paper. When I was trained, at Park Royal, the Practical Room held both types of kit as shown in photos 5 & 8, designated SS (size for size) camera and VR (variable ratio) camera 1385. There

was also an Addressograph Multigraph 1250 Offset Printer, to produce prints from both paper and metal plates, made on the Xerox equipment.