

How to get the best results from your KISSCUT paper 1



Welcome to the new and exciting world of KissCut paper! Now for the first time, you can print and transfer without transferring the rest of the transfer sheet as well - our patented KissCut technology allows you to transfer ONLY what you print.

The usage of KissCut paper couldn't be simpler, as the process is exactly the same as a standard hot-peel transfer paper, with the addition of a curing stage at the end to make your prints wash proof. Please read the following instructions to get the best out of your KissCut paper:

1. Images, Graphics and Printing

There is only one constraint for getting a good transferable image, and that is to put enough ink down for the transfer to take place. For this reason, KissCut paper may not be the most suitable paper to transfer a photograph with some very light graduations in it (for example, clouds). Text, graphics and pictures with good solid edges and outlines will give very good self-weeding results to a very small scale, but be realistic about the scale of things like text when printing onto textiles, as the weave of the fabric may break up your image as well. Very light images and very fine lines may also break-up and fail to transfer due to lack of ink density, or the colour being too light. A lack of ink density can be caused by two things:

- 1) There should be enough ink being put down by the actual image (ie the image should not be too light or faint). To ensure that the KissCut paper releases the image correctly, please make sure that your image has at least 100% of your possible 400% colour (400% colour is 100% Cyan, 100% Yellow, 100% Magenta and 100% Black) - you can make up your minimum 100% from any of the 4 colours in any % combination, for example: 40% Cyan, 30% Magenta, 0% Yellow and 30% Black. Suitable image manipulation software such as Photoshop and most graphics packages should have the facility to tell you the CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) breakdowns of any colour that you select to use. As previously mentioned, photographic images could potentially be tricky if there are some very light areas in the image.
- 2) Ensure that your printer settings are set to a high enough resolution/quality setting to put enough ink down as well - although any Epson printer could be used with KissCut paper, KissCut support and recommend the use of the Epson R265, R1800 and 4400/4800 series of printers. The following printer settings should give optimum results on these printers:

Quality Option - Photo or Best Photo

Source - Sheet

Paper Type - Premium Glossy Photo Paper or Photo Quality Inkjet Paper

Size - A4 / USA4 as appropriate

Advanced Settings

Colour Management - ICM (underneath tick the 'No Colour Adjustment' box)

Quality - Photo RPM

High Speed - tick the box

Page Layout

Mirror Image - tick the box

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2. Transferring and Curing

Transferring should be done using a heat press. The heat press settings should generally be set to 180°C for 7 seconds, more information on these settings is set out below.

- 1) The bed of the heat press should be cold / cool when you start the transfer process, a small amount of retained heat from the previous pressing is usually acceptable but avoid transferring immediately after doing a curing cycle as the heat press bed may be too hot and may affect your process timings. Place the garment onto the bed of the press and position the teflon window in the correct place (the teflon window performs two functions: allowing you to be certain that you are putting the paper down in the right place, and also that there is no unwanted edging caused by the pressure of the heat press on the edge of the paper). Place the printed KissCut paper face-down onto the garment in the correct position (being careful not to smudge or drag the image over the garment). Place a teflon sheet and/or a sheet of brown baking parchment (not grease proof or tracing paper) on top of the printed KissCut paper and clamp down the platen of the heat press (teflon can be used by itself if it covers the whole of the garment, be careful with white garments that the heat does not discolour the garment). Every heat press will be different and will require setting up for optimum results - the pressure of the platen should be medium-firm, but not so firm as to make the operation of the press difficult by it being too tight (on a heat press with adjustable pressure via a compressor, set the pressure at approx 1.5 bar and adjust from there). Press for seven seconds (it would be best to have a stopwatch or timer as everyone counts up to seven at different speeds) - make sure that you only hold the heat platen over the garment whilst it is being pressed as the heat platen can ruin the transfer process by being held over the paper. The transfer time should again be adjusted according to your heat press - if there is an incomplete transfer then the transfer may need a few seconds more, if the transfer is taking the ink plus some of the unprinted paper coating you may need to take the platen pressure down a bit.
- 2) Once the transfer time is up, release the top platen of the heat press and move it away from the bottom platen. Immediately remove the baking parchment and/or teflon top sheet and immediately remove the KissCut paper from the garment. Peel using a medium speed, even peeling technique (do not rip it off really fast, conversely, do not peel it off really slow). The easiest method for removing the paper is to take either the bottom left or right hand corner and peel towards the opposite top corner in a diagonal direction, holding on to a corner of the garment whilst peeling.
- 3) Once the image is on the garment, the garment needs a final cure. The heat press should be set to 60 seconds at the same temperature and pressure settings. Again, use either a teflon and/or brown baking parchment sheet on top of the garment and keep the garment face-up. When using KissCut Ink you can opt for either a glossy finish (teflon) or a satin finish (brown baking parchment), depending on your preference.
- 4) Additionally, KissCut coloured and metallic foils can be added to your images for extra impact and interest. When the ink has been cured, select any areas that require foiling and cut the foil to shape accordingly, being careful not to lay the foil over areas that you do not want foiled. With the foil in position on the garment, lay a teflon sheet and a brown baking parchment sheet over the shirt and press for 17 seconds at the same temperature and pressure settings. Then, leaving the teflon sheet on top of the garment, place the shirt on a cold surface to cool. Leave to cool slightly for approx 5 seconds and then carefully slide the teflon sheet away making sure not to accidentally peel away any of the foil. Leave the garment for 30-60 seconds until the garment is cool. Remove the foil with a quick even peel to reveal your foiled-up garment. Do not attempt to peel the foil before it is cooled. Unfoiled areas may have foil added at anytime afterwards and there is no need to fix the foil in any way after application. If small areas have not taken the foil, try again covering the required image area, it may well stick second time around.

Full instructional videos demonstrating the transfer process can be found at www.kisscutpaper.com/video