



## PRINTING ON FABRIC SHEETS

Use THREADS inkjet printable fabrics only in inkjet printers. They will not work in laser printers.

Every inkjet printer is a little different. These instructions attempt to cover the basics that are common to all printers. For specific instructions, refer to your printer's manual.

It's important to remove any dust or loose threads from the surface of the fabric so that they won't block the ink from reaching the fabric and leave a white spot in your image.

Cut off any loose fabric threads (but don't pull on them).

Blow or brush off any dust or loose threads. An effective way to remove small pieces of lint is to blow on the fabric sheet while gently brushing over the lint particle with the rounded tip of a letter opener or butter knife.

To properly feed through your inkjet printer, the fabric sheet needs to be fairly flat. If the sheet is curled, iron it on the paper side with the iron set to Wool with No Steam. Or you can flatten the fabric sheet by rolling it against the curl.

Place a fabric sheet in the printer.

- For a bottom-feed printer, load the fabric sheet with the fabric side down.
- For a top-feed printer, load the fabric sheet with the fabric side facing you. Place the fabric sheet flush against the paper guide and square with the entry roller. If the fabric sheet does not feed properly, try using only one fabric sheet at a time. Do not force the fabric sheet into the printer.

To prevent the print head from rubbing against the fabric sheet, increase the gap between the print head and the fabric. Depending on your printer, there are many ways to do this:

- Increase the Thickness setting
- Increase the Platen Gap (or Head Height) from Standard to Wide
- Set the printer to Envelope, Card Stock or Thick Paper

Set the printer to a Matte Paper or Plain Paper setting. Do not use a glossy paper setting, because not enough ink will be applied and the image will look washed out. Each printer is a little different, so vary your settings as needed to achieve the best results.

## **(Printing on Fabric Sheets – continued) -**

If your printer has three print quality options (Draft, Normal, Best), set the quality to Best. If your printer has five quality options, set the quality to the 4<sup>th</sup> option. (The 5<sup>th</sup> option might apply too much ink to the fabric.)

Because lighter fabrics can't absorb as much ink, you need to set your printer to apply less ink to the lighter fabrics, especially the Silk Chiffon 10mm. You might be able to directly control the amount of ink that is applied by varying a setting called Color Density. See your printer's instruction manual. If you notice that the ink on your print runs, you need to reduce the amount ink that the printer applies. Any bleeding will be most noticeable where there is a sharp line between light and dark areas of your image. The ink will look like it's running down the individual threads in the fabric.

Set the Orientation to either Portrait or Landscape to match your image.

Set the Page Size to either:

- Fit (which will make your image as big as possible but still fit on the fabric sheet)
- Actual Size (which will print the image at the size that you specified in your Fabric Studio imaging editing software)
- Custom Scale and select a percentage (%) amount to scale your image up or down in size

If necessary, adjust your printer's Contrast, Brightness and Saturation settings. Often your fabric prints will turn out better when you increase the Contrast, Brightness and Saturation. But don't overdo it either, because the images, especially photos, can look unnatural.

After you have acquainted yourself with your printer settings and made a good print, save those settings and give them a good descriptive title such as Cotton Poplin 4 oz. 8 ½" x 11". Create a setting for each kind and size of THREADS inkjet fabric that you use. The next time you print on that kind of fabric, simply choose the setting you created.

Before printing on your fabric, you might want to print a test image on plain paper to make sure that the colors look correct when printed and that the image is placed correctly on the page. Printed images can look different than how they look on your computer monitor and might need to be color-corrected. Once you have a routine down and are getting good results, you can usually skip the test print.

You should occasionally run your printer's test utility. If any nozzles are clogged, run the printer's head cleaning utility to unclog them. If you print a lot, you might set a recurring reminder to clean your print heads.

**(Printing on Fabric Sheets – continued) -**

If your prints have unexplained white spots, you might have dust or fabric dust in your printer. Use a can of compressed air to blow debris out of your printer.

Click Print.

Let the ink dry for about 5 minutes. With some printers in humid environments, let the ink dry longer.

Use your fingernail or a pin to lift a corner of the fabric off the paper backing. To make it easier to get started, make a small tear in the edge of the fabric sheet. (Only the paper will tear, not the fabric.)

Peel the fabric off the paper.