

Printing your artwork

There are two types of printer, ink jet which have rectangular cartridges and laser which have cylindrical cartridges. You can print an image that will give you an excellent stamp on both types of printer.

1. Ink Jet

Select **File > Print** select your printer and open **Properties**.

Change paper type to **Transparency**.

Change ink colour to **Black and White**. This is important, many printers will default to colour and this will not work.

Load the imageblack film into the printer so that the coated side (feels rough to the touch) is the correct way round to be printed on.

After printing examine the artwork against the light and see if the black areas look very black. You can experiment by printing it out again on the highest printer resolution (**Best**) and comparing which is better. Some printers will deliver more ink when paper is selected instead of transparency, you will just have to leave the sheet longer to dry. You may have the option to increase the ink density, in which case choose it. If you select a template then you can store this setting for future use. Choose the resolution setting that is best for your printer and gives you the darkest images when you look at them up against the light.

Do not hold film until it is dry.

The ink is water soluble so keep the artwork dry.

The ink will fade with UV light exposure, so may deteriorate with repeated use or if left in sunlight.

2. Laser

Make your artwork the size of the sheet that you are going to use. Handle imageblack film by the edges only and store in the envelope when not in use.

Insert film either way round into printer.

In Microsoft Windows click **Start, Settings, Printers**.

Select your laser printer, right-click and open **Properties** from the drop down menu. If you have the option, **increase the ink density to maximum**.

Set your printer paper settings to **Vellum**, or if it does not provide that option use **Transparency**.

Increase the resolution to **maximum** and press **Print**. Do not touch the printed surface until fully dry.

Examine your negative by **holding it up against the light**, the black areas should not allow light through. Low resolution printers (mostly ones with 600x600 resolution) will print artwork with white flecks in the solid black. This will allow light to pass through the black areas and your stamp will end up being solid.

To make artwork printed on an older laser printer or photocopier dark enough, follow these simple steps:

Soak a cloth with **White Spirit** and wipe it once over the printed side of your artwork. A little black may come off on the cloth, but do not wipe it too hard or with a dry cloth otherwise you will remove too much black. The output from some new printers will not be affected by white spirit, but they should give you sufficient quality when printed in black on high resolution. Run a **hot air gun** over the surface of the artwork to flare off the white spirit, if you hold it too close you may melt the plastic. The surface will now look **shiny and the black** and will be dark enough to make stamps with.

Some types of laser printer are not affected by white spirit and cannot be enhanced. If you have one of these try to increase the resolution and print in black and white.

If you do not have a laser or an ink jet printer then just photocopy your design onto the imageblack laser sheets using a standard photocopier. Many new laser printers, particularly colour ones will print out at the resolution required.

Contact us if you require further or more detailed information.