COTTON WILL NOT WORK

Dye Sublimation - Basics

Printer EPSON SC-F570

If this is your first dye sublimation print, please ask a staff member for help!

Step 1: Laying Out Your Designs

1. Login to the Surface Pro using the generic student account (posted on printer).
2. Open the **REEF Dye-Sub Printing** tool. It opens in the web browser and does not need internet.
3. Under **Paper roll**, choose the roll width in the printer (**17 in** or **24 in**). Leave **Sheet length** at **20 in** to match the 16 x 20 inch heat press. The sheet gets longer on its own if your designs need more room.
4. Upload your 2D graphics or images/photos (these can be .jpg, .png, .svg, .pdf or .ai) by clicking the upload box or dragging the files onto it.
5. To add words, click **Add text**. To put text on a design, click the design, then click **+ Add text**.
6. Click a design to resize it (in inches, or drag the blue corner), rotate it, or make copies (**Ctrl + C** and **Ctrl + V** also work).
7. Click **Auto-arrange** to fit your designs together and save paper. Designs outlined in red overlap or hang off the paper, so fix them before printing.

Step 2: Printing for Dye Sublimation

1. Click **Print**.
2. The Printer will be the 'EPSON SC-F500 Series'. Do not change any settings. Mirror and Auto Rotate are already on, so the printer flips your design for you.
3. Press '**Print**'.
4. If you see an error message, press '**Ignore**'.
5. Cut the sheet at the red 'Cut here' line shown in the tool, then trim around each design.

Step 3: Preparing for Heat Press

1. Turn on the power switch found on the bottom left of the white part of the machine.
2. Press the "TEMP" button. Use the arrow keys to set the desired temperature for your substrate (refer to the 'Dye Sublimation Settings' table in front of the printer).
3. Once the temperature is set, the machine will start heating. The digital readout will show the current temperature until it reaches the set point.

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4. Press “TEMP” again, and use the up and down arrows to set a timer for the appropriate amount of time (refer to the ‘Dye Sublimation Settings’ table in front of the printer).
5. The pressure knob is located on top of the heat press. Turn it clockwise to increase pressure and counterclockwise to decrease pressure. The right pressure is crucial for a successful transfer. The screen will display 0 through 10 at the bottom when the press is in the closed position, A pressure of between 3 to 5 should work.

Step 4: Transfer Process

1. Prepare your substrate (t-shirt, mouse pad, etc.) on the table opposite the heat press.
2. Place your printed sublimation paper ink face down on the substrate in the desired position. Use the Kapton tape next to the heat press to secure the paper in place. If the substrate is a hard material, the Kapton tape can leave an impression on the surface so be sure to place the tape on the outside of your substrate/heat press area.
3. Over the sublimation paper, place a piece of parchment paper (found on the wire rack next to the heat press). This protects both the heat press and the material from any ink bleed or scorching.
4. Swing the heat press upper platen to the right and place your substrate and parchment paper on the lower platen, ensuring it is smooth and wrinkle-free.
5. Swing the upper platen back over the lower platen.
6. Using two hands, pull the handle towards you and down to close the press. You'll feel slight resistance if the pressure is set correctly. DO NOT TRY TO FORCE IT DOWN.
7. When the timer is done, lift the handle with both hands to open the press and swing the upper platen to the right.
8. Use the heat mitts in the wire rack to safely remove your piece from the heat press and place it on the table opposite the heat press.
9. Allow your part to cool slightly before carefully removing the parchment paper.
10. Swing the upper platen back over the lower platen.
11. Turn off the heat press when complete.

Questions? Ask a staff member for help!