



SUBLIMATION EQUIPMENT IN FAB LAB

- **A4** printer. We provide the paper at a low cost.
- 38 x 38 cm Flat(clamshell) press
- 1l ozMug mould press

STOCK & PRICE GUIDE

GOLDEN RULES

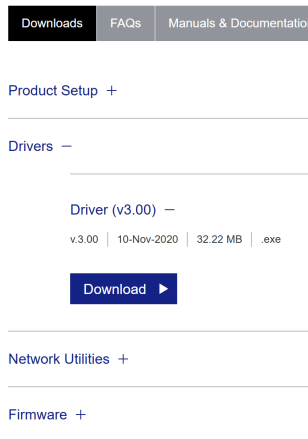
1. Never touch hot parts with your bare hands.
2. Always warn others which heat press is on and which items are hot.
3. Use only sublimation-grade items.

If you're unsure, ask a technician – they're here to help.

PRINTING

Printing Software Used

[Epson FC100 Driver \(NOT product setup, scroll down\)](#)



Basic Print Steps (Printer)

1. [Install](#) the Epson FC100 Driver (prints will be out of shape and wrong size if you don't)
2. Ensure your artwork fits within an A4 artboard, export to PDF
3. Connect the printer via the USB cable to your laptop
4. Print the PDF directly to the Epson printer, it will automatically mirror your artwork
5. Cut out your design if needed and prepare to press
6. For Mugs – cut out your design, use 2-4 pieces of sublimation tape to secure it to the mug in the correct position
7. For flat items – place your design on the flat object and secure with sublimation tape – ensure no tape is between your print and the object, double check this before pressing again, especially on soft items like mousepads

PREPPING SUBSTRATE

- **Flat Press**



- Cut out your design and tape it with sublimation tape, ensuring no tape sits between the print and the item before pressing—this is especially important for soft/rubber items.
- **Mugs**
 - Cut out your design and tape it to the mug in the correct position using 2–4 pieces of sublimation tape.

PRESS SET UP

ALWAYS NOTIFY OTHERS WHEN SWITCHING ON A PRESS, AND IT WILL BE HOT.

ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR SUPPLIER'S TIME & TEMPERATURE SETTINGS, AND KNOW IT MIGHT TAKE A FEW TRIES TO GET IT RIGHT.

Flat Press (clamshell)

1. **Before switching on** the press,
 - a. Always put a sheet of plain paper on the red rubber mat to prevent ink from transferring to the rubber. *You'll be responsible for replacing the mat if it gets stained.*
 - b. Place one of your blank substrates in the press and set the pressure.
2. Switch on the machine and set the **temperature & time**.
3. Wipe down the brown teflon sheet from any dust particles.
4. Once the press is at temperature, place your item with the printed side facing up.
5. Place the brown teflon sheet over your object with print before closing the press. **Be careful, the top part of the press is extremely hot.**



6. Press the handle down and ensure the clamp is secure. **KEEP YOUR HAND ON THE HANDLE FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE PRESS INCASE IT POPS OPEN. Do not leave the press unattended.**
 7. Timer should start automatically
 8. Put on gloves.
 9. Once the timer goes off, open the press. Brace the machine from below with your hand before pulling up the top, it will move and may cause serious injuries.
 10. Carefully lift a corner of the paper to check if the print transfers evenly.
 11. Remove the paper from the object.
 12. Set the object on a heat-safe surface to cool down.
- Once cooled, admire your work :)

Mug Press

Do not place any mug in the press unless it is a sublimation mug; otherwise, it can explode. (not fun)

1. **Before switching on** the mug press, wipe out any dust particles - these will transfer to your mug if you don't
2. Switch the mug machine on, set the **temperature & time** settings. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR SUPPLIER'S TIME & TEMPERATURE SETTINGS.
3. If you are doing:
 - a. **Coloured or white mugs**, prepare a small bucket with water
4. Once the machine has reached temperature, place your mug handle-side up in the mug press and ensure the clamp is tight when pressing.
 - a. Keep the handle away from the metal sides to prevent cracking.
5. Wear gloves when removing any hot item from the press



6. Wait until the timer goes off, open the mug clamp, and slide out the mug.
7. Carefully lift a corner of the paper to ensure the print transfers evenly.
8. If you are doing:
 - a. **Coloured or white mugs:** place the mug into a bucket of water; it will not crack—no need to remove the print paper.
 - b. **Frosted, clear glass mugs and/or other drinkware:** immediately remove the print and tape after pressing. Place on a heat-safe surface to cool—ideally in a breezy spot. Warn others that the mugs/drinkware are hot if they want to admire them.
9. Once cooled, admire your work :)

TIPS, TRICKS & THINGS TO REMEMBER

Designing

- a. Add 5–10 mm of bleed on flat items to aid accurate placement.
- b. Super fine text can be illegible. Make text bold or test print first.
- c. **Black can turn green if under-pressed or brown if over-pressed. Stick to C0M0Y0K100 (CMYK) or R0G0B0 (RGB), not “rich black.”**

General

1. These machines reach 200+°C. They are not toys – wear heat-resistant gloves when handling hot items.
2. Not all items can be sublimated. Sublimation only works on polyester, polymer-coated, or heat-treated mugs. **Only use items marked safe for sublimation from a reputable supplier.**
3. Sublimation ink is not opaque. There is no white ink. On non-white substrates, colours won't be vibrant, and white areas of your design will show the substrate's colour.



4. Avoid touching the inked-up parts of your prints, as finger oils can smear the ink.
5. Sublimation tape may not stick well to rubber or fabrics. Be careful, as the tape can slip between the print and the substrate, such as fabric, rubber, or mousepads.
6. Before removing, press your print, then lift a corner to ensure your design is transferred fully. Return to the press for a few seconds if necessary.
7. Metal plates stay hot for a long time – handle with care.

Always ask your technician for assistance if you are unsure, they are here to help you and guide you.