

Create Your Own Fabric

Can I print anything on fabric?

• Just about, but you need to respect **copyright law**, especially if selling your work. Disney will sue you.

How do I know if something is copyright-free and safe to use?

• Anything published before 1923 is in public domain. Works published between 1923 and 1977, protected for 28 years, could be renewed for an additional 67, for a total of 95 years. So, a work copyrighted in 1923 will be considered public domain this year (2019); 1924 (2020), etc. Works published after 1977 are copyright protected throughout the life of the author plus 70 years, or until the end of 2047, whichever is later.

Why not use iron-on transfers or do-it-yourself Bubble Jet Set?

• Mirror image, peels off, does not age well, weakens with washing/drying, feels stiff and funny

• Bubble Jet Set is used to treat fabric to make it more colorfast. Labor intensive (*dipping in a solution and drying*), smells and requires fabric stabilization to go through a printer (*freezer paper, label paper*).

Is there much difference among the various inkjet printable fabric sheets on the market?

• Yes. We did extensive research before choosing the manufacturer for our line. People say ours is not only the most colorfast, but also the softest.

Hints for jam-free printing

• The fabric and backing paper must be tight and flat. If the fabric become separated from the backing sheet, use a hot iron on the paper side to reseal the paper and fabric together (*make sure board is clean*). If the leading end is curled, iron the edge to flatten it.

• Before loading any fabric sheets in your printer, be sure to cut or clip (*don't pull*) loose threads.

• Never force a fabric sheet into a printer. Place the sheet flush against the paper guide, square with the entry roller.

• Feed one sheet at a time. With an HP printer, fabric side down, paper up in the feed tray. Epson is fabric side up, paper down. If you aren't sure about your printer, make a small "X" on a blank piece of bond paper and see how it runs through.

• Humidity and storage conditions do affect fabric sheet performance. Store flat, in low humidity if possible. Other things that can affect performance are the age of your printer, the condition of the pickup and drive rollers in your printer, and the ink used. Printed fabric sheets will look different depending on what printer is used. Always print on paper first.

• If you see banding or white lines through your image, check your printer utility for cleaning instructions (*or if quality has changed*). Use the plain or plain/thick paper setting on the Paper Feed/Select screen.

After printing and doing the 15-second dip, will my inkjet printer fabric sheet be colorfast and fade-free?

• Yes and no. Any fabric exposed to direct sunlight or artificial light will fade over time. We recommend you treat anything made with fabric sheets like you would any fine fabric. Wash by hand or use the gentle cycle, and use mild, low PH soap to wash.

Does it matter what kind of printer?

• Yes. Laser printers use heat & toner and can NOT be used. Most inkjet printers will work with inkjet printable fabric sheets, but not all, so it is always important to test (*e.g. the R-series of Epson printers don't work with any inkjet fabric sheets*). It is important to use original manufacturers ink, not compatibles. Do not use photo ink (*specially formatted to work with photographic paper*).

Can I tea-stain or use dyes & paints on my fabric sheets after doing the 15-second dip and letting it dry?

• Yes. Tea stain gives a nice vintage look, especially when printing in black & white and softens a white background. Add paint or glitter to a printed fabric sheet for a layered look. Follow directions on what you apply as most require heat-setting.

What printer/ink do you recommend?

• I've had success with HP Photosmart, OfficeJet & Designjet printers & Epson printers w/Durabrite ink.

• Generally, printers with separate color cartridges are pigment-based, and tri-color cartridges are dye-based. Pigment inks are more colorfast. No matter what printer you use, occasionally you may run into a bad dye lot. We've found Snuggles or All fabric softener (*w/out additives*) help set bad dye lots.

• Always run a test sheet first.

• Make sure you can test and return or exchange a printer if it doesn't work for fabric printing from the store you are purchasing it from.

• Vacuum fabric dust that accumulates in your printer with a compressed air can or computer vacuum. Clean rollers periodically also.

Cool things you can do:

* Get a close match for discontinued or antique fabric to make repairs or matching accent pieces.

* Gifts or fundraising projects. Everyone loves things made with photos of them, their kids or pets.

* Add texture to photos for framing.

* Turn a B & W photo into a duotone or add spot color to highlight objects.

* Using photos or pictures, create your own design and print on fabric.

To do creative and complex photo adjustments, you can download a FREE app called [Photoshop Mix](#) from Adobe. Have Fun!