



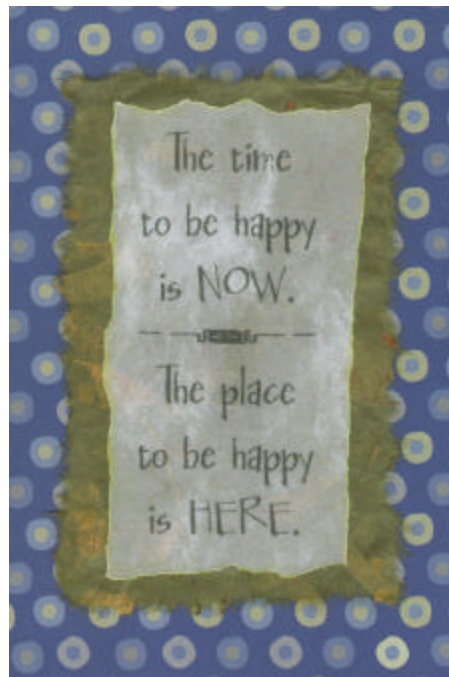
Beyond Cardstock: Printing on Other Media

Printing out titles on cardstock is one of the most basic uses for your PC and printer. That's why I'm not going to tell you how to do it! But I am going to show you how you can "Kick It Up a Notch" (to borrow my friend Emeril's expression) and use your computer and **Inkjet** printer to print on some other materials! I will go from easiest to most difficult, in case you feel the need to work your way up!

Printing on Vellum

Printing on vellum is only slightly more difficult than printing on cardstock, and yet it gives your titles, journaling or even photos a more subdued look. There are just a few things to remember:

- First of all, not all vellum is created equal. Some vellum is thicker than others, so if you're going for that transparent look, hold it up to your cardstock first to see how it's going to look. I've printed to heavy vellum on occasion, only to find out that it resembles white cardstock! Also, if you peruse your local office supply store, they even sell vellum specifically for use with inkjet printers.
- Second, feel both sides of your vellum. If one side is rougher than the other, then this is the side you want to print on. Inkjet ink takes an eternity to dry on vellum, and can actually bead up if you print on the shiny side. If neither side seems more textured than the other, just pick a side and experiment!
- Third, set your printer to the Transparency setting. Printing with this setting will lay down less ink, cutting down the drying time.
- Fourth, when you're done printing, you need to let the ink dry. I recommend waiting about fifteen minutes to a half of an hour before touching it! Better yet, if you have an embossing/heat gun, just blast it with some hot air (and no embossing powder) for a few seconds. For a different look, though, you can even add embossing powder and heat it for a raised ink surface.
- Finally, remember that most glue will show through vellum. When you adhere it to your page, make sure to use an adhesive that specifically says it won't show through vellum (like Xyron) -- or use eyelets or brads to fasten your vellum to the page.



Printing on Transparencies

Printing on transparency film has become very popular lately, because you can do so many things with it. Use it for shaker boxes, photo overlays, or journaling boxes. You can even print photographs on it!

- It's very important to use transparency film that is made for inkjet printers. If you mistakenly use the kind for copiers or laser printers, your ink will most likely never dry, and smear when you touch it!
- One side of the inkjet transparency will have a rough feel to it. This is the side that you want to print on.
- Just as with the vellum, set your printer to the Transparency setting.
- Since the film is not porous, it too will take some time to dry. Be patient! Wait at least 5 minutes before handling the transparency. If you decide to use your embossing gun, hold it FAR AWAY from the film, as it can melt if you get too close! An interesting look, but probably not what you were aiming for!



Printing on Twill Tape

As soon as I realized that I could send twill tape through my printer, I've been hooked! Printing on something OTHER than a paper product just seemed so . . . innovative! It looks cool, and people will be constantly asking you how you did it! Here's how:

- First, you need to measure your twill tape to determine how much room you have for your text.
- Next, open your favorite software (MS Word, Publisher, Photoshop, etc) and create a text box roughly the size of your twill tape. Type your title or quote inside the text box.
- Print out your document on plain paper.
- Using a temporary adhesive (like Hermafix Dots, or your repositional Xyron), place your twill tape directly over what you just printed, lining it up carefully. A light box works great for this. If you don't have a light box, a sunny window should work, too!
- Once the twill tape has been securely affixed, put the paper back into the printer, and print again. This time, the ink will end up on the fabric, instead of the paper!
- Remove it from the paper, and add it to your layout! So easy!
- If for some reason the ink bleeds into the fabric, try setting your printer to the Transparency setting.



Printing on Metal-Rimmed Tags

When I first found out that people were printing directly on those metal-rimmed tags, I thought they were crazy! Don't printers EAT those things? As long as you follow a few guidelines, your printer shouldn't eat any tags for lunch, and you should end up with a nice looking embellishment for your layouts!

- Due to the mechanics of individual printers, it is best to try this technique only if you have a top loading inkjet printer.
- The technique for this is very similar to printing on fabric or twill tape: Measure your tag, create a text box, add your text or clipart, and print to a sheet of plain paper. Using a temporary adhesive, place the tag directly over what you just printed, lining it up carefully.
- Before sending the page back through the printer, however, it is **important** to adjust your printer's thickness setting. Most printers have a lever that will allow for thicker papers or envelopes to pass through unobstructed. If you leave out this step, this is where your printer may eat your tag! I've forgotten this step on occasion, and while the tag passed through my printer, the text is out of alignment or is scrunched together!
- When you're done printing, carefully peel the tag from the paper and it's ready to use!



Have fun trying out these fun and easy techniques!