

imagepac stampmaker Printer Information

This is an evaluation of how good these printers are at printing solid black on transparency film. This is only a partial list as there are thousands of different types of printers in the world, but we would welcome your help in increasing its scope. So if you have anything to add, either on a printer mentioned below which you have a setting to improve its printing, or a printer that we haven't mentioned, then please tell us about it. The first section is for ink jet printers the second for laser printers. To date we have never found an ink jet printer that we can't make a negative on by printing it once, but you may find it easier to just print two copies and stick them together, a few dots from a glue stick will allow you to align them easily, if you do this allow another minute in the Stampmaker as two negatives will stop more light.

Epson

General points:

Many of the Epson range of printers will default to print in colour. You must open 'Advanced settings', a warning message may appear saying that they are only recommended for experienced users, ignore this and tick 'Black ink only' or 'greyscale', all the colour options will then be no longer adjustable. You may well find that Epson branded OHP film works slightly better than our imageblack ink jet film.

This manufacturer's range of printers will typically give you the blackest artwork by changing the settings to:

Paper to '**Photo Paper Matte or Ultra Glossy**'

Quality to '**Normal**'

and Ink to '**Black and White**'.

Ink Jet Model	Optimal print setting	Black Rating
RX685	Greyscale / Best Photo / Photo matte paper	★★★★☆
R220	Ultra Glossy / Best Photo / Black Ink	★★★★☆
R230	Plain paper / Normal quality / Under Printer Features / Output Extra 12 Black Density 2.0000	★★★★☆
4200	Transparency / Best	★★★★★
CX6400	Matte Paper / Best Photo / Black Ink	★★★★☆
CX6600	Matte Paper / Best Photo / Black Ink	★★★★☆

HP

This manufacturer's range of printers will typically give you the blackest artwork by changing the settings to:

Paper to **'Photo Paper Matte'** or **'Other Speciality Papers'**

Quality to **'Best'**

and Ink to **'Black and White'**.

Ink Jet Model	Optimal Print Setting	Black Rating
Officejet K80	OHP Premium Inkjet transparency film / Normal / B&W / Increase Ink	★★★★☆
Deskjet F380	Photo paper matte / Black ink only	★★★★★
Deskjet 840c	Other transparency films / Normal / Black cartridge only	★★★☆☆
PSC 1115	Transparency / Best / Black cartridge only	★★★☆☆
PSC 1215	Plain paper / Normal quality	★★★☆☆
PSC 1410	Other brochure paper / Normal / Black cartridge only	★★★☆☆
PSC 2110	Paper / Best / B&W	★★★☆☆
PSC 2115	Paper / Best / B&W	★★★☆☆
2179	Other Speciality Papers / Best / B&W	★★★★☆
2360	Photo Paper Matte / Black ink only	★★★★★
3180	HP Transparency / Ink density to maximum / Greyscale	★★★☆☆
4200	HP Transparency / Best / Black and White / Increase Ink	★★★★☆
HPC5280	Grayscale / Transparency- / Inkflow heavy	
Officejet 5510	HP Photo Paper Matte / Normal / Black and White	★★★☆☆

Lexmark

This manufacturer's range of printers will typically give you the blackest artwork by changing the settings to:

Paper to **'Photo Matte Paper or Cardstock'**

Quality to **'Normal'**

and Ink to **'Black and White'**.

Ink Jet Model	Optimal print setting	Black Rating
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Z617	Cardstock / Normal	★★★★☆
X5470	Photo Matte Paper / Normal	★★★★☆

Canon

This manufacturer's range of printers will typically give you the blackest artwork by changing the settings to:

Paper to '**Other Speciality Papers**'

Quality to '**Best**'

and Ink to '**Black and White**'.

Ink Jet Model	Optimal print setting	Black Rating
Smartbase MP3605	Set to Paper and normal. Do not print on transparency.	★★★★☆
Pixma 1200	Set to Paper to transparency. In Printing Preferences set Colour/Intensity to Manual and increase intensity to maximum.	★★★★☆

Common problems

Artwork has white flecks in it:

If you have white flecks in the black the light will get through and you will not get enough depth to your stamp. White flecks are either because you didn't enhance the Brightness and Contrast on a scanned or downloaded image or because your printer has been told to print on the wrong media (say paper instead of transparency).

Artwork has white dotted lines through it:

One of your ink jet heads is blocked. Go into the properties and clean your heads.

Artwork has a red or blue hue to it:

Your artwork may have been printed using the colour or Cyan/Magenta/Yellow cartridge. Although this may look black it will not work. You can see your black artwork will have a blue or red hue when examined against the light.

Laser Printers

Print it twice and stick together:

For most laser printers the easiest way to make a negative is to use imageblack laser film and print two copies of your negative. Then by applying a few dots from a glue stick you can stick them together whilst giving time to align them easily.

Increase the toner density:

Insert film either way round into printer. In Microsoft Windows click Start and Printers and Faxes. Select your laser printer, right-click and open Properties from the drop down menu. If you have the option, increase the laser 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.

Is it dark black?:

Examine your negative by holding it up against the light, the black areas should not allow light through. Some printers 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. Do not use it, change your settings or print it twice and stick together.

To make the output from HP and some other brands of lasers and photocopiers 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. Do not wipe it too hard or with a dry cloth or you will remove too much black. Run a **hot air gun** (not a hair dryer) over the surface of the artwork to flare off the white spirit, if you hold it too close you will melt the plastic. The surface should now look **shiny and the black** and will be dark enough to make stamps with.

Epson

Laser Model	Resolution	Specific Instructions
AculaserC1100	600x600 dpi	

Panasonic

Laser Model	Resolution	Specific Instructions
KX-P7200	600 dpi	Wiping with white spirit and heating required.

HP

Laser Model	Resolution	Specific Instructions
HP1020	600x600 dpi	Set to maximum toner in Properties, set to vellum and FastRes1200. Wipe with white spirit and heating.

Konica

Ink Jet Model	Resolution	Specific Instructions
Magicolor 2400W	4800x1200 dpi	Set to Best, Black and White and transparency.

Brother

Ink Jet Model	Resolution	Specific Instructions
HL 2030	600 dpi	Does not print black enough.