



! Trouble Shooting & Evaluation of Digital Printing Substrates

With digital printing, it is very useful to keep a test roll for comparison of incoming goods or new inks. How the roll performs in all areas of the process can be used as a guide to trouble shoot different areas of the process and reviewing incoming lots of ink or new lots of fabric.

One of the important steps you can do is to set up an evaluation protocol using a standard print test file. This file should be designed to evaluate:

General Printing Properties. Printing Old Glory Red and Old Glory Blue on the substrate can demonstrate overall printing characteristics such as evenness and penetration.

Depth of Shade and Yield. Printing a black is a good way to do this.

Wicking Tendency. Printing an image with heavy colors touching each other and an unprinted area can show wicking.

Back-to-Face Penetration. Printing a medium brown shade/image is a good way to demonstrate face-to-back penetration.

Mark Sharpness. Print a test pattern in order to show/demonstrate sharpness of mark.

Set-up the above test files and do not change them unless absolutely necessary. If you do change the test file, note when the change was made and what the change was. The exact images and colors you print should be based on your experiences with your inks and machines. It may be different with different printers if you have more than one type. The important concept is to limit the number of variables when looking at new fabrics, finishes or inks. This will greatly help in trouble shooting problems and selection of new raw materials.

Every roll of CrystalPrint® fabric comes to you with a unique roll number. If you suspect a fabric related issue, it is important that you have that number available. It allows complete traceability all the way to yarn lots used to make that fabric.