



GUIDE TO DTF PRINTING

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WHAT IS DTF PRINTING?



Direct-To-Film (DTF) printing is revolutionising the world of textile decoration—and for good reason. This cutting-edge technology makes it easy to apply detailed, full-colour artwork onto a wide variety of fabrics, apparel, and more.

The process begins by printing your design onto a special film using water-based inks uniquely formulated for DTF. An adhesive powder is then added to bind the design to the fabric. With the application of heat and pressure, your artwork is transferred seamlessly—resulting in vibrant, long-lasting prints that truly stand out.

In this guide, we'll walk you through the many benefits of DTF printing, the tools and supplies you'll need to get started, and each step of the process. We'll also share creative ideas and application possibilities to spark your imagination and help you bring your next project to life.

ADVANTAGES OF DTF PRINTING

RESULTS THAT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Using the latest inkjet technology, DTF printing produces razor-sharp text, fine details and vibrant, punchy colours with a soft feel and natural looking finish. While the addition of White ink means you can transfer onto dark and coloured fabrics. The prints are highly durable with great washability meaning they will last the test of time.



UNMATCHED VERSATILITY

DTF printing is extremely versatile when it comes to the types of materials you can transfer to. From cotton and polyester, to denim, nylon, rayon, and more, the materials are as wide-ranging as the application possibilities.

LESS HASSLE, MORE CREATIVITY

Say goodbye to the time-consuming steps of other methods; no weeding, no excess material to peel away. That means you can go all out with detailed, intricate designs without the fuss. Unlike direct-to-garment printing, there's no need for pre-treating fabrics, and you can forget about making multiple screens like in traditional screen printing. The result? Faster turnaround times, less mess, and more time to focus on what really matters - creating awesome designs.

COST EFFECTIVE

Direct-To-Film printing is not only easy to use - it's also budget-friendly. You can print multiple designs on a single film sheet, reducing waste and maximizing materials. Plus, its versatility means you can use the same process across a wide range of fabrics, cutting down on the need for different equipment or supplies.

DTF allows you to print one-off designs or small batches with ease, making it perfect for personalised orders, limited runs, or testing out new ideas. Regardless of the application, DTF lets you customise without committing to large volumes—keeping your creativity high and your costs low.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

DTF PRINTER

First and foremost you need a printer designed for DTF. These can be desktop or benchtop devices, through to higher volume wide-format models. Find a model to suit your business now and into the future.



HEATER OVEN, SHAKER (OPTIONAL)

You can automate the powder application and curing process with a dedicated Powder Shaker and Heater unit. These minimise the manual processes and are particularly useful for higher volume production.



DTF FILM, INKS & POWDER

You will need transfer film, adhesive powder and water-based inks all specifically designed for DTF printing.



HEAT PRESS

To complete the process you need a Heat Press. Aside from being used to transfer the film to the fabric, a heat press is also used to melt the powder if being applied manually. Heat Presses are available in a range of sizes and shapes to suit your application.

EASY AS 1, 2, 3



After you have printed your image, simply follow these steps

STEP 1

Apply powder

Apply powder to the rear of the printed design. This can be done manually or can be automated using a shaker unit. You should be left with a visible layer of powder across the entire printed area.

STEP 2

Melt the powder

Melt the powder under a heat press, or in an oven unit. Note, if using a heat press it should not be fully closed during this step.



STEP 3

Heat press the transfer

Heat press your design to your fabric using the recommended settings. Remove the backing film after initial press, then press directly onto the design to improve durability.

WHAT WILL YOU CREATE?

CLOTHING

DTF is the perfect solution for producing custom clothing items with professional-quality finishes. Create everything from t-shirts, hoodies, activewear and workwear to more niche or fashion-forward pieces like jeans, puffer vests, coats and denim jackets. DTF makes it easy to turn just about any garment into a canvas for creativity.

DECOR

With DTF, turning your creative ideas into stylish, professional-looking home accents has never been easier. Whether you're personalising cushion covers, placemats and lampshades, or adding eye-catching designs and patterns to curtains, table runners and upholstery, DTF opens the door to endless DIY decor possibilities.

FOOTWEAR

DTF printing can provide a simple and lucrative way to customise footwear with logos, patterns, graphics and even personalised text and designs. Whether you're creating one-of-a-kind fashion pieces or small-batch branded footwear, DTF allows for high-impact, high-margin products with unique style.



WHAT WILL YOU CREATE?

BAGS

DTF is ideal for everything from custom branding and promotional products to stylish fashion accessories. Personalise tote bags, backpacks, bum bags, duffels, cosmetic pouches, or even laptop sleeves with punchy graphics or sleek corporate logos; DTF lets you do it all with little hassle and no minimum quantities.

ART

DTF is a great choice for creating custom wall art, offering a unique way to transfer vivid imagery onto fabric-based canvases or textile wall hangings and tapestries. Its vivid colour reproduction brings bold art prints to life, while the high-resolution gives a natural finish to family photographs and landscapes, making it a great option for home décor and art businesses, or giftshops.

ACCESSORIES

Launching a boutique fashion line? Or perhaps you need corporate branding for your team. DTF offers a low-barrier, high-impact way to bring fashion accessories to life. From scarves, ties, and handkerchiefs, though to caps, headbands, and beanies, DTF prints are flexible, durable and resistant to cracking, making it the perfect solution for items that move, stretch, or undergo frequent handling.



The Roland DG Difference

We offer a complete range of premium services to help our customers throughout the lifecycle of their experience with Roland DG.

We provide support, service and warranties designed to assist with the smooth operation of our customers' businesses, and to ensure that professional users and beginners alike can use Roland DG products with peace of mind for many years to come.



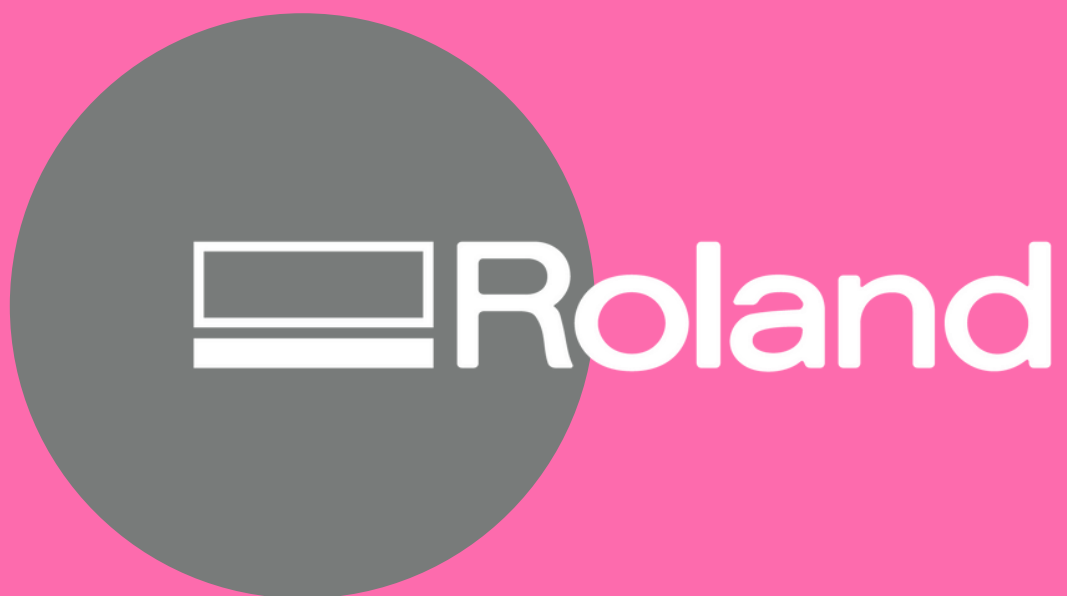
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