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Beyond the JPEG: Inkjet & Resin Transfers

Images can be transferred from one surface to another in a variety of ways—blender pens, acrylic mediums, and papers specifically designed for transfers, even packing tape. Another method uses a print on inkjet film and 2-part epoxy resin. The film peels away cleanly from the cured resin, leaving behind a crisp image with unrivaled clarity while the resin adds shine and depth.

AN INTRODUCTION

The development of digital printing over the last few decades has introduced many new materials and techniques to visual artists. Inkjet film, a clear polyester film specially coated to accept dye-based printer inks, is one such material. An inkjet print may be put into contact with freshly applied resin and, after the resin has cured, the film can be peeled off and the print will have lifted from the film, transferred to the resin's surface.



In the completed example pictured in Fig. 1, an inkjet / resin transfer has been applied over an inkjet print on Moab Entrada Rag Bright 190 Digital Fine Art Paper that was mounted to a Buzz Cradled Wood Panel. The panel provides a rigid support, perfect for materials such as resin.

The print is adhered to the panel using the method covered in the *Mounting a Digital Print onto a Cradled Panel* video (opusartsupplies.com/cradledmount)

INKJET & RESIN TRANSFERS

MATERIALS:

Cradled Wood Panel (or other rigid surface)
Grafix Inkjet Clear Film
Pebeo Gedeo Crystal Resin Kit
2 Disposable Cups
Palette Knife
Paint Brush
Gloves

Create your transfer image and print it onto the inkjet film. Prepare a rigid surface, such as a cradled wood panel, sanding it if needed and sealing it with 1–2 coats of acrylic medium. Apply the art materials of your choice as a first layer for your artwork. In the example shown in Fig. 1, a digital print on paper has been mounted to a cradled wood panel. Allow the prepared surface to fully dry.



Following the package directions and using the measuring cups included, measure 2 parts Resin A and 1 part Resin B. Pour parts A and B into a disposable cup and mix (Fig. 2). Pour this mixture into a second cup and mix again to ensure the two parts are well-blended. Blend thoroughly but gently as mixing vigorously will create unwanted air bubbles.



Fig. 3

Pour the mixture onto the prepared surface in a crisscross pattern and use a palette knife to gently spread the resin evenly over the entire surface. (Fig. 3).



Fig. 4

Position the inkjet print ink side down over the prepared panel. Starting from one side, slowly and gently roll the film across your panel to apply (Fig. 4). When the film is in place, use your fingers to remove any air pockets between the film and the resin by gently pushing them towards the edges of the piece. Allow the resin to cure for at least 24 hours, longer if you are working in a humid climate.

When the resin has cured, the film is ready to be removed. Start in one corner and gently begin to peel



Fig. 5

away the film (Fig. 5). Take your time, peeling from different angles, to ensure the ink transfers cleanly from the film to the resin.



Fig. 6

You may notice a pearlescent effect around the transfer. This is where the resin and ink have not fully bonded. Gently burnish the image with the top side of your fingernail to fully bond the ink to the resin (Fig. 6).

The transfer is now complete or you can add more layers of inkjet / resin transfers to build up the piece, adding depth and dimension. Protect your transfer with a final layer of resin or with a topcoat of Pebeo Gedeo Varnish. We recommend framing your piece for added protection and an enhanced display.



VIDEO

Watch and Learn! Check out the following Opus How-To Videos for more information on the techniques highlighted in this handout:

- *How-To: Resin Transfers*
opusartsupplies.com/resintransfers
- *How-To: Mounting a Digital Print to a Cradled Panel*
opusartsupplies.com/cradledmount

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