

Curing GTX Ink and Pretreat

OVERVIEW

Curing GTX Ink and Pretreat properly can not only increase the quality of the finished print, it can also mean the print will have better longevity. When ink or pretreat is under-cured or over-cured it can lead to the print degrading and when washed it hastens degradation as well. The real cause is the integrity of the bond the ink makes to pretreat when the pretreat is cured and then the ink cured thereafter as it has locked onto the pretreat.

In this overview, we will go over the steps you should take to cure the GTX pretreatment and ink on your garment to ensure you get a good result. We will discuss what pressures and methods to use with a press and a conveyor. We will also talk about a few special curing needs that you may come across for different items.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ☑ Why to use high cotton content for garment selection
- ☑ What types cottons are out there in the market
- ☑ How to print on items that are blends
- ☑ How to print on items that are thicker than t-shirts
- ☑ What you need to know about attempting to print on polyester garments
- ☑ Printing on various other common media
- ☑ How to print on garments in odd places
- ☑ How to test something you have never printed on before or seen printed on

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

[Setting up the Heat Press](#)

[Steps to Curing with the Heat Press](#)

STEPS TO CURING WITH THE HEAT PRESS:

In a separate document we discussed how to setup the heat press. We can now move on to how to cure the GTX pretreatment and Ink using a MAXX2G heat press as our example.

- How to cure the GTX Pretreatment.
- How to cure the GTX Ink after printing.
- How to cure the DTG Poly Pretreat.
- Proper times and temps.
- Under-curing the pretreat and ink.
- Over-curing the pretreat and ink.
- Over-curing the garment in general.

LIGHT VS. HEAVY PRESSURE:

When to use light and heavy pressure, is a matter of curing either pretreatment or ink. In this section we will discuss the differences and how to get the most out of the MAXX2G when curing both GTX liquids. The MAXX2G is a two-gearred press that allows you to quickly swap between heavy and light

pressure. There are additional tips you can utilize to get the most out of curing using heavy pressure on the pretreat and light pressure on the ink.

- The reason behind two different pressures.
- Why is heavy pressure needed for the pretreat?
- How do I set the MAXX2G for heavy?
- Setting the press for very heavy pressure.
- Why is light pressure needed?
- How do I set the MAXX2G for light?
- Setting the press for ultra-light.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SILICONE AND NON-STICK:

Curing without using silicone coated parchment paper using just the Non-Stick cover on the press should only be performed when you are curing CMYK ink or pretreatment. Even when curing pretreatment, you may wish to still utilize parchment paper to help in dealing with fibers and to minimize the need to periodically clean the cover. Curing with white ink will yield a high gloss finish when curing ink directly with the non-stick surface. We give examples in this section of the benefits of using silicone coated parchment paper when it is needed.

- What are differences between silicone and non-stick?
- When would I use Silicone coated parchment paper?
- Why would I use non-stick only?
- Where can I buy the recommended parchment paper?

STEPS TO CURING WITH CONVEYOR:

Curing with a conveyor dryer can lead to better temperature consistency and wash durability than that of a heat press. The conveyor feeds the garments through at a steady but slower pace however at the same temperature. The heat press ramps the temperature and is curing in part by contact versus the heated air provided by the conveyor. Curing with the conveyor can be problematic however if the conveyor is not probed with an appropriate device before use. An infrared heat gun is not a consistent way to check this. Instead a donut probe should be used to verify temperature.

- What are the settings that will be needed for the dryer?
- How can I tell if dryer is at the correct temperature?
- How to use a donut probe to determine even heat levels in the dryer.

SPECIAL CURING TIMES:

Whether curing by heat press or by conveyor there are special circumstances where you may need to utilize different cure times and temps for the appropriate situation. In this section we will give some general suggestions and scenarios that you may come across.

- Listing by scenario of time, temp, and device used

FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT INFORMATION:

[GTX Instruction Manual](#)

[GTX Support Videos](#)

[GTX Drivers/Firmware](#)