

# Understanding the GTX Pretreating Process

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## OVERVIEW

When it comes to using DTG equipment and using white ink, you must use a binding compound that reacts with the ink known as Pretreatment or pretreat. In this overview, we touch on how to use Brother GTX Pretreatment as well as go over what pretreatment is and how to get the most out of it. This includes how the pretreatment should be mixed and measured on a garment, how it can be applied, and how to cure it. Instructions for each item are included and will allow you to not only use pretreatment but also give advice on how to avoid common issues. To fully understand the pretreatment process, you will need to first understand the use of pretreat. This understanding will help you in producing high quality prints. We will also go over the DTG Pretreat and pretreating specialty items, such as caps and shoes, for those looking to get the most out of their garment printer.

## KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ☑ What is Pretreat and How to use it
- ☑ How to Cure Pretreat
- ☑ How to mix pretreat and distilled water
- ☑ How to verify adequate ink and pretreat per garment
- ☑ Troubleshooting common issues
- ☑ Pretreating a few common specialty items

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

[Highlight Mask Check Pattern Explained](#)

Highlight Mask Whiteness Video – Coming soon

[How to Use Pretreat Video](#)

## OVERVIEW OF WHY PRETREAT IS NEEDED:

In this section we cover why pretreat is needed for the use of DTG ink with the garment printer. We explain about the types and mixture ratios along with dispersion methods for the best coverage.

- What is Brother GTX4 Pretreatment?
- Why do we need it?
- Why do we need to mix it with distilled water?
- How to disperse pretreat on the garment.

## PROPER PRETREATING VOLUMES:

Here we will go over volumes and how determine if you have adequate coverage for the substrate that you are treating with the Brother GTX pretreatment. We will also go over how to use the Highlight Mask Check pattern to find the best volume coverage for the garment.

- How to use the gram scale.
- What measurement type should I use for weighing and taring the scale?
- How to try a spread of grams amounts for the garment style.
- How to use the Highlight Check Pattern.

### **DEALING WITH TIME/TEMPERATURE/PRESSURE:**

When dealing with time, temperature and pressure used to cure pretreat, there are a few different settings that are key to getting a good cure. There are also a few helpful pointers that can allow you to get the best result when curing a garment with the Brother GTX pretreatment.

- What is the cure time for the pretreat?
- What is the proper temperature for curing pretreat?
- What is the proper pressure for curing pretreat?
- Will these variables change?

### **BATCH PRETREATING:**

Also known as Batching; Batch pretreating is the process of treating stacks of shirts at a time. There are key things to know about what can happen when batching stacks of pretreated shirts.

- What is batching?
- How do you batch?
- What are the downsides to batching?

### **THE HIGHLIGHT MASK CHECK PATTERN:**

The Highlight Mask Check pattern is a file that acts as a tool to help not only tell you the proper ink volumes to use for a garment, it also acts as a guide for pretreatment volumes as well.

- What is the Highlight Mask Check Pattern?
- Where can you get the ARX files?
- How to utilize the file for ink volume.
- How to utilize the file for pretreat volume.
- Tips to use the file correctly.

### **MIXING RATIOS – WHY & WHEN:**

Here we will go over how to properly mix pretreatment using distilled water to dilute the concentrated pretreatment. We go over the two common mix ratios of Brother GTX Pretreatment.

- Why should I mix the pretreat with distilled water?
- How to mix pretreat at a 1:1 ratio.
- How to mix pretreat at a 2:1 ratio.

### **PT STAINING/HALOS:**

In this section, we will cover some common troubleshooting issues regarding staining and pretreat halos on the garment. We will go over the causes and how best to avoid the issues in the future while using the Brother GTX Pretreatment.

- What is staining?
- What causes staining?
- How it can be avoided?
- What is a pretreat halo?
- How to prevent a halo from occurring.

### **SCORCHING:**

Under this topic, we will go over garment scorching and its root causes. We will also cover how it can be avoided.

- What is garment scorching?
- What causes scorching?
- How to avoid scorching.

### **GARMENT INCONSISTENCY:**

One of the items that is often overlooked is the garment itself. The garment is important when troubleshooting a print based off what looks to be weak pretreat. Not all garments are created the same and this must be taken into consideration. We will touch on issues caused by the garments being inconsistent.

- What is garment inconsistency?
- What does it look like?
- How to know if it is the garment versus the process?

### **ISSUES WITH FIBERS:**

There are a few negative outputs and curing effects caused by issues with fibers. We will touch on several of the most commonly seen of them and discuss how fibers can be dealt with to achieve a higher-quality output.

- A closer look at the garment?
- Can garment types be a contributing factor?
- What types of issues can fibers cause?
- How to reduce negative impacts related to fibers.

### **HOW AND WHEN TO USE DTG PRETREAT:**

DTG Pretreat was developed for use when printing CMYK ink on light poly garments; however, it can also be utilized to give added vibrancy to CMYK only prints on cotton garments.

- What is DTG Pretreat?
- What all applications are there for the pretreat?
- How to use the DTG pretreat.
- How to use the pretreat with special application methods.

### **PRETREATING CAPS:**

The GTX printer can print on more than just garments, it can also be used to print on specialty apparel such as; structured and unstructured caps. We discuss what cap types you can use and how to go about pretreating those caps in this section.

- What is the difference between structured and unstructured caps?

- What is the technique to pretreat the cap?
- What types of caps can be used?
- What should I avoid when pretreating a cap?

### **PRETREATING SHOES:**

Shoes are a specialty item that can be printed on using the specialized shoe platen. The shoes will need to be prepped with pretreatment pending the type of print you are going to make. We will discuss how to prep the shoes with pretreatment and how to cure the shoes using special equipment.

- What will I need to do when pretreating for CMYK for shoes?
- What will I need to do when pretreating for CMYK and White?
- What additional items will I need?
- How to prep the shoe for pretreatment.

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### **FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

[GTX Support Videos](#)

[GTX Drivers/Firmware](#)