Instructions for Printing Trim Film

Laser Printers & Photo Copiers

Trim Film works best in Laser Printers and Color Photocopiers. However, many businesses that offer photocopying are reluctant to run decal paper through their copiers due to concerns about the film melting onto the copier's internal drum. This rarely happens, and is particularly rare with modern photocopiers. However, to insure that this does not happen, set the photocopier to the "transparency" setting, which lowers the temperature of the print drum in order to print onto plastic. This should enable the copier to print on *Trim Film* with no problems. Many photocopy shops can also print your artwork to a photocopier right from your computer disc, giving you exceptional results.

Ink Jet Printers

Trim Film does not, however, work well with ink jet computer printers. For simple printing (one color or a color made up primarily of one color with just a touch of a second color), a simple but effective trick is to overspray the *Trim Film* with a thin coating of Testors Dullcoat. This gives the ink something to soak into. We have successfully printed lines of .003" thickness with no problems using this method. Multiple colors may still blend together in an unwelcome manner – you may need to experiment to see if the results will be to your liking. Rather than print, for example, yellow letters on a green stripe, change your artwork so that you print the yellow lettering and the green stripe separately for better results (you may also want to leave the lettering in the stripe as a clear "punch-out" to minimize the darker green stripe color bleeding through the yellow lettering).

Be sure to overcoat your printed decal with Microscale's *Liquid Decal Film* (MI-12). This is especially important with ink-jet printers as the ink will now be locked between 2 layers of clear lacquer. An overcoat of Testors Dullcoat or Glosscoat will not work in this application as they will allow the water to contact the ink and will make it run.

Of course, most computer printers and photocopiers do not print white. This is why we offer white *Trim Film* (#02-1). You can print a thin black (or other color) outline around your white decal, and then carefully trim the decal so that you have the desired shape.

Another alternative is to use an ALPS computer printer. These printers work very well with *Trim Film*, and besides printing in color, can also print in white. Some models will also print in silver and gold.

We hope this answers your question about *Trim Film*. If not, please feel free to contact us with any other questions that you may have.

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