48 different Kinds of Inkjet Media

Certified to work in HP DesignJet Printers
(the HP list of complimentary media)

HP 5000 printing on premium media at PMA Trade Show.

Table of Contents

Introduction

This particular report extracted from the HP web site and edited with annotations as part of the **FLAAR REPORTS** on Digital Imaging Hardware, Software, Media, and Inks

Please note that this report covers media only for the Hewlett-Packard DesignJet 2000, 2500, 2800, 3000, 3500, 3800 cp series.

The newer HP DesignJet 5000 and 5000ps, especially with their UV inks, take completely different media. That ink is new and much of the media is so new that we don't have it all yet.

What this report offers is the product List: HP "Complimentary Media" (the media which is certified for use on your HP DesignJet 2000 and 3000 series printers).

The media you use can actually influence the quality (or lack of quality) of your prints as much as the printer itself. You can take the same image and if you select the appropriate media you can win an award (and certainly win clients). But the same image on the wrong media will look embarrassing.

It's tough for us at FLAAR to maintain lists of media for every printer (we are, however, working on such a list). In the meantime, here is the first installment.

Its even more difficult for us to answer specific individual questions on media (don't have enough employees, and being non-profit its hard enough to provide service on helping people figure out what printer and RIP to buy). So for media we do our best by at least providing these lists.

Here is a hopefully helpful inventory of what paper, media, textiles, even metal foil you can print on with a large format inkjet printer, especially with Hewlett-Packard large format DesignJet printers, the HP 2000, 2500, 2800 and the 54" equivalents, 3000, 3500, and 3800. I am presuming all this media works on the new 5000 as well.

Most of this media ought to work on a ColorSpan or Encad but you must check the media company and the printer company to be sure. Four of the Kodak printers are rebranded Encad. Most Oce and several Ilford printers are also Encad (sheet metal is different color, but otherwise identical).

HP 5000 printer at FLAAR UFM facilities

Some of this media will work with piezo-electric print-head machines (Epson, Mutoh, Mimaki, and Roland, plus the Mutoh rebranded printers such as Kodak, Agfa, etc).

The information below is available in a hot-linked format on HP's home page. It took about ten minutes to find this information (designJet/complimentary media program) so to save you the same frustration we figured it would be easier if we just summarize the information here. The advantage of getting it directly from HP's web site is that most entries are hot-linked to additional details about the paper. Good luck finding the key page. Even though we had read the page before, even though we knew where it was, we had to burrow down almost seven layers to reach it. We would provide a hot-link but the data does not appear on that page. You have to be in the HP site itself and do a search to trigger the appearance of the data itself.

Please note, the following list is all the media made by companies other than HP. HP itself makes vellum and a wide variety of photo papers that are surely listed on the HP web site, http://designjet.hp.com/media/

When you use the new HP 5000 and 5000ps, and especially when you use the new HP pigmented ink for those printers, that ink is specially formulated to work with specific kinds of HP media. This pigmented ink is new so the other media companies have not yet had time to prepare the necessary coatings nor to prepare ICC profiles. In short, the new inks provide the widest color gamut on the new HP papers. That said, the new inks of course produce a fully acceptable gamut on media from Rexam, TAL and other companies. But if you wish, or your clients need, that extra color gamut, then be sure to try HP's own media as well.

FLAAR began evaluating the color gamut of the new pigmented inks in mid-January. We will do additional evaluations when our own HP 5000ps arrives at our new facility.

The HP Complimentary Media List for media certified for the HP DesignJet 2000cp, 2500, 2800, 3000, 3500, and 3800cp series.
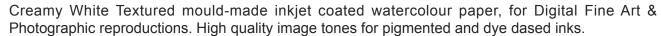
1 Albrecht Dürer Digital Fine Art - InkJet Watercolour Paper - Textured
SCHLEICHER & SCHUELL (S und S, a German company, is represented in USA via Hahnemuehle, Dia-Nielsen)
White Textured mould-made inkjet coated watercolour paper, for Digital Fine Art & Photographic reproductions. High quality image tones for pigmented and dye dased inks.

2. Allegretto Digital Fine Art - InkJet Watercolour Paper - Textured
Schleicher & Schuell
Creamy White Textured mould-made inkjet coated watercolour paper, for Digital Fine Art & Photographic reproductions. High quality image tones for pigmented and dye dased inks.

3. Back Print Film
Papeteries Canson et Montgolfier
Transparent polyester film with white coating on one side. Excellent rendering of colors.

4. Banner PaperJet Color
Papeteries Canson et Montgolfier
Banner PaperJet Color; Coated paper with textured surface. Special high-white coating. Superior color quality. Three textures are available for outstanding print quality:

5. Bugra Aquamarine Digital Fine Art - InkJet Watercolour Paper - Textured
Schleicher & Schuell
Textured (Aquamarine tinted) mould-made inkjet coated watercolour paper, for Digital Fine Art & Photographic reproductions. High quality image tones for pigmented and dye dased inks.

6. Bugra German Antique Digital Fine Art - InkJet Watercolour Paper - Textured
Schleicher & Schuell
Parchment Yellow Textured mould-made inkjet coated watercolour paper, for Digital Fine Art & Photographic reproductions. High quality image tones for pigmented and dye dased inks.

7. Bugra Mint Digital Fine Art - InkJet Watercolour Paper - Textured
Schleicher & Schuell
Mint Tinted Textured mould-made inkjet coated watercolour paper, for Digital Fine Art & Photographic reproductions. High quality image tones for pigmented and dye dased inks.

8. Bugra White Digital Fine Art - InkJet Watercolour Paper - Textured
Schleicher & Schuell
Traditional White Textured mould-made inkjet coated watercolour paper, for Digital Fine Art & Photographic reproductions. High quality image tones for pigmented and dye based inks.

9. Canvas PaperJet Color
Papeteries Canson et Montgolfier
Canvas PaperJet Color; Coated paper with textured surface. Special high-white coating. Superior color quality. Three textures are available for outstanding print quality. I do not know anything about this company, other than it appears to be French. As soon as we can get enough of their media to evaluate it, we will issue further reports.

10. Cotton
3P International
B1/M1 Cotton (IQIJ215) 100% cotton woven, surface: matte, printable with dye-based and pigmented ink, vivid colors, flame retardant, not for fixing, paper-backed, 190 g/m2 (weight without paper release liner)

11. Cotton Ultralight
3P International
Cotton Ultralight (IQ-IJ270) 100% pure cotton woven, surface: matte, printable with dye-based and pigmented ink, shining and transparency, fixable with steam, paper-backed, 90 g/m2

12. Duratex WeatherWeave
Sentinel

13. EXOCET (K-90 Series, Waterproof Cloth)
Komatsu Seiren

14. EXOCET (KH-33 Series, Fire Retardant Cloth)
Komatsu Seiren

15. Folajet Canvas
Folex Imaging
Folajet Canvas, main media application is for large format art reproductions

16. Folajet Clear Adhesive
Folex Imaging
Clear self-adhesive polyester film, with film backing

17. Folajet Silver
Folex Imaging
Metallized, mirror effect inkjet film (glossy silver) for decoration purposes

18. Folajet White Opaque Adhesive
Folex Imaging
White opaque polyester film, with film backingGraphix
Metallic Gold
Sentinel

22. Graphix Silk
Sentinel

23. IJC-YPG (Waterproof Synthetic paper, YUPO)
OJI Paper Co. Ltd.
This product feels like a paper. But this is actually film. You can print on this product both pigment and dye inks. You can have the excellent images using this and HP CP.

24. Inkjet Paper Outdoor
Sihl
Inkjet Paper IJP 140 Outdoor - 3820 Water resistant inkjet paper, white, opaque 140 g/m2

25. Inkjet Paper Self Adhesive
Sihl
Inkjet Paper IJP 180 Special SA - 3821 Adhesive-backed inkjet paper, opaque, 180 g/m2

26. J80 Adhesive Film Clear
MPA Multitec Polygraph plc.
Clear adhesive film

27. Jetprint Aquaskin Paper Affiche
MDV Papier GmbH.

28. Jetprint Fluorescent Copy Paper
MDV Papier GmbH.

29. Jetprint Standard Yellow Paper
MDV Papier GmbH.

30. Leather PaperJet Color
Papeteries Canson et Montgolfier
Leather PaperJet; Coated paper with textured surface. Special high-white coating. Superior color quality. Three textures for outstanding print quality:

31. Net Cotton
3P International
B1/M1 NetCotton (IQ-IJ216) 100% cotton woven, surface: like a net, matte, printable with dye-based and pigmented ink, brilliant colors, flame retardant, not for fixing, paper-backed, 80 g/m2

32. Opaque white self-adhesive paper
Avery Dennison
Opacity 100%. Indoor use only. Complies with European Toy Regulations EN 71-3, U.S. CONEG, Bg VV-XIV and U.S. FHSA. The reverse side of the Mattcover Paper is treated with light-opaque primer.

33. Polyester
3P International
B1 Polyester heavy (IQ-IJ290) 50% polyester, surface: matte, printable with dye-based and pigmented ink, high color transparency (reverse) using pigmented ink, flame retardant, not for fixing, not paper-backed, 130 g/m2

34. Print Manager Plus
Software Shelf International, Inc.
Print Manager Plus runs as a service on an NT or 2000 print server. Supports printing from all HP Printer types. Tracks, accounts for, quotas number of pages each user or group can print. Shows all printers, queues and jobs on one console. I have no idea how this got into the list of media, but this is what we found on the HP web site.

35. Print Queue Manager
Software Shelf International, Inc.
Print Queue Manager gives central control of every printer (one to thousands) from one console including disaster recovery, redirection of jobs, queue control, user control, broadcast print, load balance. Supports all HP printers and all platforms

36. Opaque White Water Resistant
Avery Dennison
Opacity 100%. Indoor use only. Complies with European Toy Regulations EN 71-3, U.S. CONEG, Bg VV-XIV and U.S. FHSA. The reverse side of the Mattcover Paper is treated with light-opaque primer.

37. Silk
3P International
Silk (IQ-IJ260) 100% silk woven, surface: satin gloss, printable with dye-based and pigmented ink, most brilliant colors, lustre and transparency, fixable with steam, paper-backed, 60 g/m2

38. Software Shelf Print Console
Software Shelf International, Inc.
Software Shelf Print Console shows status of every printer on the network on one central screen, pages you if printer goes down, allows control of queues from central console.

39. TAL IJ Clear Self-Adhesive Film
TAL Papers & Films
Clear, self-adhesive polyester film. Has high-tack adhesive for strong application to a variety of non-porous surfaces. TAL is a European company but has offices in the USA as well. We will be using TAL and other media in our continued evaluations of HP pigmented inks.

40. TAL IJ Photo Gloss Self-Adhesive
TAL Papers & Films
Re-Positionable Self- Adhesive Photo Paper with a high glossy finish.

41. TAL-IJ Photo Matt Paper Self Adhesive
TAL Papers & Films
Repositionable Self-Adhesive Photo Paper with a Matte (Satin) finish.

42. TAL-IJ Water Proof Paper
TAL Papers & Films
TAL-IJ Water Proof Paper can be completely immersed in water. Will not warp or run.

43. Transfer Inkjet Transfer
TAL Papers & Films
Transfer paper which allows the user to print full color, short run images onto a wide variety of fabrics.

44. Translight
Precision Coatings, Inc.
Micro perforated one-way see-through film for promotional signage on glass

45. Triangle Document Management System (TDMS)
Triangle Computer Corporation
Electronic Document Imaging or Management Application

46. Viscott
3P International
B1 Viscott (IQ-IJ218) 50% cotton, 50% viscose woven, surface: gloss, printable with dye-based and pigmented ink, vivid colors, flame retardant, not for fixing, paper-backed, 170 g/m2

47. WPM32 - Windows Plotfile Manager 32
Torro-Softworks
Windows Plotfile Manager is a viewer for HP-GL/2, DXF, CGM, CGM+ and Calcomp907 files.

48. Woodgrain PaperJet Color
Papeteries Canson et Montgolfier
Woodgrain PaperJet Color; Coated paper with textured surface. Special high-white coating. Superior color quality. Three are available textures for outstanding print quality.

The above list ought to keep you busy. Now you see why we prefer the HP DesignJet printers. You can run practically anything through these printers. The following annotations are by FLAAR and are not contained in the above list on the HP web site.

The contact for TAL media and films in Berkeley, California is Paige Roberts, tel (510) 848-2494, fax (510) 848-2499 e-mail paige@tal-paper.com.

Contact for 3P fabrics is ThomasPoetz@3P-Inktextiles.com. He knows large format inkjet textiles and textile printing inside out. Thus he will also know what printers work well with his textiles. All the textiles from 3P are certified for use with the HP DesignJet printers. These fabrics include rayon, polyester, cotton, and silk. Some of the heavy 3P cottons remind me of a canvas-like material.

The HP 2000, 2500, 2800 and 54" printers the HP DesignJet 3000, 3500, and 3800 have UV pigmented inks that withstand sunlight. The newer HP 5000 and 5000ps of course also have UV pigmented inks.

If at first you get no response from 3P by e-mail, just try their fax in the USA, (203) 245-9009.

The HP 1050 and 1055 will even print nicely on ordinary Kraft paper as well as newsprint, raw uncoated newsprint, the world's most economical paper. Use SeeColor or Colorbus RIP to handle printing on this kind of cheap paper.

By the way, most exotic media will not work in an Epson piezo printhead printer. The paucity of media is one of the weak points in that printer system. Naturally their ads claim they work with lots of media. That is because their ads claim everything as a major feature precisely those aspects that the printer is incapable of doing. Most newcomers to large format printers can't tell the difference. They say "wow, this printer can do everything I want it to do."

If you have a printer other than an HP, we have other reports that cover generic media that work in other printer brands. You need to specify what printer you have and what you intend to print (for indoor, outdoor, etc). If you don't yet have a printer at all, just let us know what different brands you are considering purchasing, and what you intend to print.

We find this out every week when dissatisfied buyers come back to ask us how to solve their problems. Yes, every printer has some problems, but there is only one brand whose ads systematically bamboozle you with slick exaggerations and shameless hype.

If you have success stories with a particular media and a printer, please let us know. We can't always answer, but every e-mail with such information is diligently read and added to our in-house reference files. Of course we also like to hear about failures, such as "cheap and tacky" outdoor media from one major company that failed and cost a repro shop a major client (this cheap media turned out to be precisely that; also, it was not rainproof). Unfortunately this media is advertised in leading trade magazines.

Other reports, in PDF format :

The following reports are being made available in instant PDF format at www.wide-format-printers.NET

List of all Major Manufacturers and Resellers of Media for Signs, CAD-GIS, Photos, and Fine Art Giclee Printing with Inkjet Printers

FLAAR List of All Known Large Format Printer Manufacturers, Makes, and Models

All the Kinds of Profitable Things you can Print with a Large Format Inkjet. Whether you have a commercial sign shop, print shop, repro shop, in-house graphics department, photo studio, artist studio, or even for home use as a hobby, this FLAAR report is an informative list of all the things you can print for fun and profit.

Comprehensive inventory of RIPs: alphabetical list of all hardware PostScript RIP plus all software PostScript RIP.

Scanners: what flatbed scanners and large format digital cameras are best for digitizing your paintings or artwork so you can print them yourself. Comparison between drum scanners vs flatbed scanners. If your budget covers only a megapixel point-and-shoot camera, this report is not appropriate. If you want a cheap scanner for home use; sorry this report is not intended for those uses. Instead this FLAAR report explains why you need a really good scanner if you intend to enlarge your digital images to large format size (24" and wider; we show what equipment you need to prepare images for up to 72" wide on a ColorSpan).

Used large format printers (in most cases it's not a good investment, but there are a few used printers that still have a long life ahead of them). So it helps to know which models are good and which to avoid. Currently you can obtain HP DesignJet 2000, 2500, 2800, 3000, 3500, and 3800 at super low prices on demo models yet still get full HP factory warranty. Thus you can get a 36" or even 54" professional printer at close to the price of a lesser 24" printer such as Epson 7000 or 7500.

Topics FLAAR does not cover. Please do yourself a favor, and be kind to all of us who work at answering your questions, namely read this report if you are unsure whether FLAAR can help you. As the number of requests rises we can only answer the questions that pertain to our sphere of influence. This means we are unable to answer countless other questions. So before you get your hopes up, please download this list and save both of us lost time and energy. There are about 10 areas of printing that we absolutely do not cover whatsoever. Nor are we able to suggest who can cover these topics. So please check out this "list of all the topics that FLAAR is unable to assist you on…."

Reports themselves and this list prepared by Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR, sent to you by the staff of the Digital Imaging Technology Center, Francisco Marroquin University.

Advisory

We are quite content with the specific printers and media we have in the two FLAAR facilities at the two universities. We would obviously never ask for a printer or media that we knew in advance would not be good. But we can't guarantee or certify any make or model of printer or class of media because we don't know the conditions under which a printer might be utilized in someone else's facility. We have no way to know whether your inks are fresh, past their date, or whether dust, heat and humidity are causing adverse affects on your printheads.

The age of your equipment; the experience level of your workers (whether they are new or have prior years experience): these are all factors that will differ in your place of business as compared with our two universities.

Actually you may have people with even more experience than we do, since we deliberately use students to approximate newbies. FLAAR is devoted to assisting newcomers learn about digital imaging hardware and software. This is why Nicholas Hellmuth is considered the "Johnny Appleseed" of wide format inkjet printers.

Just remember that every printer and even media has quirks, even the ones we like. However it may be that the specific kind of printing you need to do may never occasion that shortcoming. Or, it may be that your media was manufactured on a Monday and has defects that are atypical, show up more in the kind of media you use which we may not use as often during our evaluations. Equally possibly a media that was a disaster for someone else may work flawlessly for you and be a real money maker for your company.

Thus be sure to test a media under your own specific work conditions before you buy. If you have an important rush job due Friday, don't presume that a previously untried media will necessarily work. Test print quality, drying time, color shift during and after drying, water resistance, lightfastness yourself first. Check with other people in your area, or in the same kind of print business that you do. Don't rely on references from the reseller or manufacturer (you will get their pet locations which may be unrealistically gushy): find someone on your own.

Although we have found several kinds of inkjet media with specific makes and models to work very well in our facilities, how well they work in your facilities may also depend on your local dealer. Some dealers are excellent; others just sell you a box and can't provide much service after the sale. If you pay low-bid price, you can't realistically expect special maintenance services later on. Indeed some low-bid internet sales sources may have no technical backup whatsoever.

And don't forget color management. If you take one single image, and print it on ten different kinds of media, you will get ten different color gamuts. So you might wish to invest in the FLAAR Reports on color management, on Software for Digital Imaging, and on RIP software (the software that controls everything on your wide format inkjet printer). These information resources are available as part of FLAAR courses.

FLAAR
Digital Imaging Resource Center

Click to view each FLAAR Network site

www.wide-format-printers.org	www.FineArtGicleePrinters.org	www.large-format-printers.org
www.digital-photography.org	www.flatbed-scanner-review.org	www.laser-printer-reviews.org
www.FLAAR.org	www.ctpid.ufm.edu.gt	www.wide-format-printers.net

Acquire these reports at:

www.wide-format-printers.net

Media Series

RIP Series

Fine Art Glicee Printer Series