



SolarFast™ How to Print a Good Negative

SolarFast™ dyes are used to create photograms, continuous tone photographs, shadow prints, and ombrès on fabric and paper.* It is important to spend some time in the beginning of the process to get the best possible negative of your image.

**When making photographic prints from a film negative, it is important to remember that the print will only be as good as the negative it is made from.*

HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

- **To create permanent photographic prints on paper or fabric, use a film negative.** Negatives may be printed on transparent film though a Xerox machine, laser printer or inkjet printer. For inkjet printing, we recommend using SolarFast™ Film, which is moisture resistant and specially coated for optimum density. Traditional film negatives will also work well, as long as they are adequately dense.

When using SolarFast™ Film, only print on the print side. The print side will feel slightly sticky to the touch.

- **Layer two negatives for extra contrast or if your printer outputs less ink. Carefully register the two films and use tape or glass to keep them in place.**

Place the negative waterproof side down (or print side up) on your coated fabric or paper. Use a piece of glass or acrylic to hold the negative in place and keep it flush with the substrate. NOTE: Pure acrylic sheeting allows UV light to pass through and can be used to expose prints just like glass, but many types of acrylic, like Plexiglass, have UV blockers that can prevent or reduce exposure. You may also pin or tape down your negative, but the negative **MUST BE FLUSH** with the substrate for a good print. If it is not, you may lose detail in the resulting print.

CRITERIA OF A GOOD NEGATIVE

- **Darkest area should be completely opaque.** Areas that you want to be white on your print need to be completely opaque on your negative.

Hold your negative up to a light source (like a light bulb) to test opacity. If light comes through the opaque areas, then those area are not dark enough. (see "For Best Results" below.) If light doesn't come through the opaque areas, then the negative is fine. It will produce truly white highlights on the print.

- **Image should be crisp.** Remember, your print will only be as good as your negative. Sharp images will produce sharp prints.



FOR BEST RESULTS

- Double up your negative for better density or contrast if your inkjet printer puts out less ink. Make sure they are registered exactly for best results.
- Adjusting your printer settings may help. You might also try running the same piece of film through your printer more than once for a denser negative.
- Use SolarFast Film. It is moisture resistant, the perfect thickness and is specially coated to make the best negatives.

