

## Transfer Text to Fabric

A variety of products on the market make it easy to transfer text, photos and graphics from your computer to fabric. I have had good luck with an iron-on transfer paper called **Print 'n Press™** available at craft and office supply stores, or locate a retailer at [www.junetailer.com](http://www.junetailer.com).

These transfer papers are designed for use with specific types of printers. Make sure you purchase paper that's compatible with your printer. Paper designed for use with an inkjet printer will not work properly if used with a laser printer, and vice versa.

**Text Transfers:** If you intend to work with text, your printer must have the capability of reversing the image. Experiment with plain paper first and look for a setting under printer "options" or "properties" that allows you to do this. On my color inkjet printer the setting is called "T-shirt transparency," but your printer may use a different command such as "reverse" or "mirror." If your printer does not have a setting like this, you will be unable to transfer text to fabric as it will appear backwards after you iron it onto the fabric.

### Other Tips & Tricks:

- Experiment with plain paper. The iron-on transfer paper is costly, so work with plain paper until you are satisfied with the image, layout and the color. Remember, the color you see on your computer monitor may not always print as expected.
- Follow the paper package directions for ironing the transfer to your fabric. Yes, it's pretty straight forward, but double-checking the instructions will save you time and frustration if, for instance, you forget to disable the steam setting on your iron, or you're like me and try to peel off the paper too soon and cringe as you see your image peeling off along with the paper.
- If you plan to transfer text or an image to dark fabric, look for paper specifically made for that purpose.
- Protect your ironing board cover and your iron by pressing over silicone sheets or pressing cloths.
- Check laundering instructions carefully if your finished item will be exposed to soap and water. The colorfastness of your image or text will depend on the ink used by your printer. Most inks will withstand some washing, but fading will occur over time and with use. If you want your text to remain permanent, I recommend stitching over the text with thread or embroidery floss.

### Permission to Play

Once you've transferred your image or text to fabric, you'll surely begin to see many ways to manipulate, embellish and create unique projects. Images can be cut-out, layered with other fabrics or paper, sewn by hand or machine, beaded, painted – whatever your heart desires. Experiment with photos by changing color to black and white imagery, or to sepia tones for an antique look. Think beyond purses, bags, pillows, T-shirts. Last year at Christmas, I made gift tags from photographs with this iron-on transfer to fabric process. Instead of looking for their names on packages, everyone enjoyed looking for their picture attached with a bit of ribbon.