

# ChromaBlast® Transfer Process

## Introduction

ChromaBlast is a transfer technology that uses a matching system of special inks, a printer and ChromaBlast software to produce ChromaBlast transfer images that may be applied to white or light colored 100% cotton garments or fabrics. This technology is similar to sublimation, in that it also uses heat and pressure to transfer the image onto the fabric, except that sublimation works only on polyester or polyester-coated materials, whereas ChromaBlast is designed exclusively for cotton apparel. ChromaBlast enables you to transfer detailed photographic images onto cotton products, reproducing all of the vibrant colors and image details. Furthermore, you can produce single quantities at a very low cost—no economies of scale are required.

## How ChromaBlast Transfers Work

ChromaBlast systems use ChromaBlast ink to print a reversed image on quality ChromaBlast media. For convenience, the ChromaBlast software has a very simple feature (Mirror Image) that enables you to reverse the image within the driver. The image is then transferred onto a cotton garment by means of heat and pressure. Because ChromaBlast ink is translucent, the full range of colors will only be visible on a white or very light-colored background. Therefore, black and most dark-colored fabrics are not suitable for ChromaBlast applications.

You place the fabric or garment you want to decorate on a heat press, and then place the printed ChromaBlast media, with its reverse-printed image, on top of the fabric (printed side against the fabric), and apply the correct amount of heat and pressure for a specified time. Once the ChromaBlast ink reaches a certain temperature, it is forced from the ChromaBlast media into the surface of the fabric. When the process is completed, you simply remove the item from the press, and remove the ChromaBlast media from the garment, leaving the permanently imprinted image in the fabric.

## The Complete System

Screen-printing, the long-established method of printing images onto fabrics and other surfaces, is a time-consuming and labor-intensive process that requires the printing of large quantities of the same item to be cost-effective. By contrast, ChromaBlast is custom decorating at its best - it is perfectly suitable for short-runs, enabling you to decorate almost anything, even in single quantities, quickly and inexpensively.

*A complete, ready-to-use ChromaBlast system consists of the following components:*

- 1.) Computer which meets the minimum stated system requirements as set by Sawgrass
- 2.) Graphics application, such as Adobe Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Illustrator, CorelDraw or similar
- 3.) Printers designated by Sawgrass as compatible with ChromaBlast or ChromaBlast-R inks
- 4.) ChromaBlast or ChromaBlast-R ink
- 5.) ChromaBlast media
- 6.) Heat press
- 7.) White or very light-colored cotton apparel or fabrics

## ChromaBlast and ChromaBlast-R Transfer Process (cont'd 2:2)

### ChromaBlast Transfers: Step-By-Step

Once your ChromaBlast System is set up and in place, printing and transferring an image onto a white or light colored 100% cotton garment is a breeze. Just follow these simple steps, and you are on your way to creating one-of-a kind, beautiful and profitable products.

- 1.) Import an image (it could be a photograph from a digital camera) into your graphics application and manipulate it to suit your desired result. Manipulation may include sizing the graphic, setting the proper page margins and borders for printing or applying color correction if required.
- 2.) Load ChromaBlast paper into your printer. The printable side is opposite the ChromaBlast logo.
- 3.) Click Print in your application and select the ChromaBlast driver as the printing device. Ensure that the Mirror option is selected, unless you have already reversed the image in your graphics application.
- 4.) Adjust your heat press settings. See chart below for **suggested** settings.
- 5.) Place the garment on the heat press and place the ChromaBlast paper, with the image facing down, over the garment. Close the heat press.
- 6.) After the allotted time, release the press and move the heat platen aside. While still hot, and with an even motion, peel the ChromaBlast paper off the garment (hot peel), and stretch the image area from top to bottom and side to side to reduce the hand on the fabric.

ChromaBlast / ChromaBlast-R (Suggested Press Parameters)		
	U.S.	Europe
Temperature	375°F - 400° F	190°C - 204°C
Pressure	60 psi (High)	4.22 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ; 4.14 bar
Time	40 sec – 25 sec	40 sec – 25 sec

**IMPORTANT:** Due to variations in garments and heat presses, these settings may vary. For best results, test different **time/temperature** combinations to find one that works best with your **garment/heat press** combination. Please note, higher **temperatures** generally require less **time** to prevent scorching. An insufficient **time/temperature** combination may hinder ChromaBlast from completely curing to the cotton fibers, thus resulting in wash out.



### TIPS

- **Calibrating the heat press is recommended to ensure an accurate temperature. For this procedure, temperature test strips are more accurate than the use of infrared temperature guns.**
- **In an effort to reduce hand, the transfer should be peeled from the garment immediately after pressing (hot peel).**
- **If immediately after pressing, the paper is not easily peeled from the garment and resists removal because the transfer is somewhat tacky, increase the amount of cure time.**
- **If immediately after pressing, the transferred image has a slick or shiny appearance, increase the amount of pressure used.**