

Sawgrass SG1000 Sublimation Printer



Introduction:

Sublimation is the process of infusing a specialized ink into a material. These materials need to be either a fabric made of at least 65% polyester, or an item that has been treated and is sublimation ready. The ink is permanently fused into the material leaving a long lasting design.

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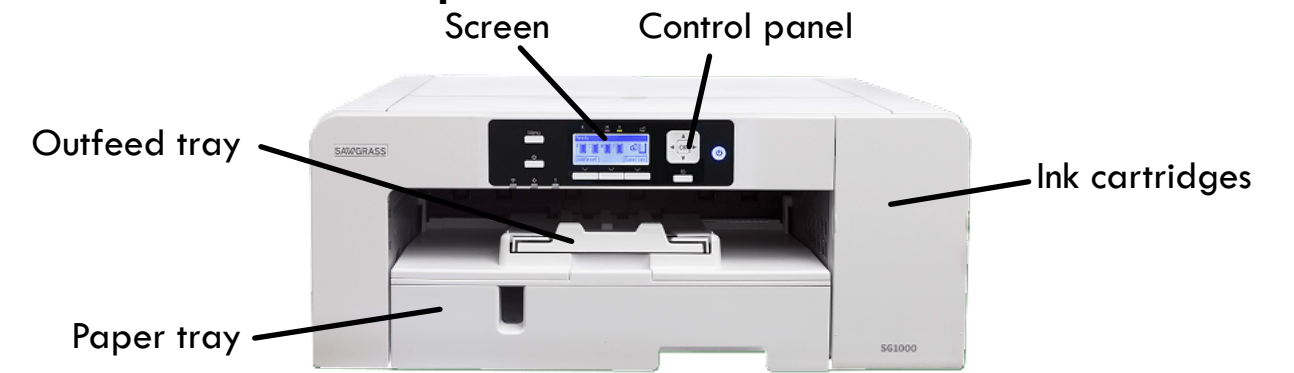
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General Information

Parts of the sublimation printer



Loading paper

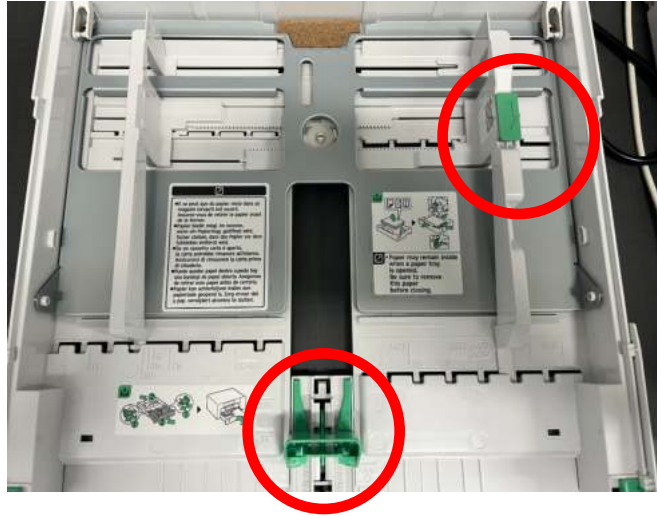
1. Push the outfeed tray and the tray cover inward fully.



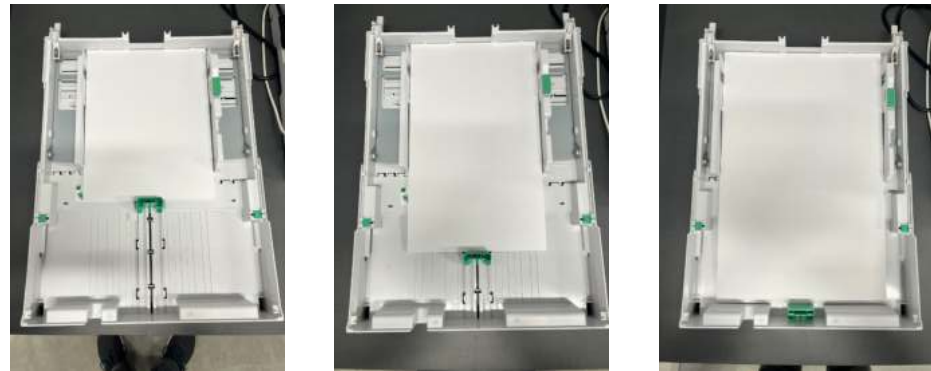
2. Pull out the tray on the bottom front of the machine. Lift upwards as it reaches the end of the track to remove it.



- There are two green tabs you'll use to secure the paper in the tray. The one on the right adjusts for the width of the paper and the one at the bottom adjusts for the length.



- Insert a small stack of paper into the tray and align the green tabs to be snug against the side of the tray. Even if printing one sheet, add a stack of pages as a single page in the tray can jam in the printer. The paper should be placed with the white side down. Be careful as many papers have only a minor difference between the color of the sides and it can be hard to tell which side is white or not.



- Note, when taking paper out of the tray, keep the orientation the same as you put it into the cabinet. Likewise when pulling paper out of the cabinet, take it and place it directly into the machine. We try to keep the paper with the correct side facing down for printing.
- Insert the tray back into the front of the printer until it stops. Extend the tray cover and outfeed tray fully.

Setting up your design

There are three ways to create your design for sublimation. The first is to print your file directly from PrintMate. This works if you have a PDF or JPG that is already sized and ready to go.

The second is to use an image frame tool in a layout program like Affinity Publisher. This will let you determine the size of the frame based on the size of your object, then automatically crop and size it down to fit inside this area. This is great if you have an image you want to use, but it's not sized and ready to go for the object you want to use.

The last method is to use MySawgrass, the company's own web based software. This is a pretty good piece of software for beginning designers who need to create their design from the ground up, but may not be best if you just need to size your premade design. You will need to create your own account to use MySawgrass.

Printing directly from PrintMate

If you have an image ready to print, you can do so directly from PrintMate.

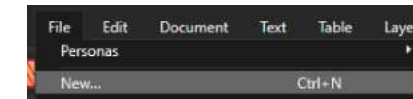
Using image frames

Affinity Publisher is one program that offers a useful tool for getting your designs sized and cropped properly for the material you're using. This tool is called an image frame. They are a shape that is established as a particular size that automatically crops your image within the overall shape. This section will describe how to use them.

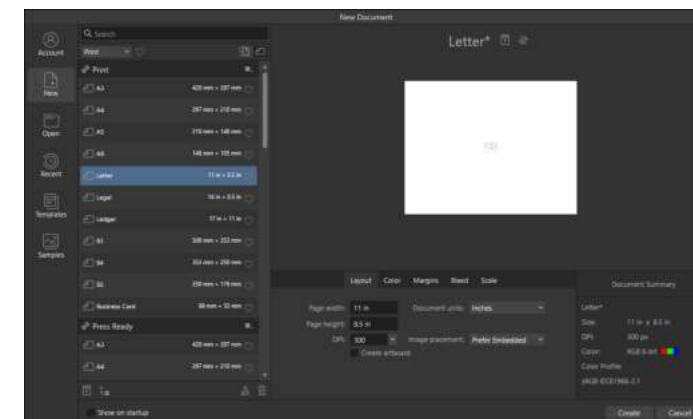
- Measure the size of your object. For instance, a mousepad is 9 5/16" x 7 3/4" in size.
- Open Affinity Publisher 2 from the Start menu.



- Create a new page using File > New.



- Select the page size that is the next size up from your object, in this case we'll use a Letter 8.5" x 11". Click Create in the bottom right corner.

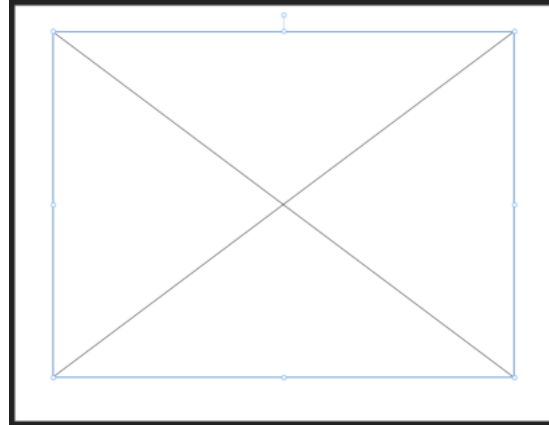


5. Using the image frame tool on the left sidebar.

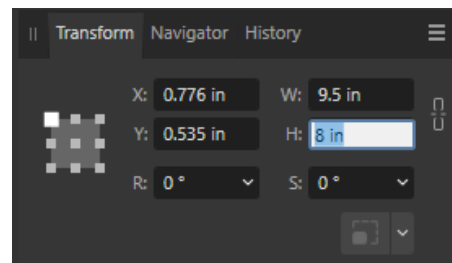


a. Note we're using a rectangular frame in this step because that is the shape of our object. But if you had a round coaster for example, you could use the ellipse version instead.

6. Create the box on the page by clicking and dragging. The exact size does not matter yet.



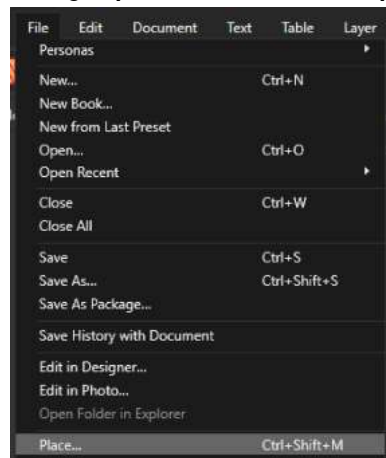
7. In the Transform tool in the bottom right of the screen, adjust the W and H to match the size of your object. Round up both of them slightly. In this instance we'll make the box 9 1/2" x 8". This gives us a little extra room to work with when aligning the finished print to our mousepad.



8. Use the Move tool on the toolbar to select the item. If it needs moved onto the page you can do that by clicking and dragging it to fit.



9. Go to File > Place. Select the image you wish to make your design and choose OK.



10. Your image should now automatically fill the image frame. If it does not, hover over the box and click on it to place your image inside.



11. From here you have a few options to adjust the image placement.

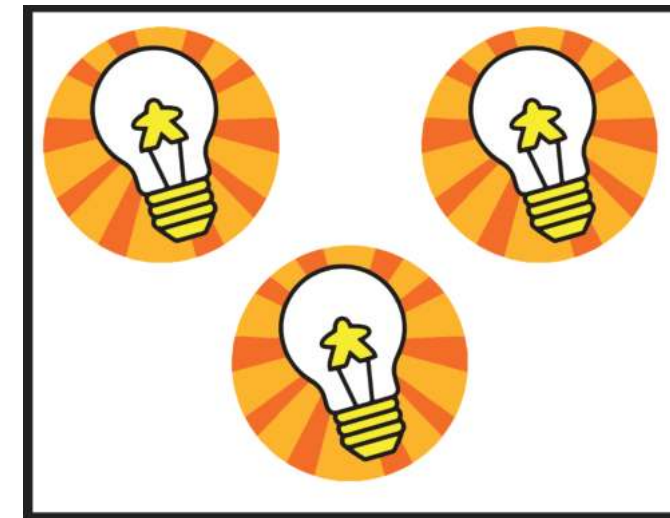
a. The slider under the image is your zoom. Click and drag on the white dot to zoom in or out on the image.



b. The circle with the arrows in the center of the image allows you to move the image around within the image frame. The curved arrow at the end of the line lets you rotate the image inside the image frame itself without adjusting the layout of the image frame on the page.

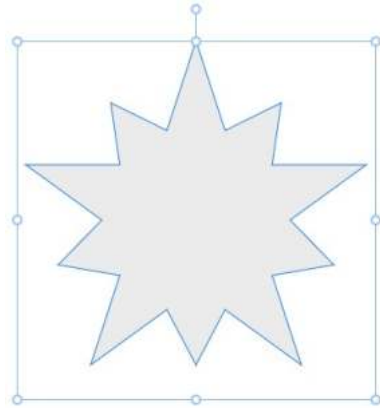


12. If you were making a smaller item, like a coaster that doesn't use the whole page, you could repeat these steps with additional frames on the same page. We charge by the sheet, so whatever you can fit onto the sheet is included in that cost. Utilize as much of the page as you can.

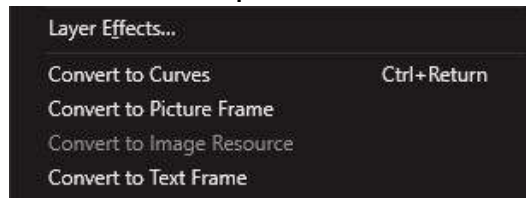


13. Once your image is positioned where you like, we can move forward with printing. See "Printing your design" for these next steps.

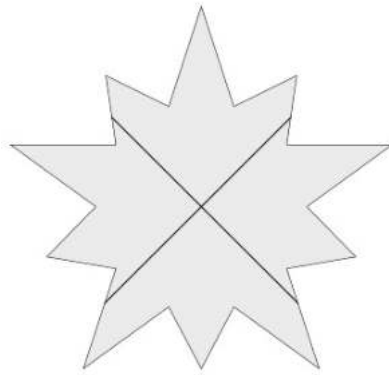
14. Note, you are not limited to rectangles and circles. Any shape can be used to create an image frame. Here we have a double star shape created inside Publisher from the shape tool.



15. Right click on this shape, and select the option “Convert to Picture Frame.”



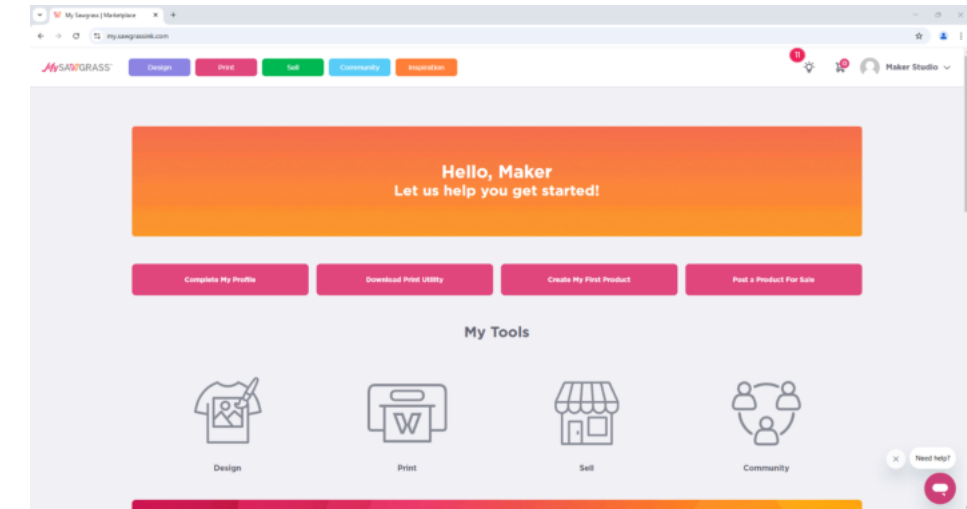
16. The shape will now have the signature X through the middle of it, indicating it is ready for an image to be placed inside.



Using MySawgrass

MySawgrass is a good piece of software that works best if you don't have an established design ready to go, or if you don't have much experience with design software in general. It works to plug and play some design elements together to create your completed design, but some elements require payment, and the software works exclusively with the sublimation printer.

1. In a web browser of your choice, go to my.sawgrassink.com.



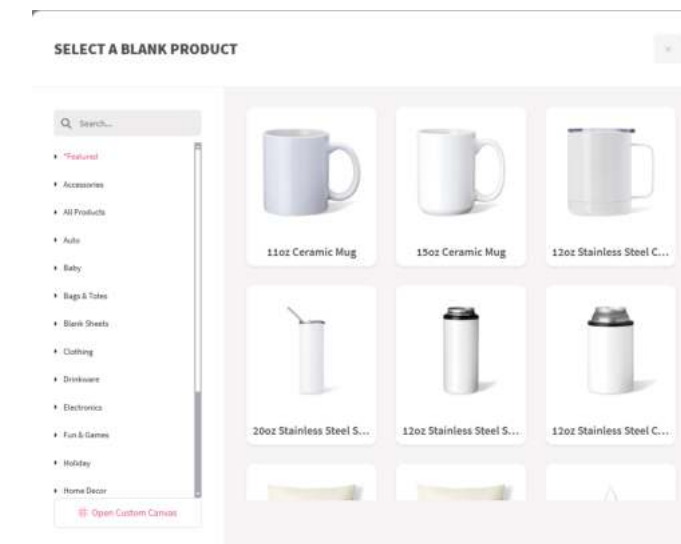
2. Here you'll create an account for the site, or sign in with your already created account information.



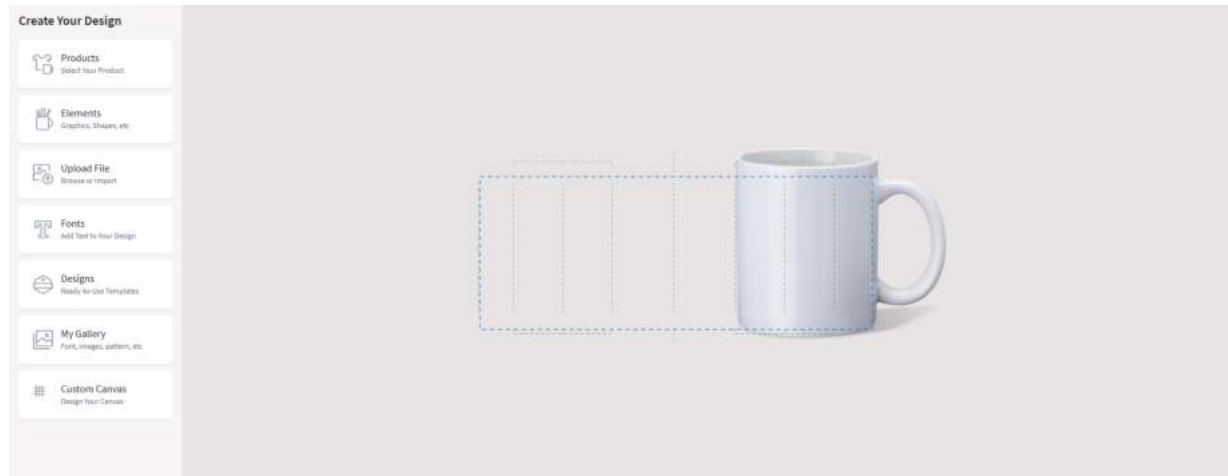
3. Click the Design button in the top left of the screen.



4. You'll be taken to the screen that lets you choose the object you'll put your design onto. There are many to choose from so try and find the most accurate representation of your object.

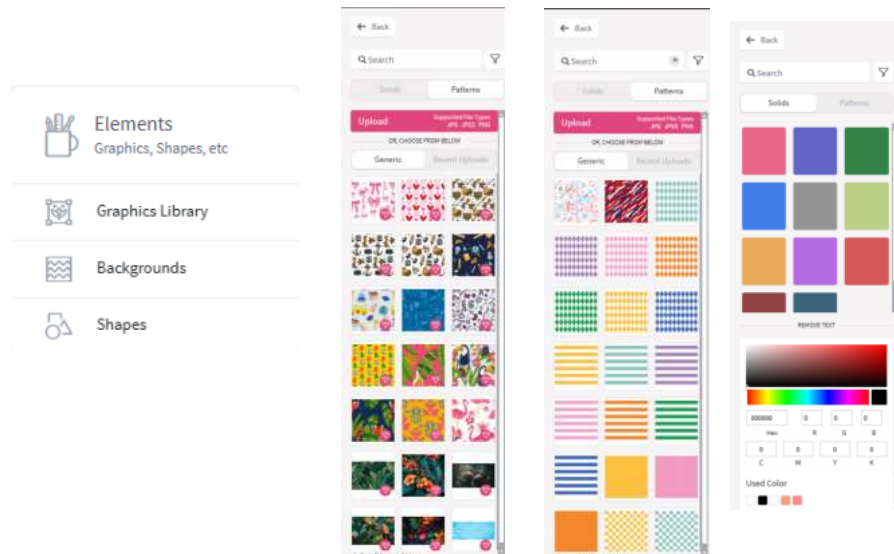


5. You're then taken to the design page. This will give you your canvas area to work with. Here in our example we have a mug. There are guidelines around the design to indicate where the center, front, and back of the mug is to help you better align your design to different parts of the object. The left sidebar shows a variety of tools for putting elements into your design.

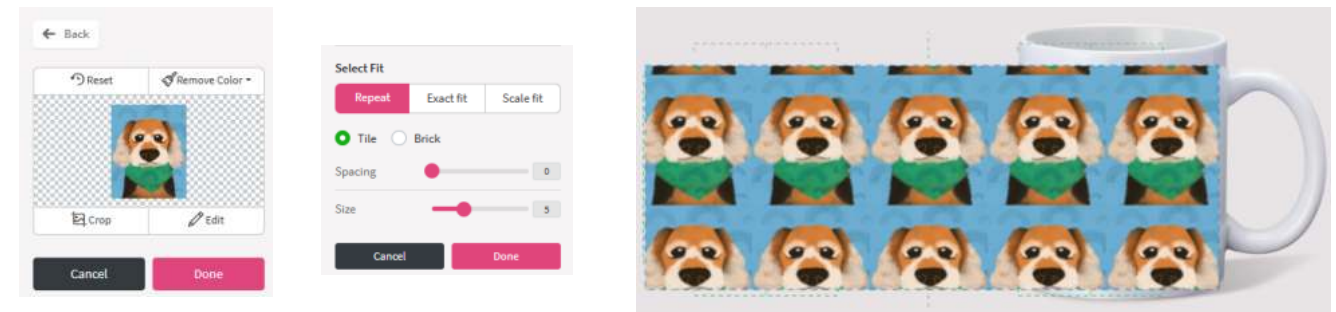


6. Use the sidebar to add elements to your design. Those options are further described in the following steps.

- a. Products: This takes you back to the menu that shows all the different objects you can put your design on if you want to change the object you're using.
- b. Elements: This adds different parts to your design from images, backgrounds, and shapes. Several elements in this area involve images and options that require payment through the Sawgrass subscription model. There are filters you can choose beside the search bar to sort out by just the free options.



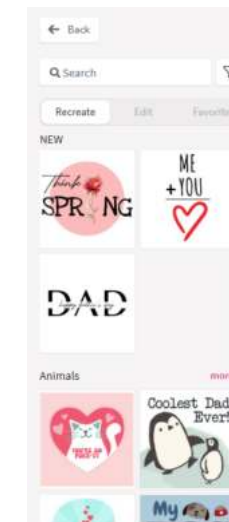
- c. Upload: Here you can add your own images from a source outside of the application. When you choose your file you'll be given the option to crop, remove color, and edit the image. Once added you can apply whether the image should be tiled, stretched, or just fit once onto the object. You can then scale and resize the image as well.



- d. Fonts: This lets you put text into your image. You can choose the size, typeface, color, and more options within this menu. Each time you add a text box using this tool you can apply different settings to that line of text, so if you want more than one look or color you'll want to use more than one text box for each part.

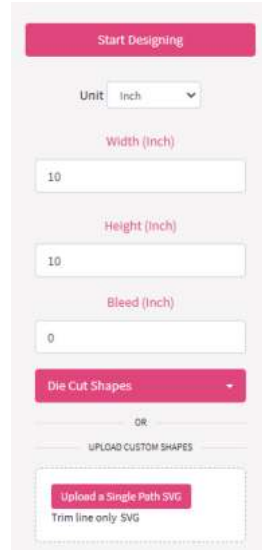


- e. Designs: These are complete image designs that can include both graphics and text. Similar to the elements, there are some that require payment and so you can use the filter to sort out just the free options if you like.



- f. My Gallery: This will let you browse the images and fonts you've uploaded to the platform if you want to repeat something in a different design you used previously.

- g. Custom canvas: This lets you determine the exact size of your object if you don't see something in the products tab.



- 7. Once your design is put together the way you like, you can preview what it looks like, or you can print the file.
 - a. Note if you are using this option, you will need to sign out of the library's account on PrintMate and sign in with your own so that the software can connect to the printer.
- 8. When you're ready to print, click Print in the top corner. If you want to save this design as well you can click Save and Print instead. Either way, another box pops up and you'll choose Print from this screen.

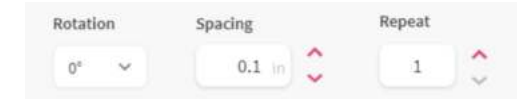


Printing from PrintMate

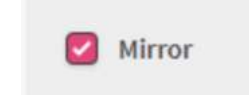
1. PrintMate will show you a preview of your design on the right side, while giving you options on the left side to modify and finalize the printing layout.
2. The first section shows the size of your design. If you printed this from a program like Affinity or from a full size PDF, you'll want to ignore this. But if your design was smaller than a full page, you can adjust the size of that here and change the overall design size.



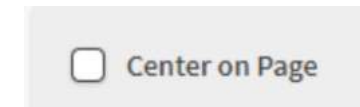
3. You also have rotation, spacing, and quantity options listed as well below the last section.



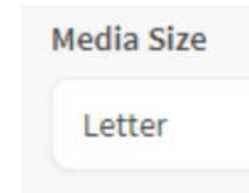
4. Scrolling down you'll see the option for Mirror should automatically be checked. This should only be unchecked if you mirrored your design in the design software before printing, or in very specific instances of certain materials. Check the instructions of your object or ask a staff member before printing to be sure.



5. If you printed an image smaller than a full size page, you will want to click "Center on Page" to ensure that none of your image is cut off in the margins of the page when it prints.



6. Lastly if you did print a paper size larger than letter size in Affinity, you will want to scroll down and match the page size to the size of paper you're printing on by choosing from the drop down for Media Size.

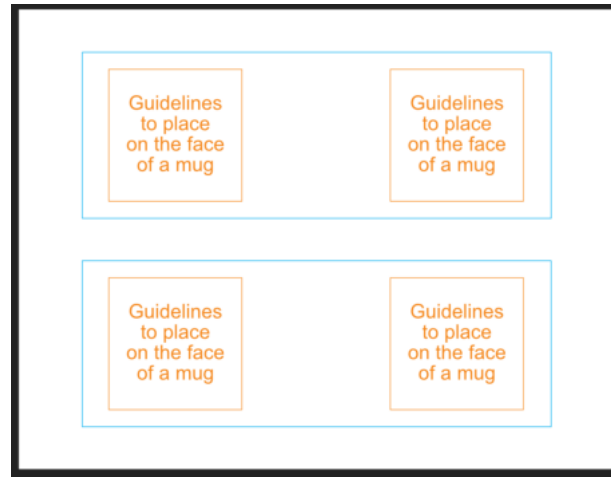


7. Once you're happy with the way it looks, click "Print" on the bottom bar and your project will print.

Using templates

Sometimes when buying a sublimation blank, the company may provide a template for you to use. The Maker Studio has a template for common items such as an 11 oz ceramic mug and a 20 oz tumbler. These are located on the desktop in a folder called "Sublimation Templates." Here's how you would use one of these.

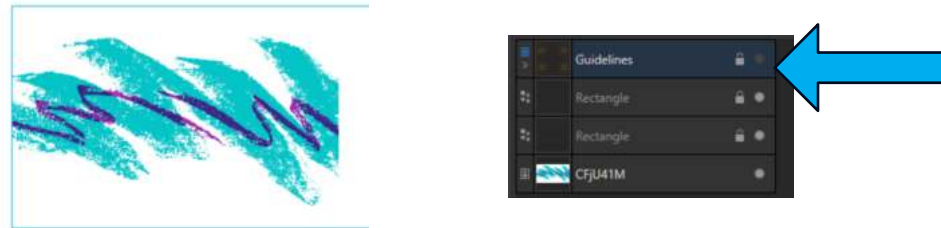
1. Open the template you wish to use.



2. Add your images to the design, ensuring they sit behind the guidelines.
3. Resize your design to make sure it fits within the blue box. If your template has a guide area, try to center your design to that area if possible.



4. Turn off the guideline layer by toggling the gray dot off that layer so all that remains is your design and the cut line.



For Staff

Installing Ink

1. Open the front right panel on the printer.



2. With a very firm grip, remove the used ink cartridge out of the printer.



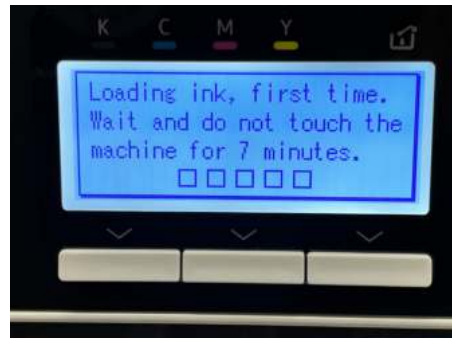
3. Unbox a new ink cartridge, hold it so the chip is toward the top.



4. Insert the cartridge into the respective slot so that the label is facing upwards.



5. Close the door. The printer will process the new ink cartridge.



- a. Note, if the printer has been without a new ink cartridge for an extended period of time, run a head cleaning to ensure the ink is properly flowing.

Head cleaning

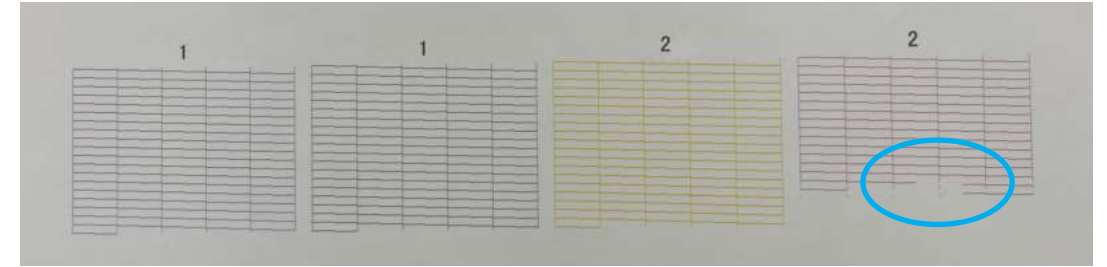
Occasionally the heads will begin to dry up and get clogged. This happens in particular over the weekend or if the printer's power gets turned off for over a day.



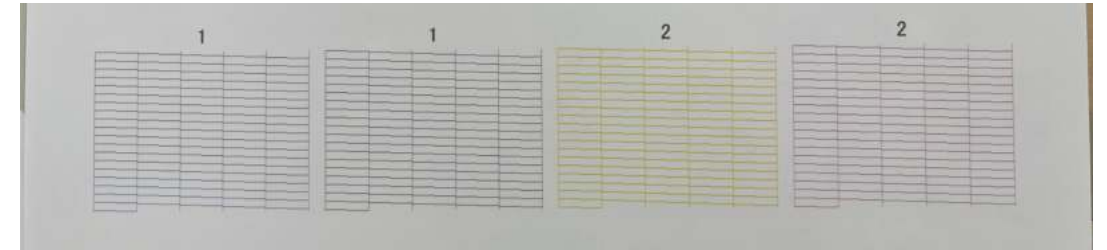
This can result in streaking across the image when printed which can transfer to the finished object. The simple solution is to perform a head cleaning.

1. On the front of the printer press Menu > Printer Features > List/Test Print.

2. If you wish to optionally print a test page, put letter size paper in the printer and then choose Nozzle Check Pattern. This will print a test page showing any clogged heads. You can spot these by looking for spots of the overall pattern that are missing. In this instance the magenta is missing bits of the pattern compared to the other colors indicating that is the head that is clogged.



3. Once you know which head needs cleaning, you can perform the head cleaning. Press Escape and then go to Head-Cleaning. If the black or cyan are clogged, you can clean just head 1. If the yellow or magenta are clogged you can clean just head 2. If there is clogging across both heads, perform a head clean on both.
4. Once it's done you can choose to print another test page if you want to ensure it's cleared out or you can skip this step.



5. After printing your design should not have any banding issues.

