



Xpres Technical Support – Glossary of Terms

Application Tape – A tape (either paper or film) which is used to lift cut designs from the backing carrier of the media and placed onto the intended surface. Xpres sell Transfer Application Tape for garment media (such as Easy Print and Solvent Dark) and signage application tapes which come in two forms Application Film and paper based application tape

Back Weeding – Where an **Application Tape** is applied to vinyls before weeding. This process is generally used where the backing carrier of the vinyl being cut does not have much tack and thus does not make for easy weeding of small and fine detailed designs.

Colour Management – A way of changing the settings for how colours will print on a given printer from a given piece of software. Most commonly configured for sublimation printing colour management is also a big part of the use of **RIP software**.

Cutting Strip – A strip which runs the length of a cutter directly underneath the blade, giving a flat surface that provides pressure from beneath the media in order for the blade to cut the vinyl's correctly.

Digital Media – A general term for any printable materials. Covers banner, print and cut signage vinyls and print and cut garment films.

Dye Bleed – Sometimes referred to as Dye Migration. This effect occurs when thin transfer films, print and cut garment media or toners are applied to garments and the colour of the garment is visible through the transfer applied. Most commonly seen on polyester garments which can include sports shirts, hoodies or soft shell jackets.

Fashion Films – A range of eye catching effect films to be cut in mirror image and heat pressed onto garments

Film Blades – A 45° **smart knife** for use cutting transfer films and print and cut garment media.

Flock Blade – A 65° **smart knife** for use cutting thicker materials such as: Premium Flock, Solvent Flock, Subli Flock, Promo Flock, Subli Block Soft and some **Fashion Films**.

Ghosting – An effect that can sometimes occur when sublimating polyester fabrics and polyester T Shirts. Ghosting is where an image appears to have an unwanted border around its outer edge and is caused by the sublimation paper moving whilst the inks are still transferring to the garment. This can be minimised by using a

sufficient amount of clear **Heat Tape** to stop the paper moving and using a light enough pressure to avoid the press lifting the paper when being opened.

Graphtec Blade – A **smart knife** for use in Graphtec cutters.

Head Cleaning – A cleaning process whereby the printer will spool through ink to ensure that the ink in the print head is fresh. In theory it should remove old ink stuck in nozzles causing them to become blocked; this old ink is purged and becomes **Waste Ink** held in maintenance tanks or waste ink bottles

Heat Tape – A heat resistant tape which can be used to hold any transfer in place whilst heat pressing it to its intended surface. Most Commonly used when sublimating items but can also be used with **transfer films** and digital media for garments.

ICC Profile – ICC stands for International Colour Consortium. The profile contains information which is sent to the printer telling it how to print. Most commonly used when configuring **colour management** options (in Corel Draw or Adobe Photoshop) for **sublimation** printing. Also found in **RIP software** where ICC profiles are created for each specific media type.

Ink Set – This refers to which colour inks are used in a printer. Traditional printing is a 4 colour process meaning the colours used are Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black (CMYK). Other Ink sets can be 6 colour or 8 colour options; these can include other colours such as Light Magenta, Light Cyan, Light Black, Light Light Black, White, Blue, Red, Orange, Green or Metallic Silver.

Ink Type – There are several different formulas of ink available but most printers are built for specific formulas. Different types of ink are designed for printing specific types of **substrates**. Examples of types of ink available are: aqueous ink, pigment ink, sublimation ink, latex ink, UV ink, eco solvent ink and solvent ink.

Lamination – The process of applying a protective film or Overlaminates to a vinyl print before cutting it and applying it to its intended surface. The Overlaminates is intended to give scratch, water and UV resistance to the print.

Nesting – A function that can be used in **RIP Software** to merge different job files into the same print run. In Roland VersaWorks jobs containing cut data CAN be nested, in Mimaki Rasterlink jobs containing cut data CANNOT be nested.

Nozzle Check – A test print which can be performed on most inkjet printers; it will print a pattern from each ink channel individually to allow the user to ensure all ink is printing through correctly. If this shows any issues a **Head Clean** is what is needed. Sometimes known as Test Print or Test Draw.

No Weed™ – A term used by and registered by Xpres referring to our 2 paper toner transfer system. A paper is printed onto with mirrored designs; B Paper is then pressed onto the A Paper to apply an adhesive to the toners which can then be pressed onto garment.

Out Gassing – A process of allowing Solvents to fall away from printed media before laminating and cutting, this helps to avoid curling on cut edges and smudging of colours. In order to allow vinyls to Out Gas it is best to leave them in a vertical position and kept off the floor.

Raster Images – These are often referred to as Bitmap images and are made of pixels, meaning that when stretched they will pixelate. It is NOT easy to manipulate this type of image in **vector** based software (for example to create cutlines).

RIP Software – RIP stands for Raster Image Processing. This type of software is generally used to control wide format printers and enables its user to change basic and more detailed settings such as colour management, media profiles and number and position of designs printed. Roland supplies their printers with VersaWorks and Mimaki printers are supplied with Rasterlink. Examples of other RIP software are Wasatch and Ergo Soft.

Sign Vinyl – Single colour self-adhesive vinyls (can generally be layered).

Smart Knife – A cutting blade which can be placed into most cutters sold by Xpres. This comes in 3 varieties: Film Blades, Flock Blades and Graphtec Blades.

Sublimation – A process of printing any polyester or polyester coated surface. The process involves heating sublimation ink (printed onto sublimation paper) to such a degree that this converts to a gas which then bonds with the polyester on the substrate.

Substrate – A generic term for any printable surface.

Tracing – The process of using a tool within vector based software to convert **Raster Images** to **Vector Images**. These tools are known as “Trace Bitmap” in Corel Draw and “Live Trace” in Adobe Illustrator.

Transfer Films – Single colour films to be cut in mirror image and heat pressed onto garments. Some can be layered; it is worth checking this information for specific materials though.

Vector Images – These images are computer based drawings. As they are not made of pixels they can be stretched without pixilation or loss of quality. As they are digitally created images they CAN be manipulated easily using vector based software (such as Corel Draw or Adobe Illustrator).

Waste Ink: All ink jet printers (regardless of **Ink Type**) will produce waste ink. Waste ink is ink that is not used and cannot be used again. This is because old, un-fresh, ink (which can lead to print head blockages) is purged and moved to a waste ink container so that the print head can hold relatively new and fresh ink. Desktop printers, wide format sublimation printers and Roland VersaSTUDIO BN20s have waste ink units (sometimes known as Maintenance Tanks) which simply need replacing. Roland VersaCAMMs, VersaARTs, SolJETs and Mimaki solvent printers have waste ink bottles which simply need emptying when near full.

Weeding – The removal, by peeling away, of excess material left on the backing carrier after cutting a vinyl.

White Toner – This colour of toner often replaces the black toner in an LED or Laser printer to allow for dark garments to be decorated with light and white coloured designs using our **No Weed™** system.