



## Media Printing Recommendations

Like all quality ink jet imaging media, DreamScape products perform best when printed within a specific range of imaging conditions. Use the following information provided in this specification sheet as a starting point for optimizing your printing system for dreamScape media.

### Temperature Settings

Temperature settings are critical to achieving a quality image on vinyl media.

Our recommendations for Dreamscape embossed vinyl are to use a pre-heat temperature of 35 to 45C with a platen temperature of 30 to 40C ( making sure that the platen heat is approximately 5C less than the pre-heat). These settings will provide for adequate softening and expansion of the vinyl on the preheat and subsequent cooling on the platen to avoid cockling and rippling while keeping the vinyl receptive to solvent based inks. Some testing may be required to determine the ideal relationship of preheat to platen heat on your particular equipment, however, it is important not to exceed the recommended values.

Fixing temperature, if available, should be set no higher than the platen temperature.

*Caution: Excessive preheat can result in pinch roller marks that appear as hard vertical bands in the printed work. Excessive platen heat can result in rippling of the media with the appearance of wavy vertical banding. Excessive heat overall has been observed to change the surface characteristics of the vinyl media, both flattening the texture and altering the glossiness of the surface.*

### Head Height Settings

Dreamscape heavily embossed vinyl media require a head height setting that is typically higher than those settings used for flat vinyl. We recommend that you adjust printer head height with media loaded and working heat applied. Because head height settings strike a critical balance between media clearance and image quality, it is important to take some time to determine the ideal setting for Dreamscape media on your machine. Begin by setting the head high enough to avoid scuffs and carriage unit strikes while keeping the nozzle plate close enough to the media to assure clean, consistent screening. Record or store head height setting values as may be appropriate for your printer.

### Printer alignments

Printer alignments work together with head height. Image quality can be adversely affected if head height is changed without resetting alignments. On some equipment, alignment values can be associated with head height positions and stored in the printer memory. In other cases, a full alignment procedure may be required each time the head height is changed. Consult your printer manual for instructions and more information. Even in cases where alignment values are

stored in the printer memory, we recommend that you check printer alignment patterns before running work.

### Loading media

- 1) Always wear cotton gloves when handling vinyl media. Oils deposited by user's hands can result in image degeneration and inconsistent color when printing. Wearing gloves prevents these oils from depositing on the media.
- 2) Inspect rolls before mounting them on the printer. Make sure ends are square and the core is round.
- 3) When mounting media on the feed roller, always verify that the roll edge position feeds media along the expected edge of the working area. On some printers the feed roll position is adjustable, on others it is not. In any case, never attempt to adjust or force the media edge position out of alignment with the roll edge as this will result in mistracking and possible rippling of the media.
- 4) Make sure that media feeds squarely over the platen and on to the take-up spool. A good test is to hand feed a few feet of material forwards and backwards through the machine to confirm. If the media tends to drift, take a moment to re-position the media and feed roller until the media path is stable.
- 5) Winding media on the take up spool before printing assures stability. Feed enough lead media through the machine so that the take up spool contains about two or three full turns. Turn the spool manually (by hand or with the drive motor control) and observe the media to assure that the feed path remains square. Starting with the media on a take up spool also assures that media tension will be stable throughout the print job.
- 6) Position edge guides, and close the media drive roller lever if your printer is so equipped.
- 7) Initialize the printer for printing.

### Preparing to print

- 1) Run a nozzle check and media feed pattern. Clean nozzles and adjust feed as indicated.
- 2) Select the appropriate media profile in the rip or driver software.
- 3) Use RIP preview where available to make a final visual check of file details: position, scale, fonts, placed graphics, image clarity, etc.