

How to print images on Tissue paper

I use my bubble/ink-jet printer to print onto tissue paper.

For this to work well without fear of jamming your paper in your printer, you will need sheets of photo quality paper or digital print paper that is 200 gsm. I use J. Burrows A4 Premium digital paper from Officeworks. It's about \$16 for 250 sheets so it's not expensive. You will be using the thicker paper to attach the tissue paper to and then this will feed into the printer and prevent the flimsy sheet of tissue from getting stuck, trust me it works if you follow the steps here.

Take the sheet of tissue and the trick is to start taping at least 1/4 from the leading edge and tape it along the three sides. Make sure the edge that feeds into the printer is only the carrier sheet. In other words, the tissue should be completely clear of the mechanism that grabs the paper and feeds it into the printer. I usually manually feed it carefully into the printer and stay there to receive it as it comes through, just to make sure nothing untoward happens.

Tips to consider

- If you've taped around the edges you'll want to make sure the tape is as close to the carrier sheet as possible so that the print head doesn't hit into it each time it passes. I always stand near the printer when printing so that I can gently pull the paper if the print heads seem to be 'hitting' the edges. Otherwise a jam can easily happen.
- This is so important that I'll say it again. DO NOT tape the tissue paper right up to the leading edge. Drop down 1/4 inch or so. Otherwise the printer will grab the tissue, rip it into shreds and you'll be scrounging around looking for a needle nosed apparatus to try to fish out the tissue.
- Leave the bottom loose. Only tape 3 edges.
- This is not a perfect process. Sometimes the paper will simply not feed and you'll have to prepare another sheet.
- For highly saturated images often the print head will leave markings as tissue doesn't have the same coatings as photo paper and expands slightly with all the ink thus sometimes the print head drags across and leaves marks. Embrace these marks and incorporate them into your work.
Once you've finished the printing process you are now ready to embed it into your piece

