

# Making Fabric Memories

from THE EDITORS

Incorporate your favorite photo or artwork in your next quilt.

Whether it is your favorite photo or a special piece of artwork, you can transfer your memory to fabric. In this issue of *Quilter's World*, we have shared a few projects that should help whet your appetite for making a fabric memory, but be forewarned—it can be addictive.

## Scanned or Digital Images

If using photos to make your fabric memory, you may start with a digital photo or a printed photograph. Using a digital photo is easy if you have an ink-jet printer with a slot for memory-card insertion. Your photo can then be printed immediately without using a computer. Some photo printers have built-in photo-altering software that allows you to zoom in on an image or alter the photo in some way, such as changing the background.

If scanning images, scan at 200 dpi or higher; the higher the resolution, the better the image will be when printed on fabric.

Some printers have built-in scanners that make this process possible without using a computer

as well. With one of these printers, it is easy to scan a child's drawing or your favorite artwork directly into the printer for printing.

All-in-one printers are perfect. They have the ability to accept a memory card, scan a photo and print from a computer.

## Creating Fabric Sheets for Printing

All you need to create your own fabric sheets is freezer paper, fabric (100 percent cotton is preferred), ink fixative, such as Bubble Jet Set 2000, and some basic tools, such as scissors and an iron.

Before the fabric can accept the ink, it needs to be treated with an ink fixative. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for use.

## Using a Stabilizer

Freezer paper, adhesive labels or other stabilizers may be used to provide a stiffness to the fabric that will allow it to flow through the printer successfully.

If using freezer paper, cut an 8½" x 11" piece. Center this over the prepared fabric shiny side down

on the fabric and dry-iron on the cotton setting. Trim fabric to the size of the paper. Cut the two corners that will slide into the printer first at a small angle to prevent a jam in the printer.

Adhesive labels may be used as the fabric backing as well. Be sure to remove all wrinkles before printing.

Purchased printable fabric sheets are available from many sources. These sheets are printer ready with paper backing and easy to use. Simply follow the instructions on the packaging for use.

## Printing

Print a test copy of your photo or image on plain paper to test for color saturation. If the image is not bright on the paper, it will be dull because the fabric soaks up more ink. Re-adjust the ink saturation and print again on plain paper.

Settings as well as print quality vary with different printers. Work out as many color problems as possible before beginning to print on fabric.

Now try printing on a fabric

sheet. You may waste fabric sheets just trying to adjust the color; when you are satisfied with the color, make a note of your printer settings for future reference.

Printing photos or artwork on fabric uses lots of ink, so it is expensive to experiment to get

the best results. Keeping notes about the settings that produced the best result is important.

### Learning More

If you are interested in learning more about printing photos or artwork on fabric, look for books

on the subject. *Photo Fun* is a great book for beginners. It is easy to understand and provides hints for taking good photos and making successful scans, and gives tips for using a variety of methods to prepare the fabric for printing. **QW**

## Quick Guide

**Step 1.** Prepare fabric for printing or purchase fabric photo sheets.



**Step 2.** Select photo or artwork for project.



**Step 3.** Place your memory card in the computer slot and select the photo, scan an existing photo, or use your computer to edit and prepare photo for printing, including adjusting the image to the size needed for the project.

**Step 4.** Print a test copy of your photo or artwork on paper. Make adjustments as needed to create a brighter image.

**Step 5.** Print on fabric.

**Step 6.** Trim the printed photo or artwork to size needed for project, adding ¼" seam allowance all around.

