

Pudding Notes

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Technical Data: As promised, here are 3 more paper test: Rives BFK dampened, Rives BFK Dry, and YUPO 74lb.

I've occasionally had trouble with BFK having some resist to taking the ink, so I've wanted to try it dampened. The YUPO is a synthetic paper that the Daniel Smith catalog says is good for silkscreen printing (although I assume they mean with traditional methods & inks). To read more about this paper, go to the DS web site at <http://danielsmith.net> and do a search on YUPO.

Each paper is printed with a solid (the bird) and some text. The dampened BFK was dampened twice, once to print the bird, and again to print the text. To dampen the paper, I layered the paper between sheets of newsprint and spritzed each layer with water. The pack is then placed in a plastic bag and weighed down with some large books over night. To print, I collected the paper strips and kept them in a small plastic bag, taking out a couple of strips at a time as I printed.

As much as possible, I printed using the same pressure with all 3 papers. The small white spot on the bird tail is part of the graphics. Artwork Cleanup Paper was used on the laser printer output before flashing the screen.

Some of you will receive copies where the bird is printed with two colors (black cap on the bird). The black ink has a different consistency from the pearl blue ink, and I was having difficulties printing the 2 colors evenly within a single print. I decided that was too many variables in a single test, so eliminated the black.

Evaluation: The dry BFK did NOT exhibit the same resist tendencies as I've seen in some cases. It's possible that the bird is too small a graphic for the problem to surface. However, you can clearly see that on the dampened BFK, the ink bleeds more. This is very obvious with the text. If I had to make a recommendation, I would say that if you were printing larger text and graphics, I'd go with the dampened paper. If you were printing tiny text, I'd print dry.

The YUPO did not print well at all. In all cases, the bird came out very mottled, and the text was also very unpredictable. The paper is probably just too plastic-like to work with gocco inks, but the DS site says you can use it with oils, so I thought I'd give it a try. In some cases, the bird only printed as a halo. It might make an interesting effect for a print, although it's unpredictable.

Readers' Response: In the last test, I complained that the Natural Mulberry required wiping down every few prints, and this caused the screen to be smudged so then I had to make several junk prints before I could continue. Marlene Watson wrote to say that she has had good luck with using scotch tape to remove paper fibers from the screen, and this does not cause the smudging. I will try this next time and report back my experience.

Also, one person suggested that my matchbook opened the wrong way! Since I'm bi-directional when it comes to books, I didn't really think about that. Anyhow, this booklet opens the 'other' way.

Several people also wrote with suggestions for future issues; thank you very much for the suggestions, and I will add those to the list of things to try.

Shu-Ju

shuju@fivebats.com
fingerstothetbone.com