

Printing from the Computer on Cloth

By Marlene Oaks

Valley of the Mist Quilters Guild

1. Why print on cloth?
 - a. To make your own creative labels
 - b. To make quilts with photos and/or artwork incorporated
2. Use the proper fabric:
 - a. Treat 100 % white or off-white cotton or silk fabric with Bubble Jet as per bottle instructions
 - b. Or purchase dye-ready fabric
 - c. Or purchase readymade sheets. I recommend www.cjenkinscompany.com & request the **Miracle Fabric Sheets slightly irregular**. They also have silk sheets prepared & ready to use.
3. If you prepare your own fabric, you must put it on sheets of freezer paper in order to make it go through the computer.
 - a. Trim 8.5 x 11" sheets of prepared fabric with rotary cutter & make sure you have straight cuts with no frays.
 - b. Iron onto 8.5 x 11" sheets of freezer paper, glossy side to wrong side of fabric.
 - c. Or iron the two together & then cut into 8.5 x 11" sheets after they are "fused".
4. I prefer Epson Durabright Ink, as it is pretty much permanent with care. Also, Epson printers have a straight paper path, so there is less chance of jamming of the cloth.
 - a. Before printing, make sure there are no hanging threads on your sheets.
 - b. Choose the best quality color printing in the software.
 - c. Once printed, remove backing
 - d. Iron with hot iron
 - e. Wash by hand in bowl of warm, not too strong detergent water
 - f. Rinse, dry on towel
 - g. Iron again with a hot iron.
 - h. Sometimes I add details or shading with permanent ink pens or fabric dye pens.
 - i. Sometimes I add details or shading with thread painting when I am quilting the piece.
5. Software:
 - a. Microsoft Publisher works extremely well. It is especially good for large pictures that require more than one panel, but works on any size. You select the size of the final picture you want & see how many panels; you can keep changing it until satisfied.
 - b. Scrapbook programs such as Printmaster for pictures or labels of one page or less.
 - c. You can use Word, but it is not as flexible.
 - d. You can use photos from your computer, art you drew, scans, clip art, Google Images, etc. for the artwork.