Photo Transfer Techniques
—Susan Striepe 2014—

Ink Jet Printers

Ink Jet Print on Wax paper/or/Freezer Paper

- *Water color look*: Use a spray adhesive (in a well ventilated area—wear a respirator) to adhere the wax/freezer paper onto regular ink jet paper surface before placing it into the printer. Make sure that the paper side of the freezer paper is sprayed and adhered so that the waxy side is facing outside. After it has printed, either spray water onto Wax/Freezer Paper or onto the surface you wish to transfer. Next, press the ink jet image onto the surface you wish to transfer.
- *Regular transfer*: Use a spray adhesive, I would recommend *3M Super 77*, (in a well ventilated area—wear a respirator) to adhere the wax/freezer paper onto regular ink jet paper surface before placing it into the printer. Make sure that the paper side of the freezer paper is sprayed and adhered so that the waxy side is facing outside. Spray surface with *Krylon Workable Fixatif* (in a well ventilated area—wear a respirator). After it has dried apply a thin coat of *Elmer*'s glue to the surface. Use some form of squeegee (e.g. trowel, spatula, egg lifter) to spread it evenly. After it has dried (wait 24 hours), you can run it through the printer. Apply *Mod Podge* or any matte/gloss gel medium or gesso to the surface you want the photo to appear. Place you image face down in the medium while it is still wet. Use a spatula or back of a spoon to smooth out any air bubbles. Let it sit there for 24 hours to dry. Once it has dried, you can just peel back the paper. The ink on the image should adhere to the medium. Spray image with another coat of the *Krylon Workable Fixatif.*

Ink Jet on an Ink Jet Transparency

- *Water color look*: After you have printed your image on the transparency either spray water onto the transparency or onto the surface you wish to transfer. Next, press the ink jet image onto the surface you wish to transfer.

Laser Printers

Laser Print on Transparent Packaging Tape/or/Transparent Contact Paper

- Apply the laser image, image side facing the sticky side of the tape, to the packaging tape. Place in a container of water for about 20 minutes. Take it out and rub off the paper using your fingers. The ink from the image should adhere to the packaging tape/or/contact paper.

Laser Print and Acetone

- Variable results: I found it worked better with black and white images, rather than color images. Results may also depend on the printer you use.
- Acetone is toxic. Please wear gloves, a respirator, and do this in a well-ventilated area. Acetone is the active ingredient in some nail varnish removers, so you can use them as well. Otherwise, acetone can be purchased at any hardware store that sells paint solvents.
- Place the laser image side down onto your desired surface. Soak a paper towel or cotton wool in acetone and rub the back of the paper on which the image sits. The image should appear on your selected surface.

Laser Print and *Mod Podge*/or/Gesso/or/ Gel Medium

- Coat your desired surface with *Mod Podge*/or/Gesso/or/ Gel Medium. Place you image face down in the medium while it is still wet. Use a spatula, your fingers, or back of a spoon to rub on the paper, so as to smooth out any air bubbles. Let it sit there for 24 hours to dry. Once it has dried, soak a paper towel or facecloth in water and rub off the back of the paper. The ink on the image should adhere to the medium.

Surfaces

Thinner papers will warp, so treat them like you would if you were doing a watercolor (use brown gummed paper to stretch the paper). I would suggest Bristol board, poster board, watercolor paper, or etching rag paper. Fabric and wood are other surfaces you can explore. Be experimental!