DTF

User manual

BRILDOR

everything for personalisation

INTRODUCTION

DTF is a printing technique that employs special inks, similar to those used in Direct-to-Garment printing. But unlike DTG printing, the ink will be printed on a film, and special powder will be used as an adhesive.

Pros

- The starting investment is much lower than that of DTG printing.
- Versatile application on both textile and rigid surfaces.
- Elasticity of the material once printed
- High durability and washing resistance
- On-demand printing without stock

Cons

- Regular maintenance is required to prevent clogging of the printhead.
- Slow printing system (A3 15-20 min).
- Low garment breathability.

WARNING

This device wasn't originally designed for this technique. Therefore, the printer loses its warranty as soon as the inks are loaded.
Due to the sediment of the white ink, you will have to maintain the system periodically, and it may shorten printhead durability drastically. Please follow the maintenance tips.

EQUIPMENT NECESSARY

Find here explained the equipment required to apply this technique. Our pack includes everything apart from the press.

PRINTER

A regular printer, modified in order to print with DTF inks

DTF INKS

Similar to high-elasticity textile inks but more diluted

DTF POWDER

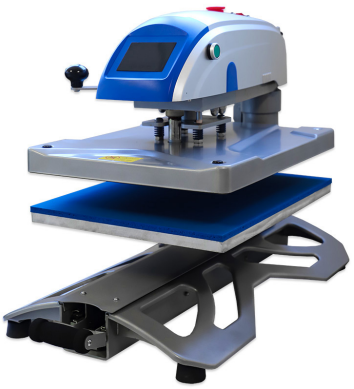
An adhesive powder required to stick the inks to the fabric after a curing process

PET FILM

A support capable of carrying the wet and apply the powder afterwards

RIP SOFTWARE[1]

The software necessary for accurate prints



HEAT PRESS

A heat press is necessary to cure the powder and to apply the transfer

[1] Use and installation of Acrorip is explained below.

[2] Find a wide range of heat presses on our online store: http://bit.ly/3cBvKrC

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QUICK START GUIDE

1. Ink charging

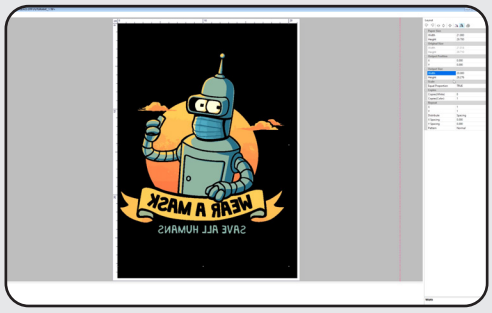
After unpacking the printer, shake and charge the DTF inks in the tanks. Make sure to load each ink into the right tank. Use a funnel if necessary to prevent spills.

2. First charge

Once the inks are loaded, connect the printer to an electrical outlet and press the ink button for a few seconds to start charging the system. This will take a while Do not turn off the printer during this process.

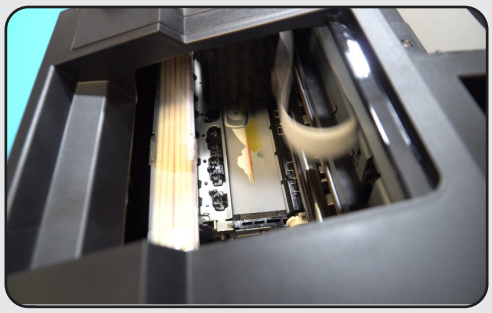
3. Driver installation

You must install the driver. We will provide you with the file, but you can download it from the manufacturer. Follow the steps on your screen for a successful installation.



4. RIP installation

You need RIP software for the printer to read and print the image properly. See the detailed installation process below.

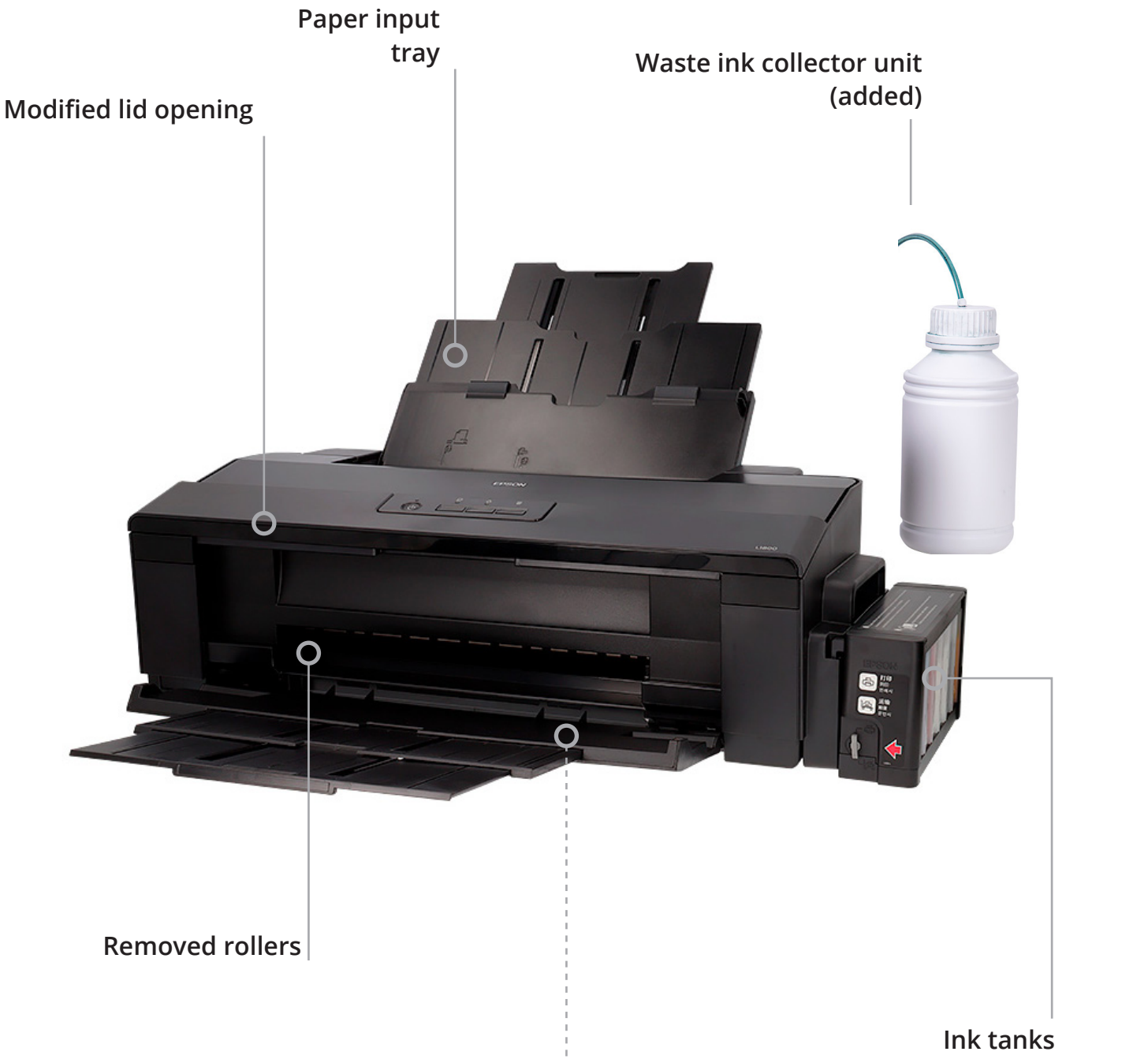


5. PRINTING

Having prepared the images, you can now print on the film, apply the powder, cure, and finally transfer them onto the garment.

PARTS

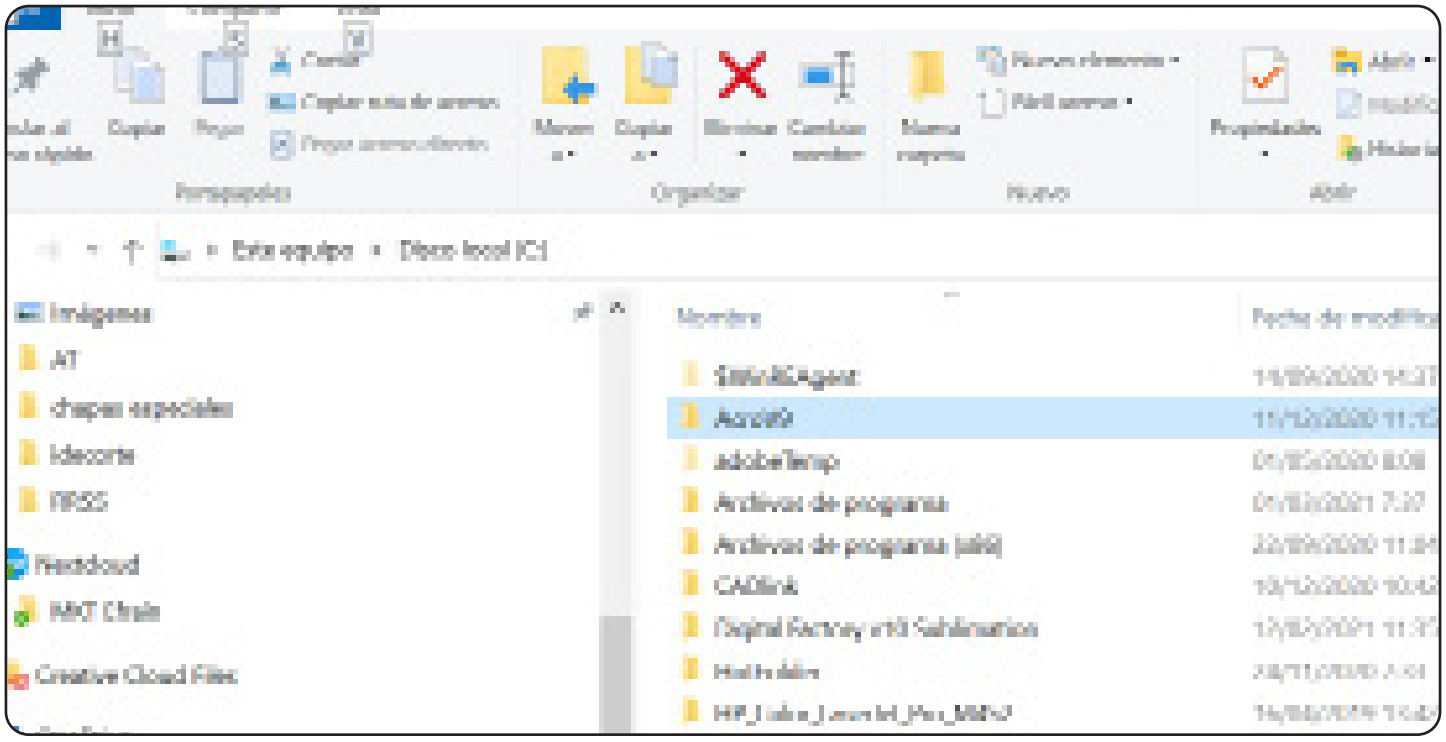
The printer has been modified for DTF printing and prepared to work without leaving any marks. That is why we've removed the rollers, added a waste ink collector unit for cleaning, removed the lid opening sensor, labelled the white tanks, and added a tray for the paper to exit horizontally.



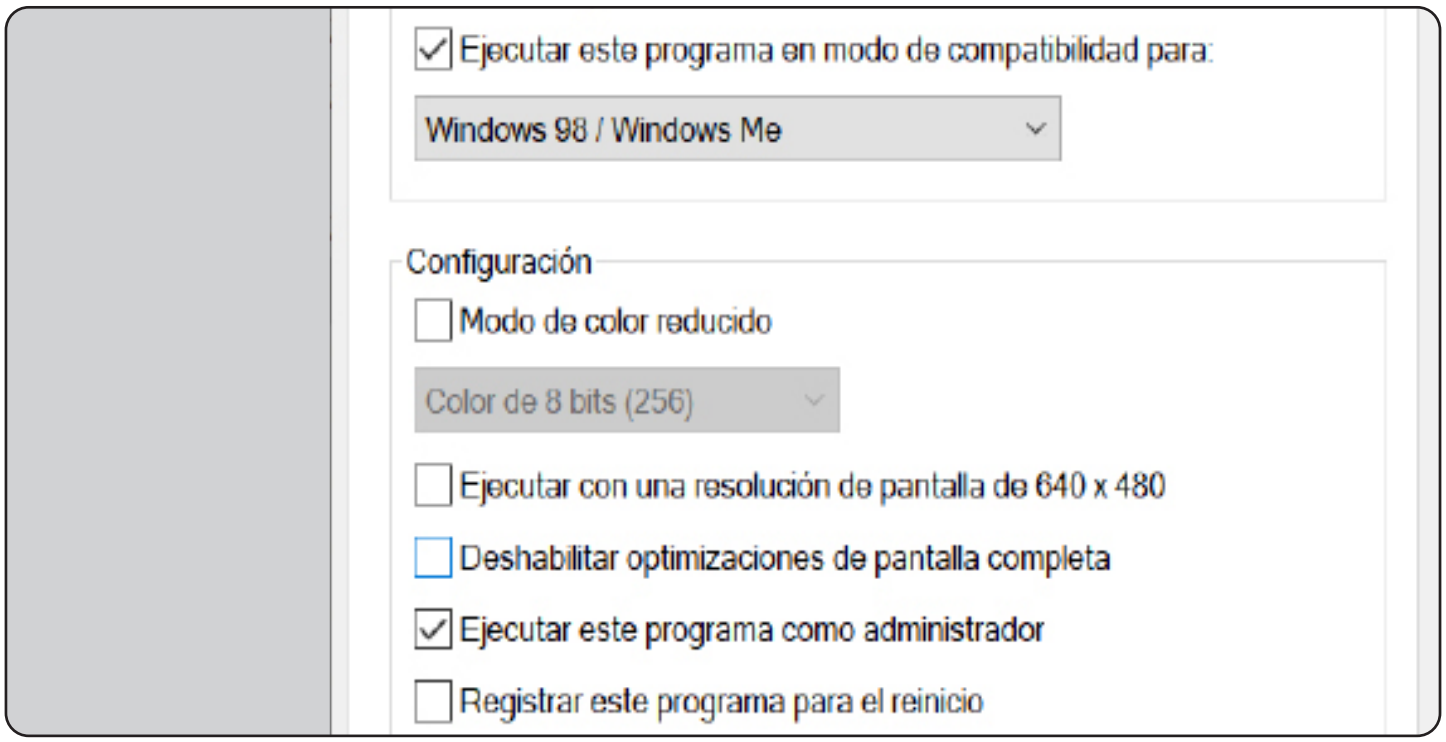
The paper must come out completely flat, so the output tray has been replaced to ensure that it does.

ACRORIP INSTALLATION & USE

1. INSTALLATION



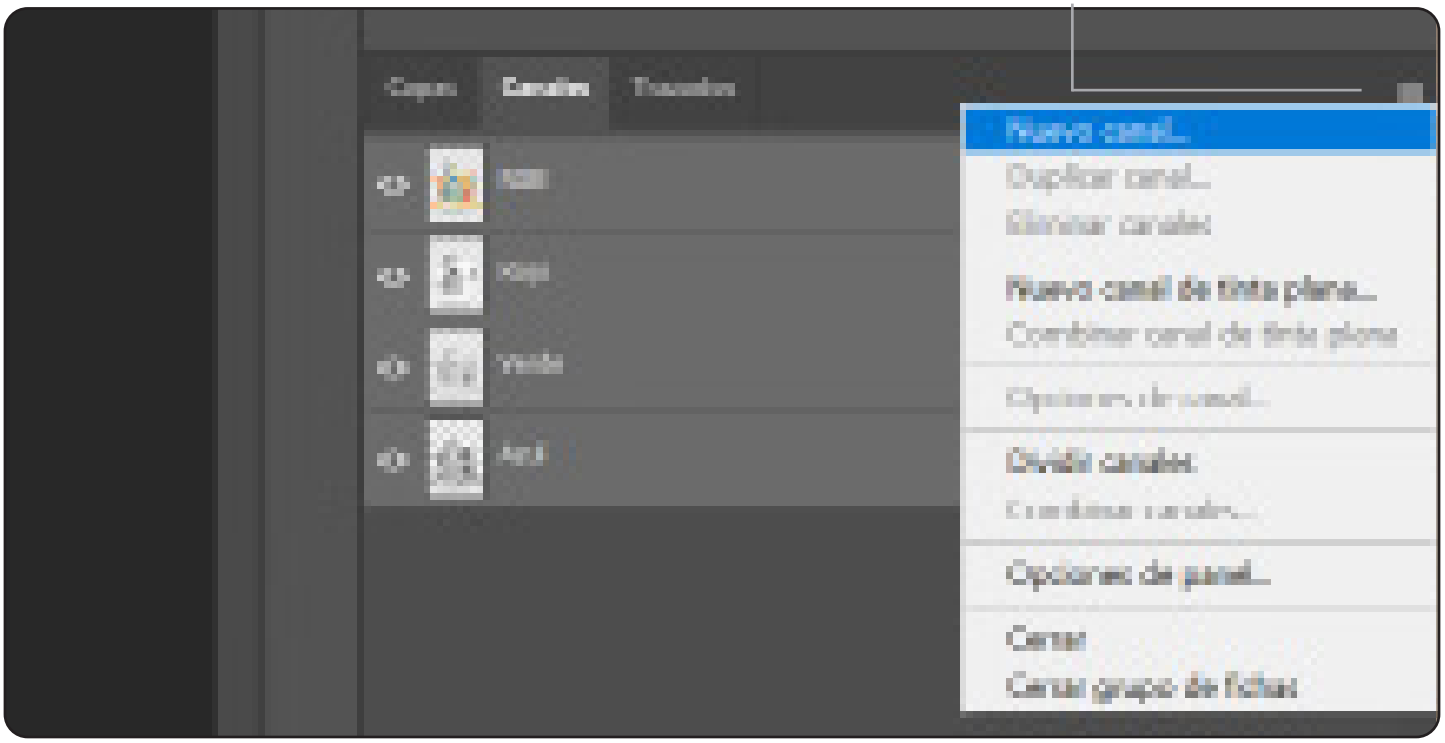
Turn off your antivirus. Unzip the AcroV9 folder in C: (your PC's primary hard drive)
You must add the files **Acro90.exe** and **Acro90W.exe** as an **exception to your antivirus**, or you won't be able to use the RIP.
Insert the Dongle (USB) in your PC to make it work.

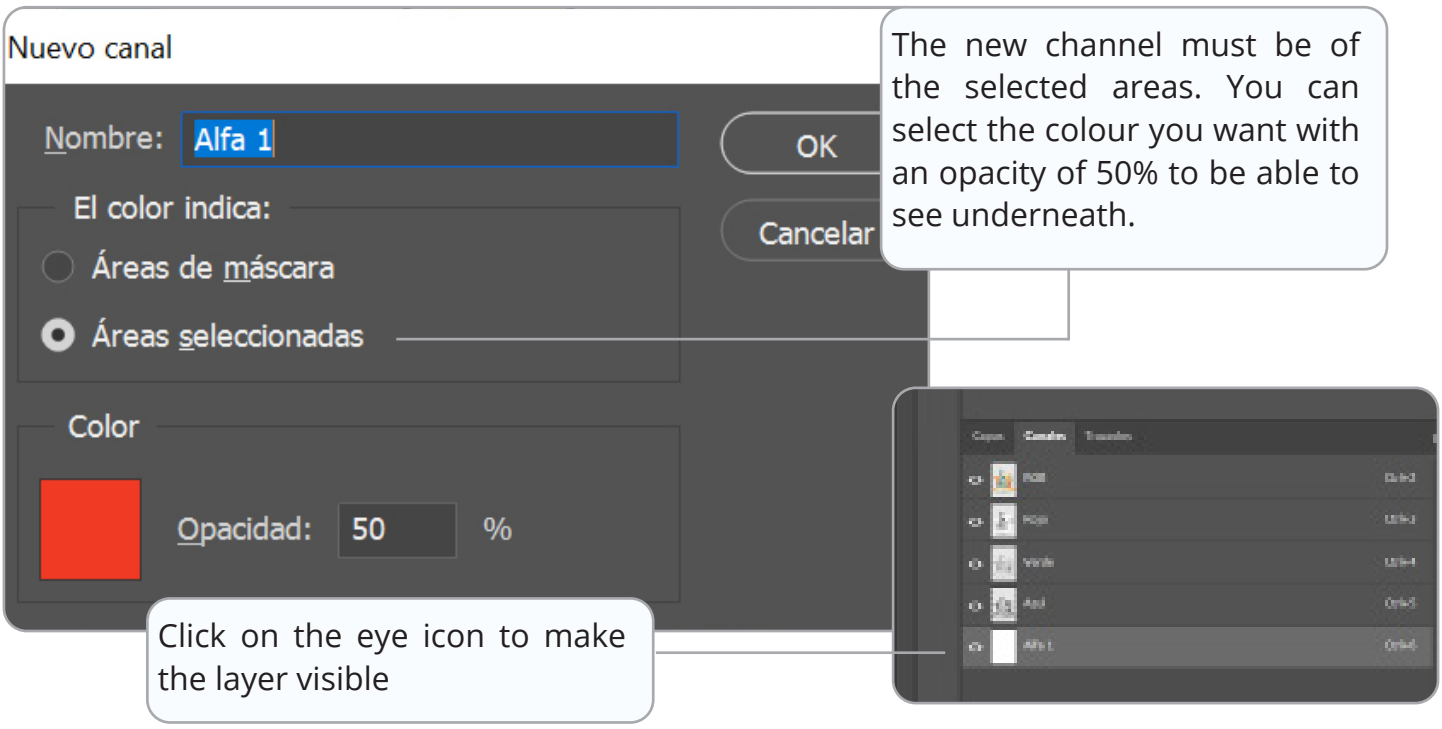


Right-click on **Acro90W.exe** and click on Properties. Go to the Compatibility tab and activate **Run this program in compatibility mode for Windows 98/ Windows Me**. Select **Run as an administrator**.
Do the same with **Acro90.exe**.

2. CREATING A SPOT COLOR

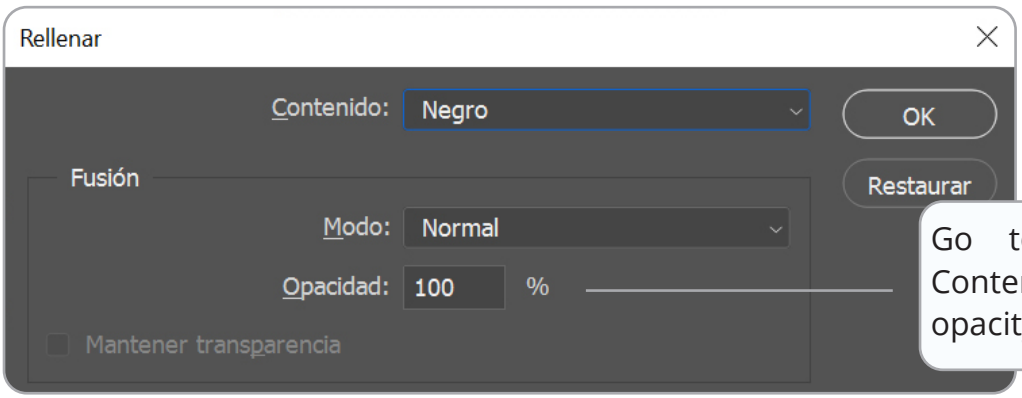
Although you can import any image into Acrorip, we recommend using Spot color for the lower layer of white ink. To create it, you will need to open the image in Photoshop with no background.



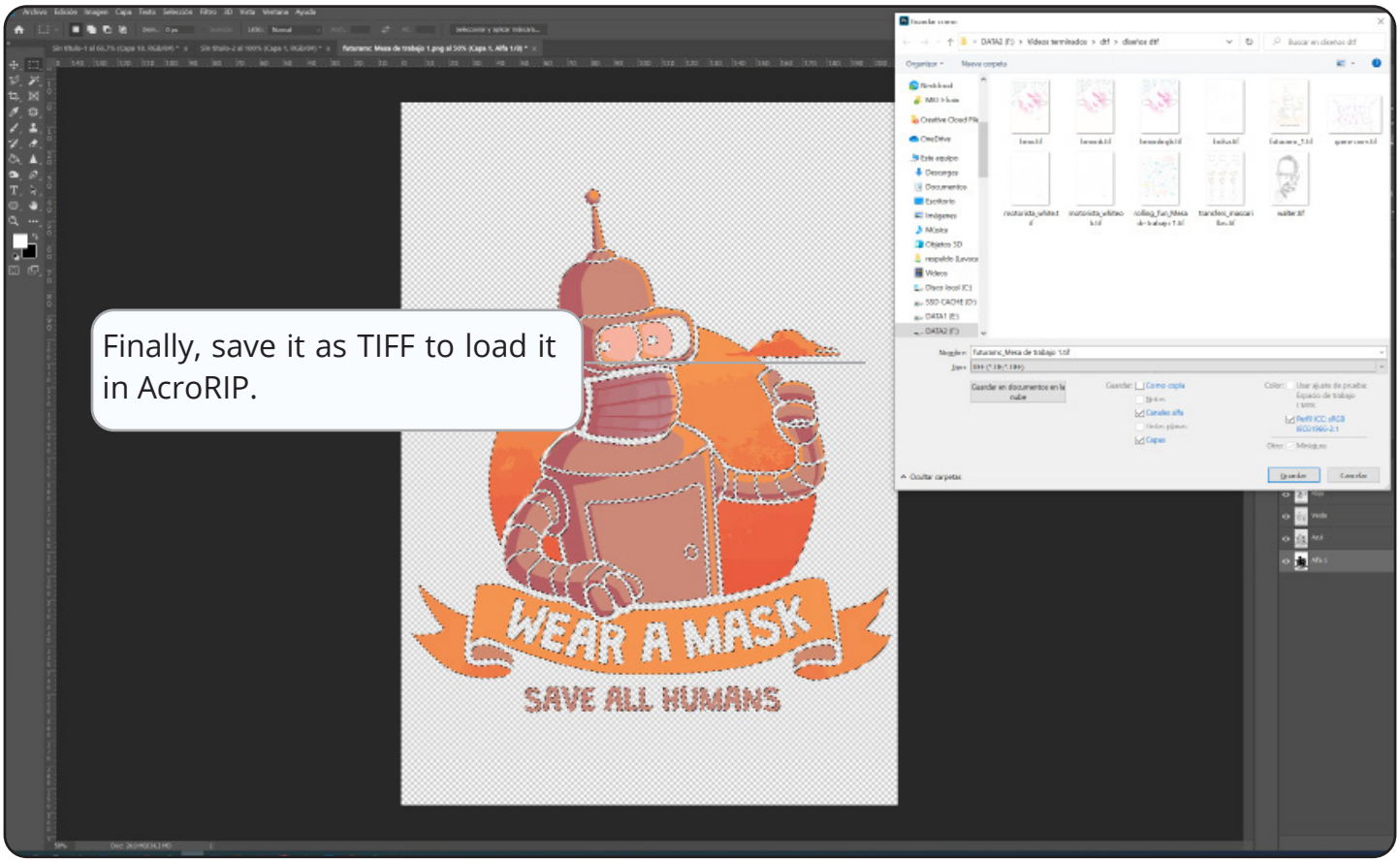


The new channel must be of the selected areas. You can select the colour you want with an opacity of 50% to be able to see underneath.

Click on the eye icon to make the layer visible



Go to Edit/Fill and select Contents: Black and 100% opacity

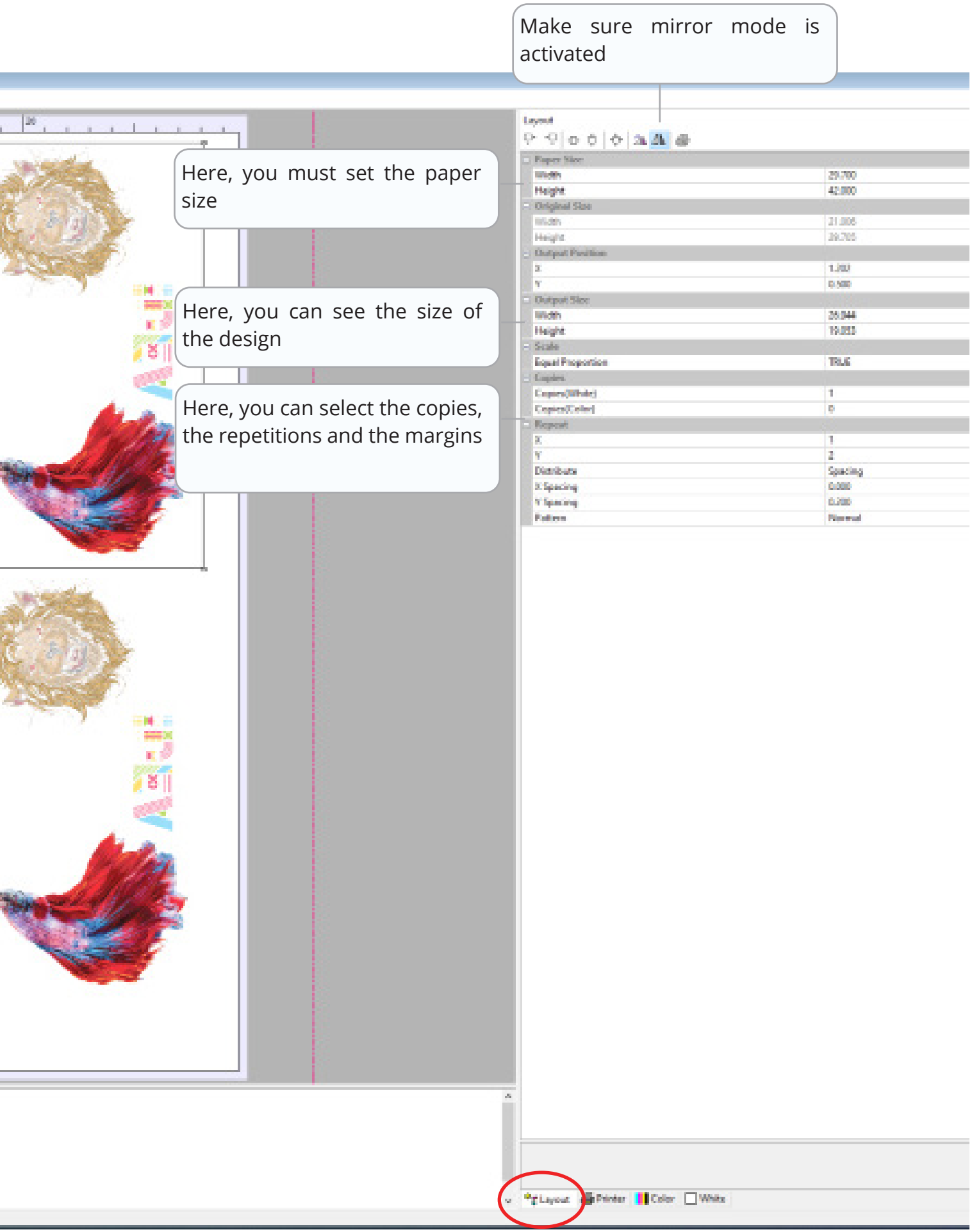


Finally, save it as TIFF to load it in AcroRIP.

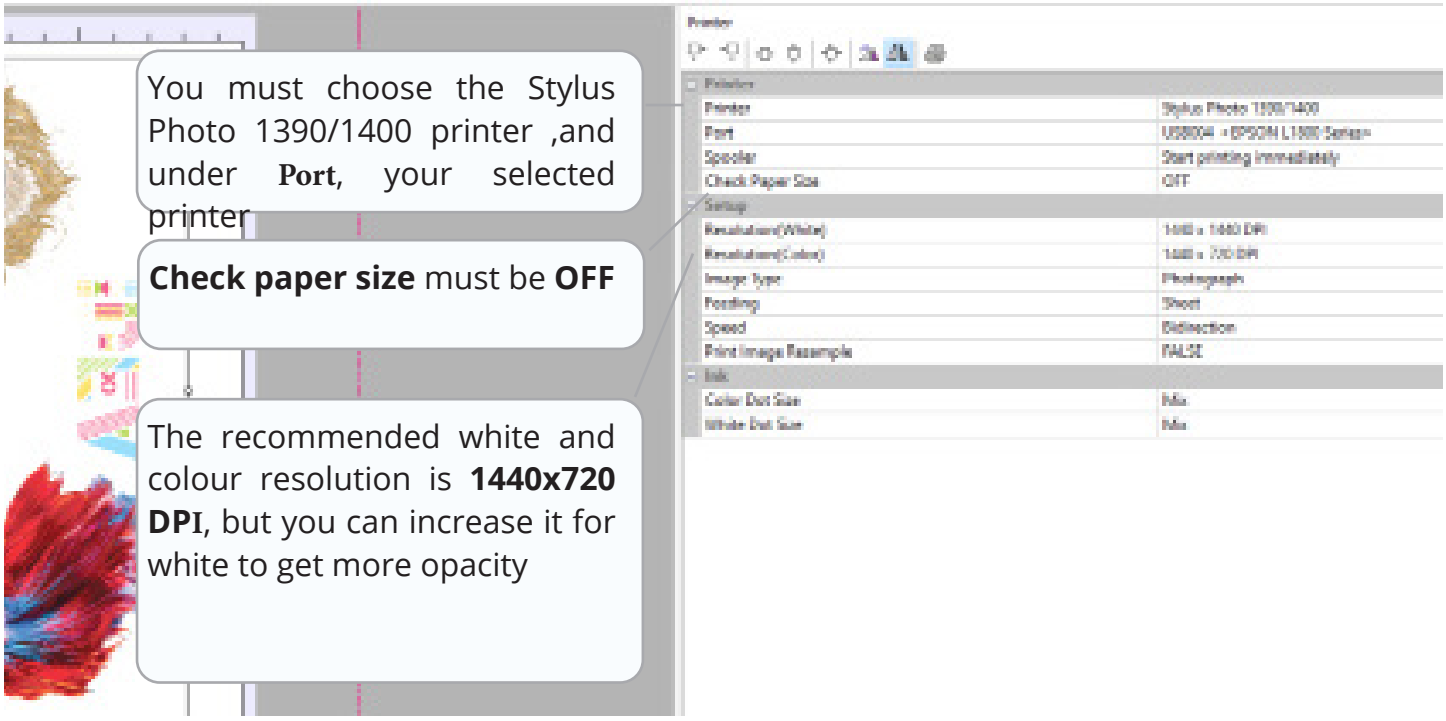
3. USING ACROPRIP

Here we will explain the use of Acrorip. However, the parameters are approximate, and it is necessary that you make your own tests to achieve optimal results.

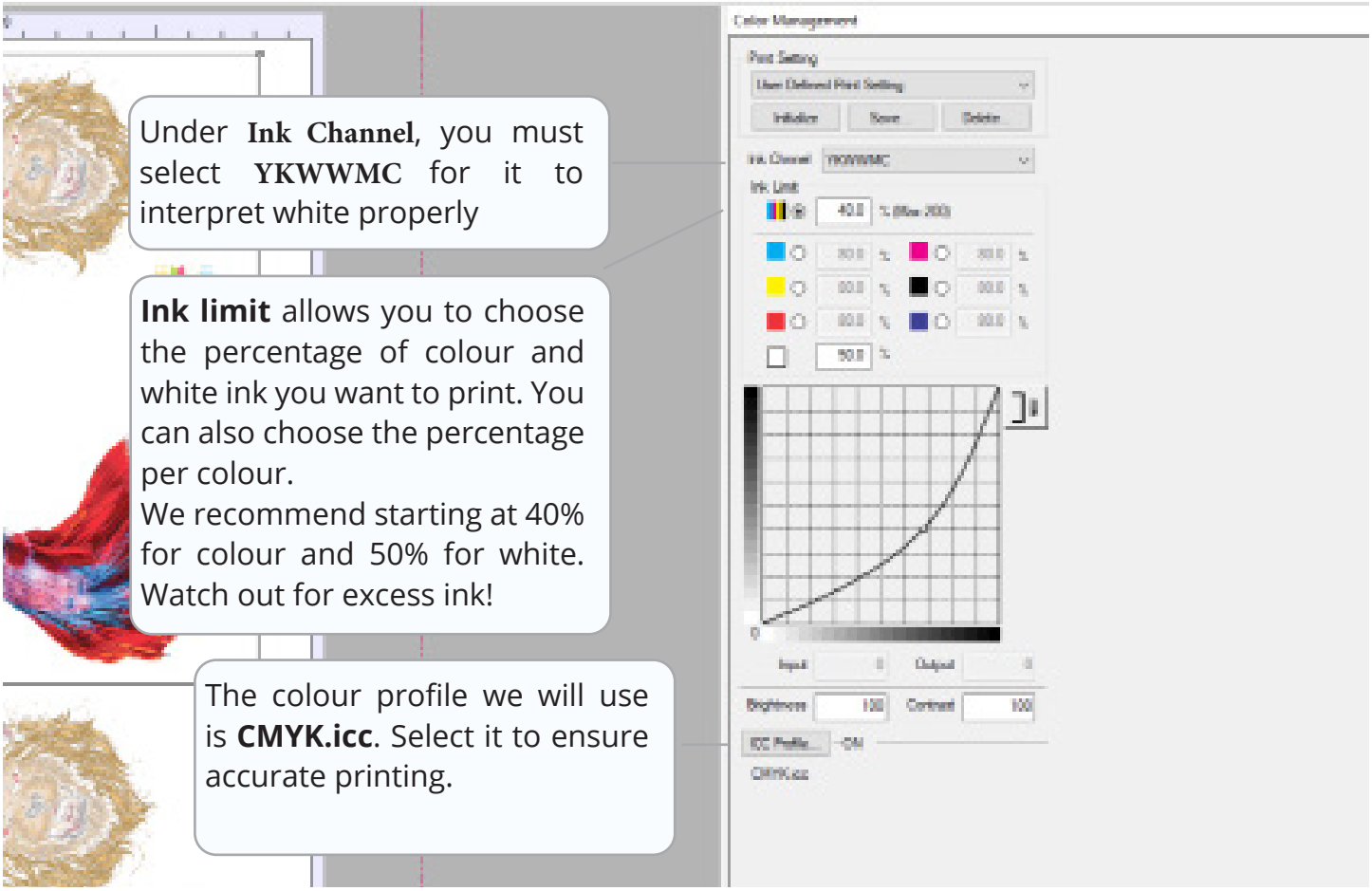
Layout Tab


Make sure mirror mode is activated
Here, you must set the paper size
Here, you can see the size of the design
Here, you can select the copies, the repetitions and the margins
Layout
Printer
Color
White

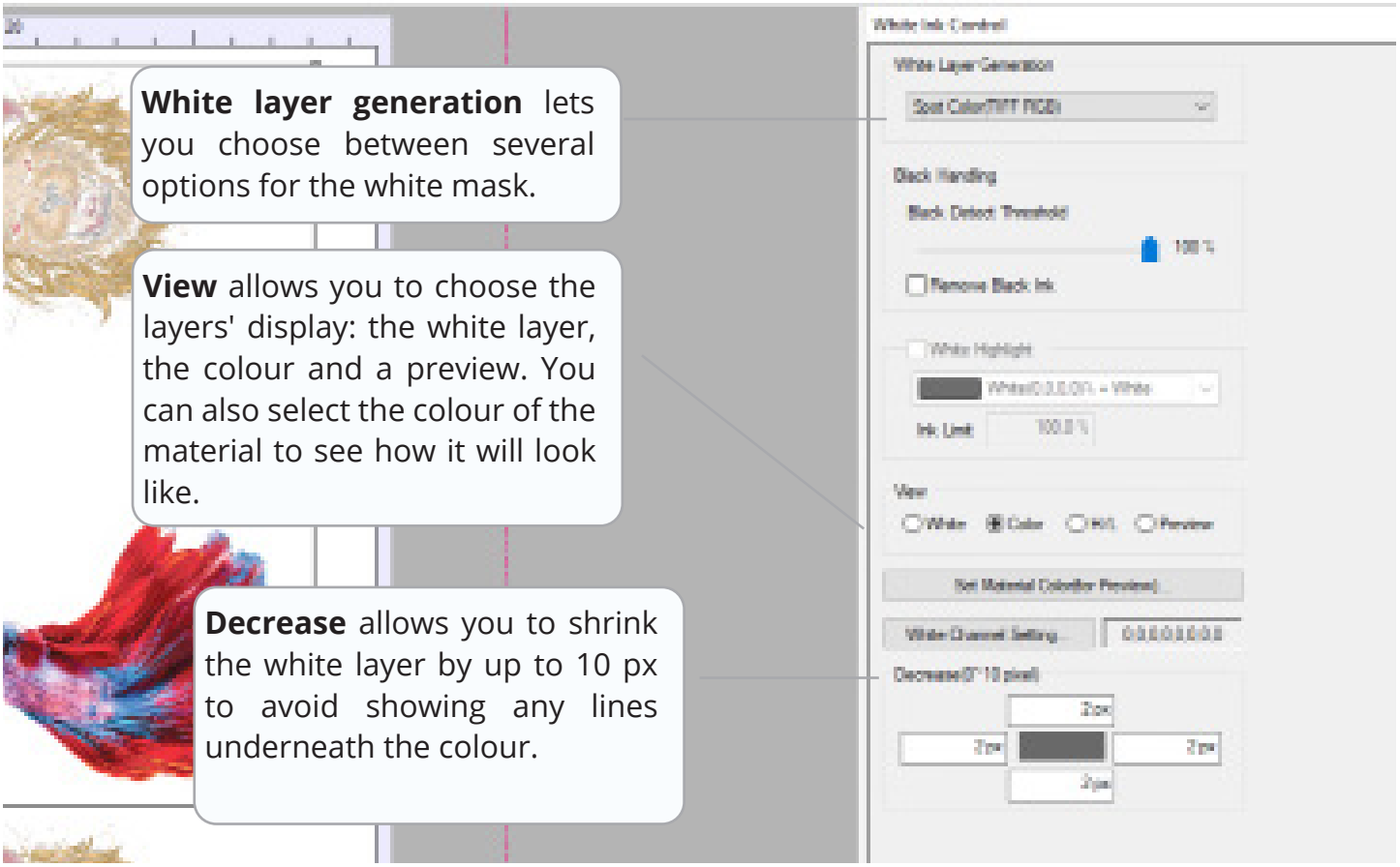
Printer Tab



Color Management Tab



White Ink Control Tab

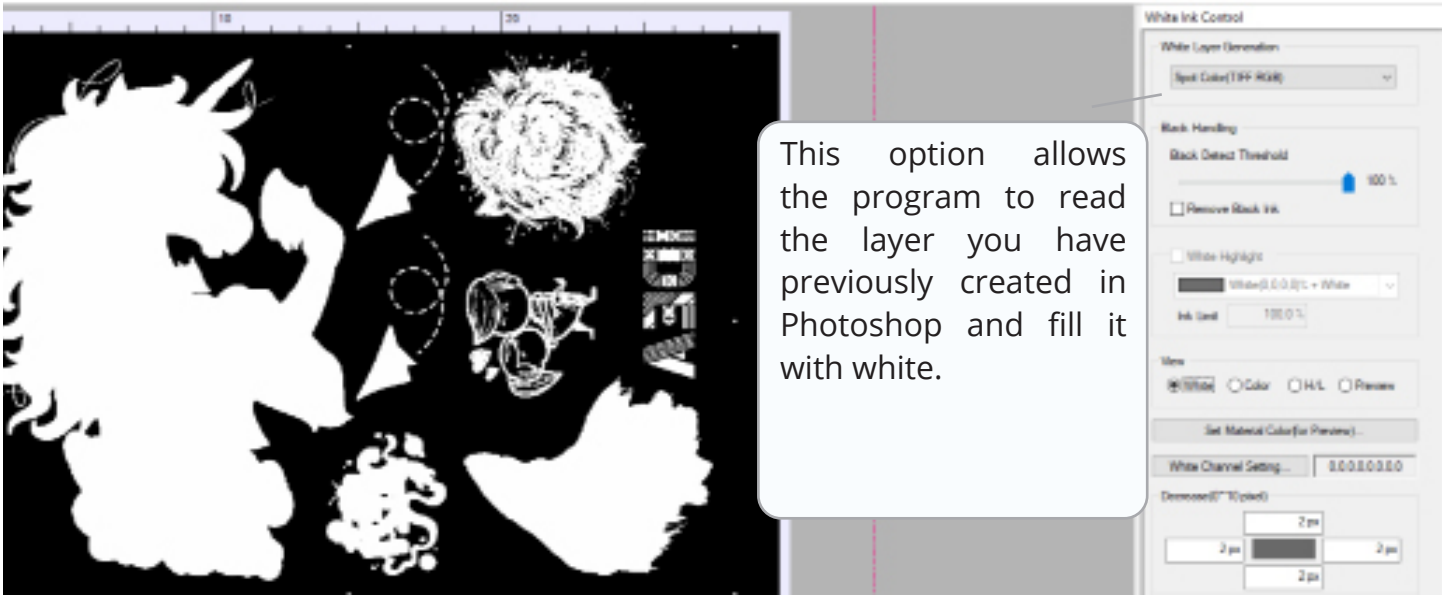


White layer generation lets you choose between several options for the white mask.

View allows you to choose the layers' display: the white layer, the colour and a preview. You can also select the colour of the material to see how it will look like.

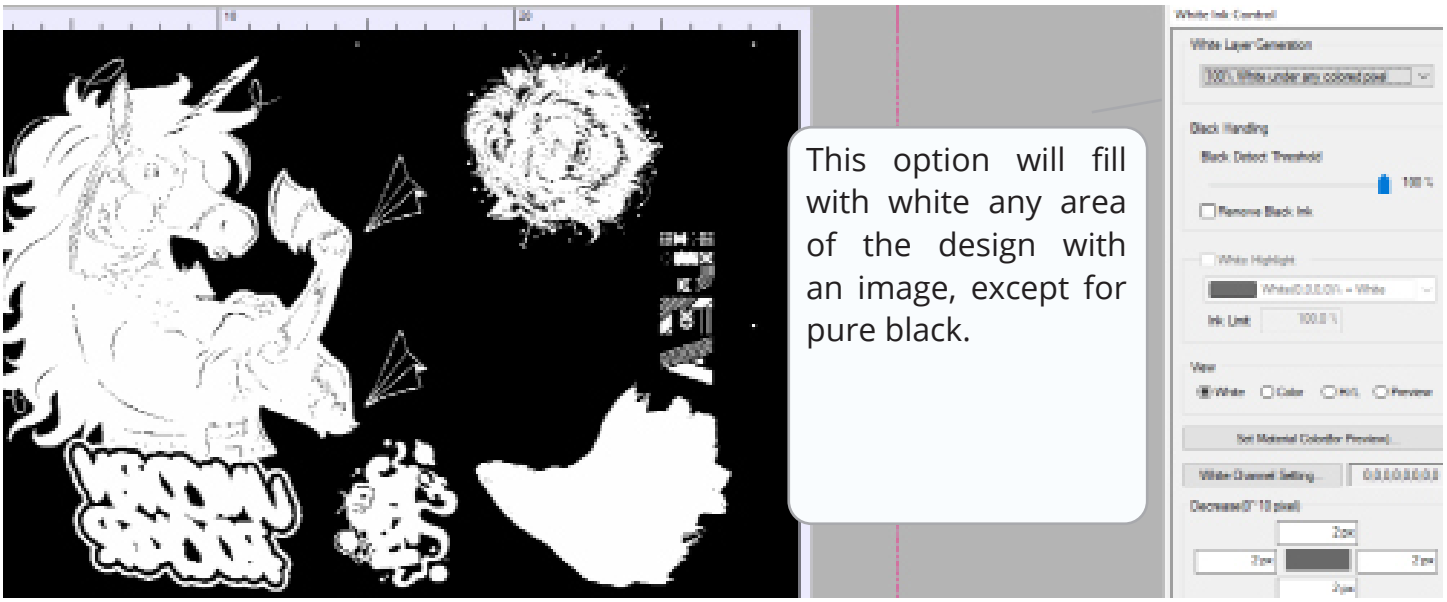
Decrease allows you to shrink the white layer by up to 10 px to avoid showing any lines underneath the colour.

Spot Color (TIFF RGB)



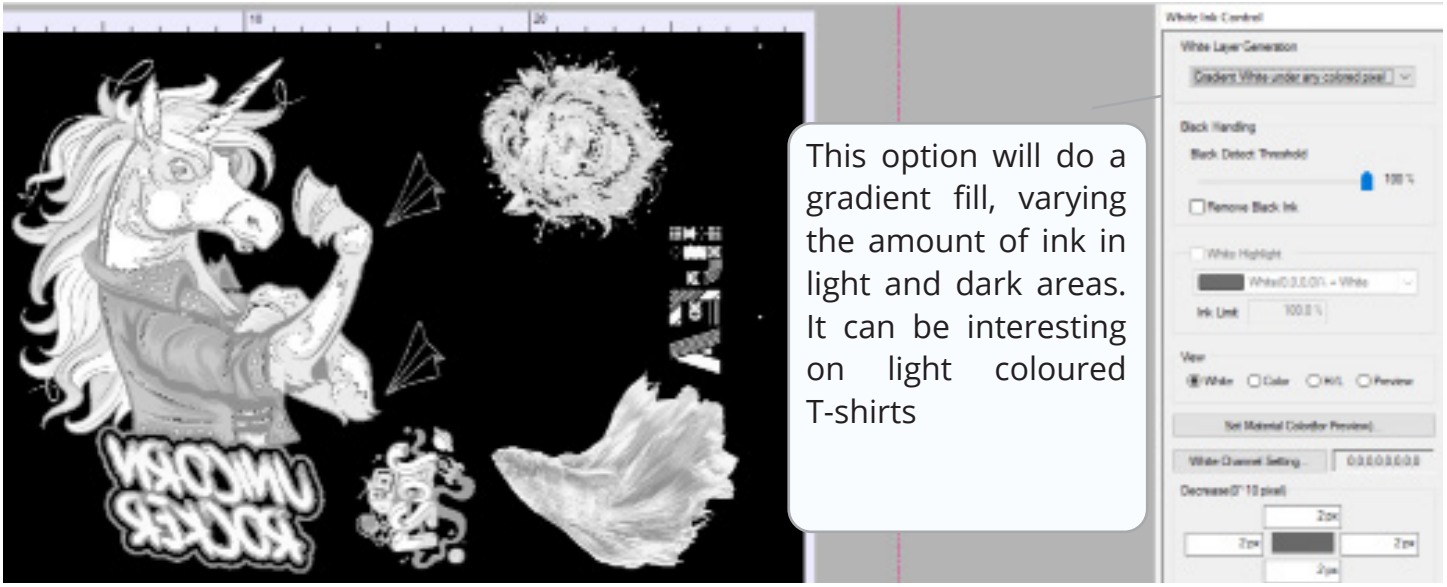
This option allows the program to read the layer you have previously created in Photoshop and fill it with white.

100% White under any colored pixel



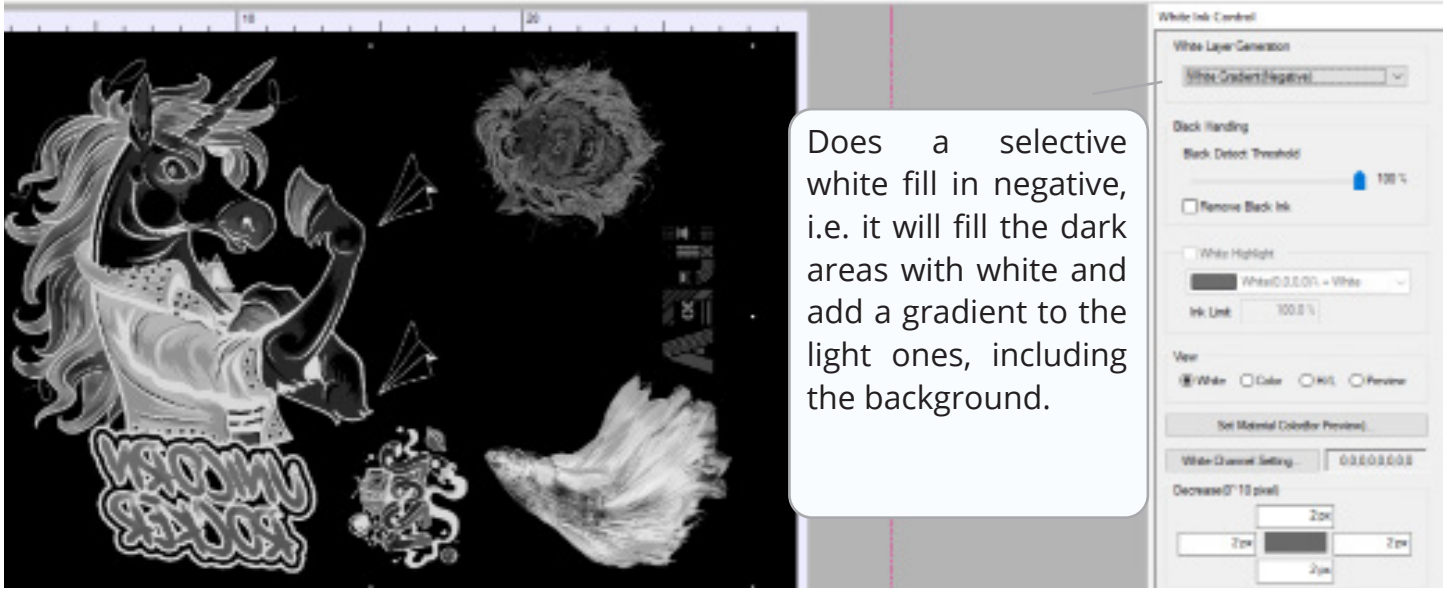
This option will fill with white any area of the design with an image, except for pure black.

Gradient White under any colored pixel



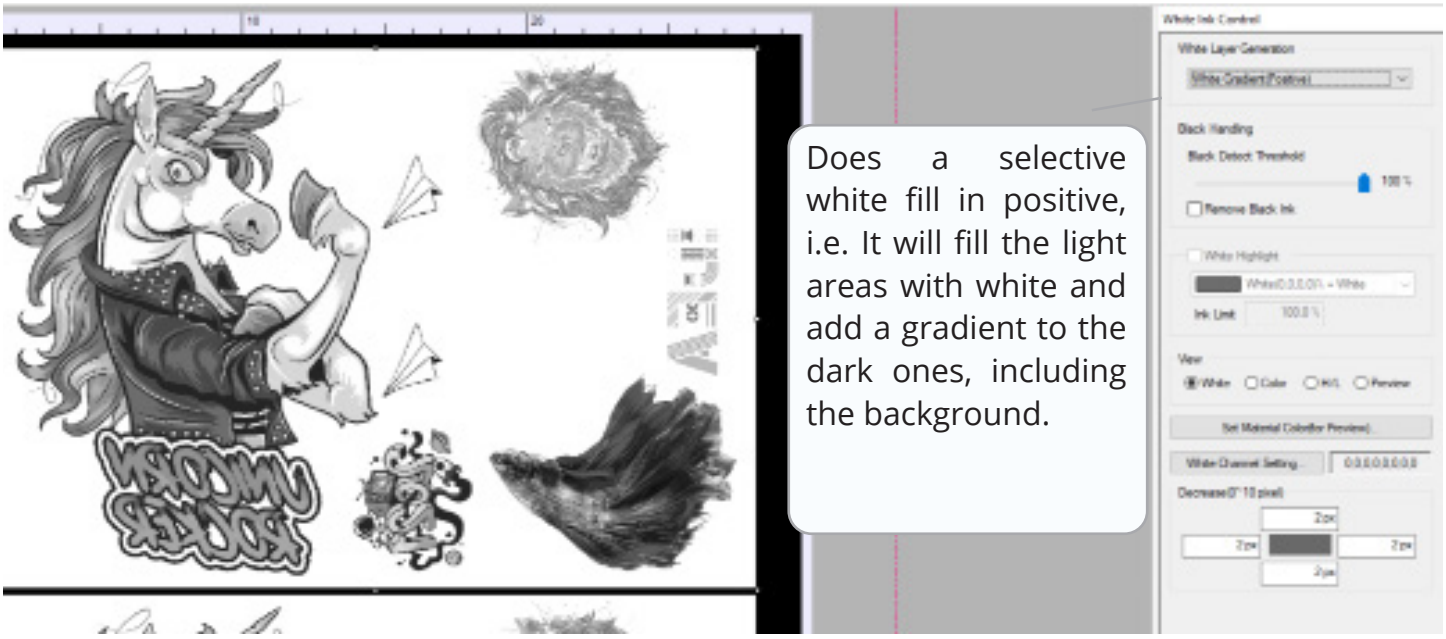
This option will do a gradient fill, varying the amount of ink in light and dark areas. It can be interesting on light coloured T-shirts

White Gradient (Negative)



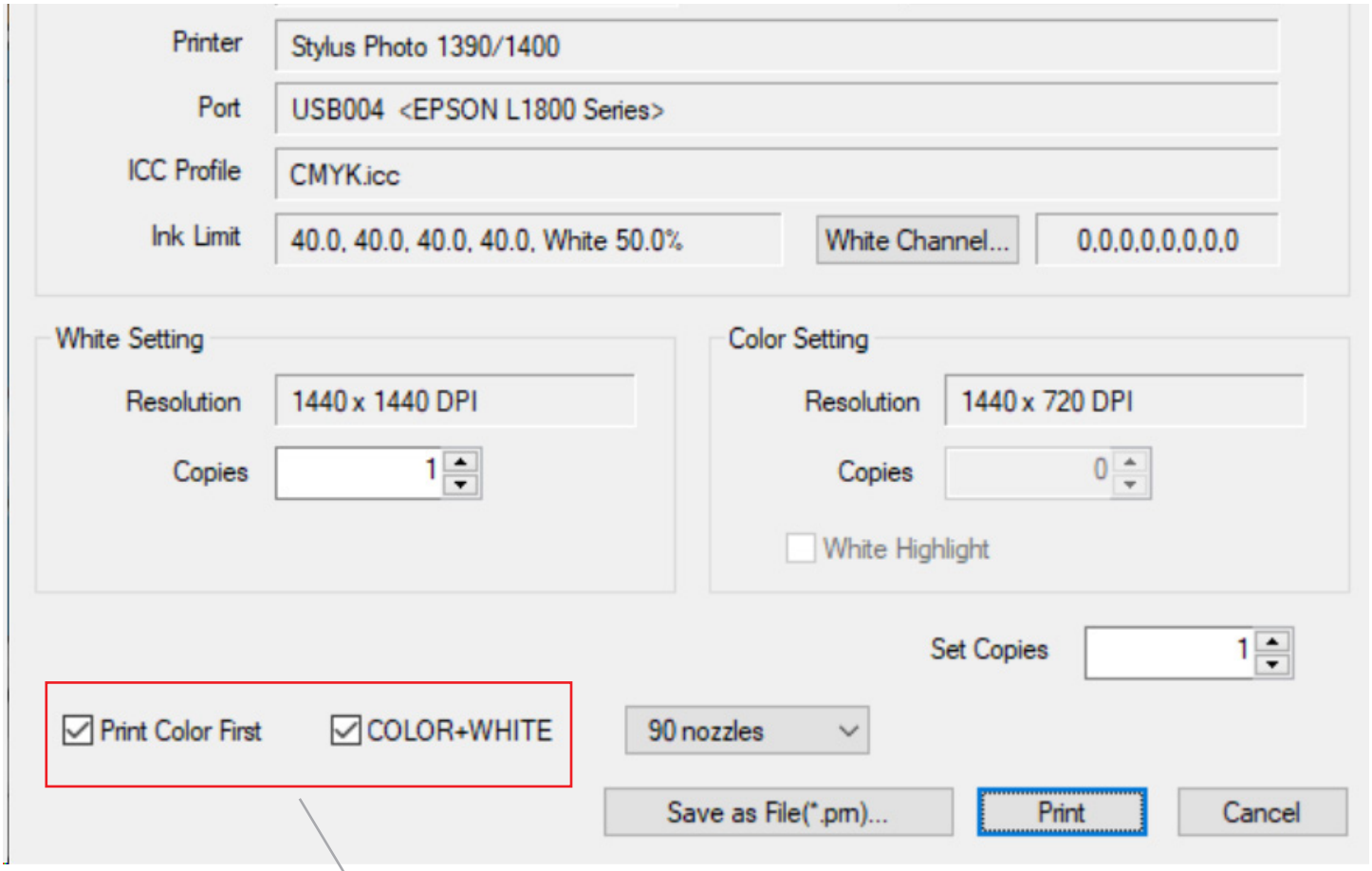
Does a selective white fill in negative, i.e. it will fill the dark areas with white and add a gradient to the light ones, including the background.

White Gradient (Positive)



Does a selective white fill in positive, i.e. It will fill the light areas with white and add a gradient to the dark ones, including the background.

Printing



Before printing, **Print Color First** and **Color+White** must be selected. That way, it will print the colour first, followed by the white layer, which is the correct thing to do as the image is mirrored. **If you're only printing in white, both boxes must be unchecked.**

4. PRINTING AND PRESSING

The ink is still wet after printing. You must now apply DTF powder which will stick to the film over the wet ink.
Remember to **shake the film vigorously to remove the excess powder** stuck to parts of the sheet with no ink. If you don't, it will show on the fabric when pressing on dark garments.
After applying the powder, **you must cure it** with a heat press, **leaving a space of about 5 cm between the platen and the film**. You can also cure it with an oven or a heat gun.
Depending on whether you will apply it immediately or store it for later, you should use different time and temperature settings.

	TEMPERATURE	TIME
Instant pressing	165ºC	120"
Subsequent pressing	190ºC	480"

After curing the powder, you may proceed to its application on the garment. Depending on the type of fabric, you will have to choose different time or temperature settings. The pressure of your press should be medium-heavy, about 3-4 bars, and the film must be **peeled off cold** in a slow but steady movement.

	TEMPERATURE	TIME
Cotton	165ºC	15"
Polyester	140ºC	50"

Time and temperature settings are provided for guidance only. To achieve an optimal workflow, we recommend that you conduct your own tests.

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