

HOMEMADE TRANSFERS

by Jen Adkins Designs

Have you ever found that *perfect* Photoshop brush or swirly flourish (but don't have a wide format printer to use with 12 by 12 paper)? Don't want to spend the bucks for *another* stamp? Can't find a rub-on that says the *exact* right thing? I've got a solution for you, and it's cheaper than buying specially designed "do-it-yourself" rub-on kits!

MATERIALS TO GATHER:

Krylon Preserve It! Digital Photo & Paper Protectant in Matte (#7027)
Clear transparency sheet for laser printers or copiers (Do NOT use coated transparencies usually designed for inkjet printers, the ink will soak into the coating and not transfer)
Computer and inkjet printer
Stylus, dull pencil, or popsicle stick
Permanent marker

THE STEPS:

1. Use the permanent pen to place an identifiable mark on one corner of the transparency sheet. (Write your initials for example! This mark allows you to know which side of the transparency to spray and print on.)

2. Following manufacturer's instructions, apply a light coat of Preserve It! onto the marked side of the transparency sheet, covering it completely. Let dry thoroughly. I found it took about 15 minutes.

3. Make sure the text or image you want to use is reversed (mirror image), and print onto the sprayed side of the transparency sheet. Let dry thoroughly, approximately 15 minutes. (Don't forget! In order to have readable text once it's transferred, text and images have to be printed in reverse or mirror image.)



4. Apply a light coat of Preserve It! to the printed area of the transparency sheet. This will dry tacky to the touch in approximately five minutes. The next step is to transfer your printed art to a porous surface (Paper or cardstock worked well. If you experiment with transfers to prints I'd love to see you share it in the gallery!)

5. Place the paper that is to receive the transfer on a sturdy, smooth work surface. Position the transparency sheet transfer side (sprayed/printed side) down onto the paper. Use the stylus (pencil or popsicle stick) to gently, but firmly, rub the transparency sheet over the inked image to transfer the text or image onto the receiving surface.

(To avoid transferring areas you may have printed but don't want to transfer yet, you can either cut the transparency apart or place a piece of unused transparency sheet between the areas you don't want to transfer and the surface before you apply pressure.) After you have done this first transfer, it will still be possible to get more transfers from this same transparency sheet—each time you transfer, the image will become lighter (less of the ink remains on the transparency). I found that the image I transferred was a little grainy, kind of grungy actually, so don't use really finely detailed clip art for this technique.

You can also store the printed sheets and transfer the images later! Make sure to keep in a dry room with a blank transparency or the waxy side of freezer paper up against the sprayed/printed side of your transfer.

