Printing onto wood using heat transfer printing
Wood working is a common maker activity. But most of the time, there is nothing printed on the wood to enhance the look and feel of the finished wooden product.

Beside being a decorative process, you can also use it to print a template guide for cutting, drilling onto the wood.

The process will work with both plywood as well as MDF. You can also combine the process with a laser cutter to cut the wood or MDF into a shape first before printing.
To start printing onto wood, you will need the following equipments

**Colour Laser Printer**
The colour laser printer is used to print the design onto the transfer media

**RST/CPM Transfer Media**
Depending on the type of wood you are using, you might use RST transfer media or CPM transfer media.

*RST Transfer Media*: Suitable for most wood such as pine, plywood
*CPM Transfer Media*: Suitable for MDF wood.

**Heat Press Machine**
The key to getting a perfect transfer is to use a heat press machine. Using a heat press machine will give consistent temperature and pressure to the transfer printing process.

**Spray adhesive/Liquidtex**
Besides using a heat press, it is also possible to transfer the image onto wood by either using a spray on adhesive or by using liquidtex gel medium.
How Does It Work?

Method 1: Using a heat press

1. Create your design in a design software of your choice. Then print it onto RST transfer media.

Place the RST transfer face down onto the wood surface and then use a heat press to press onto the wood.
2. When the time is up, open the heat press and spray water onto the transfer media.

3. Peel off the transfer.
How Does It Work?

**Method 2: Using spray adhesive**

1. Create your design in a design software of your choice. Then print it onto RST transfer media. Spray about 3 coats of adhesive onto the wood surface. Then quickly place the RST transfer media image side face down onto the surface with the adhesive.
2. Let the adhesive dry for about 5-10 mins. Then spray water onto the RST transfer media and peel off the transfer.
Heat transfer printing is not just about printing onto T-Shirts. Watch how we are able to make use of various heat transfer media to create a unique custom made infinity mirror.

Transfer media used includes RST 9.1 for printing onto wood and CPM 6.2 for creating a custom circuit board for the LEDs.

Infinity Mirror

Watch video

Using RST 9.1 with Liquidtex Gel Medium
This video demonstrates how to do image transfer onto wood without the use of a heatpress. By using liquidtex gel medium, you can also do image transfer onto wood.

Video Links


Watch video
Using RST 9.1 with Spray On Adhesive
This video demonstrates how to do image transfer onto wood without the use of a heatpress. By using a spray on adhesive, you can also do image transfer onto various surfaces such as wood and acrylic.

Watch video
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