

Curious Collection.®



Curious Collection.

Alchemy

Curious Alchemy papers and boards can be printed with all major print processes. Please be aware that the mottle nature of the surface of Curious Alchemy may be seen through the printing. To optimise the print results we offer some recommendations:

Offset litho

Design and pre-press

- A screen of 133 -150 lpi should be used.
- Although 4 colour printing on Alchemy would not be typical, if desired employ under colour removal to a maximum of 260%.

Printing

- For optimum results increase the blanket pressure or use a softer blanket to achieve consistent ink lay down.

Printing inks

- Curious Alchemy paper and boards do not contain ground metals and are not foiled.
- UV inks are recommended, but fully oxidising inks can be used with or without infra-red drying assistance.
- Avoid using overnight / stay fresh / duct stable inks.
- Always allow sufficient drying time.

Paper handling

- To help avoid marking and set-off when printing multiple colours, at least 35microns anti set off spray for boards and at least 20microns for paper weights are recommended.
- It may also be helpful to turn off the delivery stack joggers and restrict the delivery pile height particularly when printing boards.
- Always protect paper from environmental humidity and temperature changes by using stack covers or stretch wrap.

Sealers and coatings

- Sealers and press coatings can be used to help reduce marking for further operations.
- Ensure the inks are suitable and best results are achieved when the inks are dry before sealing.
- Be aware some of the metallic shine may be compromised by sealers and coatings.

Varnishing

- To achieve a gloss varnish, it is essential to pre-seal the surface with Silk screen applied matt UV varnish, followed by subsequent applications of gloss UV varnish to achieve the desired effect.
- Ensure suitable inks are used prior to varnishing and that the inks are completely dry before varnish application.
- Not recommended for paper weights. Consider a clear hot foil as an alternative.

Screen printing

- Screen printing process can be used for Curious Alchemy.
- Paper and board inks can be used across the ranges of Curious Alchemy but when ink opacity is necessary vinyl inks give good results.
- UV systems can also be used.

Blind embossing

- Curious Alchemy is ideally suited to blind embossing.
- The corners of the die should be rounded off to avoid creases.

Hot foil stamping

- Curious Alchemy accept hot foil stamping easily.
- It is recommended to perform a trial if specialist foils are required. E.g. pigmented or holographic foils.
- Foil printers can recommend the best foil for the image and paper choice.

Lamination on board

- 120gsm Curious Alchemy paper is suited to lamination on board to manufacture boxes.

Die stamping

- Curious Alchemy can be easily die stamped with superior results on smooth papers with very detailed imagery.

Thermography

- It is recommended to do a trial thermography before running the paper.

Film laminating

- Whilst Curious Alchemy accepts film lamination, there will be "silvering" due to its unique fine surface texture.
- Lamination will also reduce or negate the unique surface look of Curious Alchemy, so a trial is recommended.
- To reduce silvering increase laminating pressure and if possible apply excess adhesive if using wet glue lamination.



Curious Collection[®]

Alchemy

Die and laser cutting

- Curious Alchemy papers and boards can be die cut.
- While laser cutting is easy some scorching will be apparent around the cut area.

Folding and creasing

- To guarantee good folding results, prior creasing is recommended.
- Creases should be made parallel to the grain of the board. For best results, a creasing rule and matrix system should be used.
- Fold towards the bead for prominent folds.

Binding and adhesives

- It is possible to bond Curious Alchemy papers to themselves and to other materials using hotmelt, acrylic type, or water-based adhesives.
- Use PUR hotmelt adhesive for perfect binding.

Office printing

- Compatibility to office printers should be tested.
- Curious Alchemy 120g papers often give acceptable results for text and simple graphic applications.

Digital technologies

- The paper should be cut at the right format to be used on Digital presses.
- Curious Alchemy provides good print quality on dry toner presses. For more details see the dry toner compatibility chart.

Further info

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Curious Metallics papers and boards give excellent printing results with all major print processes. To optimise the print results we offer some recommendations:

Offset litho

Design and pre-press

- A screen of 133 -150 lpi should be used.
- For dark 4 colour images with high ink density, under colour removal may be required depending on the visuals.

Printing

- For optimum results on textured products (particularly Curious Metallics embossings) increase the blanket pressure or use a softer blanket to achieve consistent ink lay down.

Printing inks

- Curious Metallics do not contain ground metals and are not foil papers.
- Fully-oxidising inks are recommended, but conventional positive drying inks can be used with or without infra-red drying assistance.
- UV inks may also be used.
- Avoid using overnight / stay fresh / duct stable inks.

Paper handling

- To help avoid marking and set-off when printing multiple colours, 35micron anti set off spray for boards (go up in size for embossed products) and 20micron for paper weights are recommended.
- It may also be helpful to turn off the delivery stack joggers and restrict the delivery pile height particularly when printing boards.
- Always protect paper from environmental humidity and temperature changes by using stack covers or stretch wrap.

Sealers and coatings

- Sealers and press coatings can be used to help reduce marking for further operations.
- Ensure the inks are suitable and best results are achieved when the inks are dry before sealing.
- Be aware some of the metallic shine may be compromised by sealers and coatings.

Varnishing

- To achieve a gloss varnish, it is essential to pre-seal the surface with Silk screen applied matt UV varnish, followed by subsequent applications of gloss UV varnish to achieve the desired effect.
- Ensure suitable inks are used prior to varnishing and that the inks are completely dry before varnish application.
- Not recommended for paper weights. Consider a clear hot foil as an alternative.
- If embossed note the issues associated with the screen process.

Screen printing

- Curious Metallics can be printed by the screen printing process.
- Paper and board inks can be used across the ranges of Curious Metallics but when ink opacity is necessary vinyl inks give good results.
- For accurate ink placement the screen requires intimate contact with the substrate. Consequently some image detail will be compromised when silk screen printing on to the Curious Metallics embossed papers.

Blind embossing

- Curious Metallics can be blind embossed.
- It is recommended to have the corners of the die rounded off to help prevent creases forming from them.
- To emboss an image in an already embossed sheet it may be necessary to plate sink the original texture before stamping the new embossing. This is very true for the strong Curious Metallic textures like Fusilier embossing.

Hot foil stamping

- Curious Metallics accept hot foil stamping easily.
- The Curious Metallics embossing range also accepts hot foil stamping but due to the uneven embossed texture some image detail will be compromised.
- If a fine image is to be stamped on to a Curious Metallics embossed product, it is recommended to plate sink the area first. A trial is therefore recommended to ensure the results are acceptable.
- Foil printers can recommend the best foil for the image and paper choice.

Die stamping

- Curious Metallics can be easily die stamped with superior results on smooth papers with very detailed imagery.
- However if die stamping on to a Curious Metallics embossing, it may be required to plate sink the area first.

Thermography

- We recommend trial thermography before running the paper.

Film laminating

- Only wove finishes can be film laminated, although due to the rough open texture some 'silvering' will be evident after lamination.
- To reduce silvering increase laminating pressure and if possible apply excess adhesive if using wet glue lamination.



Curious Collection. Metallics

Die and laser cutting

- Curious Metallics papers and boards can be die cut.
- While laser cutting is easy some scorching will be apparent around the cut area.
- Laser cut papers are more prone to mis-feeds and jams within office printing technologies.

Folding and creasing

- To guarantee good folding results, prior creasing is recommended.
- Creases should be made parallel to the grain of the board. For best results, a creasing rule and matrix system should be used.
- Fold towards the bead for prominent folds.
- Note when folding the Fusilier embossing it is normal for cracks to appear along the Fusilier texture.

Binding and adhesives

- Standard adhesives and binding techniques can be used.

Office printing

- Compatibility to office printers should be tested.
- Low weight Curious Metallics papers often give acceptable results for text and simple graphic applications.

Digital technologies

- The HP Indigo versions of Curious Metallics products are fully certified for use with HP Indigo digital presses.
- For dry toner digital presses we stock Curious Metallics Cryogen White and Europa Ivory 240gsm in SRA3 format. Other Curious Metallics products work on various dry toner digital presses for which we have a compatibility table.
- Compatibility to other dry toner digital presses should be tested.

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Curious Collection.

Translucents

Curious Translucents give excellent printing results with most major print processes. To optimise the print results we offer some recommendations:

Please note Curious Translucents are very reactive to environmental conditions.

Offset litho

Design and pre-press

- Avoid large areas of solid composite colour.
- Employ under colour removal (UCR) technique when possible.
- Use screens of 130-150 lpi.

Printing

- Confine 72g to single-colour work.
- Air sheets well during loading.
- Run as fast and as dry as the sheet permits.
- Limit the number of passes through the press to as few as possible.
- Use 15-20 micron coated spray powder to allow air to permeate through the printed sheets.
- Rack in small piles, air frequently and keep covered.
- Damping solution should be pH5 and adjusted to just keep the plate clean.
- Alcohol damping at 10% can assist with low levels of damping.
- Metal products differ from others in having a surface coating. When printing these it may be necessary to clean the offset blanket periodically.

Printing inks

- Use hard-drying, fully oxidising inks, as used for plastics and foils.
- Drying agents can be added to the ink or fount carefully following manufacturers' dosage. Over dosing can have a detrimental effect to drying.
- Use UV inks with care.

Paper handling

- Store unopened in the original packaging for at least 24 hours.
- Avoid exposure to uncontrolled humidity or excessive heat or cold.
- Keep covered until the paper is about to go on press.
- As Curious Translucents are so dense, treat each weight as if it were a lighter weight, i.e. 72g should be treated as if it were a 62g for adjusting printing pressure.
- Print room conditions are critical. Aim for a consistent RH of 45-55% at room temperature.

Sealers and coatings

- Sealers and press coatings are not recommended.

Varnishing

- Generally not recommended as can cause the paper to curl or distort.
- Screen process UV SPOT gloss varnishing can be achieved but care must be taken to avoid drying the paper by the heat from the UV lamps. A trial is recommended prior to purchase.

Screen printing

- Generally not recommended as it can cause the paper to curl or distort.
- Simple UV prints can be achieved but care must be taken to avoid drying the paper by the heat from the UV lamps. A trial is recommended prior to purchase.
- Consider printing offset litho instead.

Blind embossing

- Curious Translucents are not as forgiving as standard papers. Do not emboss if the paper and conditions are dry.
- Shallow embosses work best to avoid splitting the paper. It is recommended to have the corners of the die rounded off to help prevent creases forming from them.
- The paper will turn white along the lines of embossing.

Hot foil stamping

- Hot foil stamping can be achieved with compatible foils.
- Best results are achieved by foiling small areas with a single image rather than on large format with repeated images.
- A trial is recommended to ensure the results are acceptable.
- Foil printers can recommend the best foil for the image and paper choice.

Die Stamping

- Generally not recommended.

Thermography

- Generally not recommended.

Film laminating

- Curious Translucents are not suitable for film lamination.

Die and laser cutting

- Curious Translucents can be die cut but due to the density of the paper, only cut small piles with sharp tools.
- Laser cutting is easily achieved but scorching will be apparent around the cut area on both sides due to the paper transparency.



Folding and creasing

- To guarantee good folding results, prior creasing with a creasing rule and matrix system is recommended for 150g and above.
- Creases should be made parallel to the grain of the paper and fold away from the bead contrary to other paper.
- Do not crease and fold when the paper and environment are dry as splitting may occur.
- Weights less than 92g are not recommended for use on high speed buckle folders but are suitable for knife folding.

Trimming and cutting

- Use a sharp 23° bevel angle blade.
- New blades should be honed and worked on waste paper to remove any small lips and burs on the blade.
- Cut into small stacks - maximum thickness 50mm

Binding and adhesives

- While Curious Translucents can be saddle stitched, weights under 92g are not suitable for outer wraps and centrefolds.
- When perfect binding, it is essential to have the paper grain parallel to spine.
- Hotmelt glues are preferable – do not use aqueous adhesives.
- Moisture proof wrap the finished articles.

Office printing

- Some office equipment may not “see” the paper and so compatibility to office printers should be tested.
- The 112gsm is best for post laser curl and toner adhesion when laser printing.
- InkJet printers use water based ink so some sheet distortion will result depending on the amount of ink printed.

Digital technologies

- The HP Indigo version of Curious Translucents have white edge identification strips and are fully certified for use with HP Indigo digital presses.
- We do not recommend Curious Translucents for dry toner digital presses so a trial is essential.

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Curious Collection.

Skin

Curious Skin papers and boards give excellent printing results with all major print processes. To optimise the print results we offer some recommendations:

Offset litho

Design and pre-press

- To ensure maximum clarity, we recommend screen rulings of 175 lpi.
- Under-colour removal may be considered for jobs with large dark areas of ink.

Printing inks

- The White, Ivory and Stone shades work well with standard semi fresh inks.
- We only recommend using fully oxidising inks for all other colours in the Skin range.
- UV inks are suitable.
- For processes requiring specialised inks e.g. metallics, please consult your ink supplier.

Paper handling

- To help avoid marking and set-off when printing multiple colours, 35micron anti set off spray for boards and 20micron for paper weights are recommended.
- It may also be helpful to turn off the delivery stack jiggers and restrict the delivery pile height particularly when printing boards.
- Always protect paper from environmental humidity and temperature changes by using stack covers or stretch wrap.

Sealers and coatings

- Sealers and press coatings can be used to help reduce marking for further operations although the papers' matt aspect may be compromised depending on the choice of sealer and coat weight.
- Ensure the inks are suitable and best results are achieved when the inks are dry before sealing.

Varnishing

- Spot UV varnishing through the screen process achieves great results.
- Ensure suitable inks are used prior to varnishing and that the inks are completely dry before varnish application.

Silk screen

- UV silk-screen printing gives very acceptable results, as does conventional silk-screen printing using vinyl inks in conjunction with drying ovens.

Blind embossing

- The Skin range is ideally suited to blind embossing. The corners of the die should be rounded off to avoid creases.

Hot foil stamping

- Curious Skin can be successfully foil stamped
- Ensure the use of a compatible film.
- Do not use clear foils.

Film lamination

- The paper accepts laminates easily.
- However, the visual aspect and feel of the paper will be lost.

Die and laser cutting

- SKIN papers and boards can be die cut.
- While laser cutting is easy some scorching will be apparent around the cut area.

Binding and adhesives

- It is possible to bond papers with appropriate adhesives.
- The Skin can be saddle stitched, section sewn and comb bound.
- When using spiral binding, round holes and round shank wire perform best.
- Use PUR hotmelt adhesive for perfect binding.

Folding and creasing

- Creases should be made parallel to the grain of the board using a creasing rule and matrix system.
- Always fold towards the bead.

Office Printing

- Curious Skin is not recommended with office printers.

Digital technologies

- The HP Indigo versions of Curious Skin products are fully certified for use with HP Indigo digital presses.
- For dry toner digital presses we stock Curious Skin Extra White 270gsm in SRA3 format.
- Other Curious Skin papers work on various dry toner digital presses for which we have a compatibility table that can be downloaded [here](#).
- Compatibility to other dry toner digital presses should be tested.

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Curious Collection.

Touch

Curious Soft Touch's unique finish lends itself to printing with UV inks only.

Offset litho

Design and pre-press

- Treat this product like a dark colour.
- Do not cover it in ink as the touch feeling will be lost.
- Designs that allow for areas without ink, and light ink coverage work best.
- A screen of 133 -150 lpi should be used. Finer screens can also give very good results with careful ink weight control.
- Dark 4 colour images with high ink density are not suitable.

Printing

- We only recommend printing Curious Touch Soft with a UV equipped press and UV inks.
- Seek advice if this equipment is not available.

Printing inks

- The untreated side can also be printed using UV inks.
- It is possible to use conventional fully oxidising inks on the untreated side only, providing exceptional care is taken: i.e., use an anti-set-off spray of at least 35 microns; always rack printed sheets in small piles; and use under-colour removal for images with large dark areas. (Again, if UV inks are used the above precautions are not necessary.)

Paper handling

- If UV offset is not an option then all precautions to prevent set-off are necessary.
- Use plenty of 35micron spray powder and it will be helpful to turn off the delivery stack joggers and restrict the delivery pile height particularly when printing boards.
- Always protect paper from environmental humidity and temperature changes by using stack covers or stretch wrap.

Sealers and coatings

- Overall sealers and coatings are not advised as they will compromise the feel of the paper.

Varnishing

- Screen process UV varnishing is the only method to achieve good gloss results.
- Repeat applications may be required to achieve high gloss levels.
- The varnish will change the touch of the paper so can be used to contrast feel in the design.

Silk screen

- Screen process printing with UV ink gives very acceptable results, as do conventional inks with oven drying.

Blind embossing

- Curious Touch Soft is ideally suited to blind embossing.
- The corners of the die should be rounded off to avoid creases.

Hot foil stamping

- Curious Touch Soft can be foil blocked.
- However, due to the unique surface the foiled image may appear to have a matt finish.
- Ensure the use of a compatible film.

Film laminating

- The untreated side laminates easily.
- Please note that some 'silvering' may occur.
- Increase laminating pressure and apply excess adhesive to help reduce silvering.
- Lamination of the Soft side is not recommended.

Die and laser cutting

- Curious Touch Soft can be die cut.
- Laser cutting is not recommended.

Folding and creasing

- Prior creasing is recommended using a creasing rule and matrix system for the 300g product.
- Always fold into the bead.
- The 120g product can be folded easily on a buckle plate or knife folding machine.

Binding and adhesives

- Standard adhesives and binding techniques can be used.

Desktop compatibility

- Curious Touch Soft is not guaranteed for inkjet or laser compatibility.
- However, acceptable results can be obtained on some inkjet printers. A trial is, therefore, recommended.

Digital technologies

- Curious Touch Soft is not suitable for digital presses.

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Curious Collection.

Matter

Please note that due to the unique surface of Curious Matter, special care must be taken when printing and converting this product. To optimise the print results we offer some recommendations:

Offset litho

Design and pre-press

- For optimum print results with Curious Matter papers a screen of 133 - 150 lpi should be used.
- For dark 4 colour images with high ink density, under colour removal may be used depending on the quality of the visual.
- Aim for the total ink film weight of 260%.

Printing

- For optimum results increase the blanket pressure or use a softer blanket to achieve consistent ink lay down.

Printing inks

- Conventional positive drying inks should be used with or without infra-red drying assistance.
- Fully oxidizing inks or UV inks may also be used.
- Avoid using overnight, stayfresh, ductstable inks.
- Always allow sufficient drying time.

Paper handling

- Select a slower press speed for board printing.
- To help avoid marking and set-off when printing multiple colours, 35micron anti set off spray for boards and 20micron for paper weights are recommended.
- It may also be helpful to turn off the delivery stack joggers.
- Do not allow the delivery stack to become too large; prints at the stack bottom will still be wet and less resistant to set off. T
- The Curious Matter papers have an extremely fine surface texture, thus, they should be handled with caution after printing to avoid any friction at the paper surface.
- Please note the dark colours of Curious Matter can mark other papers when there is friction.
- Protect paper from environmental humidity and temperature changes by always using stack covers and stretch wrap.
- The surface roughness of the Curious Matter can be reduced by pressure process e.g. embossing. A test should be done to ascertain if the final roughness remains acceptable.

Sealers and coatings

- Sealers can be used to help reduce marking for further operations.
- Coatings are not recommended as they are likely to change the feel of the paper.
- Ensure the inks are suitable and best results are achieved when the inks are dry before sealing.

Varnishing

- To achieve a gloss varnish, it is essential to pre-seal the surface with Silk screen applied matt UV varnish, followed by subsequent applications of gloss UV varnish to achieve the desired effect.
- Ensure suitable inks are used prior to varnishing and that the inks are completely dry before varnish application.

Screen printing

- Paper and board inks can be used, but when ink opacity is necessary vinyl inks give good results.
- UV inks can be used.

Blind embossing

- Curious Matter is ideally suited to blind embossing.
- The corners of the die should be rounded off to avoid creases.
- The Curious Matter rough texture will be removed in the embossed area.

Hot foil stamping

- Curious Matter accepts most hot foils easily.
- It is recommended to perform a trial if specialist foils are required. E.g. pigmented or holographic foils.

Lamination on board

- 125gsm Curious Matter paper is suited to lamination on board to manufacture boxes.
- Caution should be taken to avoid marking the Curious Matter surface. To that end we suggest to wrap the boxes with a protective paper or insert in to a plastic bag.
- Please note the dark colours of Curious Matter can mark other papers when there is movement between them.

Film laminating

- Whilst Curious Matter will accept film lamination, there will be "silvering" due to its unique fine surface texture.
- To reduce silvering increase laminating pressure and if possible apply excess adhesive if using wet glue lamination.
- The touch effect of the paper will be lost.
- A trial is recommended to ensure the results are acceptable for the job design.

Die and laser cutting

- Curious Matter may be die cut.
- While laser cutting is easy some scorching will be apparent around the cut area.



Folding and creasing

- To guarantee good folding results, prior creasing is recommended.
- Creases should be made parallel to the grain of the board.
- For best results, a creasing rule and matrix system should be used.
- Fold towards the bead for prominent folds.

Binding and gluing

- It is possible to bond Curious Matter Papers to themselves and to other materials using common adhesives.
- Standard binding techniques can also be used.

Office printing

- Compatibility to office laser printers should be tested.
- Curious Matter is not suitable for Ink Jet printers.

Digital technologies

- Curious Matter papers up to 270gsm are compatible with Xerox IGEN 3/4, Kodak Nexpress, Konica Minolta C7000 - C8000 and Canon imagePress C7000VP printers.
- Compatibility with other dry toner digital printers should be tested.

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