 Papers

After the shutter has been fired there is so much that can be done to a digital file to influence the resultant print.

I am not a heavy manipulator of images, my sole objective is to reproduce what I saw and felt when I took the shot. I also use an array of filters when using my camera in trying to do less manipulation or should I say adjustments.

With digital photography we now have many opportunities to correct for deficiencies within an image, (contrast, and variations of brightness, tonality, colour balance and saturation). Whilst I strive to capture the best image possible, adjustments invariably need to be made to produce a satisfactory print.

**Which Papers to use?**

There is a wealth of inkjet papers available to us today, from many different manufacturers and distributors. Broadly you get what you pay for, **and anyone who prints on economy papers would do well to at least try using a better quality product and assess the difference.** I guess it's probably true to say that if you've got a stunning image it will do well printed on anything, but the paper choice and **inks** can play an important part in the success and finish of a completed print.

The paper I use is heavily influenced by the type of image I am printing and each paper offers variations in tone, colour and surface should not be ignored; of which you learn as you go along printing and comparing the printed image to others, which is no difference to the dark room, papers, solutions, developer and film types all change the tones.

Following Fotospeed's papers I have tested quite a few of their products, and have now arrived at a small number of paper's that suit my work and pocket well. An excellent and award winning general purpose paper is Fotospeed's PF Lustre, which I use for a lot of my prints. If I want just a little bit of extra depth and quality I use Platinum Gloss, which is superb. Fotospeed Platinum Baryta, is another paper I use (which has a smoother surface), works well in monochrome.

Probably 99% of my work is printed using these 4 papers, Lustre, Gloss, Matt and Baryta but if I want to print a more painterly or artistic image then matt surfaces are utilised. For prints with a smooth surface I generally use Fotospeed Matt Ultra, (with a bright white base), or Platinum Matt. I have used textured papers; and the recently introduced NT Bright White which is excellent, giving more tone in my estimation, in fact I would in all honesty use NT Bright White, but being a millionaire I use the Matt Ultra.

In all my photographic work, I always strive for the very best possible quality, and in order to achieve the nicest prints it's important to **utilise profiles**. These not only ensure accurate colours, but also dictate the correct supply of ink and Fotospeed supplied profiles for each paper that I use. (This free service is quick, easy and accurate).

I would recommend that you have each type of paper used, profiled by your paper manufacture as the test chart that you send back will be the best setting for that paper when your costumed profile returns. That is if you want to achieve better results when printing which also saves ink in the long run.

**"What you see..."**

It is important to realise that one can never achieve exactly what you see on your computer monitor in a completed print. Because the monitor is displaying an image by transmitted light the viewed image will often look brighter, be more contrasted, and have a bit more impact. By comparison a print relies on either dyes or pigments that are laid onto the paper by the printer, so the resultant print will often look different to the image on the monitor. Ultimately it is what the print looks like that is important, so although I will work upon an image until I think it looks right, **a test print** will often dictate further tweaks and modifications until I arrive at a satisfactory result.

**Test Print**

**I normally use a 6 x4 or 5x7 paper** before I go on to print an A4,A3 or A3 plus, choosing this method keeps costs down and the wasting of larger sheet paper also the inks, am I mean, yes!

Acknowledgements’: Fotospeed

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