

## Ink Jet Printing Tips

### Printers:

AlumaJet sheets have been tested on a wide range of ink jet printers.

- Many, but not all, printers that have a “J-curve” media path are acceptable for .005” thick AlumaJet sheets.
- Printers with “straight-through” media paths are recommended for all thicknesses of AlumaJet.
- Before printing, check to ensure that the sheet will feed through the printer by loading a single sheet and pressing Form Feed on your printer.



J-Curve



Straight Through



### Ink Compatibility:

AlumaJet sheets are compatible with all ink jet systems, including dye and pigment-based inks. Your ink choice will determine the longevity of the printed image. Archival grade inks are recommended when long-term durability and/or prolonged UV exposure is necessary.

### Printer set-up:

For best results, go to your Printer Set-Up and select the following:

- Media Type: Select Photo-Quality Glossy Paper, Velvet Fine Art Paper or Enhanced Matte Paper.
- Print Quality: Select Photo Enhance or Photo.
- DPI Settings: Select a high dpi setting. A Setting of 1440 DPI is recommended. While you can print at any dpi setting, choosing higher settings on your printer will yield better results.

It is recommended that you load and print one sheet at a time. Always load the sheet in the manual feed position. **DO NOT** place sheets in a paper tray, as they will not feed properly through the printer.

It is best to print your graphic on paper first to ensure proper configuration before printing on metal. Due to variations between printer and ink manufacturers, some experimentation with output settings may be required for optimal results.

Please refer to your printer manual for specific recommendations.



### Handling:

Avoid touching the printable surface of the sheet. Hold sheet by the edges. Allow ink to dry on sheet before stacking or handling. If desired, use a hair dryer or heat gun to quickly dry the sheet.

### Print Protection:

Protective laminates (or spray coatings) should be applied to the sheet to protect from moisture/fingerprints. Unprotected images are not recommended for exposure to moisture or direct UV rays.

### Storage:

Store AlumaJet sheets in their original pouch in a cool, dry place. Avoid moisture and high humidity. Keep any unused sheets in the original package until ready to print.

\*Horizons ISG assumes no liability for use of AlumaJet sheets with specific printers. For technical support, please call Horizons ISG at 877.386.1534.

*(Trouble Shooting Tips on other side)*

# Troubleshooting Tips



Correct

## Settings Issue:



**Blotchiness** - Make sure the printer is set for a high quality media like photo-quality glossy paper, not plain paper. Also make sure the AlumaJet sheets were not left out from the black pouch. If still occurring, decrease the ink saturation in the printer settings.



**Washed-out** - Make sure the printer is set for high quality media. If correct, then increase the ink saturation in the printer settings.



**Image looks blurry or jagged** - Improve the quality of the image itself before printing. The image may be too low resolution to print the desired size or quality.

## Mechanical Issue:



**Printed image is smearing** - Touching wet ink or handling with wet hands can smear ink.



**Printed crooked** - When the printer loads the AlumaJet sheet, make sure the that it is fed straight. If not, manually straighten the sheet.



**Not feeding into printer** - If the printer does not “grab” and pull the AlumaJet sheet in a little, pull the sheet back out and reinsert it. Often, warning lights will indicate the sheet is not correctly inserted.



**Aluminum stopped feeding at the end** - Image is too large for the sheet size. The printer needs more edge unprinted.



**Image is scratched coming out of the printer** - The media feed mechanism is probably scratching the sheet. Please contact Horizons for further information.

## Material Quality Standard

Sheets Will Meet These Conditions:

- Sheets shall maintain a consistent color and surface finish across the sheet.
- Each sheet shall be within +/- 0.025” of the advertised size in any dimension.
- No sheet shall contain more than two voids.

Horizons ISG reserves the right to change quality standards without notice and will evaluate the merit of all return/refund requests. If finish/color consistency is important, we recommend purchasing material from the same manufacturing lot.