

Reducing Ink Usage

Tech Note Number: 620

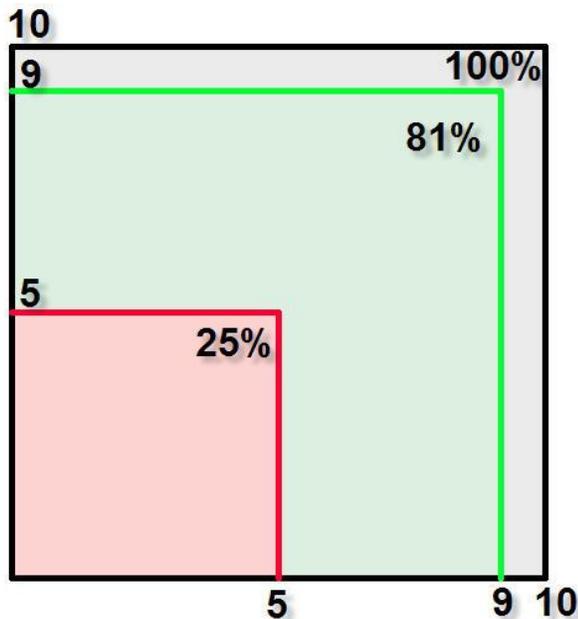
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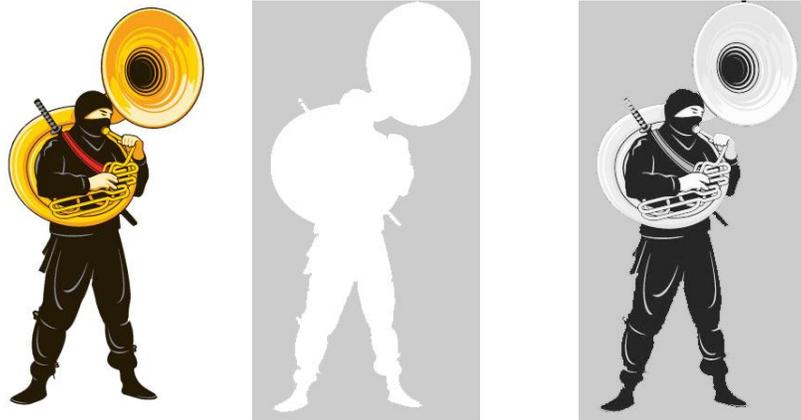
Applicable Models: SPRINT SP-200 series printers

Ink usage with the printer is quite variable. Small changes in the settings used to print can have a dramatic influence on the amount of ink that is used. The following is several ways to reduce the amount of ink that is consumed by the printer.

- Perform the required maintenance and keep the printer in the correct operating environment. Auto-Print Head Maintenance must be enabled. This uses the smallest amount of ink possible to keep the Print Head moist. The printer must be kept above 45% relative humidity MINIMUM. Failure to follow these guidelines will cause more ink to be used to keep the printer operating normally and cause the printer to require more maintenance.
- Reduce your image size. This has a tremendous effect on ink volume. For example, a customer wants a 10x10 inch solid square print. The ink cost is 100% for this image. If you reduced the image by half to 5x5 inches, the ink usage is reduced by 75%. Generally, customers are unwilling reduce the image size this much. However, if the image is reduced by 10%, you will get a 19% cost savings in ink. Most customers will accept this, or will not notice a 10% image size reduction.



- Remove backgrounds on your images when printing on dark shirts. If there is black in the image, remove it. There is no need to print white ink, then print black ink over the top of it if the shirt is already black. Beyond this, the ink will never be darker than the black of the shirt itself.
- Make sure to enable Content Based printing. This is a checkbox in the white ink settings. Instead of printing an even amount of white ink underbase, it will print less white ink in darker areas. The underbase will appear as a grey scale image instead of a solid silhouette. This reduces the white ink consumption greatly without dramatically affecting the final resulting image. The ink usage can be reduced further by adjusting the Contrast Slider.



Original Image Without Content Based With Content based

*grey background is for clarity purposes only

- Reduce the Ink Level itself. Be aware that an Ink Level of 6 will use 300% more ink than a level 2. In general, there is never a need to go above a level 3 when printing color or white underbase. Doing so will usually result in an unnecessary and excessive amount of ink usage.