

Problem With Borders and Fabric Shrink

Fabric printing with borders presents a unique challenge. To print on fabric, the fabric is heated to just over 400 degrees which always causes shrinkage. The amount of shrinkage that takes place is determined by a combination of the fabric lot, air temperature and current humidity. Since these 3 things are always changing we cannot control the amount of shrinkage. The shrinkage ranges from 1% to 3% on any given day. To deal with this, we always print the image a little bit larger than needed to accommodate the largest variance of shrinkage. After we print, we then cut the print down to the needed size. Because the finished size is exact, the size of the image within the finish size is what ends up having a little bit variance. The image, within the finish size, will vary 1-3%. This is why we have a safe area of 4% around the image where we suggest there be no critical art, this includes borders.

Original Art



Graphic with 3% shrink.



Graphic with 1% shrink

