



DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>

This article was researched and compiled by Nancy Maxsom, DAIC Assistant General Manager as well as creating all of the examples.

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX

Grafix
5800 Pennsylvania Ave
Maple Hts., OH 44137

www.grafixarts.com

Grafix has been the leader in providing quality plastic films to the art, craft, graphics, drafting and design communities for over 45 years. Originally, they had one product line that was used by editorial cartoonists. Over time they expanded their product line to include Colormatch papers, Frisket Films and several types of clear films. Most recently Grafix has expanded products to include plastic film alternatives, fine art accessories and a variety of decorative films developed for the art and craft markets.

Decorative Artists in Canada contacted Grafix, Inc to learn more about their products. We are very fortunate to have received some product to touch and feel and provide information for our members.

Dura-lar is an optimal performing film that combines the best features of acetate and Mylar. It is acid free archival quality, lays flats, has consistent color and clarity, is non-yellowing, will not tear or absorb moisture and is heat resistant. It is available in different weights and in sheet, roll and pad format.

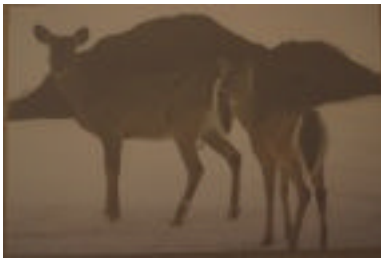


Clear Dura-lar can be used to display and protect artwork instead of glass or can be used to create window like effects anywhere that you need. It can be used for color separations and overhead transparencies. This example shows the clarity of the Dura-Lar and also from the shine in the top right corner, you can see that it reflects light in a manner similar to glass. It would definitely reduce the weight of an art project.

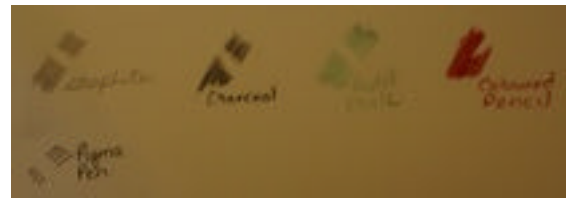


**DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>**

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX (CONT'D)



Matte Dura-lar is 2 sided and used for drafting, drawing and graphics. It accepts graphite, lead, ink, colored pencil and charcoal for artwork. It has a high clarity, translucent erasable surface on both sides. It cuts easily making it perfect for stencil making and many other ideas. I have placed it over a photograph so you can get an idea of the matte effect. I also did a sample of graphite, charcoal, pastel, coloured pencil and Pigma pen to see the smoothness and texture. It accepts all very nicely and the second photo will show that they all erase including the Pigma pen.



Wet Media Dura-Lar is specially treated on both sides to accept water-based paint, markers, pens, airbrush without beading, crawling or chipping. Great for planning painting compositions, as a painting surface, student brushwork practice and printmaking. If you want to test a colour on your painting surface then you can paint on the Wet Media Dura-Lar, lay it over your composition to see whether you like the effect before you paint on your surface. Simply wipe off the Dura-Lar to re-use. The examples below indicate that it accepted these wet-based mediums and by just using water, the medium can be easily removed.



Grafix Acetate is a cast cellulose Di-Acetate film used in many commercial art applications. Manufactured primarily from wood pulp, this film is 100% biodegradable and can be recycled, composted or incinerated.



DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX (cont'd)

Product Features:

Certified biodegradable
Easy to cut and tear
Exceptional clarity

This general purpose plastic is an industry standard in graphic arts, packaging, printing and overlays.

Grafix Acetate is offered in clear with a range of thicknesses from .003" to .010" and matte one side .003" and .005". Available in sheets, rolls and pads.

I placed photos under both the clear and matte and they are easily seen which leads to having an awesome tracing method.



Computer Grafix Film is designed to print vibrant images and crisp text on to blank transparencies. These computer printable films make designing your scrapbook pages and paper crafts more creative than ever!

Computer Grafix films can be run through Inkjet or Laser printers/copiers to create unique designs right from your own computer. Print custom overlays, journaling, window effects, stickers and photos.

Designs are quick drying and non-smearing. Try rubber stamping and embossing to add extra texture and dimension to all your projects.



DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX (cont'd)

These films are acid free for archival safety.

Choose from 3 styles:

- Clear Film for Inkjet 8.5x11", 12x12" and 11x17"
- Clear Adhesive Backed Film for Inkjet 8.5x11" and 12x12"
- Clear Film for Laser/Copier 8.5x11" and 11x17"

All styles are available in packs of 6 or 50 sheets.



I picked two photos and printed them out using the ink jet printer and was pleasantly surprised with the quality. I can now take the 4x6 and put it on a nice card. Think of the possibilities of combining a photo of your art work and text for that specific design.

Rub-Onz Transfer Film - Can't find just the right rub-on for your project? Design your own quick and easy with Grafix Rub-onz Transfer Film. Use your favorite fonts, photos and clip art to create one of kind rub-ons perfect on multiple surfaces.

Grafix Rub-onz Transfer Film comes with two sets of films:

- A frosted rub-onz film for drawing or printing your design.
- An adhesive film with a white liner to transfer your design.

Personalize any project in 3 easy steps:

1. Create a design using an Inkjet/Laser printer, rubber stamp or draw by hand.
2. Apply the adhesive over the design.
3. Rub on to surface



DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX (cont'd)

A great accent on scrapbooks, paper crafts, school projects, stationery, collage art and more. Easy to apply to paper, chipboard, transparencies, foam, wood, glass, plastic and other non-porous surfaces.

Grafix Rub-onz have a permanent adhesive and are acid free & archival!

Available in 8.5x11" packs of 4, 10, 25 or 50 sheets.

Each package includes equal sheets of Rub-onz Film and Adhesive Film.



I printed a photo of a deer that I had and while my printer did not provide true colours, the application of the photo using the Rub-Onz worked just as the instructions indicated. The card stock that I used was a very heavy textured paper and you will note on the right hand side about the middle of the photo a little white spot, that is where my finger touched and the ink pulled a bit. You could add embellishments to any project by using this film for photos, drawings or text without a lot of labour.

Shrink Film - Do you remember doing shrink art?

While the original Shrink Film is still available, you can now purchase it to use with your ink jet printer or stamp with rubber stamps. I took 4 photos from my computer and printed them on the ink jet shrink film. They were printed as 4x6, placed them in the oven at 350 F and they instantly started to shrink. It is recommended that your image be sized 50% larger than you want. My photos came back out at less than 50% - they ended up as 1 3/4' x 2 1/2". I also should have changed the colour intensity of my printer to a little over minimum as the colours definitely intensify when they shrink. Also it is recommended that you place a piece of parchment on top of you item so that it does not curl onto itself and stick. Well, I decided that I wanted to see them shrink so I did exactly that and I was unable to get it to release when it came out of the oven. Lesson learned! They are pliable when they are first removed from the oven so if they have a bit of curl you can press down on them with your hands in oven mitts or use a spatula. Remember they are hot. They also become quite thick and hard.



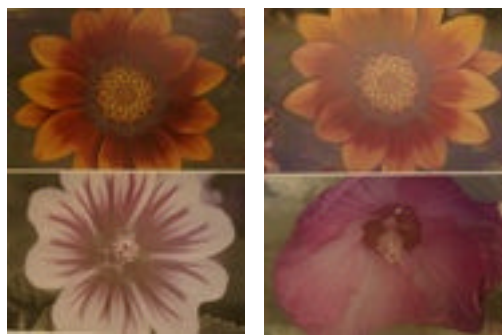
DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX (cont'd)

Grafix has many ideas on what to do with Shrink Film. Design, cut out and bake for instant embellishments. The strong plastic pieces are great for adding dimension to scrapbook pages and handmade cards. Easy to cut with decorative scissors, die cut machines and punches. Decorate with permanent markers, rubber stamps and paint pens. It is great for printing your favorite photos, clip art and fonts. Create personalized key chains, charms and magnets in no time.

Choose from: Clear, Matte, White, Black, Inkjet Printable Clear and White and 6 bright colors: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue and Purple.

All styles are available in 8.5x11" packs of 6, 10 and 50 sheets and an assortment pack of all 6 colors.



I tried the White Shrink Art that is made for Ink Jet printers. I took a couple of my photos and while I did everything wrong, they still turned out pretty good. First, you should reduce the colour of your printing to minimum as the colours intensify as they shrink. Secondly, when doing large items, these were 4x6, you might want to reduce the oven heat to allow them to shrink slower and reduce curling. Thirdly, when shrinking large items, you should place parchment paper or vellum on top so that it reduces curling due to the weight on the item. I

did not do any of these things and I definitely did not cover them as I wanted to watch them shrink. You can use a spatula when they come out of the oven to help flatten but if it has curled onto itself then you might not be able to get it to release. You will see what happened with the end result but it is all due to my own fault and being curious.

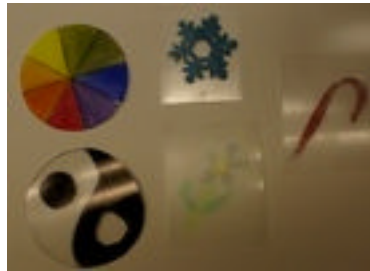
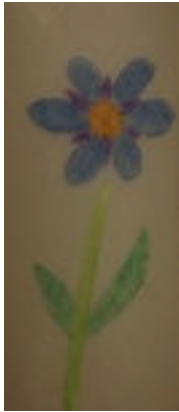


I also tried the General Shrink Art which was clear and is not made for Ink Jet printers. You trace or draw your design on the film. If you are using coloured pencils or rubber stamping then you sand the film with 300-400 grit sandpaper in a crisscross pattern.



DAIC's INFORMATION
SERIES ©2011
<http://www.daic.ca>

ALL ABOUT GRAFIX (cont'd)



I tried permanent markers (Yin-Yang design), coloured pencils (both flower design), acrylic paint (snowflake stamp and colour wheel) and I tried embossing powders (red cane). Everything worked well except the embossing powder which is really not meant to be heated this way so it should not be used. Markers and colour pencil adhere amazingly while I would suggest that acrylic paint be given a coat of sealer to protect it. I have to admit that this brought back memories, was definitely fun to do and now that it is available for ink jets, the ideas just keep flowing.

I hope that our members enjoy this information and consider how these products can be used in our artwork. Additional information can be found on the website provided above.