

Embossing cloth

Embossing a design into cloth is a simple process, but is not permanent therefore you cannot wash, dye, or print your fabric. You must ensure that you have finished all the colouring processes on your fabric before you complete your embossing, you may also blind emboss your fabric, which can be very effective.

Think about your design, what will work well as an embossed print?

You will need to choose suitable objects that are flat to ensure that they fit in the heatpress and to obtain a good emboss, anything over a few mm and the emboss could become unclear. This could be laser cut or water jet cut pieces, or found objects that may offer interesting results.

You will also need to choose a suitable fabric. Fabrics for embossing need to have a good nap or pile, velvet, velour, moleskin cotton, fleece, terry are all good choices. Other fabrics such as heavier weight wools, cottons, leathers, synthetics and some silks can work equally as well, just think about the weight and surface quality of the cloth.

Method

Embossing can be done with dry or damp fabric, it is worth testing which method gives the best outcome. Changing the temperature and pressure on the presses will also yield different results.

1. Place a Teflon sheet on the base of the heatpress, making sure that the whole area of the press is covered and protected.
2. Take your fabric to be embossed and place it with the pile/ nap face up on top of the Teflon sheet.
3. Take your objects and place them face down on top of the fabric, think about the design arrangement, and how the finished piece may look. **NB it is important that all your object are the same thickness.**
4. You can now heatpress the fabric for 30 seconds at a temperature suitable for the fabric type.
5. Once pressed remove your fabric and objects from the press **NB metal objects will be very hot at this point, so take care and use the heatproof gloves provided**

