

Making Your Own Hot Iron Transfers

With the old heat transfer pens, made by Sulky, shake the pen (black or brown) really well. You should be able to hear the little ball bearing inside the pen shaking back and forth. The better you shake it, the better it will work. Take the cap off; push down on the nib to get the ink down (I usually just use the top of the cap to push down on) and then use it. Don't push down hard when you use it. Use a very light stroke. If you push down, you are re-inking and you will have lines that are too heavy, or blobs on your design.

With the new Heat Transfer Markers, there is no ball – and you don't have to re-ink.

Be sure not to leave either type of pen lying around open when you are not using it. The nib will dry out and you will have a hard time getting it to work again. If this does happen, try scraping it on your Sandpaper Blotter to clear the dried transfer ink off and hopefully open it back up again so it's usable. (Any kind of felt tip pen needs to be kept in a zip lock bag to help it stay moist and usable.)

You can use our transfer pens to re-trace one of our transfers that is no longer working. Just trace the lines with the pen and the transfer is ready to use again. You can do this until the paper deteriorates and then you can't use it again. You have to buy a new one. (Sounds good to me.)

Some transfers have so much detail that it is not worth your time and effort to do this. It's easier and quicker to buy a new one.

Sometimes you want something different than anything that we have. Then you can draw your own design – trace it with the transfer pen – and you have your own artwork in transfer form.

Say you're having a family re-union and you want to make t-shirt for everyone that comes. You figure out your design. You might get part of the design from one of our transfers – then add something to it that makes it special for your occasion (say the date). Trace our part of the design onto some tracing paper – then draw in the special part around, under, or on top of it. Now you have a special design. (Turn the transfer paper over so everything is backwards as you're looking at it.) Now trace the whole

design with one of the transfer pens. Now iron it off as many times as you need to for the occasion. You may have to re-trace with the transfer pen if you are doing a lot of ironings.

You can trace a pattern from a coloring book to make a shirt for a little child. You can trace a pattern out of a magazine, from a comic or somewhere else to make a shirt for a child.

You could trace all the children's hands in the family and make a grandmother, grandfather, mother, father, aunt, uncle, and etc. shirt. You might want to put each child's name and birth date under their handprint. Then put the date the shirt was made up at the top or the bottom of the design. Be sure that when you actually trace the design with the heat transfer pen that it looks backwards when you trace it. That way, when you turn it over and iron it on the item, it will read forwards. If you goof up and have the letters and numbers backward, don't throw that one away, use it on the back and make one that's right to use on the front. Now it looks like you are seeing through the shirt and seeing the opposite lettering. It's a fun way to use a mistake.

If you're artistic, you could take one of our transfers that are not pre-shaded, and do the pre-shading on your own. We have (in the new heat markers) black, brown and dark green. When you pre-shade with the pens, it will iron on that way and you can paint it just the same as though we had made it that way for you at the printer.

Use your imagination and have fun transferring!