**PIGMENT TRANSFER – recipe**

It is possible to transfer the pigment ink from an inkjet print directly to another surface or receiver. This process is to print to a medium that does not accept ink. Applying pressure to the back of that print can then transfer the wet ink to a receiver. The controlling factors are the amount of ink applied and the degree of wetness of the receiver.

Materials

an enhanced digital photo file, to be printed onto
transfer film — cheap OHP film, or any kind of plastic sheet that ink will not stick to
receiver material — watercolor paper, cloth, balsa wood, other porous materials
a spoon or roller — to transfer the print with pressure
a tray and squeegee — to soak the receiver

Prepare The Photograph

adjust the digital photo — with higher contrast (curves), more detail (sharpening), more saturated tone (color), add grain (filter)
flip the image — horizontal

Prepare the Receiver

soak the receiver — just enough to receive the ink
if the receiver is too porous (like wood), just dampen the surface
squeegee the print — until the receiver is 'medium wet'

Print the Print

print the print — onto the transfer film

Transfer the Print

place the print face down — onto the receiver
roll the print flat — using a spoon or roller to exert even pressure
or just apply pressure straight down
remove the clear film — from the receiver

Finishing

the finished print can be allowed to air dry
the transfer film can be cleaned and used again!

Options

Make a pigment transfer over straight print

Since the transfer film is transparent, the placement of the image is easy to control. Try making a straight digital photograph where some part of the image is removed. Then make a digital transfer print containing only the removed part on top of the previous print. The straight print will be crisp, while the transferred print will be textured.

Transfer multiple images onto a single larger piece of receiver material.

Credit to: Marni Gellman who did this first, Brian Nadav for researching ink flow control, Mike Landers for printing on a chicken, Warren Morrison for discovering 'medium wet', and Sean Hudson for doing the first multi-prints.