

# Digital Printing on Washi

*More and more artists are turning to digital printing as a part of their production, and so are looking for more interesting surfaces to print on than the standard digital papers available. Washi can be that surface. The subtle liveliness of the fibre shows through the ink with softer results, and because washi is generally more absorbent than western papers the paper and ink appear integrated rather than the ink sitting on the surface. Since most types of Japanese paper are not specifically made for digital print it is imperative that you test the paper you would like to use on the printer you will be using for your project. What follows are some things to consider:*

## TIPS & THINGS TO CONSIDER

- papers with a smooth, non-fluffy surface will work best to avoid clogged ink nozzles
- *kozo* papers will generally produce softer-looking images
- for most detailed images *gampi* papers are ideal because of their inherently crisp surface and 'non-bleeding' quality
- colours will appear less intense on thinner papers as there is less fibre to reflect light: great for ethereal effects
- if you want to try very thin papers they should be printed with a heavier backing paper, gently taped down with removable tape (backing absorbs bleed-through and also prevents paper jams)
- try coating papers with a light gelatin sizing or inkAid if they are too absorbent

## PAPER SUGGESTIONS

- *Gampi Torinoko*, a popular high quality opaque sheet gives consistently excellent results
- *Gampi Smooth* is a thinner, more translucent and very economical paper with good results
- sized *kozo* papers such as *Kizuki Kozo Natural & White* (handmade, best quality) or *Kozuke White & Ivory* (machine-made, economical) offer good results (*Kozuke White* is available in roll format)
- *Gozen* is a handmade paper which is very lightly sized and works well

## REFERENCES

inkAid coatings, [www.inkaid1.com](http://www.inkaid1.com)

