Printing Images Onto Water Slide Decal Paper

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Use either: Lazertran "Waterslide Decal Paper For Laser Printers" or **Papilio Laser Bake On Water Slide Decal Paper**

Important: Only use Lazertran in **toner-based (laser) copiers/ printers that use oil-fusing technology and that fuse below 356 degrees F.** There is a complete list of known suitable machines at: **www.lazertran.com**. Papilio's decal paper can withstand a bit more heat than Lazertran.

- **Photocopy or print** your artwork or image **onto the proper side** of the decal paper (for Lazertran it is the white side, <u>not</u> the bluish side; for Papilio, it is the glossy side, <u>not</u> the dull side.) Your image should be printed in <u>reverse</u> (sometimes called "mirror image") if you want it to appear on your metal (or other matrix material) exactly as it appears in the original. You will apply the prnted image face down. This is very important to understand if you are using text or symbols!

- When planning your printed layout, don't waste the decal paper with one small piece of artwork – <u>fill up the entire sheet</u>.

- Your original artwork can be color or black and white; it can be original art (drawing, painting, collage, etc.) or taken from other printed sources (magazine clippings, snapshots, etc.); it can be photocopied textures (e.g., lace); or it can be computer–generated. Anything goes as long as it can be photocopied or printed with a laser (toner-based) printer! Remember that where there is no ink (color or black) on your original, there will be no toner on your decal, leaving a completely clear area on your decal. This results in the color of your matrix material showing.

- The printed areas (toner areas) of your decal should be shiny when they come out of the printer. If they are not, heat them in a toaster oven until the toner becomes shiny (at about 200 degrees F).

- Images should be slightly larger than the metal shape you will be applying them to. In other words, if your metal is a 3" diameter circle, your image should be about 3.5" or 4" in diameter so that you have some flexibility in terms of placement.

- Protect the printed decal paper until you are ready to use it so that it does not get bent, wrinkled or dirty.