

FoilTech Toner Foiling and Processes

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Toner foiling is a clean and simple way of entering the foil market without the need for heavy duty machinery, expensive dies, make-ready materials and an experienced operator.

The process of toner foiling is very simple:

1. Print the image that you want to foil on your laser printer,
2. Pass the printed document through a Caslon FoilTech machine to transfer the foil.

OK, this is the process in its most basic form. Many other factors can affect changes to this process and require additions or modifications.

Stock

The stock used will make a huge difference to the result obtained and the time and effort needed to achieve it.

Textured and fibrous stocks should be avoided as it is very difficult to get the foil into the indentations on the stock. Heavily coated stocks should also be avoided as trapped air that expands, when heated, can force the foil away from the toner, thereby giving a poor foil result.

For the best results use smooth, semi-coated stocks that are not too absorbent. The more toner that sits on the surface, the better the foil result will be.

Image

The original image used will also effect the final result of the foil image.

Always use 100% solid images. Any screens or half tones on the image will be foiled in exactly the same way.

If possible, use 100% CMYK Black (sometimes referred to as Rich Black or Full Colour Black) as the more toner there is, the better the foil result will be. Likewise, the smoother the toner image, the smoother the foil image.

Avoid fine scripts and thin line strokes as the small amount of toner will increase the risk of image failure.

Reduce or remove any additives from your printer (imaging oils for example) that might create a barrier between the foil and the toner.

Printer

Not all laser printers are compatible with the foiling process so we are always happy to test sample prints on our showroom machines at Caslon House.

As a general rule, the more basic the printer, the better the result as they produce lots of toner and very little of anything else.

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Processes

We have already been through the most basic aspects of the process on Page 1 and will now consider this in a production environment.

The foil will attach to any toner, regardless of the colour, so the image to be foiled needs to be separate to the rest of the image. If there is only a foiled image on the stock, then this is the simplest form and can be produced as described on Page 1.

If there are other images or text on the document, then various options are available, depending on the types of printers or presses you possess.

Toner and other print options

This can be a fairly straightforward process;

1. Print the background image first on your **non toner** printer or press,
2. Print the image to be foiled over the top with your toner printer,
3. Pass the printed document through a Caslon FoilTech machine to transfer the foil.

Toner print only - option 1

1. Print the image to be foiled first,
2. Pass the printed document through a Caslon FoilTech machine to transfer the foil,
3. Pass the foiled document back through the printer to overprint the remaining image.

Toner print only - option 2 - PermaLam

1. Print the background image first,
2. Seal the background image with a compatible laminating material that can accept further heat processes without damage. This product can be obtained from ourselves and must be run on a normal, hot laminator,
3. Print the image to be foiled over the top with your toner printer,
4. Pass the printed document through a Caslon FoilTech machine to transfer the foil.

Scratch Off process

1. Print the background image, including the answer, first,
2. Seal the background image with "scratch off" laminating film that can accept a toner image for foiling, but will allow the toner and foil to be scratched off. This product can be obtained from ourselves and must be run on a normal, hot laminator,
3. Print a black, toner block over the answer with your toner printer,
4. Pass the document through a Caslon FoilTech machine to transfer the foil (usually Matte Silver) to the black, toner block.