

How To Make Super Color Shrink

After creating your image, always print it on practice paper, cut it out as you would the Shrink Sheet and estimate whether 40% shrinkage will work for the piece you have in mind. You may want to experiment with lighter prints on Shrink Sheets.

Depending on your printer, most colors will intensify when shrinking.

Make any necessary adjustments.

When you have the image you are happy with, print it out on the Shrink Sheet, using normal output.
Feed each sheet individually.

Both sides of Shrink Art are suitable for Inkjet printing

Once printed, place the Shrink Sheets on a flat surface overnight to let the ink set. To prevent images from becoming smeared, do not stack or touch printed sheets until they have set.
Always handle the printed material from the edges.

Once images have set, you are ready for the final step.

Bake your Shrink Sheets and Decorate!

Using household scissors, decorative scissors or craft knife, cut out the printed image(s).

If your image requires holes - Use a paper punch **prior to baking**

Place your Shrink Art on a flat surface. We suggest a nonstick baking tray, medium weight cardboard, teflon, parchment or vellum sheets.

Back for approximately 4 minutes in a preheated 300°F– 400°F oven.

Each object will shrink to about 40% of its original size. Do not remove from oven until piece lays completely flat. (it will curl up, then shrink & flatten).
If still slightly curved, remove & flatten with a spatula or cardboard

The larger the size of the original sheet, the higher the possibility of distortion. Prompt attention immediately upon removal from the oven, while the object is still pliable, usually will allow time to address these irregularities by pressing upon the material with any flat-surfaced household object.

Remember, the plastic is **HOT!** Use an oven mitt to immediately place the object on a flat surface.

The hotter the object, the more pliable it will be.

If you don't succeed the first time, you can place the object back in the oven and repeat. Remember to not remove your shrink from the oven until it flattens out. (it will curl, and then flatten)

Because of shrink's pliability while it is still hot, you may want to form portions of your object into shapes.

You can use a pencil to curl edges or other household objects to create dimension.

As a final step, you can embellish your shrunken image with dimensional paint, beads, sequins, charms, glitter glue, buttons, permanent markers, ribbon, feathers, permanent markers, etc.

A few extra holes at the bottom of your shrink will allow you to hang additional beads. You can add a ribbon bow or bead directly on the shrink by placing just a dab of glue on the embellishment and then pressing it onto the ornament.

Using super glue, you can layer shrink plastic objects.

You have now created fun shrink keepsakes that will keep memories alive for years to come.

Shrink Tips & Facts

Experienced shrink plastic crafters know that shrinking is an inexact science. But that's part of the fun! By noting these tips and carefully following these instructions, you'll ensure your chances for successful shrinks the first time.

Over-baking after the object is flat may dull the colors and cause the edges to become irregular.

Shrink cannot be used in a microwave. Baking can take place in gas, electric ovens or toaster ovens, or with heat embossing tools.

An oven thermometer is advisable to ensure you have the right temperature. Remember, ovens provide uneven levels of heat.

All shrink sheets, regardless of brand or manufacturer, do not shrink evenly. This means they will shrink a little more in one direction than another. The distortion can be reduced by carefully following these instructions and by using a scrap piece of shrink to determine the correct oven temperature.

Lowering the temperature will slow the absorption of heat, resulting in longer shrink time, but reducing distortion.

Nonstick cookie sheet or matte board is the best baking surface.

If time permits, experiment within the 250-400° range to determine the best temperature for your designs.

It is best to bake each item separately.

You can twist and shape your shrink creations once removed from the oven for even more creative results.

Large Object Shrink Tips

As is universally common with shrink plastic, the corners of objects larger than ½ sheet occasionally stick together as they shrink. This can be addressed by carefully watching the shrink process and quickly removing the object, straightening it out, and placing it back in the oven.

Alternatively, we've found a preventative technique. Try encasing your shrink creation in aluminum foil. This usually prevents the object from curling upon itself.

If problems occur with shrink sheets not shrinking in uniform - try preheating the cookie / oven baking sheet, keeping the cookie sheet in the oven in between batches as well.

To make an aluminum foil envelope for your pre-baked shrink:

Cut off a sheet long enough to completely wrap your preshrunk object and fold it in half.

Place the non-printed side of the shrink onto foil.

Place in a preheated 300° oven with the print side down.

Full sheets will take about 5 minutes.
Smaller sheets will take slightly less time.

We obtained best results by placing the envelope directly upon the oven shelf, rather than the baking sheet.

Occasionally the object will not be completely shrunk, but will have shrunk beyond the point where the potential for sticking edges is possible. If this occurs, take it out of the aluminum envelope and place it on a baking sheet.

Observe the shrinking process and remove as soon as the object is relatively flat and has stopped shrinking.

Caring for your Shrink Objects

Ink from inkjet printers is not waterproof. However, there is a way for you to care for your shrink objects to prevent them from smudging when becoming wet. Your shrink objects can be treated with Inkjet Overcoat. To assure color fastness, plan on applying at least three coats. Allow ample time between coats for the overcoat to dry.

For more information on inkjet overcoat please see our web site:
<http://www.mcgpaper.com/watproofyour.html>