

There are key production considerations when designing for intaglio. Please also refer to the Resources section of our website for more information.

Image Area: The maximum image area that can be stamped in a single impression is 5 x 9. If an image is larger than that, multiple passes may be used by breaking up the design into segments that will each be stamped in separate passes. If you have any questions about size, just contact us and we'll provide guidance for best results on press!

Colors: Intaglio prints one color per pass. Therefore, CMYK designs cannot be used for intaglio. All designs must use Pantone spot colors. Multiple spot colors can be utilized. You can add full-color elements to the design in addition to the intaglio elements as long as the intaglio process is featured.

File Setup:

- Use Pantone spot colors only for all Intaglio elements
- Bleeds must extend 1/8" from each dimension
- Minimum line thickness is 0.4 points for all Intaglio elements

Ink Coverage/Screens: With intaglio, the design is transferred to the paper using a copper die, which doesn't allow half-tones. Therefore, transparencies cannot be used with any Intaglio element. The Intaglio spot color must be at 100% opacity.

Historically, Intaglio prints were produced with a hand-carved die. The image was etched into the metal die with hand engraving tools. Intaglio prints are traditionally line art, without large solid areas. Due to modern etching techniques, if a design includes a solid area, our diemaker has the ability to create a "screened die" to reproduce the solid image area on press. A "screened die" converts the solid area to a series of fine dots. This allows the ink to stamp evenly but does not reduce the opacity of the ink color, like a transparency would with offset or digital printing. If your design is going to require a screened die, you do not need to do anything – we will take care of it in the die making process.

Production Elements: *Other printing methods can be used that compliment engraving.* Feel free to design something that uses another printing process such as a full color background or complementary graphic. Or, you may specify an area of the design to be embossed or "bumped" to create extra dimension. Use your creativity but be sure to highlight the intaglio elements!

Design Review: Please contact us at any point during the design process to check the suitability of your design for Intaglio. We are here to answer any questions you may have – just email us at tag@tagprintshop.com.

Please note: Since your design is intended to be produced with genuine intaglio presses, we may need to alter some specifications to fit production, such as size or colors. We will always work with you and get your input and approval before making changes.