

Ensuring correct blade installation

When a blade is placed into the holder it can be adjusted as to how far it protrudes from the bottom of the blade holder. This should be set so that the blade only protrudes by between 0.5mm to 1mm depending on the blades cutting angle, see 'blade choice' below. Refer to the printer manufacturers' instructions on adjusting the blade depth within the holder.

Speed of cutting

When setting up the cutter there is an option to alter the speed of the cut; when cutting Phototex a slower speed is generally set. The optimum speed for cutting Landor Phototex should be set at around 30. This may vary slightly depending on the machine.

Pressure of cutting

The next option is setting the pressure required. Unlike vinyl, Landor Phototex is cut using a high pressure with slow speeds (as stated above). The pressure settings should be set between 90 – 98, depending on the blade set and type, some variations may apply, see 'blade choice' below.

Offset of cutting

The offset is a setting that is rarely or never changed, depending on the blade type used. The offset is in direct line to the angle of blade i.e. if you have a blade with a 30˚ angle then the offset setting would be 0.3 etc.

Summary

Once all the above have been set correctly, cutting Landor Phototex can commence. It is recommended to carry out a test cut, review and make adjustments. Repeat this process until the required quality level is achieved.

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Variations

There are a number of contributors to the final cut quality, explained below.

Blade choice. Getting the right angled blade for the job is important. For mainly straight lines cuts and minor curves, a 30˚ blade is best. A 60˚ blade is most suited to cutting out more complex and angled graphics. The often used 45˚ blade is a good all round blade although it is not the best choice when cutting out such things as lettering.

The best blades to purchase are made of sub-micron grain size tungsten carbide; these are longer lasting than the standard carbide and steel blades. They create a better cut and better value for money long term.

Maintaining the blade is important. Regularly remove the bottom part of the blade holder following manufactures guidelines and take out the blade, wiping away any dust or deposits. The area around the holder benefits from the same treatment. Failure to do this could result in poor or inefficient cutting on the angles.

Temperature. As with most substrates, temperature makes a difference when cutting Landor Phototex. A warm room, 20 – 22^{o}c, is recommended as this will keep the media softer and therefore makes it easier to cut.

Liquid Lamination. The best form of lamination for Landor Phototex is liquid lamination, please keep in mind that with any substrate that has been laminated the cutting pressure will need to be raised slightly to allow for the extra layer. Always make a test cut after any alteration of cutting pressure and asses the quality.

Hand Cutting. Tungsten carbide blades should be used for hand cutting. For the best cut with clean edges the blade should be renewed on a regular basis.

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Troubleshooting:-

Cutting right through the backing paper. Check that the blade is fitted properly and not protruding too far, adjust if necessary. Check that the pressures are set correctly (See Blade Installation).

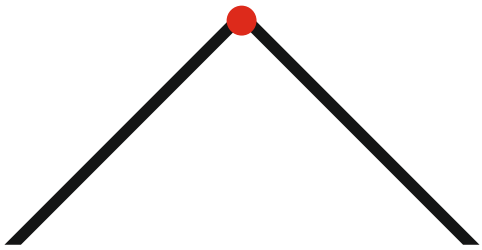
Not cutting through Phototex. Make sure that the blade is sharp and clean. Replace the blade if necessary following manufactures guidelines.

Backing paper comes off with graphic when removed. If part of the backing sheet comes away with the graphic then the cutting depth and/or pressure needs adjusting.

Threads on corners / angles. As Landor Phototex is a fabric based media threads can occur when angle cutting. To solve this issue the angle should be turned in to a curve, by altering the nodes of the angle, see diagrams below.

Diagram 1

This shows the angle of the cut line on the graphic when zoomed in.



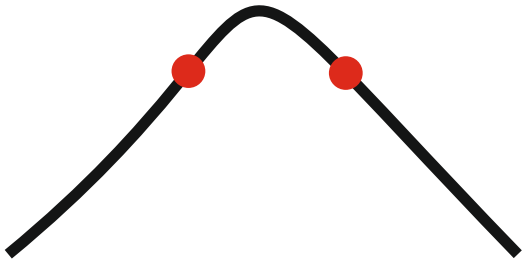


Diagram 2

This shows the altered angle of the cut line on the graphic when zoomed in.

Place a node either side if the single corner node, group them all together and select curve type, then highlight the original corner node and delete it. This should automatically create the curve.

The curve should not be visible to the human eye but creates a seamless path for the cut and therefore solving the threading issues. Generally this should only be required if the angle is less than 90˚.

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