



## AnaJet Ink Usage Study Summary

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A series of tests were made to determine the amount of ink used in printing shirts with AnaJet apparel printer. A total of forty prints were made with ten representative images on white and black shirts, and the amount of ink used was measured.

The results show that good prints can be made at a normal ink level setting with moderate ink usage. Increasing the ink level setting (“heavy ink”) increases the ink consumption dramatically, without necessarily improving the print quality. However, a heavy ink setting improves the print vibrancy (“pop”). This “pop” is commercially attractive at the cost of lesser quality image and higher ink consumption rate.

The results also show that the amount of ink consumed is highly dependent on the specific graphic image even at the same level of ink setting. We feel that due to the high sensitivity of ink usage to a number of variables which are not easily understood, the presented ink consumption rate should be viewed only as a general guidance. For a specific image printing, the usage and cost may vary significantly from our studies.

Inks used for head cleaning and other maintenance are not accounted for here, since such wastage can vary widely depending on the maintenance habits of the operator. Generally the more maintenance, the less wasted ink.

Table below summarizes the actual measured ink use and costs.

### **INK USAGE and COST SUMMARY**

Representative Image Size: 10” x 8.5”

Ink Price: Colored CMYK Inks \$64/110ml cartridge; White Ink \$74/110ml cartridge

**Ink Cost Summary: White Shirt: ~ \$0.40 (\$0.60 at heavy ink setting)**

**Black Shirt: ~ \$1.50 (\$2.25 at heavy ink setting)**

White shirt Normal Ink Mode: 0.68gm colored ink: \$0.39 per shirt avg. (\$0.29 ~ \$0.52)

White shirt Heavy Ink Mode: 1.03gm colored ink : \$0.60 per shirt avg. (\$0.35 ~ \$0.99)

Black Shirt Normal Ink Mode: 2.13gm white ink; 0.24 gm color ink:

\$1.57 per shirt avg. (\$0.86 ~ \$2.14)

Black Shirt Normal Ink Mode: 3.08gm white ink; 0.19gm color ink:

\$2.17 per shirt avg. (\$1.16 ~ \$2.90)

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**CAUTION:** If an AnaJet printer operator is experiencing a higher level of ink use than indicated above, he most likely is using excessive amount of ink without the benefit. Higher than normal ink setting results in higher vibrancy “pop,” with the loss of detail and color accuracy. For dark shirt printing, higher level of white ink also results in loss of wash-fastness. Generally it is recommended not to use more a than needed ink level.

Detailed full study report available at AnaJet website.