

# SOLAR FAST™ Starter Kit

## DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

### Kit Contents

- 3 - 2 oz/59 ml bottles of SolarFast in Orange, Violet and Blue
- 2 oz/59 ml bottle SolarFast Wash
- Jacquard Film Marker
- 6 Small Sponges
- 3 Sheets SolarFast Film
- Gloves
- 8 T-Pins
- Backerboard
- Cotton Test Fabric
- Instructions
- Quick Start Guide

### You'll Need

- 100% natural fabric, garments or heavy artist paper
- Inkjet Printer (optional)
- Paper Towels or Rag
- Picture Frame Glass (optional)
- Sink and/or Washing Machine
- Hot water

Can't wait to get started? See the **Quick Start Guide** & go for it!



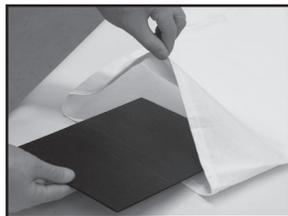
To watch a video tutorial or to see SolarFast in action, scan this QR code or visit [www.jacquardproducts.com/qrlanding/solarfast.php](http://www.jacquardproducts.com/qrlanding/solarfast.php)

See below for detailed instructions on every aspect of the SolarFast process.

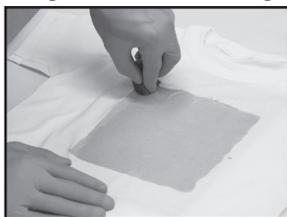
### Applying the dye

Place fabric or paper on the backerboard and apply SolarFast to the surface using the provided sponges. When making prints on T-shirts, first insert the backerboard between the layers of fabric to prevent bleed-through.

We recommend pouring the dye directly onto the fabric or paper and spreading it across the surface using a sponge. You may also use a brush or brayer. For hard edges, use masking tape or a stencil to create a window the size of your image. For brushed edges, simply spread the dye beyond the frame of your image.



An even coating of dye will produce the best print. You want the dye to absorb into the fabric rather than sitting on top of the fabric surface, so work it in.



When making prints on paper, be sure to use heavy print-making papers made from 100% cotton rag, as these papers will hold up to washing and are generally free of sizings. Allow the dye to absorb into the paper fibers before exposing.

### Blotting:

SolarFast prints must be made while the dye is still wet. However, if the fabric is overly saturated, excessive condensation may form beneath the film, which can interfere with color development. On the other hand, prints made with dry media will not develop to the optimal depth of shade.

**For best results, blot fabric with a paper towel or rag until just damp** before placing objects or film on the coated surface.



When making prints on paper, blotting may not be necessary; simply allow the fibers to absorb the dye before proceeding.

For more suggestions on how to apply SolarFast to your substrate, see the "Tips and Tricks" on the Jacquard website.

### Creating an image

#### Making prints from objects:

SolarFast is great for creating photograms and shadow prints on fabric or paper. It's as easy as placing an object on the coated surface prior to exposure. Anything that casts a shadow will produce an image. Flat and opaque objects such as keys, paper cutouts, tools, leaves or ribbons work best.

Use the provided pins to secure lightweight objects such as leaves and keep them from blowing away. You can also place a sheet of glass or film, secured with pins, over your objects—this may produce deeper shades of color.

There are no rules, so go ahead and experiment with different types of objects: as long as there is decent sunlight, you will almost always get an interesting print!

#### About SolarFast Film:

*IMPORTANT: the film provided in this kit has a "print side" and a "waterproof side." Wet your fingers slightly and pinch a corner of the film to determine which side is which. The print side will feel slightly sticky to the touch, while the waterproof side is slick and smooth.*

The Film Marker may only be used on the print side of the film. When making photographic negatives using a digital printer, be sure to load the film in the proper orientation. When placing the film on the coated surface, it should be placed with the print side facing up, waterproof side down. If the waterproof side gets dye on it, wipe it clean with a damp rag before it dries so you can reuse the film for a second print. Avoid wetting the print side of the film, as it will cloud with moisture.

## Making prints from drawings:

Use the provided Film Marker to draw directly onto the print side of the film. The Film Marker is designed to glide and dry fast, and the ink is completely opaque. Once your drawing is complete, place it (print side up, waterproof side down) over the coated fabric or paper, and secure it with the provided pins to ensure the film is completely flush with the print surface. Alternatively, you may use a sheet of glass. Any mark you make on the film will block the light during exposure and produce an inverted print of your drawing.

## Making photographic prints:

To make SolarFast prints from photographs, first create a film negative by converting your image to grayscale, inverting it and printing it digitally onto the film. This can be done in Adobe Photoshop, another photo editing program or with Jacquard's online Negative Generator.

**To easily transform any image into a negative, visit the SolarFast Negative Generator at [www.JacquardSolarFast.com](http://www.JacquardSolarFast.com).**

Negatives may be printed on the provided film though any inkjet printer.



High contrast images work best, and high density is key: for a good print, the blackest areas of your negative should be completely opaque, the lightest areas completely transparent. Adjust your printer settings or layer two negatives for extra contrast or if your printer's ink is too transparent.



Place the negative (print side up, waterproof side down) on the coated fabric or paper and use the provided pins to secure the negative in place and keep it flush with the coated surface.

Alternately, you may want to use a sheet of glass to ensure the film is completely flush with the print surface.

For more creative ideas on how to create images for your SolarFast prints, visit the "Tips and Tricks" on the Jacquard website.

## Exposing your print

Expose your coated fabric to sunlight for 10 to 20 minutes, depending on conditions. Prints on paper may require longer exposures. Prints made late or early in the day, during winter months or in overcast or cloudy conditions will require longer exposures.

The best time to make SolarFast prints is the middle of the day, when the sun is directly overhead. Use direct sunlight whenever possible. You can watch the color appear, which will give you some indication of the



exposure's progress, but try to be patient—even if the print looks fully developed, allow it to expose for the entire recommended time. Keep in mind that your final result will not be revealed until after the print has been washed.

SolarFast develops in the presence of UV light, which is why sunlight works best. You may use **artificial light** to make an exposure, but the time required will depend on the UV output of the bulb. (Standard household bulbs generally do not put out enough energy to make SolarFast prints.) Do a test first to determine the appropriate exposure time.

## Washing the print

After exposing, you must remove the undeveloped dye by washing. Bring the print inside (away from sunlight) before removing the negative. If necessary, prints may be stored in a dark, cool place for up to 24 hours between exposure and washing.



With washing, white areas of the print will become whiter. Use the SolarFast Wash (1-2 capfuls) and the hottest water possible. We recommend machine washing fabric, but prints may also be washed by hand. When machine washing, run the longest, hottest cycle. When hand washing, keep the print submerged and the water flowing for at least 10 minutes. To avoid backstaining, you may want to rinse the fabric quickly by hand before machine washing.

To wash prints on paper, submerge in hot water with the SolarFast Wash and allow to soak for at least 15-20 minutes, changing the water periodically.

## Now you're done!

Your print is soft to the touch, washable, lightfast and permanent.

Show us a picture—we'd love to see what you've made! Email it to [service@jacquardproducts.com](mailto:service@jacquardproducts.com), post it to our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/jacquardproducts](http://www.facebook.com/jacquardproducts), or use the #SolarFast hashtag on Instagram or Twitter.



*The most important thing to remember is to HAVE FUN!*

*If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Jacquard Products at [service@jacquardproducts.com](mailto:service@jacquardproducts.com) or by calling 800.442.0455.*