

Special Printing Techniques

Talk to your printer about how they want the files to be prepared and what specific services they offer. Think about the kind of paper you would like your work to be printed on, for example there is a range of textures, colors and thicknesses available.

Die Cuts

A die can be used for cutting, scoring, stamping, embossing, and debossing. They are custom pieces that may have to be made, if they are not standard shapes that your printer may have at hand.

Embossing/Debossing

A metal plate placed in the press allowing for a raised or a recessed surface.

Intaglio Printing: Etching and Engraving (hand techniques)

Intaglio printing results when grooves are incised into the surface either through acid (etching) or through hand tools (engraving, drypoint, mezzotint) and ink is applied only in the grooves.

Foil Stamps

Foil stamp is affixed through a heating process.

Letterpress

Letterpress uses woodblock letters. It is an historical method that was used extensively in the 19th century. Originally the letters were hand carved. Examples of letterpress print shops in Nashville:

Hatch Show Print

Sawtooth Print Shop

Relief Printing: Linocuts and Woodcuts (hand techniques)

Linocuts and woodcut prints are hand carved out of linoleum and wood respectively. Both typography and illustrations can be made this way and multiple copies can be made. Ink is applied only to the raised areas.

Planographic Printing: Lithography (hand techniques)

Lithography is an older technique that was used largely in the latter part of the 19th century. Lithography was originally created on large blocks of limestone. Today they can also be made on paper lithographic plates. It is a way of making multiple copies of the same print. However, lithography is more limited in this regard than other techniques.

Offset Printing (offset lithography)

Offset printing was used before digital printing. The inked image is transferred (or offset) from a plate to a rubber blanket, then to the printing surface. This is a service that is offered by Midtown Printing in Nashville. You can ask your local printer if they offer this service too.

Silk Screening (hand techniques)

Photographic and hand drawn images can be transferred to a silk mesh, where multiple color copies can be registered and drawn through with a squeegee.

Thermography

A special powder is added to the ink, which is then heated, which results in a raised surface.

Varnish

A varnish is a liquid coating applied to the paper. The varnish can come in a variety of finishes: gloss, matte, silk, satin, UV