

FOIL SLEEKING GUIDE

Sleeking is a digital foil finish applied over soft touch lamination. Foil bonds with heat to a 100% K toner layer, so it only sticks exactly where you want it. A crisp metallic finish with no foil block or die, ideal for short runs of business cards, invitations, certificates, covers and packaging.

FOIL OPTIONS



Gold



Rose Gold



Silver



Copper



Black sheen

HOW IT WORKS

1

Your artwork is printed

2

Soft touch laminated

3

Foil layer printed on top in 100% K

4

Foil sleeked on with heat

HOW TO SUPPLY YOUR ARTWORK

Two PDFs, identical size, 3mm bleed

1 PRINT FILE

- Full colour CMYK artwork, as normal
- Foiled text or graphics **removed**
- Keep the background full behind the foil, no white gaps or knockouts

2 FOIL FILE

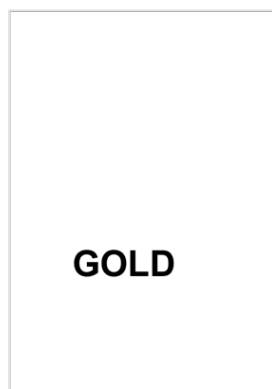
- Same page size and bleed as the print file
- Foil areas **only**, in **100% K** (C0 M0 Y0 K100) on white
- Exact position you want on the print. No rich black, tints, gradients or images



PRINT FILE

Correct size, all foiled parts removed

+



FOIL FILE

Correct size, foiled parts only in 100% K

=



FINAL PRINT

Printed sheet with the foil applied

Name your files clearly, for example **JobName_Print.pdf** and **JobName_Foil.pdf**, and tell us the foil colour on your order. **Foiling both sides?** Supply a foil file for each side, e.g. **JobName_Front_Foil.pdf** and **JobName_Back_Foil.pdf**.

DESIGN TIPS FOR A CLEAN FINISH

- 1 Lines 0.5pt or thicker**
Hairlines and very fine strokes can break up or fill in.
- 2 Text 8pt or larger**
Bold, simple fonts foil best. Avoid thin serifs and delicate scripts at small sizes.
- 3 Leave space between foil parts**
Keep gaps of at least 0.5pt so small counters and details stay open.
- 4 Keep foil 3mm inside the trim**
Foil running to the cut edge can lift or flake.
- 5 Allow for slight movement**
Avoid thin printed outlines that must sit exactly around the foil.
- 6 Use foil as an accent**
Text, logos and line work look sharpest. Very large solid areas can show small specks.
- 7 Vector where possible**
Use vector shapes and outline or embed all fonts in the foil file.
- 8 Expect a flat proof**
Proofs show foil as a flat colour. Metallic foils cannot be Pantone matched.

IMPORTANT: we cannot print on top of the foil. Make sure the foiled area is free from any text or other elements sitting over it.

BLACK SHEEN



As well as metallic foils we can apply a black overprint. On a soft touch laminate it gives a subtle gloss black sheen, perfect for logos on dark, premium designs. Supplied the same way as a foil file, in 100% K.

PERSONALISED FOIL

Names on certificates, invitations or place cards? Supply your finished foil file per name, or send us a master InDesign or Illustrator file (with fonts) plus an Excel list of names, and we will set up the data merge for you.

BEFORE YOU SEND

- ☐ Print and foil PDFs, identical size and bleed
- ☐ Print file has foiled areas removed
- ☐ Background is full behind the foil
- ☐ Foil file is 100% K only, on white
- ☐ Lines 0.5pt plus, text 8pt plus
- ☐ Foil kept 3mm inside the trim
- ☐ Nothing printed over the foil
- ☐ Fonts outlined or embedded
- ☐ Foil colour stated on your order
- ☐ One foil file per foiled side