

Embedding computer printouts under clear finish

Most desktop printers are inkjet printers and most use water soluble inks, which then run and smear when they get wet. There's a way, however, to keep the ink from smearing, even under water based finishes. In fact, water based finish is best because it doesn't make the printout look muddy or yellowish. That's especially important when embedding photographs.

The secret is in preparation of the print. I especially like the result when I print on heavy, glossy photo stock. Even if it's not a photo, perhaps just text, the glossy photo paper gives sharper results.

Then, to protect it and give extra durability, I laminate it. Yup, just ordinary plastic lamination will take it through the process without any degradation of the printout.

This is a closeup of a label embedded in the back of one of my MGTD clock. I use a router and shopmade fixture to make a slight recess in which to glue the label.



Even if you have to have this preparation done at an office supply store, don't worry about the cost. They work very cheaply.

Go ahead! Print out (or have printed) that photo of your grandchildren, your dog or cat or your significant other. It'll hold up well and look great if you put it on a nice hardwood plaque.