

Maintenance for the MP2-BK non-porous ink cartridge

The MP2-BK black ink cartridge contains a solvent-based “fast-dry” non-porous ink formulation designed to dry on a surface via evaporation. Consequently, this cartridge requires more maintenance than an ordinary water-based cartridge designed to dry via absorption into a porous material like paper.

New cartridges:

Ink cartridges are shipped from the factory sealed in a foil bag and placed in a nozzle sealing cartridge clip.



IMPORTANT: KEEP THE RED CARTRIDGE CLIP AND FOIL POUCH FOR CARTRIDGE STORAGE

Using a cartridge for the first time

There is no “activation” required. Simply cut the foil pouch between the seam and the zip lock, remove the cartridge from the clip and insert into the printer.

* MP2-BK ink is a dye-based ink and will appear as coloured from black to shades of grey according to the material being printed upon.

** The MP2-BK ink is alcohol-based and may not adhere to all materials with the same strength.



Darker printing

For a bolder/darker print, navigate to "MODE>SETUP>MODULE SETTINGS>DOUBLE PRINT" then selecting "VARY>ON". This will cause the printer to make 2 passes with each trigger button press.

Maintaining an opened cartridge

After opening, the cartridge should be used up as quickly as possible until depleted. Gradually after opening, the cartridge will begin to “dry out” and the print quality will begin to deteriorate. How quickly the cartridge deteriorates depends on the individual circumstances/environment.

Return the inkjet to it's cradle

When idle, the inkjet should be returned to it's cradle. Whilst in it's cradle, the inkjet will remain in an intermittent cleaning cycle which will slow the drying out of the cartridge.

Place the cartridge in the storage clip and return to bag.

For longer term storage (a few hours/overnight/long-term), the cartridge should be placed in the storage clip and returned to the foil ziplock bag. Please store the cartridge in a cool place out of direct sunlight.

Restoring a cartridge




There is no guaranteed fix for a cartridge once deterioration begins. However, the steps outlined below have had much success in restoring print quality to cartridges.



IMPORTANT: Ink spillage/leakage may occur. Wearing protective disposable gloves, protective eyewear and clothing is recommended. Work in a well ventilated area.



These steps should be followed in sequence. For example, if you try (a) and still encounter print quality issues, then try (b) – if still problems then try (c) etc.

Short periods of dryout/small print quality issues

- (a)  **(a) Wipe Nozzles.**
This can be done while the cartridge is still in the inkjet. Wipe lightly in the direction of the nozzles. Use only a soft tissue or lint/fibre-free cloth.
If problems persist, try this step again or proceed to step (b)
- (b)  **(b) Wipe Nozzles with solvent.**
The solvent must be alcohol-based such as Isopropyl Alcohol, Methylated Spirits or Trend's Printer Solvent 3400EP. This can be done while the cartridge is still in the inkjet. You may need to repeat step (a) after this step to remove the solvent.
If problems persist, try this step or previous steps again or proceed to step (c)
- (c)  **(c) Flick Cartridge.**
Remove the cartridge from the printer. Grip the cartridge firmly and "flick" like a mercury thermometer. [CAUTION] ink droplets may be thrown from the nozzles. Bunch some tissue against the nozzles or wear protective clothing and complete this action above a sheet of paper. When completed, repeat step (a) to remove any surface ink.
If problems persist, try this step or previous steps again or proceed to step (d)

If these steps do not resolve the problem, but improvement is noticed – then you may need to repeat any of these steps to get further improvement. If insufficient improvement is seen, then you will need to take further action.

Longer periods of dryout/persistent print quality issues

- (d)  **(d) Re-prime Cartridge**
Repeat the priming procedure for a new cartridge. Use only a small amount (5mL) of air in the syringe to expel only a small amount of ink onto a soft tissue. To finish, wipe with a soft tissue (a).
If problems persist, try this step or previous steps again or proceed to step (e)
- (e)  **(e) Soak Cartridge**
Remove the cartridge from the printer. Fill a small container to a level of 3-4mm of solvent. Place the ink cartridge in the solvent, immersing the nozzles. Leave immersed for approximately 30 seconds – 5 minutes according to the severity of the blockage (start with smaller time). Then remove the cartridge and blot dry on some clean paper towel. Now re-do step (c) or (d) and finish with a wipe of a soft tissue (a).
If problems persist, try this step or previous steps again or proceed to step (f)

You may need to repeat these steps until improvement is seen. The longer dried nozzles on cartridges are left, the more difficult it will be to restore them. Some cartridges may have deteriorated beyond repair. Cartridges that are left opened for a long period will likely be unrestoreable.