



Title: **Printing on Wood with the Gerber Solara ion™ & Gerber CAT | UV™**

Product: Gerber Solara ion & Gerber CAT | UV

Document Number: ANote 2010-ion & CAT UV-019

Last Modified: August 30, 2010

Summary: This document explains the important precautions and hints necessary to produce a good result when printing on wood with your Gerber Solara ion and Gerber CAT | UV.

Rigid Substrate Standards

- ◆ Maximum rigid material width is 64" (1.6m/162.6cm).
- ◆ Maximum rigid material thickness is 1" (25.4mm).
- ◆ Maximum rigid material length with roll-to-roll option is 120" (3m/304.8cm).
- ◆ Maximum rigid material length without roll-to-roll option is 100" (2.5m/254cm).
- ◆ Minimum sheet size is 12" x 12" (30.5cm x 30.5cm).
- ◆ Rigid wood material must be flat within 0.03" (0.76mm).
- ◆ Warped wood may jam in the printer. Wood that is bowed downward or upward will scrape the carriage and potentially cause print defects or damage to the printer.

Preparing/Cleaning the Wood

- ◆ Properly prepare the wood by making sure it contains no rough, bent or crumpled edges that pose the risk of a head strike.

Note: It is STRONGLY recommended that substrates with bent edges are NOT used because the print head to substrate distance is very small. Even slight changes in material height can cause head strikes and/or damage to the print.

- ◆ The wood to be printed must be wiped clean of any dust and debris by rubbing lightly with an abrasive pad or light sand paper and removing all dust by vacuuming or brushing thoroughly.
- ◆ Do not wipe the wood using a circular motion which can result in moving the dirt around into swirled patterns that may be visible after printing. Wipe in one direction.

Helpful Hints for Printing on Wood

- ◆ Smooth finishes are best for the safety of the printer, as well as for better ink adhesion, so plywood or finish grade wood are good choices when printing on wood.

- ◆ Because wood is porous, it might be necessary to use double or triple strike printing, especially when you are not using a finish grade of wood. See the application note, "Printing Double Strike."

©2010 Gerber Scientific, Inc. All Right Reserved
