How to set up Metallic Ink

Setting-up InDesign for printing with metallic ink

1. In InDesign, add a new layer in the Layers window (see 'A')
   - Name the new layer (we use 'Metallic Layer')
   - The Metallic Layer should be the very first at the top

2. Add a new colour in the Swatches window and name it. We use 'Gold' (see 'B')
   - Designate the Colour Type as 'Spot'
   - We've set the Colour Mode to C40 / M40 / Y70 / K15 to emulate the final colour, but you can really allocate any colour breakdown (just ensure it is consistent throughout your artwork).

   Important:
   The swatch name could be anything you want it to be as long as you are consistent and use the same name throughout all other files (Photoshop, Illustrator, etc) which you import/place into your InDesign file. The swatch name is case sensitive.

Creating masks for spot or flood effects in InDesign

1. Draw a shape or select text that will receive metallic ink. Make sure all elements to print with Gold are situated in the Metallic Layer.
   - Fill your shape with the new 'Gold' colour swatch
   - Select Window > Output > Attributes
   - Tick the appropriate checkbox Overprint Fill and/or Stroke ink (see 'C')

   Note: This must be checked for every element to print with metallic

Bringing in graphics from Adobe Illustrator

Vector graphics that are created in Adobe Illustrator can be copied and pasted into InDesign and designated to print with metallic ink as a watermark or to print over colours or photographs.

1. Copy and paste a graphic from Illustrator into your InDesign document.
2. Designate the fill and/or stroke to 'Gold' in your swatches.
3. Ensure all elements to be printed in metallic ink are situated in the 'Metallic Layer'.
4. With the graphic selected, select Window > Output > Attributes > Overprint Fill and/or Stroke (see image 'C').

The imported graphic will print (overprint) with metallic ink.

Tinted effects

A tinted effect is created by layering two identical objects on top of each other. The objects on the top layer will print with metallic ink allowing the colour from the object below to show through. To start, follow the basic set-up for the layer and metallic ink swatch.

1. Paste or create a vector graphic.
2. Apply a colour or tint to it.
3. Copy your graphic and Paste in Place on the Metallic Layer. It is important that the graphic to print in metallic ink be located on your Metallic Layer.
4. Apply the colour Gold from the colour palette.
5. Select Window > Output > Attributes > Overprint Fill and/or Stroke.

Overprinting

If you are considering overprinting black over your gold metallic ink, please ensure it is a rich black (C20 / M20 / Y20 / K100).

A

B

C