

Advice & Limitations

Black Satin Business Cards

Remember, we are not trying to scare you off with the limitations detailed below!

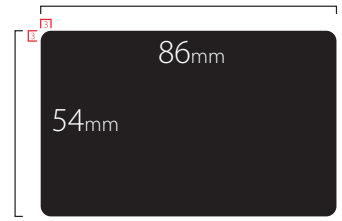
We are happy to work with you offering advice and our design experience, to ensure your card looks stunning.

Just ask :)

Card Dimensions

Our cards are 86mm x 54mm (3.385" x 2.125") with rounded corners with a corner radius of 3mm (0.118") as shown in the diagram.

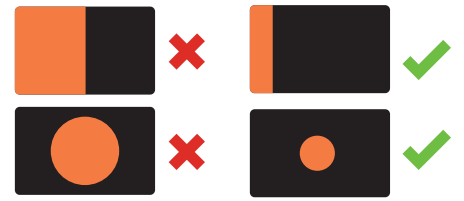
This shape is fixed. We do not have the ability to die cut plastic cards. The plastic cards are credit card sized as standard.



Ink Coverage

We use a thermal transfer to bond the ink to the plastic. This allows us to use totally opaque colours and metallic foils on plastic. The downside of this process is that we cannot cover large blocks of areas with ink. As the process uses heat to bond the inks, the more ink you use, the more heat is required to ensure a good bond between ink and plastic. If too much ink is used, the required heat can warp and distort the plastic.

Here is a guide as to how much ink you can use in one block. If you still have problems, please submit your design and we will try to find a solution.



Text Size

We like to use a minimum of 7.5pt font size with regular weight sans serif fonts (Futura, Arial, Century Gothic etc) and 8pt with regular weight serif fonts (Garamond, Times New Roman, Century etc). Using smaller fonts can result in a problem called 'filling in', where characters like 'a' and 'e' do not form correctly.

This is 8pt Gill Sans (Sans Serif Font)

This is 8pt Calisto (Serif Font)

This is an example of filling in on text that is too small

Bleed

We can reproduce designs that bleed right to the edge of the card in any ink. We request a 3mm bleed in cases where the ink needs to run to the very edge of the card.



Colours

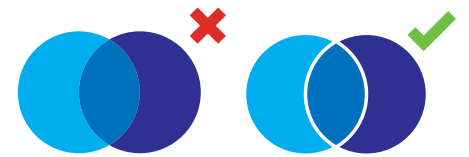
We have a set library of colours suitable for use on black satin plastic cards. These include both flat pigment colours and reflective metallic inks. A rough guide to the colours we have available to us can be found on the right.

We advise using metallic inks with black satin cards. Some flat pigment inks can lose vibrancy when printed on to a black background. Unfortunately we cannot use these inks to create gradients. If your logo contains colour gradients, we would need to alter it so that it is compatible.



Touching Inks

If your design has two or more colours touching each other, we will need to put a 0.5pt stroke around the objects so that they do not touch. This reduces the likelihood of contour lines where the inks overlap. It also reduces the risk of bonding issues sometimes caused when inks overlap.



Printing on the Reverse

Printing on the reverse of the satin black plastic card is no problem. The card is completely opaque so you are never able to see what is printed on one side from the other side.

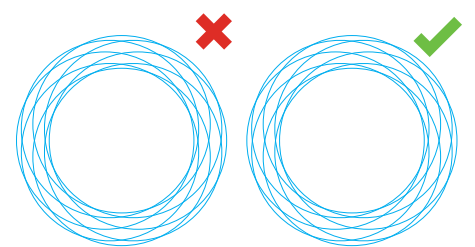
However, to print an ink on the back requires the same manufacturing time and costs as printing an ink on the front, even if it is the same colour. For instance metallic silver on the front and on the back would be classed as two inks. A red, blue and white print on both sides would add up to six colours.



Fine Detail

We recommend that lines be no thinner than 0.25mm in width. When we come to create the metal plates used to apply ink to the plastic, using lines thinner than 0.25mm can result in a jagged, broken finish on very fine detail.

Due to our extensive experience we can help you through this process if you are concerned about the level of detail on your design.



Black Gloss

Because the satin black plastic cards are a matt finish, applying gloss black ink results in a beautiful gloss watermark effect. The black gloss is regarded as an ink and is charged as an ink colour.

