

Letter-press - FAQs

What is letter-press?

Letter-pressed stationery is printed on antique presses using technology which essentially remains unchanged since the printing press was invented. A plate is produced or raised type is set, this is inked and pressed into the paper or board, leaving the characteristic impression which elevates letter-pressed stationery from a flat invitation to a tactile print of extraordinary beauty (we think!). The nature of letter-press means that there may be slight differences between each print - we think this lends character, but if you are expecting a precise, uniform set of stationery we don't want you to be disappointed! There may be slight variations in the ink coverage, especially when your design includes large areas of colour (such as the tree in our 'Orchard' design).

How long will my invitations take?

If you are interested in a bespoke design we will aim to complete the design phase within 4 weeks - of course, we will be depending on you to approve designs. Once you are happy with the design you will place your order and your stationery proofs will have to be approved - this usually takes another week. Once everything has been agreed, your stationery is sent to print. We will have your invitations ready three weeks* from this date.

**certain circumstances beyond our control may delay your order. If you are interested in a bespoke letter-press design we would always prefer you to contact us three months before the date you wish to send your invitations out. Occasionally we are asked to pull out the stops and rush an order through. We reserve the right to charge an additional fee if the stationery is required less than 4 weeks from the date required.*

How much will my invitations cost?

Whilst we have a price guide available (on request) we prefer to quote you for your exact requirements.

Can you print in the exact same colour as my bridesmaids dresses?

We use the Pantone ink range and have a good selection of stock inks colours. The Pantone range includes literally hundreds of colours so it is usually possible to achieve a fairly accurate match and we will happily colour match for you for a small surcharge. However, there are certain factors to be considered. The colour of board that your stationery is printed on may affect the colour of the ink. If your dresses are shot silk it will not be possible to replicate the two colour effect. Finally, don't forget that even if an exact colour match is achieved, the same colour can look very different in silk and on a matt board. [Click here to view our current stock ink selection.](#)

Can I have the invitations printed white on black?

We have experimented with white on black letter-press printing with very mixed results. Because we are unable to guarantee the quality of the end product we do not offer this combination. This has to do with the unusual consistency of white ink.

Do the Order of Service covers include inserts?

Our Order of Service covers always include a single digitally printed insert. We always recommend that all your stationery items are printed at the same time. This ensures consistency of print colour and impression as well as board colour. If your order includes Order of Service covers, we will keep hold of the covers until you have agreed the text for your insert. We will then print and collate the Orders of Service and send to you in a separate consignment. Additional inserts for your Orders of Service are available for 25p each.

Can I have a full colour print letter-pressed?

Letter-press is a traditional printing technique which involves individual plates being inked with colour and pressed into the board or paper. Each colour is printed separately and the best results are found in designs using fine lines and text. The maximum number of colours we would use for a letter-press print would be three but excellent results can be achieved using two or even one colour. If you require a full colour print we recommend litho or digital printing – please ask for details.

Can you letter-press a picture of my venue?

If your image is a single colour line drawing then we probably can letter-press it in a single colour – we need to look at the quality of your image. If the picture is a photograph then we would recommend digital printing.

Can you print onto a gloss board?

We have achieved good results printing onto a pearlescent board but feel the best results for letter-press are achieved on a matte board. We do not recommend a gloss board for letter-press.