Double-sided hanging posters with HP PageWideXL Pro

This document will explain how to create hanging posters, including post-print finishing.

For a deep-dive training, access the **HP PageWideXL Pro Printer series – Double-sided applications** course on the Learn with HP website.

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What you will need

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- Preparing the job

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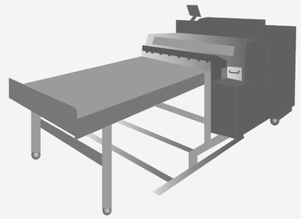
- Installation

Heavyweight paper sheets (>200gsm)

Software tools (RIP, edition, etc.)

PageWide XL Pro printer

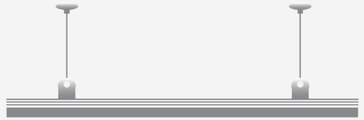
Sheet Feeder & Pro Stacker (optional)



Automatic XY inline cutter (optional)

Film laminate (optional)

Film laminator (optional)



Snap grip hanging rail set

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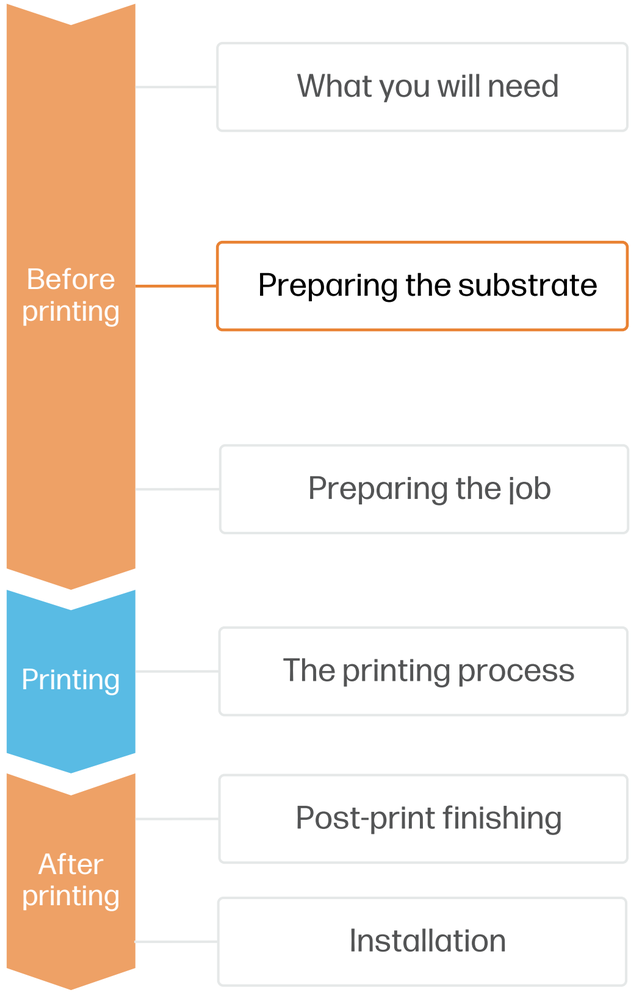
Preparing the substrate



1. Types of substrates for double-sided posters

- Double-sided hanging posters are usually created using **heavyweight paper sheets > 200gsm**. For long-term applications, **cardstock >400gsm** or **rigid boards** can also be used.
- Paper-based substrates are available in many grades and surface treatments:
  - **Uncoated:** Great for a natural look at an economical price.
  - **Inkjet treated uncoated**: Boosts color gamut while remaining cost-effective.
  - **Inkjet coated:** Greatly enhances gamut, creating vivid saturated colors.
- You can find a list of compatible materials that have been tested by HP in the HP Media Locator

NOTE: Check the HP PageWideXL Pro - Substrates training kit for a detailed explanation on how to choose the right media substrate to fit your needs.

2. Usage

- Double-sided posters are typically used in POP promotional applications. They are typically displayed hanging from the ceiling, from a pole, or using a stand.
- **Short-term** indoor promotional applications are regularly replaced and do not require extra protection.
- **For long-term** uses, it's recommended to use heavier papers or rigid substrates. It's also recommended to protect the posters using **film lamination** on both sides, or to use a **protective display frame**.

TIP: Enroll on the HP Learn course on Double-Sided applications for a step-by-step guide on how to prepare, submit and print double-sided applications.

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3. Storage

Store the sheets horizontally in a flat surface and in their original packaging. Keep them in a clean, dust-free environment, within the temperature and humidity range specified on the paper label. If the label gives no specification, try to store the sheets at 20°C and a relative humidity of 40–60%.

Avoid stacking too many sheets on top of each other, as pressure can deform them

Allow papers to adapt to room conditions, out of the packaging, for 24 hours before printing.

4. Handling

Be careful with the sheet's edges, since it's easy to accidentally bend them, which can cause crashes.

Wear gloves when handling the paper to avoid getting fingerprints and other marks on the surface.

5. Cleaning

If you notice any dust or debris on the surface of the first sheet of the stack, wipe it with a lint-free cloth before printing or discard it.

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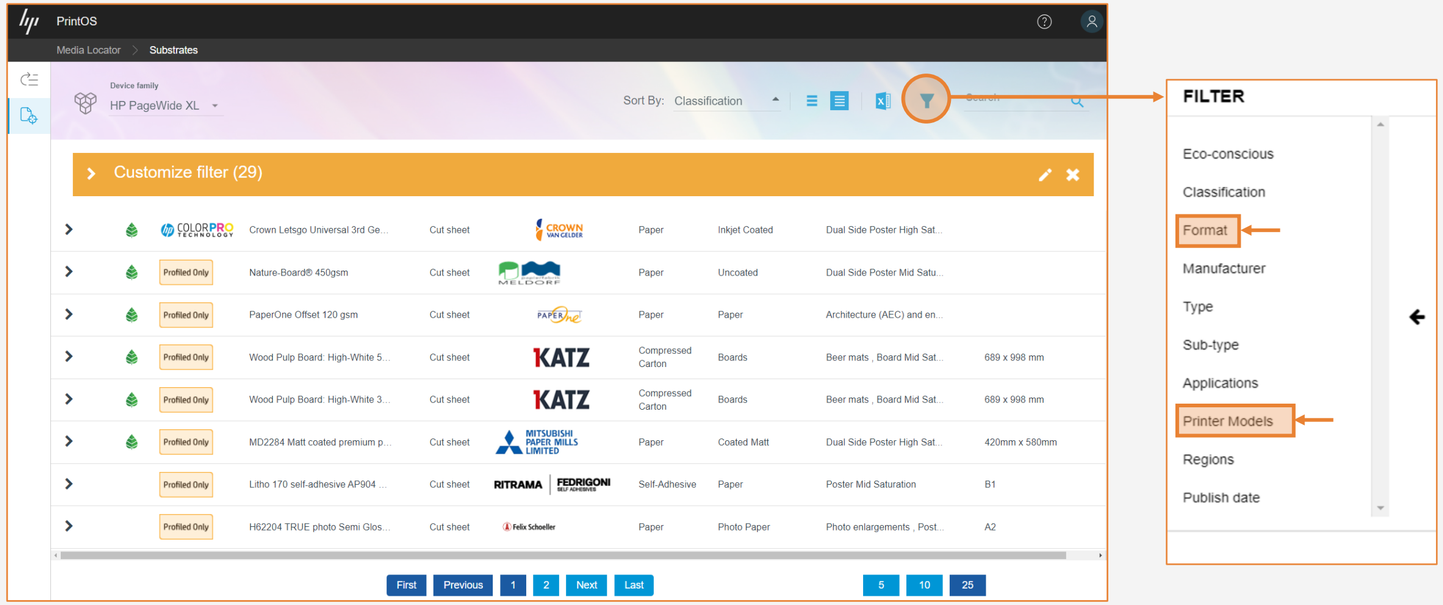
6. Substrate presets

- Check if the material you are going to use has its own custom optimized substrate preset:
  - a) On the printer's **front panel** online Paper Library search (tutorial)
  - b) On the **web**, in the HP PrintOS Media Locator:
    On the Filter tab, select your Printer Model, then select "**Format: Cut sheet**".
  - c) On the **web**, from the substrate vendor's or RIP vendor's websites
- Download and install.

Select a suitable substrate preset based on your media

NOTE: If you cannot find custom substrate presets for your material of choice, you can always use the **generic presets** already installed in your printer.
- For uncoated sheets, try the **Plain/Uncoated Paper (200gsm - 400gsm)** preset.
- For inkjet treated or coated sheets, try the **Water-Based Coated Paper (200gsm - 400gsm)** preset.



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The printing process

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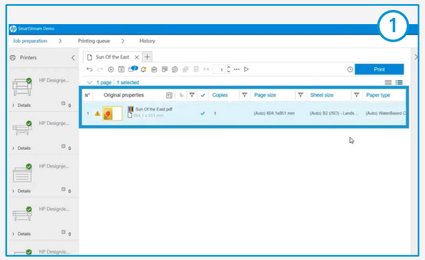
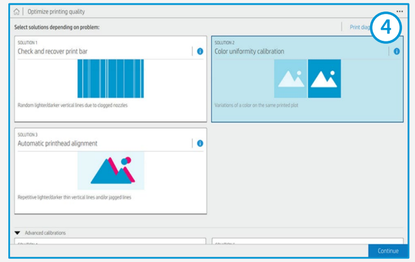
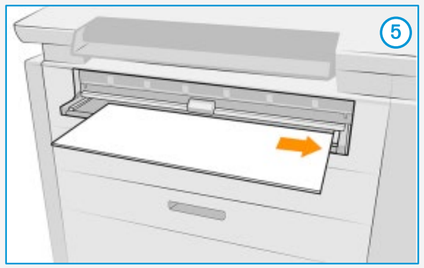
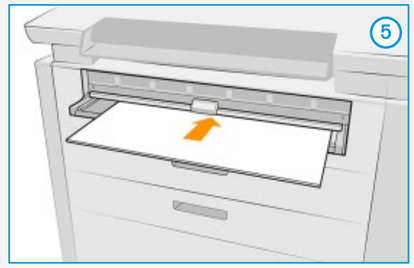
Loading a sheet | Manual Load

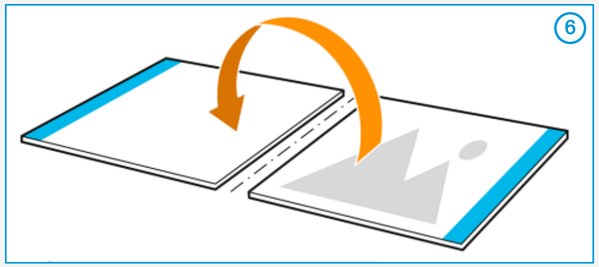
1. Load your printing files into **HP SmartStream** or other third-party compatible RIPs, like Onyx or Caldera.
2. On HP SmartStream, select the **Sheet view** icon on the toolbar, then select **Double-sided printing** to assign the A & B sides to the images.
3. Adjust other parameters such as paper type, thickness, size, print quality or side-to-side registration as needed.
4. If it's your first time using this substrate, perform a basic **Color Uniformity Calibration** and **Automatic Printhead Alignment** before printing. You can follow this Calibration guide.
5. Click **Print** and follow the instructions on the Front Panel. First open the input tray, then load the sheets **aligning its edge with the right side of the printer**.
6. After printing side A, wait for the Front Panel prompt to flip the printed sheet(s) vertically, align them to the right, and load them to print side B.
7. If needed, adjust the **horizontal and vertical offset** through the Page adjustments menu in the Job Queue to fine-tune the registration.











TIP: Check this short video guide if you have any doubts about the manual loading process. If using an **HP Sheet Feeder** accessory, check this video guide on how to automatically load stacks of sheets.

NOTE: Learn how to boost your workflow efficiency using HP SmartStream by enrolling on the available training: "Advanced certification - PWXLPRO5200and8200" on HP Learn.

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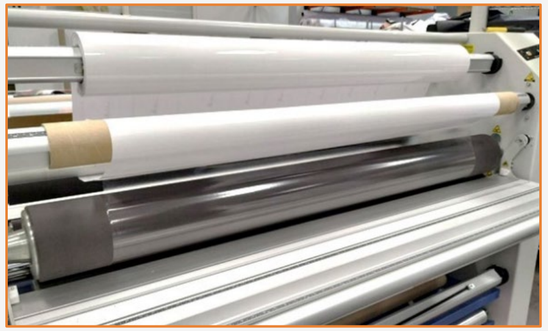
1. Lamination (optional)

Laminating the printed posters will make them extremely durable, ideal for long-term applications.

We recommend using a gloss transparent film for lamination. You can use either hot or cold laminating processes, depending on your needs and available equipment.

If unsure about which lamination settings to use, contact your laminate manufacturer.



2. Full bleed cutting (optional)

Use an **XY inline trimmer machine** such as the Fotoba FHS42-PW to automatically print and cut **borderless posters** to size, achieving striking full bleed visuals.

Alternatively, use a **wide format manual rotatory trimmer** or **guillotine trimmer** to cut the posters to full bleed.

XY inline trimmer (Fotoba FHS42-PW)

Wide format manual trimmer

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3. Hanging

Use a poster gripper rail hanger set to install your double-sided posters.
Simply open the rail profile, insert your poster into the rail, close the rail and it's ready to hang.
Add another rail to the bottom of the poster to add more weight to make it more stable.

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