

## Tips for Sublimating Larger Panels and Sheets of Aluminum

Though it would be much simpler to provide an exact time and temperature to press larger sheets of aluminum, there are differences in the printed transfer paper, ink saturation, the humidity, and the way the press is layered (with Endura fabric, blowout paper, etc.). Heat may not be as evenly distributed in the press which adds to the complexity of pressing. Below are some tips to help you press larger aluminum panels.

- **Lower your temperature:** The whole idea behind a lower temperature is to reduce the amount of enlargement in the aluminum sheet when heated before the dyes start to sublimate. You will still need enough overall time to allow for full release of the dyes from the paper and to sublimate into the coating in order to give you good color and depth.
- **Press time:** We have found that it's better to try to aim for a time of 8:00 to 9:00 minutes and adjust your temperature to meet that time frame, no matter what the temperature indicates on the LED readout
- **Every heat press is different.** In general, a full sheet of 0.045" thick sublimation coated aluminum can be pressed on a **SEFA** press at **335° for 8:00 to 8:45 minutes**, depending on the amount of ink saturation in the transfer paper. On a **George Knight Triton** press, our experts have found that pressing the full sheet at **345° for 8:00 to 8:45** works well.
- **Adjustments to temperature:** If a good dye release is not achieved, then the temperature will need to be raised – try raising by 5-10° F at a time. If the paper is overheated and looks too washed or burnt out, drop the temperature by 5-10° F at a time.
- **Make a chart:** Make a chart to show the times and combinations that work best for you. Definitely a time and money saver for pressing!

For additional products, sizes, times and temperatures, visit [www.starttosublimite.com](http://www.starttosublimite.com).