

Printing on Watercolour Paper

Everything on this page is a setting you change once. Get these right and a 230gsm sheet feeds through a home printer as happily as copy paper.

SET THESE SEVEN THINGS

Paper type / media	Matte Photo Paper (never Plain Paper)
Print quality	High or Best — not Draft
Scaling	100% / Actual size. Turn OFF Fit to Page
Borderless	OFF. Watercolour paper needs the grip
Paper source	Rear tray or manual feed, one sheet at a time
Colour handling	Printer manages colour
Two-sided	OFF

Why paper jams happen

1. The sheet went in the front cassette instead of the rear tray.
2. Two sheets were loaded and the rollers grabbed both.
3. The paper was curled — flatten it under a book for an hour first.
4. The guides were loose, so the sheet went in at an angle.
5. Over 300gsm. Most home printers stop feeding somewhere around there.

The order that works

1. **Flatten** Take the sheets out of the pad and press them flat overnight.
2. **Load one** One sheet in the rear tray, guides snug against the edges.
3. **Test on copy paper** Print page one plain first and check the margins.
4. **Then print for real** Matte Photo Paper, High quality, 100% scaling.

Which paper, and what it is for

WEIGHT	BEST FOR	HOME PRINTER?
120–160gsm	Practice sheets and tracing	Yes, easily
190–200gsm	Light washes, colouring	Yes
230–250gsm	Cards and most templates	Yes, rear tray
300gsm	Proper painting	Often the limit
Over 300gsm	Studio painting only	No, trace it

THE ONE-SHEET TEST

Before you print a whole pack, print page one on ordinary paper. Hold it against a window with a watercolour sheet behind it and check three things:

- Nothing important is inside 10mm of any edge.
- The lines are crisp, not fuzzy or doubled.
- The page came out the size it should be, not shrunk.

If the ink beads or sits on top

That is sizing, not a fault. Heavily sized paper resists inkjet ink. Switch the media setting to Matte Photo Paper, let the sheet dry flat for a full minute before you touch it, and if it still beads, use a cold-pressed paper rather than a hot-pressed one.

Where the templates live

Every watercolour template, practice sheet and printable pack I make lives in my Patreon library, and new ones land there every month. Keep this sheet next to the printer and the rest of them will print first time.

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