



## Title: **Printing on Flexible Materials using the Gerber Solara ion™ & Gerber CAT | UV Flatbeds**

Product: Gerber Solara ion & Gerber CAT | UV  
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Summary: This document provides information on how to print on flexible materials using the flatbed of the Gerber Solara ion and Gerber CAT | UV.

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Gerber Solara ion and Gerber CAT | UV owners have experienced firsthand that the flatbed can be used to print on many flexible materials that previously could not be printed using UV printers, such as vinyl, mesh, Tyvek®, banner (under 8 ft.), fabric, paper and cardboard. Since many of these flexible materials have not been tested and qualified by Gerber Scientific Products, it is important to follow the guidelines noted in the application note “Trial printing on Unqualified Materials” before printing on a new material.

### **Important Considerations When Using Flexible Materials**

If a material is dimensionally stable and less than 1" (25.4 mm) thick, there is a good likelihood the Gerber Solara ion and Gerber CAT | UV can print on it. While the Gerber UV printers can safely apply ink on most materials, adhesion and colorfastness will vary, so make sure you test your materials and use common sense.

***Note: Do not try to print on bent or warped material. Flexible material that is warped, bubbled or wrinkled could scrape the platen or contact the print carriage and cause damage, so make sure all materials are smooth and taped flat.***

***Note: Remember that exposure to UV lamps can change the characteristics of materials. Not all brands of the same material will react similarly to UV light. Likewise, materials that are not designed for printing may vary even if they are the same brand.***

***Note: Some porous materials may require double strike printing to achieve vivid color results. Consult the “Printing Double Strike” Application Note for directions on double strike printing.***

***Note: Use care when printing on unqualified materials. Damage to the printer as the result of printing on materials other than those recommended by Gerber is not covered by the Gerber Solara ion and Gerber CAT | UV warranties. See the gerber web site [www.gspinc.com/applications](http://www.gspinc.com/applications) for an up-to-date list of recommended materials.***

***WARNING: GerberCAT™ cationic UV inks are not to be printed on fabrics that will be used for clothing or materials that come in contact with skin.***

## Helpful Hints for Printing Flexible Materials on the Flatbed

- ◆ When loading the material on the flatbed, make sure material is smooth with no bubbles, wrinkles or warping.
- ◆ Tape down on all sides of the material using a light adhesive tape. Ensure that the tape has no wrinkles.
- ◆ In your RIP software, select a similar profile if the material on which you are printing is not listed. See Application Note: “Understanding Material Profiles for the Gerber Solara ion/CAT UV” for detailed information on choosing or obtaining a material profiles go to [www.gspinc.com/applications](http://www.gspinc.com/applications).

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