

TECH TIPS

For Texmac **SOLO** Garment Printer

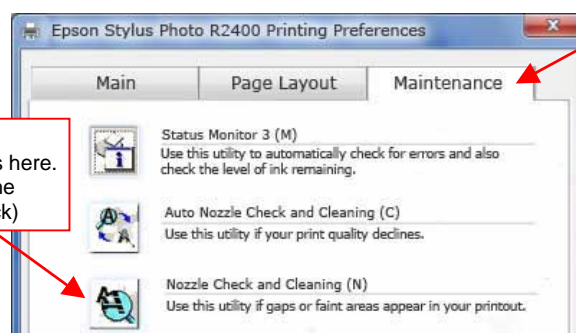
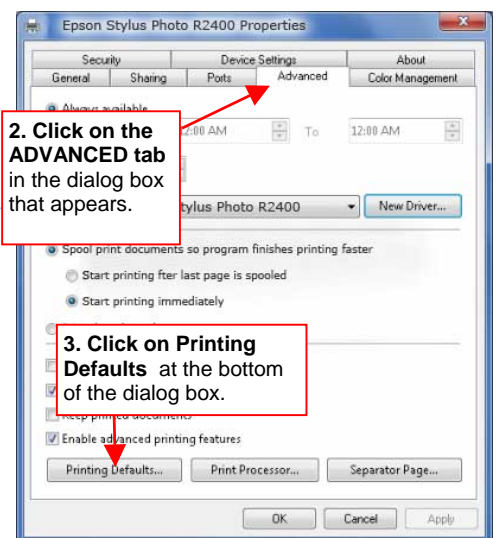
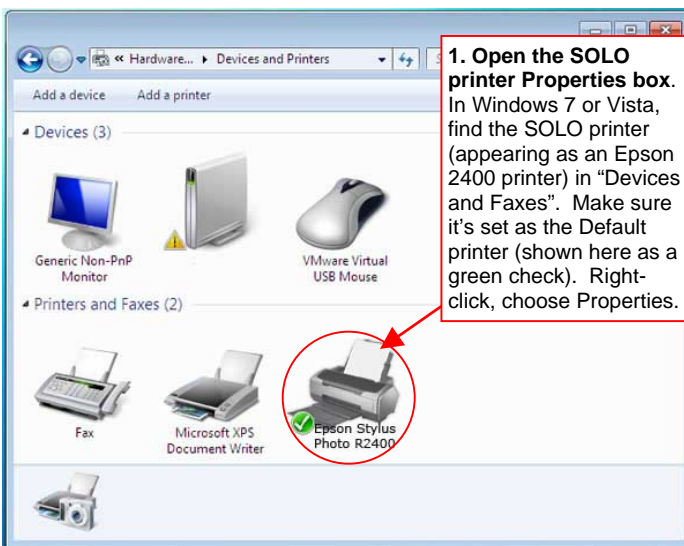
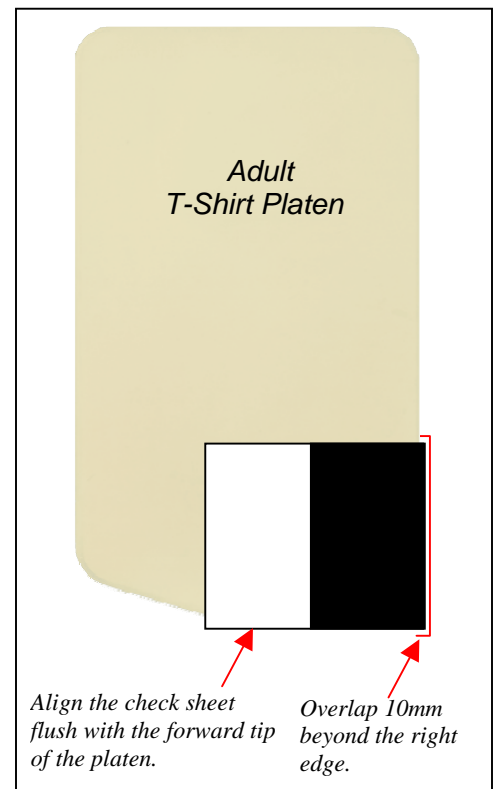
The Value of the NOZZLE CHECK

The nozzle check is not only simple to perform, but also fast. Its primary purpose is to verify that all 8 nozzles (and dampers) of Texmac SOLO's print head are able to output ink.

Procedure

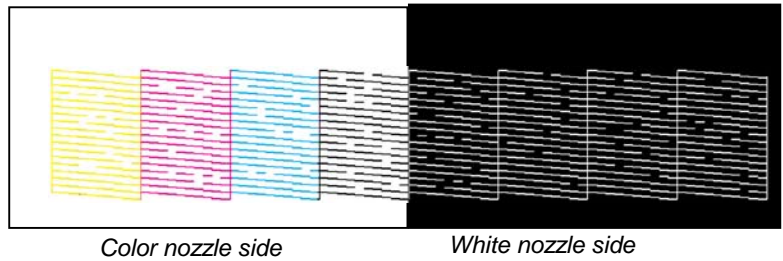
The procedure is very simple using the included 2-sided, laminated black/white nozzle check sheet. Follow these steps to use the built-in Windows nozzle check function.

1. **Position the nozzle check sheet on the platen as shown on the right.** Be sure to use the adult sized platen. When ready, press LOAD. Make sure the READY light shows steady green. If not, work to flatten the check sheet against the platen.
2. **Access the maintenance functions for your printer in Windows.** To do so, follow these steps: view Printers and Faxes (or in Windows Vista/ Windows 7, "Devices and Printers"). Find your SOLO printer, which Windows lists as an Epson Stylus Photo R2400.

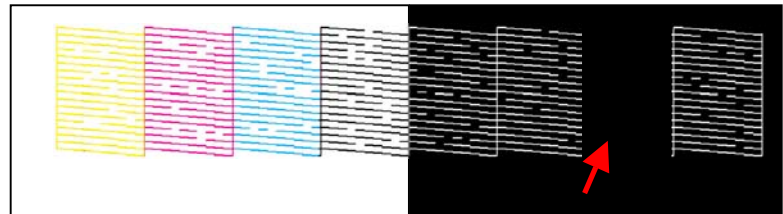


3. **Evaluate your results.** In a few seconds, a pattern is printed on the nozzle check sheet, and the platen is ejected to the load/unload position.

- **Look for 8 distinct “boxes”** arranged left-right in the order shown on the right”: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black, then 4 White. There should be at least some of the proper color in each section. The lines do not have to be continuous, especially for a newly-set up printer.



- **Look for sections that are completely empty** suggesting clogging in that nozzle.



This example suggests that one of the white nozzles might be clogged.

4. **Corrective actions:** If any problems are found, any corrective action will depend on circumstances:

a. **Simplest Action First: Auto Head Cleaning** especially if the printer has been printing without problems recently until now (i.e. missing color or degraded color or white layer, or whatever made you decide to perform the nozzle check). To do so, press and hold the INK button (shown on the right) for 4 seconds until the white ink circulation system starts. Let the 2-minute procedure finish, then run another nozzle check. If this fails, continue to the next step.



b. **Dab (do not wipe!) the head with rubbing alcohol** using the included fiber-free wipes in SOLO’s maintenance kit. Release the print head from the capping station (see the Daily Cleaning instructions) Check for deposits of dried ink. If need be, hold the wipe (soaked in alcohol) against the head for a minute, then repeat head cleaning and nozzle check. If the section(s) still fail to show ink, proceed to step c.

b. **Alternate step:** If there were any recent issues re-filling any of the color inks (possible air gap in the feed tubes of the problem color(s), and the head is otherwise free of dried ink buildup, continue to perform additional Head Cleanings until enough ink has passed through the lines to remove any air gap, re-testing as necessary.

c. **Soak the head for an extended period of time.** Perform this procedure with one of the special wipes soaked in cleaning solution instead (which is more effective at un-clogging both color ink and dried deposits of white ink). This can be done without removing the head: Carefully and thoroughly soak a clean example of the special wipes with cleaning solution. Find a way to prop the solution-soaked wipe against the underside of the head (with the main power off, you can try carefully sliding the (clean) platen under the head and prop the pad up with that. Soak for several hours (do NOT leave the printer this way overnight with white ink in the lines!), then power on again, perform a head cleaning, and re-test. If still clogged, contact service immediately.

Answer to a Common Question: Why perform a nozzle check at all? Can’t I free a “stuck” nozzle by a high volume of printing (and therefore ink)? This sounds good in theory but is potentially dangerous for the printer. The most serious clogs do not dissolve or get “pushed out” by ink. Instead, pressure backs up in the clogged nozzle, which may cause the ink to vent at any weak point in the system, leading to, at best, a messy cleanup, or, at worst, hurting delicate electronics. [While this has yet to happen to a SOLO owner, it HAS happened in testing.] The **Nozzle check procedure** lets you check the health of the nozzles / dampers without trying to push a high volume of ink, minimizing risk and providing quick results. Likewise, the auto-head cleaning pushes only the necessary amount of ink to dislodge any loose clogs. Serious clogs are more effectively taken care of with cleaning solution.