Tee-Shirt and Garment "Blank" Cheat Sheet
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Totally subjective overview from the good people at Porkchop Screenprinting.
www.porkchopscreenprinting.com

To all you nice people (if you're a jerk, you'll get nothing but attitude outta us) that are starting up or developing a merchandise line with the intent of screenprinting cool designs upon garments for both resale and promotional purposes, please find to follow an overview towards choosing the garments you wish to print upon — known as "Blanks" in fancy screenprinting talk.

The cost of your blanks is generally the bulk of the cost of your end-product, and the styles, brands and colors available can be overwhelming. If you have a brand & style in mind and are committed to that, great. You can stop reading right now. If you're seeking the best blanks for your specific project and would like some input for your decision-making, here's our "Cheat Sheet":

In our estimation there are basically 2 "Classes" of garments available:

"Working Class" printable garments.
Generally, 100% pre-shrunk cotton, boxy durable construction, heavier weight fabrics, "Men's" and "Youth" only styles. Brands include "Port & Co", "Gildan", "Hanes" "Anvil", etc. Washes well, holds up well, tends to size large, meaning they fit big. Absolutely appropriate for garments intended for people that will be wearing the shit out of them. Moderately priced. Basic "Working Class" shirts are median $4.00 per. Fun Fact: plain white tee-shirts in this class are less expensive.

Our primary vendor for most of the offerings in this class is "Sanmar" www.sanmar.com. Our 2 most popular shirts in this class are the "Port & Co. Essential" Style#PC61, and the "Gildan Ultra Cotton" Style #2000. If you go to the search function in the top left corner and type in the style number provided, there's a lovely overview. The only relevant difference in these brands is the color selections.

"Fashion Class" printable garments.
Many different fabric contents/blends and types (for instance, ribbed) available, 100% cotton versions NOT pre-shrunk, fitted for gender (Eg: tapered for men, nipped at the waist for women), multiple construction details (Eg: capped sleeved, V or scoop necks, tanks, "Ringers", etc.). Lighter weight "Ring Spun" or "Fine Jersey" fabrics.

Tend to size accurately for the urban population, meaning, these garments are constructed to current fashion standards. Fun Fact: "Women's" styles tend to size consistently small and are fitted for smaller than average women. "Men's", "Youth", "Infant", "Dog" styles, and all "Womens" aka "Girly" or "Ladies" garments fall into this category. Tend to sacrifice quality for fashion. Intended for people that care more about how the shirt looks

and feels than the garment's longevity. More high-end priced and generally brand-name fueled. Best example "American Apparel" and in a strong 2nd place, "Alternative Apparel".

Basic "Fashion Class" shirts start at $5.25 per and can include the cost of shipping them into Seattle from the manufacturer. Color Vs. White tee's have no price differentiation in this class of garments. American Apparel's "Unisex Fine Jersey" Style#2001 tee is far and away their most popular offering. www.americanapparel.net, go to the "Wholesale" tab in the top right, go to the search feature and type in style number.

"Cheap Stuff"
There is a 3rd class of garments available we refer to as "Cheap Stuff" (we actually use a different word than "stuff" and you can probably guess what that is) and to be frank, we're not the cheapest screenprinting game in town. We're competitive in pricing. but focus equally on quality and turnaround time. We think there's more to screenprinting jobs than just price per unit, so we have to assume you want a quality end product or you wouldn't be here.

The upshot is: yes, there are cheaper goods available out there. No, we don't recommend them. We don't think it makes sense to pay for solid quality printing on low-quality garments. We can work with you on producing a moderately priced end product that will absolutely meet your goals. We won't invest time or effort producing a dirt-cheap item that we can't stand by.

More Fun Facts & Helpful Hints

- Plus-sized garments cost more. 2X and up will cost approx. $1.25 more per up size. "Regular" sizing range refers to Small, Medium, Large, and XLarge. In an ever increasingly large society, we highly recommend you do not exclude the plus sizes in your offerings. We get a lot of feedback from our clients that they did not offer enough of the larger sizes and lost opportunities as a result. The plus-sized tee-shirt consumer is used to paying higher prices for garments, so we recommend simply pricing accordingly to compensate for the higher cost of goods.
- Fleece goods, IE Hoody and Pullover sweatshirts, are offered in both "Classes", and actually cost about the same at a median of $17.00 per. Choices are really less about cost and more about the garment elements you prefer.
- "Organics" or any "Sustainable" fabric garments are both more expensive and take greater care in the printing process. This is a relatively new segment of the garment sector.
- Long Sleeve tees are available in both "Working" and "Fashion" classes and as one would expect, cost more.
- If you want a "Made in America" garment, your options are considerably fewer. There are very few garment manufacturers left in the U.S. — sad but true.
- Our minimum order is 24 pieces in ANY GIVEN PRINT DESIGN "SET". IE – whatever design you'd like us to print will require 24 pieces minimum. In that minimum set, you can mix styles, sizes and colors* of garments, but you need at

least 24 for any given print. **Technical disclaimers apply to mixing up garment styles, broad ranges of sizes, and colors in any given print set**

- With very rare exceptions, there are no discounts available for blank goods. Cost per for blanks is the same for 24 or 240.
- If you are budget sensitive, substituting "Youth" size/style goods in the "Working Class" category instead of "Women's" specific garments is a viable option. "Youth" style shirts share some of the same construction elements of "Women's" garments, IE shorter sleeve and body lengths.

Now, if you've read this far, you're truly committed to getting a great screenprinted set of garments together to make your life perfect and absent of suffering. Good for you. Here's your bonus prize – The garment industry has finally recognized the consumer needs for a moderately priced blank with the style elements of the fashion blanks, a "Hybrid" of lower cost/higher fashion and there are a number of options out there for you to consider:

- Next Level Apparel A difficult website to navigate, so be patient. www.nextlevelapparel.com go to "Collection" go to Men's Style#3600.

- District Threads www.districtthreads. Men's style #DT104 in the search function.

- Anvil & Gildan, both brands commonly associated with "Working Class" goods, both are offering totally viable fashion blanks. Anvil's Style#980 and Gildan's Style#64000. www.imprintswholesale.com enter style number in search function, top right-hand side

Those are the basic and more-than-basic facts (w/handy web references) about blank garments for screenprinting. If you have more questions or are curious about the huge variety of options out there — FIRST, spend time with the web references looking around — you can save yourself some time and energy with a tiny bit of homework. THEN, give us a call — we're happy to help. The more familiarity, knowledge and information you come to the table with, the quicker you will proceed to a wonderful and joy-filled life with the quality screenprinted garments you so richly deserve.

More Info:

- How-To: Get your design together for screenprinting
- How-To: Merchandise beyond tees and hoodies
- How-To: Set yourself up for routine orders