

Wedding Invitations from Piccolo Press

Advice Sheet

Engraved Printing

The Engraving/Diestamping process produces the most prestigious wedding stationery obtainable, where there is no substitute for its fine resolution, definition and richness of image.

Once the text of your copy has been engraved (backwards) onto a copperplate, this plate is mounted onto a diestamping press. This is a large printing machine, exerting many tons of pressure that pushes the ink out of the engraved lines on the plate, onto the card or paper. (This is why all engraved stationery shows a 'force mark' on the reverse of the sheet.

Each hand fed card is thus a piece of real craftsmanship. (This process is called 'Diestamping')

Please note that once a copperplate is engraved it cannot be altered. The plate will be your property and included with your invitations. The plate can also be made into a most attractive silver dish.

Letterpress Printing

Letterpress is the oldest method of printing using relief metal type or plates. Piccolo is one of the very few remaining letterpress printers within the UK. and we are sure that Guttenberg and Caxton would be proud to see our printshop.

Although the process has basically unaltered for over 500 years, the crispness and clear beauty of letterpressed wedding invitations is extremely attractive. (and more and more popular)

Thermography

Thermography is a process that raises the print by heat and as there is no need for a copperplate, considerably less expensive than diestamping. The sheet is printed 'flat' and whilst the ink is still wet, it is sprinkled with a fine powder. The sheet is then heat treated until the ink and powder fuse together to raise the print above the surface of the page. At Piccolo we have perfected a process using a matt powder that gives a result very close to that achieved with a copperplate.

Sample Packs show a general selection of cards, printed in the different processes that we offer.

Lithography

Our flat printed items are printed by lithography.

Typefaces

Our typeface sheet shows the most popular of our typefaces and the ones that work best with the printing processes above. "Edinburgh Copperplate" is unique to Piccolo, being the copperplate writing of our engraver. It also thermographs extremely well.

Paper & Card

Paper & card are specially chosen for their quality and thickness, commensurate with the printing process involved. (Our "house boards" are White, Soft White, Natural White and Oyster.)

Thermography is best on a hard surfaced board, whilst letterpress requires a softer card to allow the 'deboss' or indent to show. We will of course advise you on all this. Our single invitations can be supplied with a coloured backing. (Duplexed)

Ink Colours

A charge of £15 will be made for a colour other than black or blue is and £25 if you require a special PMS mixed ink or an engraved colour. (PMS colours look slightly different depending on the print process)

Blind Embossing

Blind embossing is diestamping without ink . The results, understated and elegant are particularly successful for monograms and ornaments that are not too intricate in design. Blind embossed borders are also most attractive.

Plate Sinking

Plate sinking is debossing a sunk panel into the card, and frames the text or design.

Gilding and Bevel Edging of your invitations in gold, silver or a colour is also a most attractive extra. Re-prints are expensive and it is always worth ordering a few extra invitations, rather than having to reorder.

Envelopes

Most of our envelopes are made in house to match your chosen card and will be of thick (175gsm) paper. Your address can be printed on the flap of the envelopes at an additional charge. Ordering is best done by email to print@piccolopress.co.uk, or by the printed invitation order sheet or by post/letter. A phone call is always helpful to clarify your order and for us to offer advice. Proofs of each item will normally be supplied by email for you to sign "correct" before we go to print. If there have been alterations or additions to your initial copy, these will be charged as "author's corrections". Advice: Margaret Hendry and her staff are always available to give advice and help at any time. Once your order is underway, you will be talking and emailing with one of our designers. They will work on your design until it has been proved to your satisfaction and the job can go forward to the printing stage.

Order of Service and Additional Wedding Stationery Items

These can take a surprising amount of time to compile and gain agreement for all the parties involved. It is our experience that changes may need to be made to your initial draft and that the 'proofing stage' can take longer than expected.

Please email us your copy in Microsoft Word, or send typed copy by post.

We have settings of most of the popular hymns.

Layout has to be a compromise between good typography and the requirements of being readable - often in a dark church! Our grammar and punctuation will follow that in the Bible and Book of Common Prayer.

And finally, please get your Vicar or Minister to agree your copy before it is sent to us for setting.

Proofs

Our prices are for one set of proofs of a 'standard' amount of typesetting. Additional design work will be charged pro rata. We supply one "proof copy" (by email or post) of each requested stationery item, along with a proofing slip for you to sign 'correct' and return to us by post or email. Only on acceptance of our proofs will we print your order. Major alterations or additions to this proof will incur an extra charge. (If a proof is requested, but the subsequent printing is not ordered, a charge will be made for the initial typesetting or design.)

Order of Service Covers

Order of Service Covers can be thermographed, letterpress printed, or embellished with a drawing of your church. (Please provide us with a good quality drawing or high resolution digital file) It is normal - but not necessary - to match the Order of Service and additional items to the card used for your invitations.

Prices

All prices include plates, envelopes and VAT.

Delivery

Your stationery will normally be ready within ten days of agreement of your copy.

Engraved items may take longer, especially when a new copperplate is needed. "In extremis", should it be necessary for you to ask to jump the queue, there will be an additional £75.00 "rush job" charge.

All stationery is packed in strong presentation boxes and sent by DHL 48hr courier service. Please advise us of the delivery address. All consignments have to be signed for at point of delivery. Delivery is charged at cost, according to weight of the consignment.

Payment

We require a 50% deposit when we start your order with the balance paid before your stationery is dispatched. Payment can be made by credit card, cheque or BACS.