

# Photocopy Transfers

Photocopies, made on the kind of copy machines that use toner, can be transferred to the pages of a sketchbook or to fabric with cellulose (automotive) paint thinners. The photocopy is placed face down on to the surface to be printed, a little thinner is applied to a small area of the back of the paper with a brush and the now wet area is burnished using a metal lid from a jam jar. Use the flat top of the lid and press down with your fingers to make firm contact with the surface of the paper. Gradually the toner is dissolved and transfers across to the new surface below. Once this occurs, more solvent is applied to the adjacent area of the paper and the procedure continued until the whole image is completely transferred. If the transfer lacks definition and clarity, work into it, adding detail by drawing with a permanent pen to accentuate certain areas.

**TIP** Solvent transfers can be unpredictable. It is important to keep the photocopy paper and the fabric as still as possible as the transfer is made or the image will be blurred.

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Detail from Laura's quilt, *Reflections of a Shadow*.

## materials focus

Cellulose paint thinners are extremely unpleasant products in a confined space as the fumes are very strong. They should only be used with great caution, protective gloves and a suitable face mask. We always recommend working out of doors if possible. Bear in mind that you must never use plastic tools or containers with cellulose thinners.



**F** Detail of Laura's quilt, *Frances*. The face was an ink-jet print, printed to fabric pretreated with Bubble Jet Set. Fabric paints were used to add further colour and shape.