EPSON®

MakeON

Buyer's Guide for Education

Your guide to bringing creativity, entrepreneurship, and technology into your school and classroom

Contents

Print ON a Whole New Level

Welcome to MakeON — Epson's creative print solution designed for classrooms, clubs, and maker labs. These compact, professional-grade printers bring hands-on technology into education, empowering students to design and produce real products.

Across subjects — from art and business to career and technical education (CTE) and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) — students gain practical skills as they create, problem-solve, and collaborate. MakeON also opens the door for fundraising by helping schools produce their own spirit wear, event merchandise, and custom goods.

Whether you're building a curriculum or cultivating student entrepreneurship, MakeON can help turn creative ideas into tangible products. In the pages ahead, you'll find everything you need to choose the right printer, set it up, and support students as they start creating.

From Classroom to Creation

Give students the tools to turn ideas into real products — and build practical skills as they do it. MakeON encourages exploration, creative thinking, and hands-on practice across a wide range of subjects:

Art and design: Turn student artwork into custom apparel, décor, or school displays.

CTE and STEM: Prototype products, test materials, and explore how tech drives innovation.

Business and marketing: Build student-run brands, develop merchandise ideas, and learn real-world production cycles.

With MakeON, students don't just design — they problem-solve, iterate, and see their work become something tangible in minutes. Every print reinforces creativity, ownership, and confidence.

Fundraising with Custom Merchandise

Turn school pride into support for your program. MakeON printers make it easy to create and sell custom merchandise on campus — no outsourcing needed.

Ideas That Sell:

▶ School spirit wear (shirts, hoodies, bags, water bottles)

▶ Event gear (theater productions, sports, graduations)

▶ Club or class merchandise (limited runs that students design and manage)

Keeping production in-house gives schools total control over quality, costs, and timing — and every sale can bring money directly back to students and programs.

The Business Case for On-Site Printing

On-site printing isn't just a creative perk; it's a practical way to protect budget, unlock new revenue streams and fundraise, and reduce reliance on outside vendors.

Keep more of what you earn: When you produce items in-house, more dollars stay with the program instead of going to vendor markups, setup fees, and minimum-order pricing.

Print only what you need: On-demand production helps reduce over-ordering and leftover inventory, especially for seasonal campaigns, limited runs, or anything tied to changing dates and rosters.

Avoid rush costs and shipping: Last-minute changes don't have to trigger expedited reorders. You can update and reprint quickly without paying rush fees or waiting on deliveries.

Support ongoing program revenue: On-site printing makes it easier to run small, repeatable drops throughout the year (not just one big campaign), and to keep quality consistent across runs.

Add real-world learning value:
Students can participate in a production workflow that mirrors business operations — planning, quality control, finishing, and promotion — while supporting school goals and fundraising.

The Technology Behind MakeON

From soft fabrics to hard goods, there's a MakeON printer for every idea and every classroom.

There are three ways to print:

1

2

3

Dye-Sublimation
Transfers vibrant designs onto polyester fabrics, tumblers, décor, and more.

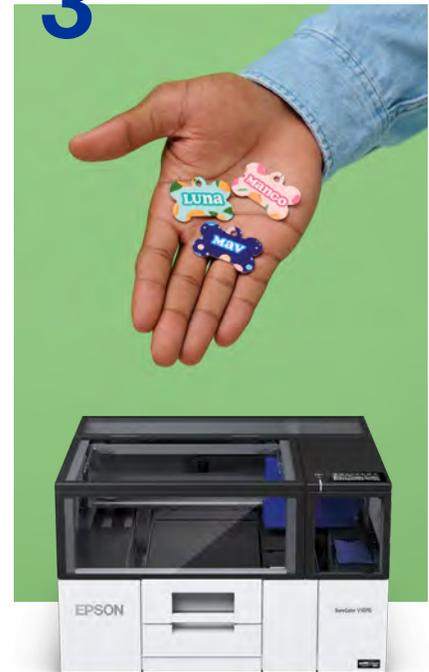**Direct-to-Garment (DTG) and Direct-to-Film (DTFilm)**
Prints directly on cotton apparel or film for transfers — perfect for T-shirts and hoodies.

UV
Prints on rigid surfaces like wood, acrylic, and metal — great for signage, gifts, and awards.

Each printer combines Epson precision with easy-to-learn software, built for classroom creativity. And no matter which printer you choose, MakeON turns every classroom into a space for discovery.

Find the Right Fit for Your Classroom

Every school's goals, projects, and budgets are different — and so is every MakeON printer. Whether you want to make apparel or awards, the Epson lineup gives educators the flexibility to choose the right solution for their students' ideas and curriculum needs.

Printer type	Best for	Example projects	Models
Dye-Sublimation	Polyester fabrics and coated hard goods	Apparel, tumblers, décor, socks, spirit towels, gaming pads	SureColor F170/F570
Direct-to-Garment and Direct-to-Film	Almost any fabric, including cotton and blends	T-shirts, hoodies, bags, hats	SureColor F1070
UV	Rigid and specialty surfaces	Awards, signage, gifts, school projects	SureColor V1070

Each MakeON printer is compact, easy to use, and backed by Epson's service and training resources — so whichever model you choose, your students are set up for success.

Cost and Budget Planning

MakeON printers are available at a range of accessible price points — from entry-level models like the SureColor F170 (around the cost of a classroom laptop) to expanded-format and specialty options, like the SureColor F570, SureColor F1070, and SureColor V1070, for higher-volume or advanced projects.

For more pricing details, visit epson.com/printers-for-makers.

Tip:
When planning your lab or makerspace, don't forget to include inks and consumables in your budget. These costs are ideal for grant or PTA funding.

EPSON®

Set Up for Success

Getting started with MakeON printers is simple — and most of what you'll need fits on a classroom table. (Tip: Make sure you start with a clean, well-ventilated workspace!) With the right supplies and a little prep, you can go from design to finished product in one class period. Here's a simple checklist to help you get started.

Inks and supplies:
- ○ Genuine Epson inks
- ○ Transfer paper (for dye-sublimation)
- ○ DTFilm sheets and powder (for direct-to-film)
- ○ DTG Pretreatment

Tools:
- ○ Heat press
- ○ Protective paper or Teflon sheet
- ○ Heat tape (for dye-sublimation)
- ○ Heat-resistant gloves

Maintenance supplies:
- ○ Replacement maintenance supplies
- ○ Extra transfer sheets or films
- ○ Cleaning cloths and gloves

Items to print on:

Dye-Sublimation
- ○ Polyester items
- ○ Coated hard goods (mugs, metal panels)

DTG and DTFilm
- ○ Cotton shirts or hoodies
- ○ Totes
- ○ Hats

UV
- ○ Rigid items such as acrylic, wood, and award plaques (up to 2.75 inches thick)

Tip for classrooms: Plan projects so a full class can print during a standard 50-minute period. With one print queue, it's easy to rotate groups or assign student "print teams."

How Often Will I Need to Replace Materials?

Plan ahead with a spare set of inks on hand so your supplies are always ready when your students are. In addition, in typical use, the following supplies will be needed about every 3-4 weeks:

- ▶ **Dye-Sublimation:** Pack of Epson Transfer Paper
- ▶ **DTG and DTFilm:** A replacement maintenance box
- ▶ **UV:** A replacement fabric wiper

Where Can I Buy Materials?

Purchase MakeON printers directly from Epson or through authorized resellers that offer printer support and value-added services.

You can also find printable blanks and consumables from popular suppliers:

- ▶ **Dye-Sublimation:** JPPlus, HeatPress Nation, MakerFlo, HG World
- ▶ **DTG and DTFilm:** ShirtSpace, SanMar, S&S Activewear
- ▶ **UV:** JPPlus, Amazon (rigid blanks under 2.75")
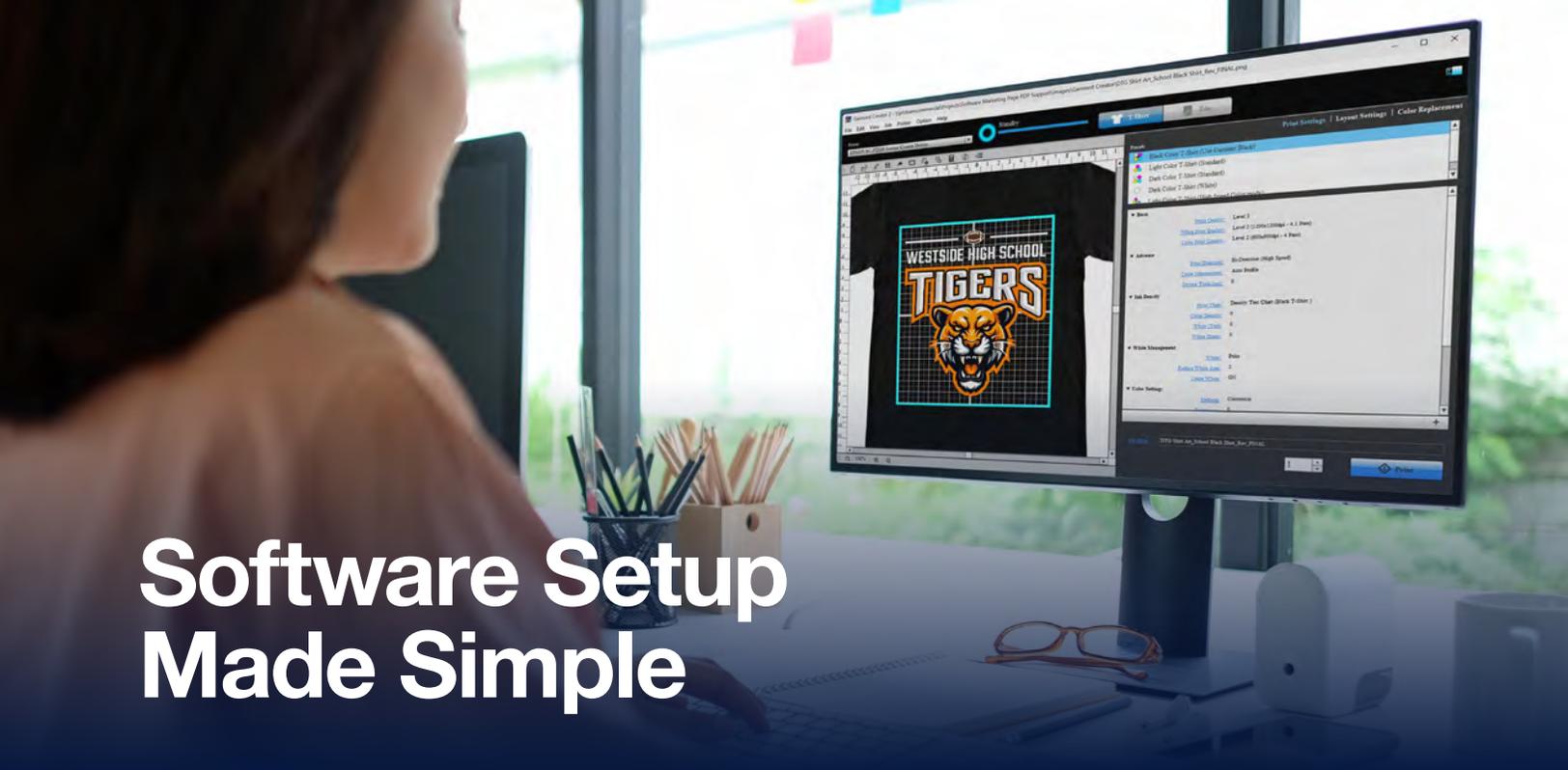
Software Setup Made Simple

Whether students are designing in Canva, Adobe, or classroom-friendly design apps, Epson MakeON printers make it easy to go from screen to finished product. Each printer includes simple, intuitive software to help you set up, preview, and print like a pro.

Software Requirements

Each printer includes Epson's own software for setup and printing:

▶ **SureColor F170:** Printer Driver for Mac® and Windows®

▶ **SureColor F570:** Printer driver for Mac® and Windows®; Epson Edge Print PRO included (Windows® only)

▶ **SureColor F1070:** Garment Creator 2 (included; Mac® and Windows® compatible)

▶ **SureColor V1070:** Epson Edge Print PRO (included; Windows® only)

Chromebooks aren't supported, but multiple classroom computers can connect to the same printer.

File Formats & Color Tips

▶ Supported files: PNG, JPEG, PDF, TIFF.

▶ Use high-resolution images (300 dpi) for the best quality.

▶ Flattening layers is optional — just avoid flattening if you're using spot or Pantone® colors.

▶ Transparent PNGs work best for Garment Creator 2.

▶ PDFs, PNGs, and JPGs are most common for Edge Print PRO.

Tips: Keep the Epson Edge Print PRO License Key in a safe place. Replacing it can cost almost as much as a SureColor F570!

Most MakeON printers connect via USB or Wi-Fi — set up a shared folder or classroom laptop to manage print jobs easily and keep your workflow organized.

Workflow: From Design to Press

Students can create in familiar tools like Canva or Adobe, then bring their work into Epson's software for printing and pressing.

Design it.
Build in Canva or Adobe and export as PNG, JPEG, PDF, or TIFF.

Prep it.
Open the file in Epson's print software (Garment Creator 2 or Edge Print PRO.) If you're using Driver, you'll skip this step!

Print it.
Position, resize, and check colors — then print.

Press it.
Use a heat press if needed (for dye-sublimation, DTG, or DTFilm).

Classroom Workflow Ideas

Small tweaks can make production more efficient — and fun.

- **Assign** student roles: designer, operator, finisher, quality checker.
- **Print** in small batches so each team gets hands-on time.
- **Combine** art, business, and tech classes for real-world collaboration.
- **Celebrate** finished projects with a "Maker Showcase" wall or sale event.

Teach the Full Creative Workflow

With MakeON, students can learn how to:

- **Ideate:** pick an audience, define the goal, and sketch concepts.
- **Design:** refine layouts, including typography, color, and file prep.
- **Produce & Package:** choose materials, run production, assemble, check quality, label, and package.
- **Market:** photograph content, write captions, and ideate simple campaigns for school events or fundraisers.

Maintenance: Keep It Running Smoothly

Your MakeON printers are designed for durability and easy upkeep. A few quick routines will keep your prints looking their best — and your students focused on creating, not troubleshooting.

Quick Care Routine

Daily

○ **Clean the platen and surface.** Wipe dust, lint, or ink residue daily — especially after fabric prints.

Weekly

○ **Run a nozzle check.** Do this weekly (or before big projects) to ensure colors stay consistent.

○ **Do a quick print.** A small test print keeps ink flowing smoothly.

Ongoing

○ **Cap and cover.** Always close printer covers when not in use to prevent dust or light exposure.

○ **Use regularly.** Even light use helps prevent clogs and maintains quality.

Scheduled

○ **Replace parts on schedule.** Keep a maintenance box, wiper, and extra ink on hand so class projects never stall.

Storing Printers During School Breaks

When school's out, a few extra steps keep your MakeON printers ready for when school is back in session.

SureColor F170 & F570 (Dye-Sublimation)

▶ Turn off the printer.

▶ When returning, run a nozzle check and cleaning if needed.

▶ Keep an extra maintenance box on hand.

SureColor F1070 (DTG/DTFilm)

▶ Choose one of two storage options (see Epson video here):

• **Breaks less than four weeks:** Switch to CMYK mode (requires one Cleaning Liquid Pack instead of the White Ink Pack).

• **Breaks four weeks or more:** Put in Storage Mode (requires five Cleaning Liquid Packs).

▶ Keep an extra maintenance box on hand.

SureColor V1070 (UV)

▶ **If less than two weeks:** Leave printer plugged in and powered on. Ensure there is a full fabric wiper installed.

▶ **If more than two weeks:** Follow instructions on the control panel for long-term storage mode.

MakeON Like a Pro: Tips for Great Results

Dye-Sublimation: Print ON for Color That Lasts

Create bright, professional-quality prints on polyester fabrics and coated items like mugs, keychains, and plaques. Dye-sublimation uses heat and pressure to bond the color directly into the material, so your designs won't crack, peel, or fade. A few simple steps will help you get vivid, consistent results:

1. **Add a bleed.** Extend artwork at least ½ inch past the edge for full coverage.
2. **Pre-press fabrics.** A quick press removes moisture and prevents wrinkles.
3. **Keep it in place.** Use heat tape so the paper doesn't shift and cause "ghosting."
4. **Make one smooth press.** Apply even heat and pressure — avoid multiple presses.
5. **Level the surface.** Use a cushion under seams or zippers for an even transfer.

Safety Spotlight
Heat presses get hot — always use protective gloves and wait for surfaces to cool before removing transfers. Keep cords and presses out of student reach when in use.

What to Do When Colors Look Off

When colors look faded or blurry, start by checking your heat press settings — small adjustments often make a big difference.

- ▶ **Cool or dull colors?** Increase press time slightly so ink transfers fully.
- ▶ **Warm or oversaturated colors?** Shorten press time — too much heat can cause color shifts.
- ▶ **Blurry edges?** Make sure the paper is secured and the fabric is pre-shrunk.

Direct-to-Garment and Direct-to-Film: Print ON Fabric in Brilliant Color

Bring student artwork, logos, and designs to life on cotton shirts, hoodies, bags, and more. DTG and DTFilm printing lets you print directly on fabric or onto a transfer film for easy heat application. The result: rich color, soft feel, and endless creative options for apparel and accessories. A few quick adjustments can help prints come out soft, vibrant, and professional:

1. **Choose quality blanks.** Use 100% ringspun cotton for DTG for the best color and texture.
2. **Prep before you print.** Apply pretreatment evenly so the ink bonds smoothly during DTG.
3. **Dial in settings.** Adjust the settings in Garment Creator 2 using a garment color preset for vibrant prints. Use tools like the Density Test Chart to help.
4. **Hot vs. cold peel.** If printing DTFilm, follow the peel instructions of your specific media.
5. **Let it cure.** If doing DTFilm, it can be helpful to do a quick heat-press after peeling.

What to Do When Prints Look Dull or Uneven

If prints seem flat or patchy, try these quick checks:

▶ For DTG, make sure pretreatment is even and fully dry before printing.

▶ Not all garments are created equal; consider using a higher quality garment, such as cotton, for DTG.

▶ Review print settings; increasing density slightly can boost vibrancy.

UV:
Print ON Hard Surfaces with Precision

Make your classroom creations shine — literally. UV uses ultraviolet light to cure ink instantly, producing crisp, durable images on materials like acrylic, metal, wood, and glass. It's perfect for school awards, signage, and personalized gifts. A few best practices can help you get sharp, long-lasting prints:

1. **Start with clean surfaces.** Wipe items free of dust and residue before printing.

2. **Check adhesion.** Test print a small area to confirm the ink bonds properly.

3. **Use the right preset.** Select the correct media setting in Epson Edge Print PRO for the surface you're using.

4. **Keep materials level.** Keep items flat and within the 2.75-inch height limit for best results.

5. **Experiment with varnish.** Use varnish ink to add texture or embellishments to your prints.

Expert tips:

▶ Use isopropyl alcohol to clean the surface of metal, acrylic or rigid materials before printing.

▶ Jigs or pre-printed templates can help with alignment of objects before printing.

▶ A white ink layer is needed if you are printing on a dark or clear surface like acrylic.

▶ A quick test print can help identify any ink adhesion issues.

Safety Spotlight
UV printers include built-in safeguards, but adult supervision is always required. Always wear protective eyewear when covers are open, and keep hands clear of moving parts.

EPSON®

Resources: Your MakeON Toolkit

Help is always close at hand. Whether you're setting up for the first time or exploring new project ideas, Epson offers tools and training to keep your program running smoothly.

Quick reference
Need help fast? Call 1-800-GO-EPSON or visit epson.com/support for troubleshooting guides, driver downloads, and supply ordering.

How-To and Training Videos

Explore Epson's Print Academy YouTube Channel for quick visual guides:

▶ Setting up and operating SureColor F170, SureColor F570, SureColor F1070, and SureColor V1070 printers.

▶ Tips for dye-sublimation, DTG, DTFilm, and UV printing.

▶ Seasonal maintenance and storage walkthroughs.

You're Ready to MakeON

Your classroom has the power to turn ideas into something real. With Epson MakeON printers, students don't just imagine — they design, build, and bring their creativity to life.

Whether you're teaching art, business, or applied technology, MakeON helps bridge the gap between learning and doing, preparing students with skills that translate beyond the classroom.

Every print is a chance to experiment. Every project is a new way to collaborate, problem-solve, and dream bigger. So plug in, press start, and watch your students MakeON.

Learn More.
Make More.
MakeON.

Bring creativity, technology, and entrepreneurship together with Epson's MakeON printers for education — compact, classroom-ready tools that help students learn by doing.

Start exploring today at **Epson.com/printers-for-makers**.

EPSON®