

## **Epson 4880 Hybrid Configuration - FAQ's (Ink Loss)**

Q. Why am I losing ChromaBlast ink when I'm only printing with SubliJet ink?

A. Epson printers are designed to 'auto refresh' each ink nozzle after a set number of printer passes without any specific instruction from the end-user. This mechanism insures that the nozzles will not clog during normal printer usage. Unfortunately, this means that ink is pulled from every ink station in the process. This process is dictated by the Epson Printer Firmware and cannot be canceled (over-ridden).

The net effect of repeat usage of one ink set over the other is that the unused ink set will be 'refreshed' despite not being used for actual printing.

Q. Why am I losing SubliJet ink when I'm only printing with ChromaBlast ink?

A. See previous answer.

Q. Does this happen with other PowerDriver software?

A. The driver software does not have any affect whatsoever on this "auto refreshing" phenomenon. This is a process that is entirely controlled by the Epson Firmware software which controls the actual printer mechanics. Therefore, all Epson ink-jet printers will experience some ink loss due to this 'auto refreshing' process.

Q. What should I do if I only use one set of inks (ChromaBlast or SubliJet) at a lower rate than the other?

A. The 4880 Hybrid system should only be sold to customers that will be printing similar proportions of SubliJet and ChromaBlast inks. For customers that will not use the two ink systems in nearly equal amounts, Sawgrass advises the use of two separate systems, one for decorating cotton (ChromaBlast) such as the C120, Epson 1800 or Epson 4880 and one for sublimation decoration (SubliJet) such as the C120, Epson 1400, Epson 1800 or Epson 4880.

A Sawgrass Distributor can assist in recommending which Epson printer solution is optimum for sublimation and cotton decoration production needs.

Q. Has this ink loss affected my yield per cartridge?

A. The yield testing of the Hybrid system is based on equal volume of SubliJet and ChromaBlast printing. The actual yield per cartridge is directly affected by the size, quality and color profile of each print.

Sawgrass Technologies  
2233 Highway 17 North  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
Phone 843.884.1575  
Fax 843.849.3847  
[www.sawgrassink.com](http://www.sawgrassink.com)

## **Epson 4880 Hybrid Configuration - FAQ's (Ink Loss) - continued**

- Q. How much ink am I really losing?
- A. The actual ink loss is a function of the number of times the printer head passes back and forth. A rule of thumb for the ink loss is approximately 10%. That is, for every 100 pages of SubliJet (or ChromaBlast) prints there will be a reduction of approximately 10 pages of ChromaBlast (or SubliJet) pages from the theoretical cartridge yield. The actual loss will vary depending upon the printer settings, such as High Speed or High Quality.
- Q. Am I losing this same amount of ink on the R1800 Hybrid ink system?
- A. The 'auto-refresh' is a built in function of every Epson Ink-Jet printer. Because of the different printer architecture and printer dynamics, the Epson R1800 Hybrid printer ink loss is significantly less than the Epson 4880 Hybrid system. The R1800 ink loss is approximately 2%. That is, for every 100 pages of SubliJet (or ChromaBlast) prints there will be a reduction of approximately 1 to 2 pages of ChromaBlast (or SubliJet) pages from the theoretical cartridge yield. The actual loss will vary depending upon the printer settings, such as High Speed or High Quality.