

Laying Out a Gusset Bag for the Customizer

Overview:

To print on a gusset bag with the Iconotech Customizer, You must identify the printable area of the bag in the software. This tutorial will show you how to do that.

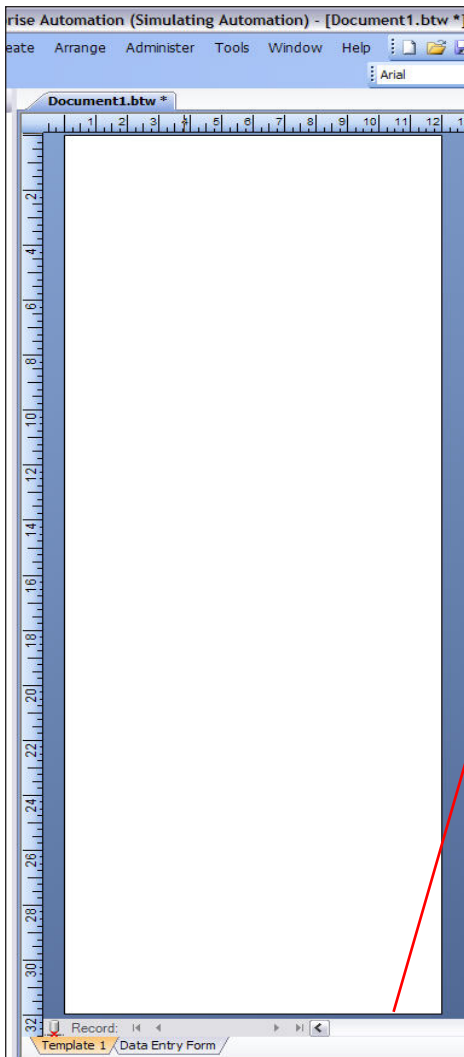
1. To understand the core concept, when a gusset bag is printed, it is sent through the press with the sealed bottom of the bag through the press first and the open end of the bag trailing. To make this easy to understand and deal with, the software rotates the output to the imager so you can create your layout with the bottom edge of the bag also being located towards the bottom of the layout in the software. (Fig. 1, Fig. 2) All measurements are taken from the bag in a flat state.



Glued bottom flap

Bottom of the bag

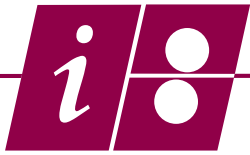
Fig. 1



Bottom of the bag in the layout

Fig. 2

2. The first step is to locate the top edge of the bag in the software. In the case of a bag under 32", place the 32" mark on your ruler on the bottom edge of the bag and read the measurement at the top of the bag. (Fig. 3) In our example, the bag measures 29" and the top of the bag occurs at the 3" mark on the ruler. Place a guideline at the 3" mark on the vertical scale to define the top edge of the bag. (Fig. 4)



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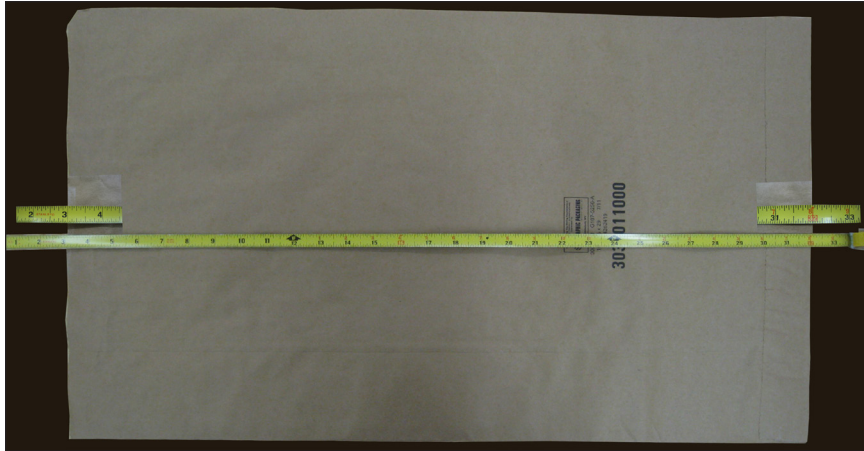


Fig. 3

3. A guideline is placed at the 6" mark on the horizontal scale to represent the vertical center line of the layout and the center line of the print cylinder in the printer. (Fig. 4)

4. In the tutorial BT 027 - Determining the Undercut Roller and Image Size for a Gusset Bag, we learned how to determine the maximum image width for your bag inventory. That dimension needs to be transferred to the software. In our example, the maximum image width was set at 8". Because we want the layout centered, take the 8" width and divide by 2 to get 4". Counting out from the vertical center line, place a guideline at that 4" dimension on each side of the center line. This defines the printable area in between the gussets and guarantees that it will come into firm contact with the impression roller. (Fig. 4)

5. The closed end of the bag has been glued and as a result, can create uneven surfaces which may not print well. (Fig. 1) While it is possible to print over this condition, results will be varied and it is generally best to avoid this region. Measure up from the bottom of the bag to identify this area and place a guideline in the layout to represent it. In our example, we had a 2" glue flap on the bottom of the bag and added 1/4" to that dimension for a buffer. The guideline was placed up 2 1/4" from the bottom of the bag or at the 29.75" mark. You have now identified the printable area of the bag. (Fig. 5)

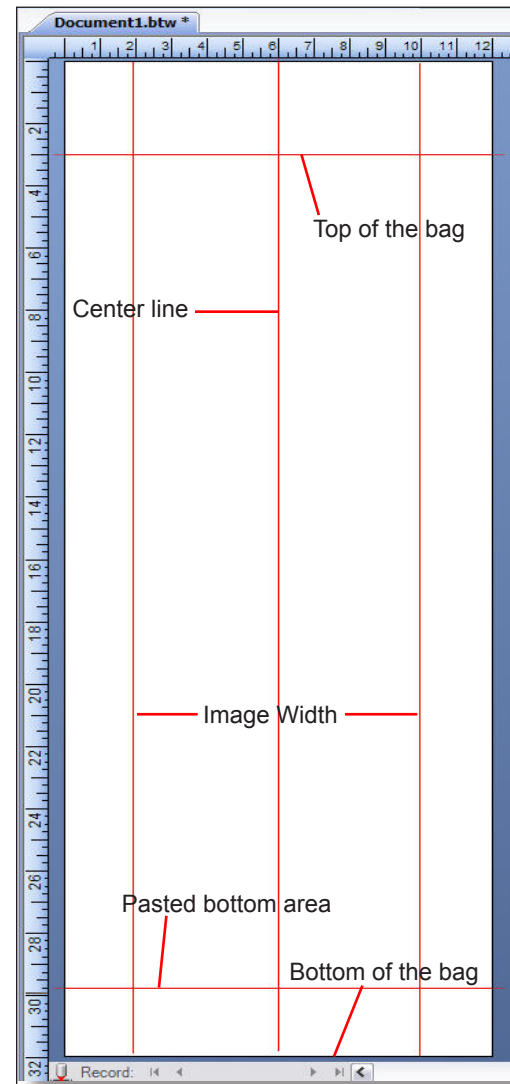
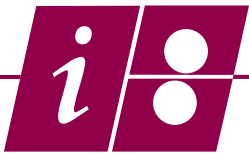


Fig. 4



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NOTE: Bags over 32" in length have a special rule regarding the placement of the 32" print field.

As you have 32" of print, measuring up from the bottom of the bag, your print can be no higher than 32" up from the bottom of the bag, no matter how long the bag is. What happens above that 32" mark will be blank. So, for example, if you have a 39" long bag, subtract 32 from 39 and you will have 7" of blank space at the top of the printed bag before the print starts.

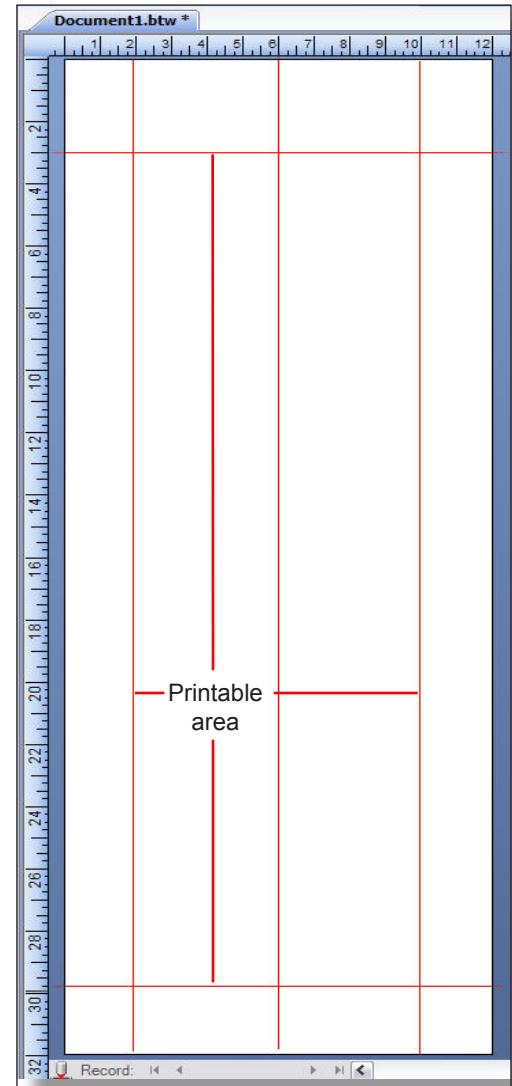


Fig. 5