FOTOSPEED SQUARE PAPERS

Pre-cut custom 8 x 8 and 12 x 12" stock

The square format – whether you associate it with Polaroid, Hasselblad or Instagram – is so popular it's now a standard. Many cameras now allow a 1:1 format image to be composed and captured raw.

The demand for square prints for framing and for spreads in photo books or albums has not been matched by any paper manufacturer until now. Fotospeed has put three key paper types – Platinum Etching, Platinum Baryta and PF Lustre – into retail boxes 8 x 8" and 12 x 12" (and also in a square test pack). Any social photographer will tell you that triptych frames with 5 x 5" or 7 x 7" prints are very popular… but you can get two of these sizes respectively out of single sheets of A4 and A3. You can't get more than one square print from A4 or A3 – and the size is odd, either 8.25" or 11.75" square. At around 10% lower retail price than A4 and A3, the Fotospeed square sizes don't save you a fortune but they

Seen on the printer, the 12 x 12 is 225% bigger in area than the 8 x 8. It's ideal for very detailed images.

enable prints to traditional lab/darkroom sizes including 10 x 12". We found that all three types front stack-fed in the Epson 3800 (still a popular standard). Even the heaviest and stiffest paper, Platinum Baryta 300gsm, fed without a hitch.

Using our Fotospeed profiles, prints were perfect from the first test. With the Epson 3800 driver you can create a custom 8 x 8" size, but there's no way I could find of making my custom size, or the built-in 12 x 12" option, print borderless. Fotospeed tested other printers including Epson P800 and R3000, and Canon models, and these did allow a borderless print.

Verdict: all three papers are tried and tested favourites (I used Baryta for the toned still life, PF Lustre for the tangle of trees). It's hip to be square, as all hipsters know. Now dust off that Rolleiflex or scan your Polaroids.

— DK

See: www.fotospeed.com