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AI PROMPTS FOR PRINT-READY DESIGN.

AI image tools generate gorgeous art in seconds. Getting that art onto a t-shirt or embroidered polo is a different conversation. This guide shows you the prompts that produce *actually usable* artwork — and the seven mistakes that stop production cold.

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01 WHAT PRODUCTION ACTUALLY NEEDS

AI image tools optimize for "looks good on a screen." Decoration machines optimize for "can be reproduced with thread, ink, or heat." Same picture, different rules. Before prompting, know what the output needs to be:

- ✓ **Transparent background.** Most apparel decoration needs the art isolated — no white box, no scenery. Prompt for this or plan to remove it post-generation.
- ✓ **High resolution (or vector).** 300 DPI at actual print size is the floor. A 640×640 image won't survive a 12" back print. Vector (SVG, AI) is always better — scales infinitely.
- ✓ **Bold, clean lines.** Thin lines under 1pt disappear in embroidery and print inconsistently in DTF/screen. Heavy, confident strokes reproduce reliably.
- ✓ **Limited color complexity.** Embroidery tops out around 6 thread colors cleanly. Screen printing charges per color. Gradients and photoreal shading are expensive-to-impossible on most methods.
- ✓ **Centered, properly sized subject.** AI often places the subject off-center or with too much padding. Decorators want a tight bounding box so placement is predictable.

02 10 READY-TO-USE PROMPT TEMPLATES

Copy these as starting points. Swap the subject and colors to match your brand. Every prompt below is built to produce print-friendly art on its first pass.

01 · VECTOR LOGO MARK

Clean, geometric brand mark

```
Vector logo mark, [SUBJECT], geometric, bold black outlines, flat 2-color design, isolated on white background, symmetric, no gradient, no shadow, no text
```

Left-chest embroidery, cap-fronts, pocket prints.

02 · TYPOGRAPHIC TEE

Bold word-based graphic

```
Bold typographic design, the words "[PHRASE]", heavy sans-serif condensed font, [COLOR] text on transparent background, thick strokes, high contrast, flat vector style, no gradient
```

Full-front tees and hoodies.

03 · VINTAGE BADGE

Varsity / retro crest

```
Vintage college varsity badge, circular shield outline, [SUBJECT] in center, text "[CITY] · [YEAR]" wrapping the border, 2-color flat design, heavy strokes, isolated on white
```

Jacket backs, hoodie chests, cap patches.

04 · FLAT MASCOT

Character illustration

```
Flat vector illustration of a [CHARACTER], bold outlines, 3-color design, confident shapes, no shading, centered on transparent background, cartoon style, sticker-style
```

Team shirts, event swag, youth apparel.

05 · LINE ART

Single-color outline

```
Single-color line art drawing of [SUBJECT], continuous lines, minimal detail, thick weight strokes, black on transparent background, modern, clean, no fill, no shading
```

One-color screen print or embroidery. Cheapest to produce.

06 · SILHOUETTE

Solid-shape graphic

```
Monochrome silhouette of [SUBJECT], solid black fill, no interior detail, bold recognizable outline, isolated on transparent background, print-ready, high contrast
```

Easy to vectorize. Caps and promo totes.

07 · COLLEGIATE TYPE

Varsity / arched text

```
Collegiate varsity lettering reading "[TEXT]", arched or straight layout, chunky serif athletic font, 2-color design with thick outline and inline fill, isolated, no gradient
```

Letterman jackets, team hoodies.

08 · POCKET ICON

Small-scale chest graphic

```
Minimalist icon design, [SUBJECT], 3-inch square composition, single color, bold geometric shapes, high legibility at small size, isolated, flat vector, no fine detail
```

Left-chest print (3–4"). Avoid detail that disappears small.

09 · FULL-BACK SCENE

Large graphic composition

```
Full-back t-shirt graphic scene, [THEME], composition centered and symmetric, bold outlines, 4-color flat illustration, heavy strokes, no gradients or soft shadows, isolated, poster-style
```

Scales to 12"×16". Limit to 4 colors for screen print.

10 · PATTERN TILE

Repeating all-over print

```
Seamless repeating pattern tile, [MOTIF], 2-color design, geometric, bold shapes, edges that tile perfectly, no background color, scalable, flat vector style
```

All-over print tees, bandanas, lining. Test the tile seam.

03 7 THINGS THAT BREAK PRODUCTION

- ✗ **Photorealism with soft shadows.** Beautiful on screen, muddy on fabric. Skin tones and lighting effects are nearly impossible on embroidery and look washed out in screen print.
- ✗ **Gradient backgrounds.** Non-negotiable killer for embroidery (threads don't gradient). Looks dirty in DTF. Costs extra in screen print — one gradient = one halftone screen per transition.
- ✗ **Fine lines under 1pt.** Disappear in embroidery entirely. Print inconsistently across dye lots. If you can't see it clearly at 50% size, it won't survive production.
- ✗ **Over-complex color palettes.** Screen print charges per color (6 or fewer is ideal). Embroidery is limited by thread library. DTG/DTF are more forgiving but still prefer limited palettes for brand consistency.
- ✗ **Low resolution output.** AI tools default to 1024×1024 or smaller — too small for a 12" back print at 300 DPI. Always upscale or generate at the largest size available.
- ✗ **AI watermarks and artifacts.** Random blobs, extra fingers, garbled text, weird eyes — AI tools sometimes bake these in. Zoom to 200% and inspect every corner before submitting for production.
- ✗ **Broken typography.** AI tools still struggle to render legible text. If your design needs specific words, add them yourself in post — don't trust the AI to spell "Atlanta."

04 POST-PROCESSING WORKFLOW

1. **Remove the background.** Even if you prompted for "transparent," most tools return a white or patterned background. Use **remove.bg**, Photoshop's Select Subject, or Illustrator's Image Trace.
2. **Vectorize when possible.** Raster (PNG) prints only at the resolution it was generated. Vector (SVG, AI, EPS) scales to any size without quality loss — critical for screen print and embroidery. Run through **Vectorizer.ai**, Illustrator's Image Trace, or Adobe Firefly's vector export.
3. **Clean up and simplify.** Open the vector in Illustrator. Smooth jagged edges, merge small shapes, reduce color count to 6 or fewer. This is the step most people skip — and most designs that fail QC need it.
4. **Deliver both formats.** Send us a **transparent PNG at 300 DPI** (for DTG/DTF) AND a **vector file** (for screen print, embroidery, future rescaling). Belt and suspenders.

PRO TIP When in doubt, send the art to us before placing an order. We'll tell you in one email what will and won't work on your chosen decoration method — no fee, no commitment. Saves a rejection cycle.

NEED A HAND WITH THE DESIGN SIDE?

Our team can take your AI output (or your rough sketch) and turn it into production-ready art. Send what you have to **orders@lgphub.com** or request a quote at **lgpapparel.com/contact**.

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