FAQ: WORKING WITH AN IMAGING, PRINTING OR SCANNING PROFESSIONAL

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE READY BEFORE CONTACTING AN IMAGING, PRINTING OR SCANNING PROFESSIONAL?

"When we first have clients approach us, our big questions are size, timeline, and budget," says the manager of one of the shops on the list.

Have specific dimensions in mind; one of the printers on this list says, "We can't give quotes on 'pretty big prints." On the matter of a timeline: "While we don't charge rush fees, we need an idea of timeline pretty early in the process. Things can be done quickly, if everyone is on the same page."

DO I NEED TO HAVE A BUDGET IN MIND BEFOREHAND?

Yes. Though it can be intimidating to present a budget figure up front, it makes things run a lot more smoothly. "There are tons of options in media type to fit nearly any budget. We're here to walk people through the options and figure out what is best for them...Knowing the budget off the bat will help us in deciding what options to present and save everyone time," says the manager of one of the businesses. "We can make suggestions on where to skimp and where to invest in the best quality materials."

WHAT SERVICES DO PRINT AND IMAGING STUDIOS OFFER?

It will vary from business to business. Make sure you have an idea what you need: what sort of finished product do you need? What kind of surface will it be printed on? Does it need to be stretched or laminated? Do you require any editing or retouching beforehand? Most businesses will have a list of services on their website. If not, give them a call beforehand to make sure they provide the services that you need. Even if you only have a general idea of what you want, professionals on this list can help you figure out what's possible.

CAN I JUST DROP IN?

This depends on the business. Some businesses might encourage drop-ins, while others might prefer clients to set up in an appointment. If it's a bigger project, find out about scheduling an appointment first. That can allow you to view product samples, as well as see finished pieces the business has produced.