

Indigo Digital Offset Color Printing General Information & Guidelines



PLATFORMS SUPPORTED

Macintosh and Windows

SOFTWARE SUPPORTED

Current versions of QuarkXPress, Pagemaker, InDesign, Illustrator, Freehand, Photoshop, Publisher, Word and CorelDraw, files can also be sent in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

IMAGE SIZE

Our Indigo press prints on 12"x18" paper. The maximum image area is 11.5"x17.2" (11"x17" with bleeds).

GRADIENTS AND FLAT TINTS

Large areas of gradients and flat tints will not produce good results. Try to keep the gradient to a small size, and if large areas of flat tints must be used, consider introducing a noise or pattern. If you choose, a good way around using large flat background tints is to use a subtle background texture. This will add some color to your page without the unwanted banding effect that can occur with large areas of flat background colors. If large tint blocks are necessary, we suggest that a pattern be introduced into the block to modulate the color and help maintain a smooth fine appearance. Flat tints should never contain less than 5% dot.

BLACK UNDERCOLOR

Just as with traditional offset, if there is a large area of solid black, we recommend creating a "rich" black color for that area. The standard value for such a black is 60% cyan, 60% magenta, 60% yellow, and 100% black.

SCANNED IMAGES OR PLACED GRAPHICS

Color images should be saved in CMYK Composite EPS format using JPEG Maximum Quality encoding. DCS (5-file EPS) files should be resaved as composite EPS (1-file). Grayscale images should be saved in Grayscale EPS format using JPEG Maximum Quality Encoding, TIFF, Binary EPS, Photo CD, and most CEPS formats.

IMAGE RESOLUTION

Optimum resolution continuous tone images is 300 dpi at 100% reproduction size.

SCANNED LINEWORK

When scanning line art, logos, or other linework, optimum resolution is 800 dpi. Other resolutions such as 600 or 1200 dpi can also be used.

DUOTONES

Duotones created using spot or PMS color must be converted to four color process for printing. Please save duotones in EPS format using JPEG Maximum Quality encoding.

DUPLEX (TWO-SIDED) PRINTING

Small variation in sheet register is normal on the Indigo press, and should be considered during the design stage. Your design should be tolerant of variations in duplex printing. Critical front-to-back line up should be avoided.

IMPOSITION

It is preferred that all spread documents be designed in "printer's spread" sequence. Otherwise, files such as business cards, posters, etc. should be designed 1-up within the document.

FONTS

To ensure font substitutions do not occur, we recommend you supply all fonts used in your document. We maintain an extensive font library, but we may not have the font used in your file. And, since there are many vendors who provide different versions of the same fonts, our font may not match yours. Include all screen and printer fonts. Don't forget fonts used in placed graphics.

LASER PROOF

We recommend including a laser proof of your document to size along with your file. If your project requires bindery services such as folding, scoring or stitching, please include mock-up of the finished piece. If color is critical, please supply a color sample. It is very important that you include a hard copy of your design with the order. It allows us to check that nothing is missing from your file when we run through our pre-flight process. At times, we may need to call you for clarification on an instruction. These questions will be easier to answer if you have a copy of your latest print in front of you.

COLOR

The Indigo is a 4-color press. The RIP will automatically convert spot and PMS colors to 4-color tints. To avoid unexpected results, work entirely in CMYK mode. Additionally, as in all printing processes, reproduction of small dots is process-critical. The optimal Indigo highlight is 6% cyan, 5% magenta and 5% yellow.

RGB/CMYK CONVERSION

When converting RGB to CMYK on a desktop system, use the following parameter: 95% black ink limit; medium Gamma Color Reduction (GCR), 300% total ink limit.

TRAPPING

Unlike conventional presses, digital presses have extremely tight registration due to the fact that the plates are images directly on the press. In most cases, trapping is not necessary. However, if you feel trapping is required for your job, use a 0.3 trap.

CROP MARKS

Use a half point line (0.5 pt) for crop marks and set the color for the marks to registration, or 4-color black.

HEAVY COVERAGE JOBS

We require you to call us. Heavy coverage is complex printing and may, at times, require a specific layout.

PRINT PROOFING

A sample of the job will be run for proofing purposes prior to the printing of your order. The proof will be run on the actual paper stock to be used for the printed piece.



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