



RipExpress

Software RIP based on Adobe CPSI with option for Ink Optimisation

Product specifications are frequently updated; thus content and examples are for general information only and are subject to change without notice.

RipExpress is a fast, reliable and highly versatile software RIP based on the latest Adobe Configurable PostScript Interpreter (CPSI) giving the full PostScript 3 implementation with the ability to handle the latest PDF files.

RipExpress combines optimum performance with an exclusive graphical user interface for ease of use and is available on Sun platforms with SPARC processor running Solaris and PC platforms running 2003 onwards.

It can be used to drive a large variety of output recorders by using the LaserBus protocol and by outputting to TIFF files. If RipExpress drives a LaserBus, then it requires a 5 volt PCI slot.

The benefits of PostScript 3 include:

- The ability to directly RIP Adobe Acrobat PDF files
- Improve the quality of vignettes using shaded fills
- Improve quality and performance on certain PostScript 2 files by using Idiom Recognition

RipExpress allows the user to bring up a colour preview of spooled high resolution output bitmap files which can be sent to a colour proofer for further analysis prior to the final output.

Features

- Easy to use RIP via the Graphical User Interface
- Uses Adobe CPSI to ensure total compatibility with true PostScript 3 language and PDF 1.5 support, (Acrobat 6)
- LaserBus output to connect to a wide range of recorders using Personality Interfaces
- Input spooling and hold facilities
- Output spooling and hold facilities
- Colour page preview onscreen
- Adobe Accurate Screens
- Harmony Screens
- Set of 136 fonts supplied as standard
- Multiple inputs using EtherTalk, TCP/IP, LPR and drop folders, including PDF input
- Transaction Log file
- Anamorphic scaling by separate X & Y scale controls

- Media saving features - Trim Page to remove excess white areas from below the page and Film Saving to automatically rotate the page to use less material
- Output setup includes the ability to add named spot colours
- Separations can be produced for spot colours
- In-RIP trapping
- Transaction Log file
- TIFF file defaults added to overwrite/store output files as unique name and specify output directory
- Option to disable shutdown menu if required
- Job name length of 99 characters
- ESCOR 3 screens for Halftone Type 16 screens, giving 4096 grey levels
- Output setup allows for scaling up to 200% and down to 10%

Various halftone screening technologies are available including Adobe Accurate Screens and Harmony Screens for improved quality.

Ink Optimisation

The Ink Optimisation option for the RipExpress offers the ability to reduce costs whilst maintaining colour quality. This leads to increased productivity and a more stable printing environment.



Ink Optimisation Benefits

- Reduce costs by replacing expensive C, M and Y inks with cheaper black ink
- The appearance of colour images and the sharpness of text and line art are unaffected by the ink optimising process even though you are using less ink
- Less time is required for make ready as press comes up to colour more quickly
- Start up waste is reduced
- By using less ink, the drying time is faster, improving press run performance and printing speed
- The reduction in ink coverage means that you may be able to print on lower weight paper
- Includes TAC/TIC control, limiting the amount of ink that can be placed in any one place on the paper
- Ink optimisation improves colour consistency and minimises colour variations making reprints more viable
- Ink optimisation is an internal RIP process which adds minimal additional processing time and keeps files within the workflow

Overview

Ink optimisation within the RipExpress RIP provides the opportunity to make savings by reducing the amount of “common grey component” colour found in the cyan, magenta and yellow separation inks and replacing it with an equivalent amount of black ink just before the separations are produced. The application analyses the composite RIP data and replaces the common grey component with black ink prior to the separations being made. The colours in the job look the same after being optimised, but have a more efficient CMYK combination due to the better grey balance in the colours.

Ink Optimisation configuration also includes control for for Total Area Control, (TAC) - also known as Total Ink Coverage, (TIC). This is used to specify a limit on the amount of ink that can be put in any one place on the paper. The ink limits may be required to ensure that the next ink will attach properly to any previous layers thus preventing changes to the expected colour. Too much ink may also saturate the paper on the press resulting in paper stretch. TAC is implemented after the ink optimisation has been carried out.

Ink optimisation is performed in the RIP and does not introduce an extra stage to the workflow, adding little overhead to the RIPing process. It does not modify the incoming files so these files can be archived in their original state.

In the press hall, the improved colour representation provides easier press control and reduces the time required for make ready. Less ink means faster drying times with improved press speed leading to faster finishing. The improved colour stability results in less variation in the print quality coming off the press.

(Requires RipExpress version 3327 or later)

Ink Optimisation Testimonials

Terry Duck, Production Director (Las Vegas Review Journal)

The Ink Optimisation software works seamlessly in our workflow. It's easy to set up and use. The amount of ink savings is amazing. 30% ink savings is not out of the question.

Larry Powell, Sr. Director-Production Operations (Dayton Daily News)

The Ink Optimisation software was simple to install and configure. It integrated with our existing CTP output management system seamlessly and there was no manual intervention or maintenance required once it was deployed. The ROI for this project was realised in less than six months through ink savings.

RipExpress Options

- RIP to TIFF: Output can be directed to create a 1 Bit TIFF file as uncompressed, PackBits, CCITT, Huffman, Fax Group 3 and Fax Group 4
- TIFF Input
- ESCOR screens
- Bitmap Send: Transmission of Bitmaps to a PrintExpress Bitmap Spooler queue
- Set of 5 Adobe Kanji fonts
- PDFtoPS controls added to handle overprinting
- Proof TIFF files option
- Control for Parse Comments for applications that do not conform to DSC Page comments

Typical PC Platform

- Pentium Processor with
- 80 GB EIDE Hard Drive
- 1 GB RAM
- 64 MB AGP Graphics Card (Radeon or GeForce)
- 17" Monitor
- Windows 2003 or later