

Digital Information

Bitmap proofing & JDF
with DI-Plot

Room Service



**LAST EXIT
BEFORE PRINTING PRESS**

The digital workflow won't always flow

It's every publisher's nightmare: after the data has been ripped and imaging on film or plate is complete, the printout contains errors! The result is not only idle machines, unpaid work and wasted material, but also problems with the customer! And then there's the time for correcting mistakes, and the question of who pays. Of course, an experienced team in the DTP department can do a lot to avoid such disasters. Furthermore, color output devices are often available, such as color copiers with a PostScript interface, thermosublimation printers or large-format color plotters.

A printout is no blueprint

Compared to an output on film or plate, all these proofing solutions come with severe disadvantages: they use different Rip technologies, and process unseparated PostScript files. There are countless other sources of error, such as non-installed fonts, problematic processing of RGB-images, and the most varied versions of PostScript or PDF levels.

Also, constant technological upheaval in the publishing sector makes for new stumbling blocks. In short, there is no such thing as the correct color blueprint that is in the size of the original, not reduced, with all printing parameters, cutting, folding and collating marks, and definitive when it comes to fonts and content. For producers, it is still a fact: you can only really rely on what finally comes off the press!

The solution

DI-Plot functions between the PostScript interpreter and the output device. DI-Plot creates a digital color "blueprint" from the internal, high-resolution bitmap files prepared in the Rip for output. This is compatible with the most varied output systems.

The data manager starts the imaging only after the printout has been checked and passed – without second ripping – and thus avoids expensive spoiled sheets.

The technology

At the heart of DI-Plot are the deseparation and descreening techniques. DI-Plot derasterizes the separated files necessary for the printing machine (which have already been provided with the screen width and angles), combines the separations, and enables the printout on color printers and plotters. The advantage of DI-Plot is clear: files that have been ripped for the printing machine are also used for the proof.

This technique guarantees complete agreement between the proof and the final print. And time-consuming repeat ordering and ripping of the same file is also a thing of the past! This definitive blueprint is also essential in order to comply with international quality standards.

For the printer

DI-Plot prints out all necessary cutting and folding marks, as well as format crosses and control strips – and thus provides an option for checking all these important elements for accuracy. The customer can be presented with a complete and definitive version of his job, which he can correct and certify before any printing plates or films are imaged.

DI-Plot can also emulate up to ten spot colors, depending on the type of printing machine



(e.g. five, six or more printing units). All the user has to do is define the color values that will represent the additional spot colors on the printout, or refer to a list of more than 8000 predefined spot colors.

Color calibration

DI-Plot is CMS enabled. By including the ICC profile used for actual printing (offset or newspaper press, digital printing system, etc.), a formproof can be shown to the customer that corresponds to the final printing process, also with regard to color reproduction.

PDF output and remote proof

A long-cherished dream for future PDF-workflows has finally come true: DI-Plot can produce PDF-files from fully imposed and ripped print forms. The comparatively compact PDF-files can be sent to any user via network or web. These files keep their full integrity, and can be checked on any monitor or printed out on any locally available printer. Easy and reliable, the remote-controlled imposition sheet has become reality at last!

System environment and CIP3 or CIP4/JDF

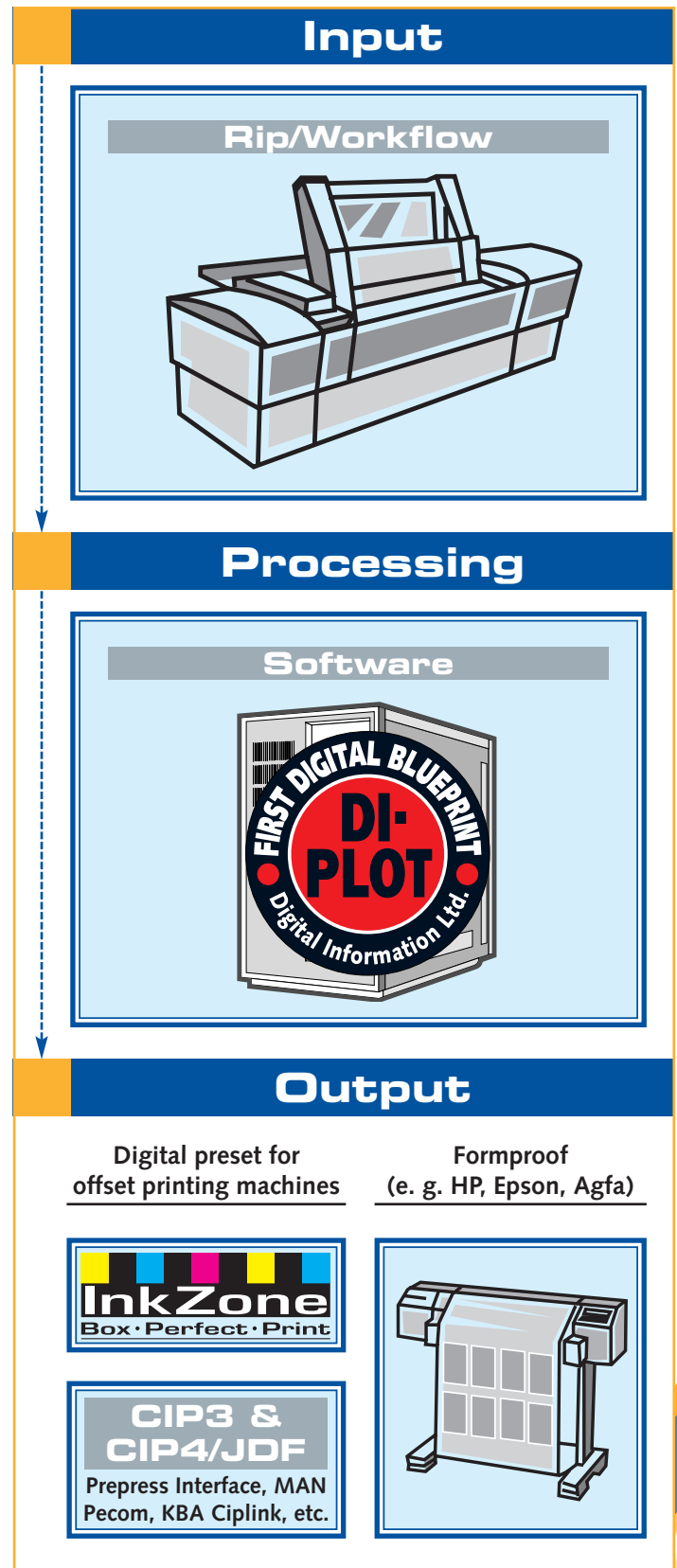
DI-Plot runs on Intel computers, and on the Windows platform. Any color printer or plotter can be used as an output device, as long as its printer driver runs on Windows and its paper format matches the corresponding printing machine.

Alternatively, DI-Plot can generate a range of image or printer file formats, which can then be reprocessed in any other way. DI-Plot can – simultaneously with the formproof – generate CIP3 or CIP4/JDF files for printing machine ink key preset.

The ripped data is read from the Rip via existing network structures. The PC with DI-Plot converts the bitmap files and outputs them to the color systems.

Economy

The cost of investing in DI-Plot is kept within reasonable bounds by using commercially available hardware and standard operating systems. Thanks to greatly increased production security, DI-Plot will pay for itself within a few weeks.



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