

Today's advanced printing market, with its goal of total quality management within a seamless, fully-digital workflow, requires faster, more accurate color proofing. Creating traditional offset proofs is expensive and time consuming, but less expensive proofing methods can be unreliable. What's more, with today's fluid, changing schedules, a job originally slated for one press may very well wind up on another. All this wreaks havoc with efforts to achieve efficient, accurate color management.

Dainippon Screen, always an industry leader, has poured its experience and knowledge into the development of a new kind of color management workflow. Known as P2QM, this groundbreaking workflow features easier profile generation and color scanning using special color bars. It also offers automated ink control using the same special color bars, or even the image itself. Best of all, the P2QM workflow takes the guesswork out of color management and offers truly skill-less operation. Powerful and flexible, P2QM is perfect for your color management needs.



The Screen Approach

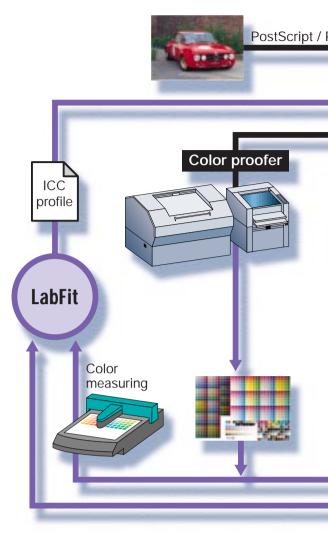
85-patch color bar

One of the highest costs involved in creating colormatched proofs stems from the generation of color profiles for the devices involved. Each device for which a profile is desired is unavailable while profiles are being generated, and the cost in ink, paper, and operator hours can be steep.

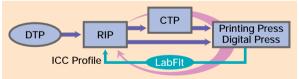
Dainippon Screen has created a special 85-patch color bar for use in ICC profile generation. Small enough to be placed alongside any job, this control strip makes it easy to generate profiles while continuing to output jobs. What's more, depending on the equipment used, the control strip can often be read inline without any operator intervention. This increases both efficiency and productivity. If inline operation is not possible, a side unit can be used for color measurement.

ICC profile generation

Screen's special LabFit software (see details later on) uses the color information collected from the 85-patch color bars to create accurate ICC profiles. Since the control strips are small and can be placed alongside a regular



job, LabFit makes it easy to generate a large number of profiles without a significant loss in productivity.



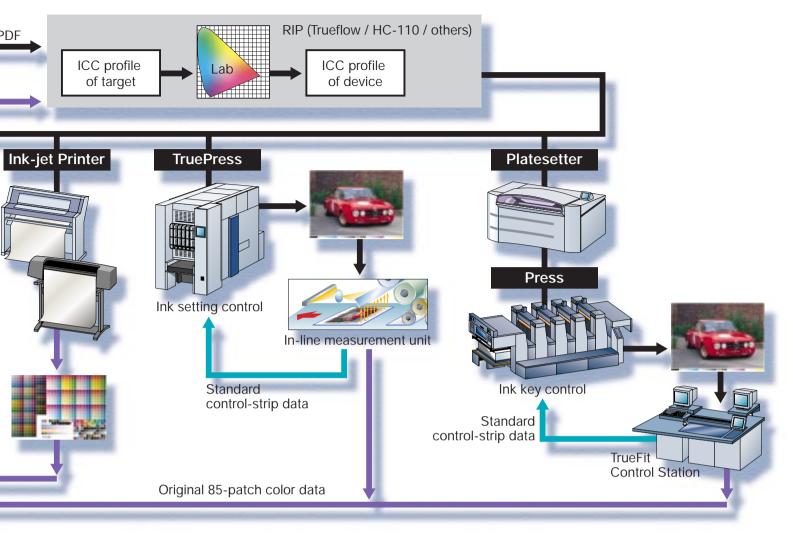
LabFit is used to calibrate the workflow from prepress to press.

ICC profile incorporation in Screen's Trueflow system

With Screen's Trueflow system, the ICC profiles created within P2QM are included directly in the prepress workflow. Once the output device has been chosen, the appropriate profile is assigned to the job during RIP'ing. This makes it possible to create color-managed output before the film or plates are even imaged. Since Trueflow has a late binding workflow, the appropriate ICC profile can be selected at any point up to final RIP'ing, allowing for last-minute changes in paper, ink, and even printing press.

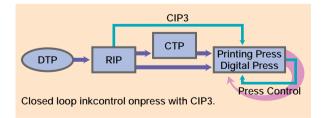
Ink density and inline feedback

P2QM enables you to compare standard color bar density data with CIP3 data. What's more, depending on the



Special 85-patch color bar

equipment used, an inline feedback unit can be used to send ink supply adjustment commands directly to the press, fine-tuning the ink levels as the job progresses. If the system does not meet the requirements for inline measurement, a special off-line measurement unit can be used to scan the color bars instead. Either method can be used to help stabilize print quality across the print run.



Color matching under a wide variety of circumstances

Screen realizes that color matching may be required in a wide variety of circumstances. What if a client wishes to match the colors printed in a document from last year in a new print run tomorrow, for example? With P2QM, the answer is quite simple. The user can simply scan in the existing document to determine its color density and create appropriate CIP3 data.

What's more, P2QM includes tools that scan the image itself to determine color density, so color density reading and feedback are possible for any document, regardless of whether or not it includes a color bar. Available both inline and offline, the image measurement function helps users emulate the colors of any printed item desired.

Skill-less color management

Thanks to P2QM's inline color measurement and feedback systems, the operator does not need to measure ink patches or adjust the inking controls for the press manually. Everything is automated for maximum efficiency and consistency.

An integrated workflow

Open, CIP3-standard communications and a modular structure make P2QM unique in its flexibility and coherence. Organized around a completely integrated system, the P2QM workflow is designed to provide consistent color management under a wide variety of press and proofing conditions.



Standard spectrophotometers

Measurement of color charts can be carried out using a variety of spectrophotometers. according to the specific needs of the user. Standard spectrophotometers such as the Gretag Spectrolino are available, as well as TruePress's own inline measurement unit and image scanner. You can even use the spectrophotometer already attached to your press console.

LabFit

LabFit includes an ICC profile builder known as LabFit Builder and an ICC profile tuner known as LabFit Editor. These two components help the user generate accurate ICC profiles for output devices ranging from printing presses and digital proofers to computer monitors. LabFit Builder, designed for use with Screen's compact 85-pathc color bars, makes it easy for the user to generate profiles for a large variety of output conditions quickly and efficiently. LabFit Editor, which features on-screen operation, assures that these profiles are used properly over time.

LabProof

LabProof, another useful component of the P2QM workflow, is Dainippon Screen's new color proofing application. It uses ICC profiles such as those generated by LabFit to produce color-matched proofs on general purpose inkiet printers. Offering smooth, fine-grained output and remarkable color matching capabilities, it is the ideal tool both for on and off-site proofing. Input to LabProof can be either in 1-bit or CMYK TIFF. LabProof features programmable hot folders, which can be set up in advance for a variety of output parameters and conditions. The operator need only drag and drop the RIP'ed files onto the desired hot folder to produce superior proofs with ease.

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