Fiery external print servers: Top reasons to buy the Fiery Color Controller E-42B
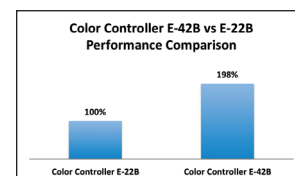
Because the investment horizon for a new digital printing system is from three to five years, it's always good to consider both current and future needs of your print environment when deciding on a new digital printing system. EFI™ offers two Fiery® server platforms for the Ricoh Pro C5100S/C5110S — the external Fiery Color Controller E-42B and the embedded Fiery Color Controller E-22B. These two platforms vary by the level of color-management controls, automation, productivity, workflow integration and expandability they offer. This document helps you understand the benefits of an external Fiery server, how it meets your current needs and how it offers built-in flexibility for future growth.

Fiery Color Controllers E-42B only: Standard features

Fiery Color Controllers E-42B come with standard features that add productivity, quality and new services to your production environment. These features are not available on the embedded Fiery Color Controllers E-22B.

1. Faster turnaround times

To maximize your engine capacity, you need a high-powered digital front end to process and drive data fast enough to minimize engine idle time. More robust and powerful hardware specifications make the Fiery Color Controllers E-42B almost two times faster than the Fiery Color Controllers E-22B, making them the best choice for demanding production environments.

Color Controller E-42B vs E-22B Performance Comparison

2. Flexible variable data printing (VDP) services

The robust, open, flexible, and scalable Fiery solution supports all leading VDP formats including PDF-VT and PPML and works with all leading VDP composition software and formats for seamless workflows. The faster processing speed also makes offering VDP services more profitable.

3. Perfect PDF printing in a pure PDF workflow

Fiery external servers include the Adobe® PDF Print Engine (APPE) interpreter for end-to-end native PDF workflows. This allows consistency and flexibility from design to output in hybrid digital and offset print environments, and also ensures correct representation of color spaces and transparencies.

4. Automated Web-to-Print submission, and integration with EFI MIS systems

Fiery external servers are certified by CIP4 job definition format (JDF) IDP-ICS. By adhering to this standard, Fiery servers integrate seamlessly with EFI MIS and Web-to-Print systems as well as with industry-leading third-party prepress workflow solutions such as Agfa :Apogee, Heidelberg Prinect and Kodak Prinergy. This helps you more efficiently deliver job specifications, update job status in real time, track job costing data and validate equipment usage.

5. Inline tab separations

Create and insert tab sheets directly into documents at Fiery Command WorkStation® by entering the text for each tab and specifying the location of the tab at the last possible stage in the print submission process.
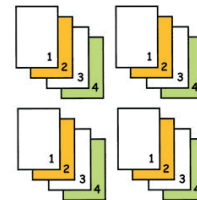
6. A way to offer pad printing

With external Fiery servers, operators can print pads with ease from a single-page job, and with minimal manual collation of the printed output.

7. Integration with transactional printing workflows

The Fiery external server can adapt to legacy transactional printing workflows with features such as Set Page Device to define media pulls and map the output destination, and Sequential Print to ensure the order of the final output is correct.

8. Windows® 7 Pro OS flexibility

Fiery external servers comply with the latest corporate IT standards and provides more efficient administration and implementation of security patches. You can also easily implement standard industry practices such as running anti-virus software.

Fiery Color Controllers E-42B only: Optional features

Fiery Color Controllers E-42B offer optional software and hardware solutions that add advanced prepress, makeready, automation and workflow integration for high-production print facilities. These features are not available on the embedded Fiery Color Controllers E-22B.

1. The ability to identify file problems before it's too late

Preflight, a feature in the Fiery Graphic Arts Package, Premium Edition, quickly checks for missing spot colors, VDP elements, or low resolution images. It prevents problem jobs from printing and helps troubleshoot issues faster.

2. A powerful makeready option to produce differentiated output

Add Fiery JobMaster to offer advanced PDF makeready capabilities such as insertion of tab pages without the need to design them in the native application, multi-bank and bleed-edge tab setup, page merging, media assignment, finishing, page numbering, plus hard-copy scanning and cleanup. This allows you to produce jobs completely inline and reduce labor costs on manual tab insertion.

3. Accelerated production with prepress workflow automation

Add Fiery JobFlow for cost-effective, advanced prepress capabilities. You can easily configure automated job workflows including PDF conversion, preflight, correction and editing of PDF files, image enhancement, document imposition, plus approval and job ticketing.

4. A unified printer fleet to maximize production throughput

Fiery Central combines multiple Fiery Driven™ digital printers and other select printers into a centralized print production system that integrates to EFI MIS and Web-to-Print systems. Fiery Central allows you to intelligently balance production output to maximize the production throughput of your whole printer fleet.

5. A centralized production workspace for operators

Operators can make pre-production changes from a local monitor, keyboard and mouse. Or you can upgrade to the Integrated Fiery Workstation with a custom furniture stand. The local monitor displays the Fiery Ticker for an at-a-glance view of the printing status at a distance.

6. Secure storage for print files

The optional removable hard disk drive allows you to lock the server drive into the system for normal operation and remove it to a secure location after powering down the server.

Fiery Color Controllers E-22B: Optional features

While these features are standard on external Fiery servers, you may add them as options to embedded servers. Be sure to compare the cost of the embedded server with these options added for a more accurate comparison to the external server.
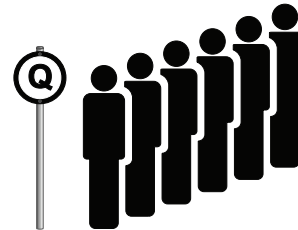
1. Accelerated job submission that eliminates touch points

Full workflow automation in the job submission process with Fiery Hot Folders and Virtual Printers reduces errors and saves time, while allowing operators to give more attention to other jobs that require specific finishing and color settings.

2. Full control of your print queue for changing job priorities

Print/Process Next, Rush Print and Schedule Printing offer a variety of advanced queue management features to control and adjust print priorities on the fly.
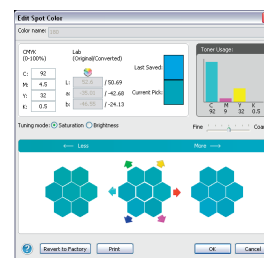
3. Superior photographic prints

Image Enhance Visual Editor, a Fiery Command WorkStation plug-in, allows operators to make last-minute edits to a selected image without having to open the image in applications such as Adobe Photoshop®.

4. The best match for corporate colors and logos

Fiery Spot-On™ allows operators to easily edit existing named colors or to create new custom colors to produce the best match possible for a given paper and print engine.

Comparison of Fiery Color Controllers E-42B and E-22B

FIERY PLATFORM	FIERY E-42B — EXTERNAL	FIERY E-22B — EMBEDDED
Fiery Software	Fiery FS100 Pro	Fiery FS100
CPU	Intel Core i5-2400 Processor (3.10GHz)	Intel Pentium G850 Processor (2.90 GHz)
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional FES x64	Linux
RAM	4 GB	2 GB
Hard Disk Drive (HDD)	1 TB SATA	500 GB SATA
Removable HDD	OPTIONAL	Not Available
Removable Storage	DVD-RW/CD-RW	Not Available
VDP Formats	PPML 3, PDF/VT-2, VPS, Fiery FreeForm™	Fiery FreeForm
Adobe® PDF Print Engine (APPE)	INCLUDED	Not Available
Fiery JDF	INCLUDED	Not Available
Integration to EFI MIS and Web-to-Print systems	INCLUDED	Not Available
Sequential Print	INCLUDED	Not Available
Set Page Device	INCLUDED	Not Available
PDF/X Output Intent	INCLUDED	Not Available
Softproofing	INCLUDED	Not Available
Pad Printing	INCLUDED	Not Available
Insert Tab	INCLUDED	Not Available
Fiery Integrated Workstation (stand, LCD display, keyboard and mouse)	OPTIONAL	Not Available
Fiery JobMaster	OPTIONAL	Not Available
Fiery JobFlow	OPTIONAL	Not Available
Preflight	OPTIONAL with Graphic Arts Package, Premium Edition	Not Available
Fiery Graphics Arts Package, Premium Edition	OPTIONAL	Not Available
FEATURES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AT AN ADDITIONAL COST ON EMBEDDED SERVERS		
Fiery Impose	OPTIONAL	OPTIONAL
Fiery Hot Folders/Virtual Printers	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Process Next	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Print Next	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Rush Print	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Schedule Printing	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Fiery Image Enhance Visual Editor	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Fiery Spot-On™	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL
Auto Trapping	INCLUDED	OPTIONAL