

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What is the difference between a solid and a process spot color library?**

- Solid:
 - A Solid library such as PANTONE PLUS V2 Formula Guide is designed to be used with custom-mixed spot color inks on press
 - Swatch books for Solid libraries show the exact appearance that custom ink will give when printed
- Process:
 - Process color libraries show a *simulation* of the real solid spot color created using process color inks, usually CMYK
 - Swatch books for Process color libraries are an *approximation* of the spot color appearance when printed; press variables affect how closely the print will match the swatch book
 - The PANTONE Extended Gamut Library is a Process color library that uses seven process inks: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black, Orange, Green, and Violet (CMYKOGV)

2. **Why would I use a Process color guide for digital printing?**

- When the job will run on a conventional press without a custom spot color ink, the Process guide gives the designer and the print buyer an idea of what they can expect
- When there isn't a Formula Guide handy, this is an acceptable work-around, but isn't an exact match to the swatches in the Process guide

3. **How can I tell if a design is made with PANTONE Solid or PANTONE Process color values?**

- If the design has PANTONE Solid values, the color names will have an extension "C" such as: PANTONE 232 C
- If the Extended Gamut Library was used for the design, the color will have the extension "XGC" such as: PANTONE 232 XGC
- Other Process color libraries result in names such as PANTONE P 41-16 C or PANTONE 232 CP

4. **How can I get a design made with Extended Gamut color names to print with the appearance of the Formula Guide swatch that a customer wants?**

- The Fiery® PANTONE library for the Extended Gamut fixes this problem by mapping colors with the XCG names to the *appearance values* for the PANTONE PLUS Coated V2 Formula Guide – the color a brand owner would expect

5. **What if my customer prefers the appearance of the colors in the Extended Gamut Library Formula Guide instead of the true PANTONE PLUS V2 color appearance?**

- Turn off spot color matching on the Fiery server so that the alternate values in the design file are used to simulate the appearance of the swatch in the Extended Gamut Process swatch book

6. **What are right libraries to use to match brand colors when designing from Adobe Creative Cloud applications?**

- Always use the Solid PANTONE libraries:
 - PANTONE+ Solid Coated - V2
 - PANTONE+ Solid Uncoated - V2
 - PANTONE+ Metallics Coated
 - PANTONE+ Pastels & Neons Coated
 - PANTONE+ Pastels & Neons Uncoated
 - PANTONE+ Premium Metallics Coated
- Do not use the Process color libraries:
 - PANTONE+ CMYK Coated
 - PANTONE+ CMYK Uncoated
 - PANTONE+ Color Bridge Coated
 - PANTONE+ Color Bridge Uncoated