How to:
Optimize color quality of documents

How to: Optimize color quality of documents

Feature overview

This how-to guide walks you through the key Fiery® color management capabilities that help you to:

- Achieve the best match for spot colors

- Correctly print transparencies and overprints every time

- Manage multiple color spaces in a single document

- Independently honor embedded profiles for CMYK, RGB, and grayscale images

- Improve low-resolution images

- Avoid registration imperfections

- Ensure black elements use black toner only

Objectives

- Apply print settings to reliably achieve the best quality output

Additional resources

For additional information on Fiery color settings, visit the Fiery Color and Imaging web page at fiery.efi.com/color, where you can find:

- Fiery Color Best Practice Settings document

- Fiery Color Best Practice Settings video

To access webinar recordings about color management, visit the World of Fiery series at efi.com/wofwebinars. Select past recordings for Fiery Color and Imaging products to view the "Fiery Command WorkStation® 6.4 — Configuring color settings and best practices" webinar.

For additional software downloads, training resources and more, go to Fiery Online Resources.

Before you begin

- Open Fiery Command WorkStation 6 or later and connect to at least one Fiery server running Fiery FS400/FS400 Pro.

- If you're using an embedded Fiery server, you must have the Adobe PDF Print Engine option activated in order to use the Adobe PDF Print Engine path. For more information, contact your Fiery reseller.

- Place the sample file, **efi_fiery_MnM_color_poster_ SAMPLE_11x17** or **efi_fiery_MnM_color_ poster_SAMPLE_A3**, in the Fiery server HELD queue. Drag the file to the Command WorkStation HELD list. Or you can use the import menu option in Command WorkStation.

- Make sure the printer and Fiery server have been calibrated before printing any output.
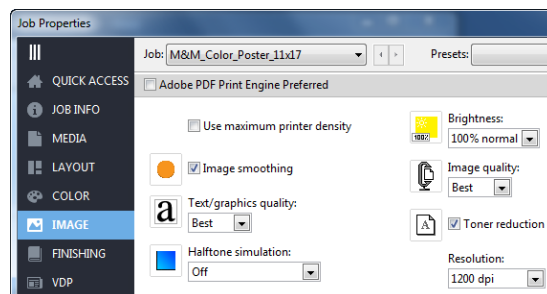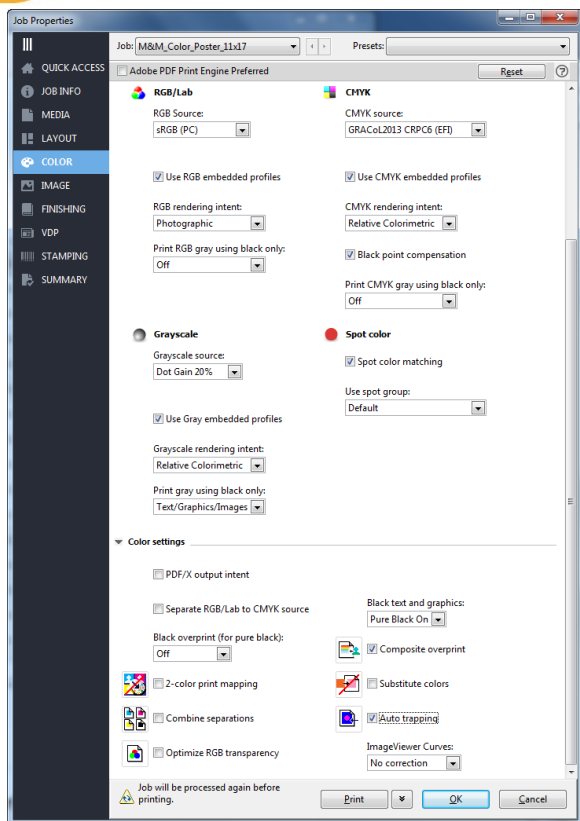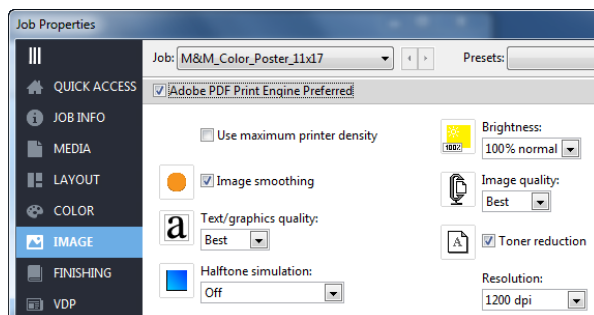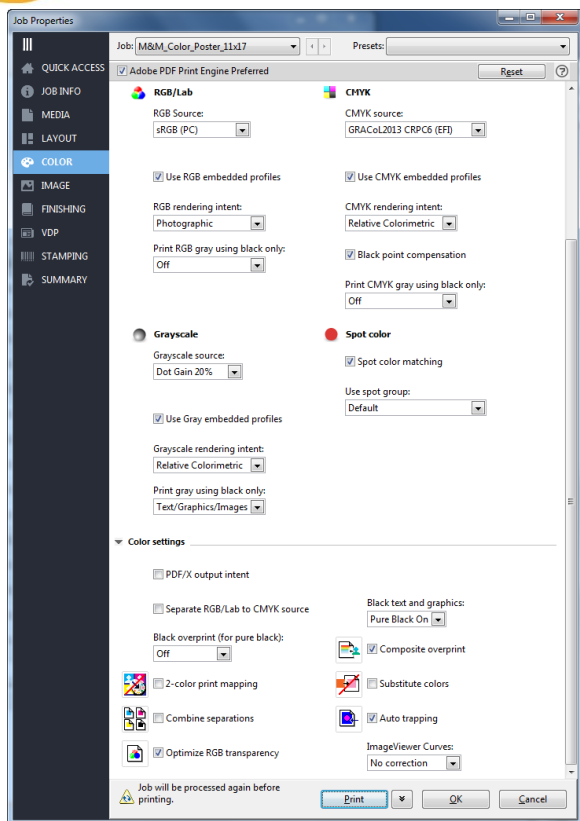
Apply print settings using the Adobe® PostScript print path

1. Locate the **efi_fiery_MnM_color_poster_SAMPLE_11x17** or **efi_fiery_MnM_ color_poster_SAMPLE_A3** file in the HELD list, and right-click to select **Properties**.

2. Click the **Color** tab and set the following options:

    a. Select the **Use RGB embedded profiles** check box.

    b. Select the **Use CMYK embedded profiles** check box.

    c. Select the **Use Gray embedded profiles** check box.

    d. Select the **Spot color matching** check box.

    e. In Black text and graphics, select **Pure Black On.**

    f. Select the **Composite overprint** check box.

    g. Select the **Auto trapping** check box.

3. Click the **Image** tab and set the following options:

    a. Select the **Image smoothing** check box.

    b. In Text/Graphics quality, select **Best**.

4. Click the **Media** tab and select **11x17 or A3** Paper size.

5. Click **Print** to submit the job to the output device.

Apply print settings using the Adobe PDF Print Engine print path

The Adobe PDF Print Engine print path is only supported on external Fiery servers and embedded Fiery servers with the Adobe PDF Print Engine option.

1. Locate the **efi_fiery_MnM_color_poster_SAMPLE_11x17** or **efi_fiery_MnM_color_ poster_SAMPLE_A3** file in the HELD list. Then right-click to select **Properties**.

2. Click the **Adobe PDF Print Engine preferred** check box.

3. Click the **Color** tab and set the following options:

   a. Select the **Use RGB embedded profiles** check box.

   b. Select the **Use CMYK embedded profiles** check box.

   c. Select the **Use Gray embedded profiles** check box.

   d. Select the **Spot color matching** check box.

   e. Select the **Optimize RGB transparency** box.

   f. In Black text and graphics, select **Pure Black On.**

   g. Select the **Composite overprint** check box.

   h. Select the **Auto trapping** check box.

4. Click the **Image** tab and set the following options:

   a. Select the **Image smoothing** check box.

   b. In Text/Graphics quality, select **Best**.

5. Click the **Media** tab and select **11x17 or A3** Paper size.

6. Click **Print** to submit the job to the output device.

Compare optimized results with possible print errors in color reproduction
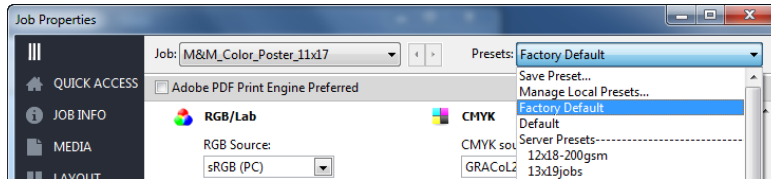
1. Locate the **efi_fiery_MnM_color_poster_SAMPLE_11x17** or **efi_fiery_MnM_color_poster_SAMPLE_A3** file in the HELD list. Then right-click select **Properties**.

2. Open the **Presets** drop down menu and select **Factory Default.**

3. Click the **Media** tab and select **11x17 or A3** Paper size.

For Fiery external servers or embedded servers with the Adobe PDF Print Engine option:

4. Click the **Adobe PDF Print Engine preferred** check box.

5. Uncheck the **Composite overprint** check box.

6. Uncheck the **Spot color matching** check box.

7. Click **Print** to submit the job to the output device.

8. Compare print results with the ones using the PostScript and Adobe PDF Print Engine print paths above.

For Fiery embedded or bustled servers:

3. Uncheck the **Spot color matching** check box.

4. Click **Print** to submit the job to the output device.

5. Compare print results with the ones using the PostScript print path above.

Note:

Page two of this print sample file contains information to identify possible errors in the reproduction of design elements on page one. You can use it to reference the print setting that helps optimize color and imaging reproduction for each element.

EFI fuels success.

We develop breakthrough technologies for the manufacturing of signage, packaging, textiles, ceramic tiles, and personalized documents, with a wide range of printers, inks, digital front ends, and a comprehensive business and production workflow suite that transforms and streamlines the entire production process, increasing your competitiveness and boosting productivity. Visit www.efi.com or call 650-357-3500 for more information.