

How to:

Optimize color quality of documents



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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:

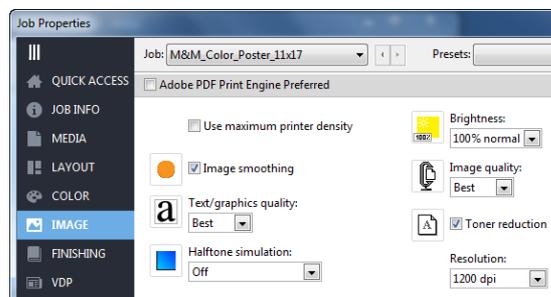
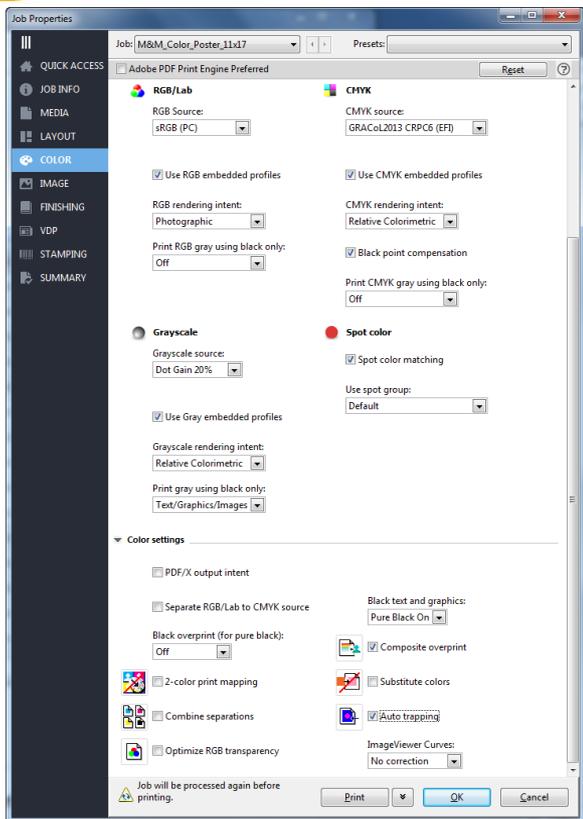
- Fiery Color Best Practice Settings document
- Fiery Color Best Practice Settings video

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](#).

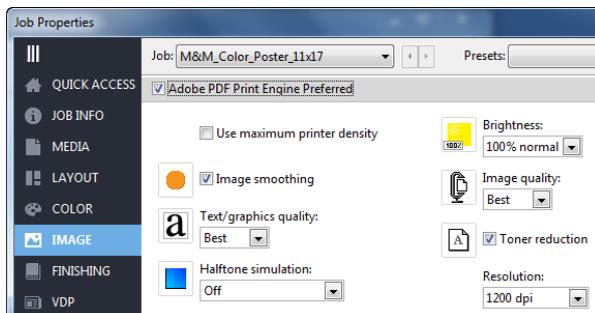
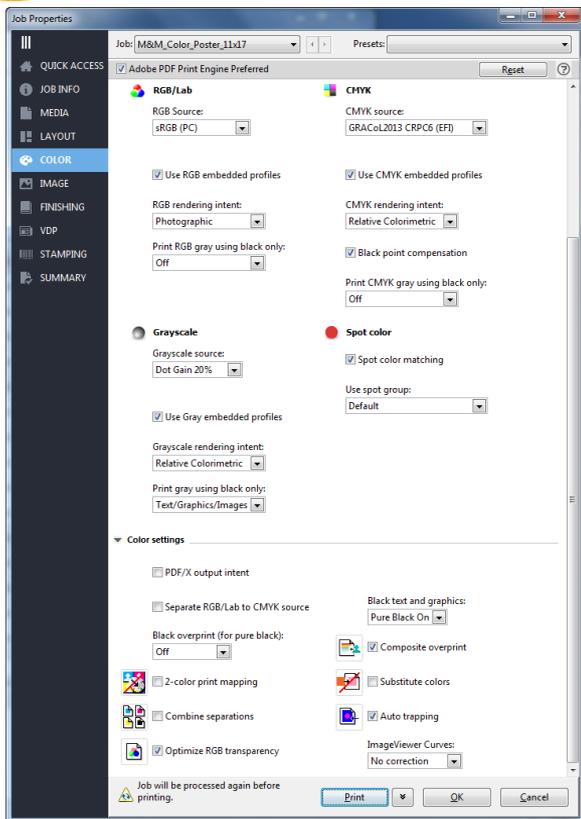
Before you begin

- 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.



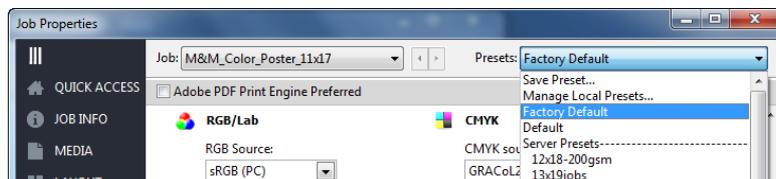
Apply print settings using the Adobe PDF Print Engine print path

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

1. Locate the **efi_fieri_MnM_color_poster_SAMPLE_11x17** or **efi_fieri_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 busted 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.

Manor & Mason Color Poster Description



Possible errors in the reproduction of design elements

This print sample demonstrates key Fiery® color management capabilities:

- Achieves the best match for spot colors
- Correctly prints transparencies and overprints every time
- Manages multiple color spaces in a single document
- Independently honors embedded profiles for CMYK, RGB, and grayscale images
- Improves low-resolution images
- Helps avoid registration imperfections
- Ensures black elements use black toner only

The image on the right indicates many of the settings users can check to reliably achieve the best quality output.

For additional information on Fiery color settings, visit the Fiery Color and Imaging web page at fiery.afi.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 afi.com/wofwebinars. Select past recordings for Fiery Color and Imaging products to view the "Fiery Command WorkStation® 6 – Configuring color settings and best practices" webinar.

To properly configure print settings using the Fiery driver and Job Properties, select the following options:

To render RGB transparencies with Adobe PDF Print Engine (APPE) processing path:

- Optimized RGB transparency
- Use RGB embedded profiles

To achieve the best match for brand colors:

- Spot color matching

For CMYK or spot color overprints:

- Composite overprint

To avoid registration imperfections:

- Auto trapping

To improve the quality of low resolution images:

- Image smoothing

To respect a source RGB profile:

- Use RGB embedded profiles



For CMYK or spot color overprints:

- Composite overprint

To respect a source CMYK profile:

- Use CMYK embedded profiles

For drop shadows on top of spot colors:

- Composite overprint

To reproduce 100% black elements:

- Black text and graphics: Pure Black On

To achieve the best match for brand colors:

- Spot color matching

To respect a source Grayscale profile:

- Use Gray embedded profiles

Printed on a Fiery® digital print server driving a digital color printer.
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