

## *Verifying the Correct Color Space of Your One and Two-Color PDF Files*

Inappropriate color in a PDF file intended to print one or two-color, has become the number one barrier to efficiently moving your files from Preflight into Production. When we encounter this problem, production is stopped. Valuable time is spent determining whether or not files must be redone. By communicating the following information to your text file builders who can follow these instructions to verify the correct color space prior to submitting files to your printer, this barrier may be avoided.

The reasons why a PDF file meant to print one or two-color may include additional colors fall primarily into two categories.

**Category #1:** Color elements such as RGB, CMYK or even Pantone, have been created or placed in the native Quark or InDesign document. In the case of two-color, colors other than the two colors intended.

**One-color:** When we receive and process one-color PDF files that fall into this category, grayscale will take place at our RIP. Intentional gray conversions are fairly infrequent however, when they exist, they are subtle and hard to catch. For this reason, we recommend that you remove the color from your one-color native files. If you choose to send us PDF files containing color elements expecting them to be grayed by **think**, it should be noted in instructions to your CSR and that you will accept our RIP's default grayscale conversion.

**Two-color:** When we receive two-color files that fall into this category you will be asked to fix your native files and resave to PDF. If you choose to have **think** attempt to manipulate your files into the required two colors, it should be noted on your instructions to your CSR that you will accept **think**'s alterations to your files and all associated charges.

**Category #2:** The method used to save native files to PDF has caused correctly built one or two-color elements to "save" in the RGB or CMYK color space.

To avoid this problem, it is our recommendation that you save your native files to PDF using our *Saving text documents to RIP-ready files* guidelines. These guidelines can be found on our website, [wethinkink.com](http://wethinkink.com), "Guidelines and Information", then "Prepress - InSet". If you choose to let **think** grayscale your file that has been saved to an improper color space, it should be noted in instructions to your CSR and that you will accept our RIP's default.

PC Microsoft Word will not save *black only* files as black. PDF files made from PC MS Word will always "save" in the RGB color space and the PDF file will always have to be grayed before plates can be made. If you choose to let the file containing color elements be grayed by **think**, it should be noted in instructions to your CSR and that you will accept our RIP's default grayscale conversion.

### For two-color files, please note:

These same problems occur with two-color text files. In addition to RGB and CMYK color space issues mentioned above, two-color files have the added complexity of requiring the second color to be consistently identified throughout the file. An example of this problem would be to identify Pantone 250 multiple ways in the same file, as Pantone 250 UVU and/or Pantone 250C, in addition to Pantone 250. In this example, the logic within Prinergy would identify UVU and C as the 'same' and all of the Pantone 250 elements would end up on the same plate. However, to avoid potential problems, whenever possible, this sort of complexity should be removed from your files.

The following are instructions for using **Acrobat Pro 7\*** to check your PDF files intended to print one or two-color before submitting them to **think.** This method of file checking is the most reliable way of identifying inappropriate colors in a PDF file. If you have questions about any of this information, please contact your **think.** Customer Service Representative. (\* The screen shot below is from Acrobat Pro 7. These tools are available using Acrobat Pro 6 and 8 also. Slightly different screens and instructions will apply. These tools are not available using standard Acrobat or Acrobat Reader.)

Using **Acrobat Pro 7** launch your PDF file:

- In the "Advanced" tab select "Output Preview"
- In "Simulation Profile" choose "U.S. Web Coated (SWOP) v2"
- In "Preview" choose "Separations"
- In "Separations" deselect "Black" (or the single Pantone color intended) from the list of plates
- *If text is two-color, deselect both colors that are to print (see note "For two-color files")*
- Carefully cursor through each entire page in your PDF document. If the PDF is correctly built as a one or two-color file, this view of your pages will show them all as being blank. If in this view, you see an element on a page, it is because that element has an inappropriate color designation.

