Adobe® InDesign® CS2

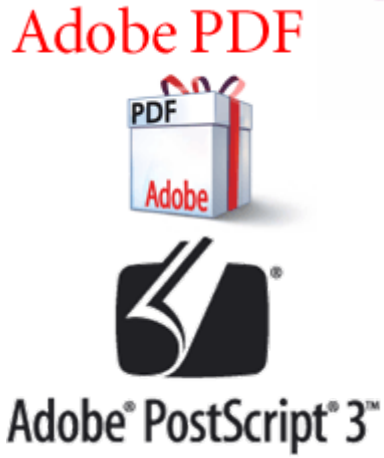
Adobe InDesign CS2 PDF Prepress

CTT Certified Technical Trainer

Adobe CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

Sending .indd files to prepress

- What version of .INDD does your printer want?
- Send a PDF instead?
- Duotones should be saved as .PSD
- PostScript has evolved
  - PostScript 1 is color and type and placement
  - PostScript Level 2 includes support for PDF stuff
  - PostScript version 3016 RIPS often support native transparency



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Reliable PDF every time

- File > Export > Adobe PDF
- File > Adobe PDF Presets
- Look for 4 main decisions:
  - 1. version of Acrobat
  - 2. compression and ppi
  - 3. font subsetting = 0
  - 4. destination color profile

Save a preset with your decisions

Quick and easy!

Why do printers discourage?

- Your printer may have had an InDesign directly-exported PDF file fail on their RIP because of a PostScript error
- Your printer may have an older RIP (raster image processor) which doesn't support font encoding called CID-keyed or Identity H, which was used by InDesign CS and earlier when it created PDF files
  - This font-storage method has been part of the PostScript specification for over a decade but many non-Adobe RIPs don't support it
  - This method is necessary to store some fonts with a lot of glyphs like OpenType fonts
- Your printer hasn't obtained a RIP upgrade, since most current RIPs do support CID-keyed fonts

Sending PDF to prepress

- File > Export > Adobe PDF is best
- Print to Adobe PDF always flattens transparency
- Harmonize the color model
- Transparency plus spot colors will work; usually
- What PDF version? 5, 6, 7 are best for transparency
- PDF X-1a is good for QXP-based workflow
- What does the RIP device support? Is overprint on?

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InDesign CS2 output advice

- File > Export > Adobe PDF gives best quality
- File > Print > Adobe PDF is fine; but is always flattened
- Try to keep type frames above transparency objects
- Isolate all transparency objects in separate layer
- Keep color model consistent
- You might need to try Transparency Flattener in Acrobat 4
- v5, 6, 7 no subset fonts, no compressed graphics, no flattening
- Some Acrobat screen artifacts won't actually image

Keep a consistent color model

- Photoshop: Image > Mode > RGB or CMYK
- Illustrator: File > Document Color Mode > RGB or CMYK
- InDesign: Edit > Transparency Blend Space > RGB or CMYK

- Color Management is turned ON in PS, AI, INDD, PDF
- Now synchronized thru Adobe Bridge
- Print output color mode

PS and Distill for PDF? You lose a lot!

- Transparency is flattened
- No PDF layers, useful for versioning
- The file's structure, called *tagging,* is stripped
- Embedded color-managed profiles are discarded
- Interactive elements (bookmarks, hyperlinks, etc.) are thrown away

- File > Print to Adobe PDF is bad, too!
  - The same process; yet simpler than PS and distilling
  - Transparency is always flattened; no matter the version you choose

White box errors in print output?

- You *can* use spot colors if you turn on overprinting
- In order to print properly, overprinting must be turned on
  - This is the only way that the transparency flattener in Creative Suite apps can properly render transparency mixed with spot colors
- Turn on Advanced > Overprint Preview
  - Adobe Reader 7: Preferences > Page Display > Overprint Preview
- Printing a proof on a printer that doesn't understand overprinting, turn on *Simulate Overprint* option
- Tell the print service provider to *turn on* overprinting on their RIP when printing your job

Discolored area in print output?

- Create a Transparency Flattener Preset that rasterizes everything
  - **Edit Transparency Flattener Presets**, click on **High**, then click **New**
    Slide the raster/vector slider all the way to the left. Set the linework resolution to the printer's output resolution (i.e. 600), and set the gradient/mesh resolution to 150 or higher. Save as a new Flattener Preset
  - **File • Print**, and under Output, choose **Composite CMYK**, and CHECK the **Simulate Overprint** checkbox. Under Advanced, select your all-raster flattener

Fix only troublesome pages

- Create and assign this specific all-rasterized flattener preset (discussed on the previous slide) to only specific spreads via the Pages palette flyout menu button
- But apply another flattening setting to the rest of the document via the Advanced panel in the print dialog box
- Or else, apply none at all
- There must be a transparency object on the page to trigger flattening

Other fixes for color output problems

- Double color management is usually a bad idea; so...
- Turn OFF all color management in the printer driver and use the correct ICC destination profile from InDesign's print dialog box
  - The printer's CM is often hard to find
- InDesign warns you to turn off color management in the driver
  - On the Color Management panel of the Print dialog box, to the right of the Let InDesign Determine Color choice is a little blue "i" for Info.
- In the Warning section below it says:
  - "Remember to disable color management in the printer driver dialog box"

4 important Acrobat 7 settings

1. Preferences > Page Display >
   Enable Display Trim, Page, Bleed boxes
2. Preferences > Page Display > Overprint Preview
3. Preferences > Color Management > choose the appropriate output profile
4. Deactivate in the Advanced menu > Use Local fonts
   - this is one way to check if the PDF has all fonts embedded and does not rely on a font installed on the system