Printing Films Using CorelDraw X5+

Actually, this should be named “Exporting Files From Photoshop CS5 & Higher” as its no longer possible to apply halftone settings directly within CS5, CS6 and most likely all Photoshop versions going forward.

Photoshop color separations that are to be output to film using CorelDraw need to be saved as a DCS 2.0 file from within Photoshop.

The direct printing of Index, Hard Spot Color (No Tints), Single Channel QuikDraw Images and all Halftone Separations generated using the “No RIP” functions of UltraSeps can still be printed directly using Photoshop CS5+ as these files do not require applying halftone variables to each channel.

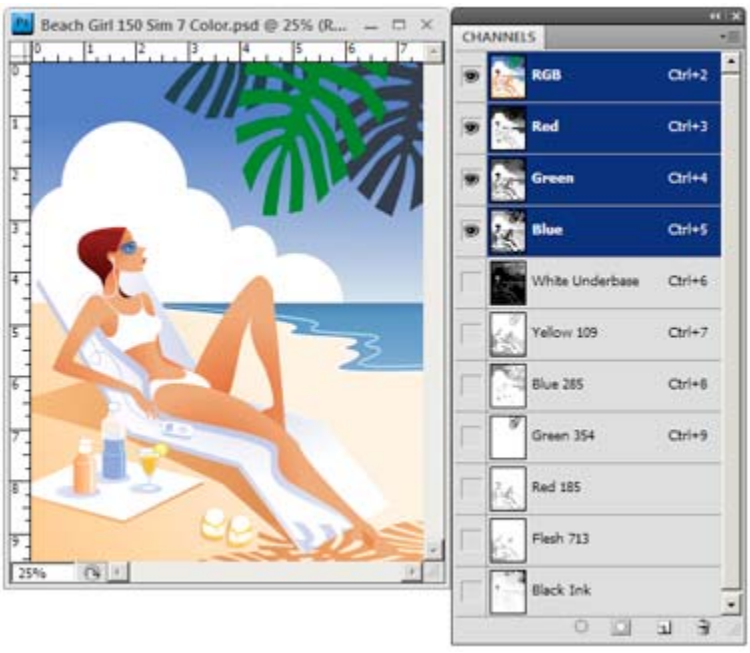
The first matter to address is the most important, which is saving a color separation such as a simulated process, true process, or any file needing specific halftone attributes as a DCS 2.0 file from Photoshop. DCS stands for Desktop Color Separation and is a format based on the EPS file format developed by Quark back in the early 90’s. In a nutshell, a DCS 2.0 file “is” an EPS file that also contains spot color channels, such as separations generated within Photoshop.

The sample below is exactly how the file needs to look prior to saving as a DCS 2.0 with the RGB Channels included.

Note: NEVER name any of the color channels “black, yellow, cyan or magenta” when saving as a DCS 2.0 file. Doing so may confuse an application such as CorelDraw into thinking its a composite CMYK document. Printing errors may result or the file will refuse to open!

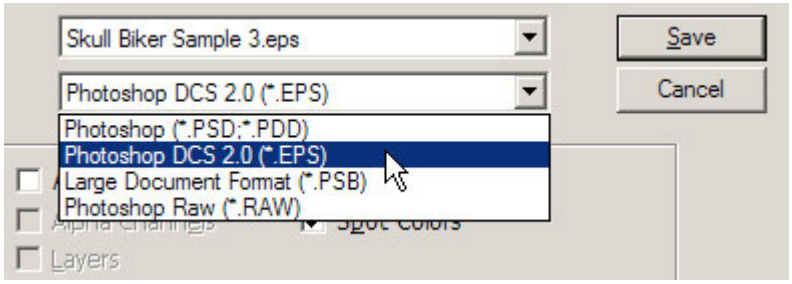
Therefore, if naming channels on your own, always name them “black ink” or “yellow ink” or just add something else to its name.

File Ready To Be Saved In DCS 2.0 Format. RGB Channels Intact



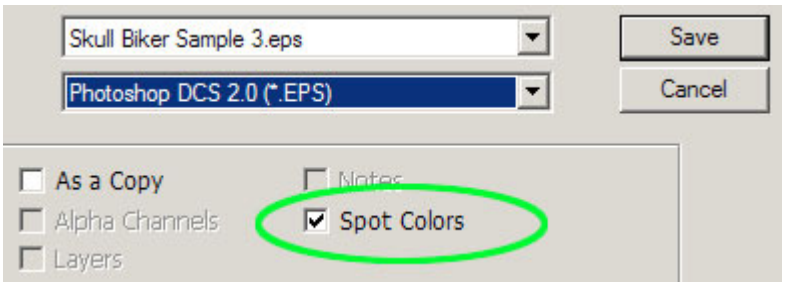
From the File Menu choose **“Save As”**

When the Save As dialog box appears select **Photoshop DCS 2.0 (*.EPS)**



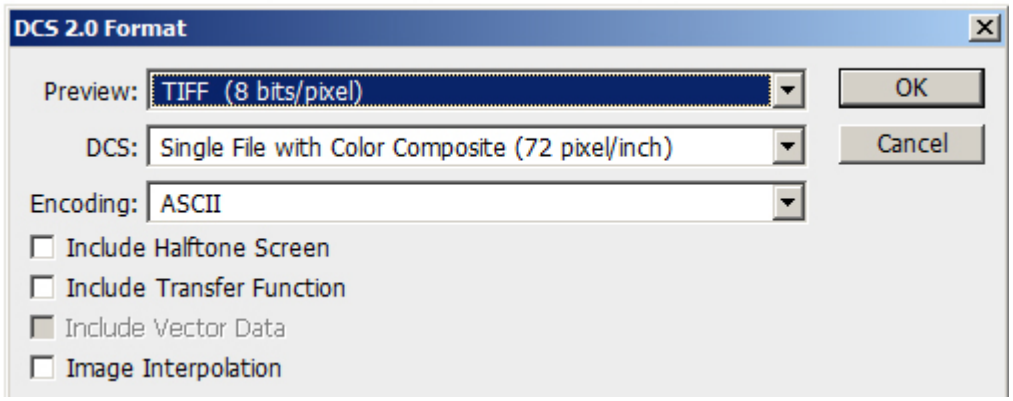
Make sure Spot Colors is checked.

Click Save.



When the DCS 2.0 Format Box opens, enter the following settings and click OK:

Preview: TIFF (8 bits/pixel)
DCS: Single File With Color Composite (72 pixel/inch)
Encoding: ASCII

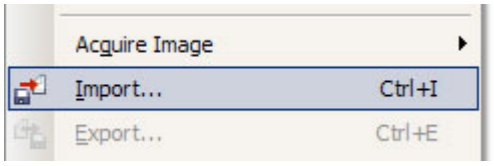


The file is now saved as a DCS 2.0. It will appear as an .EPS file since that what a DCS file basically is.

Printing A DCS 2.0 File With CorelDRAW X5

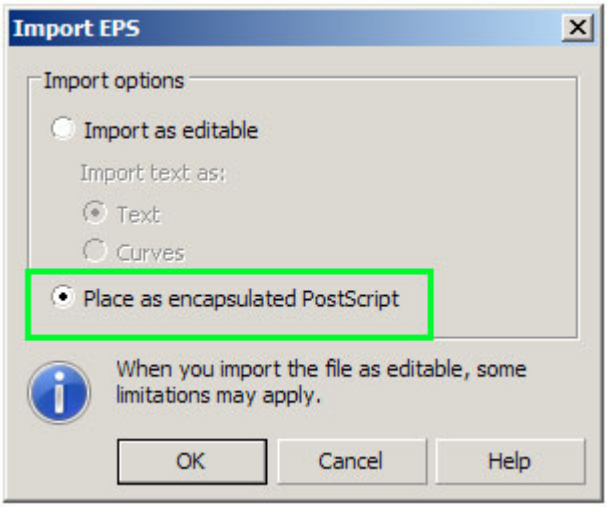
DCS 2.0 files are not “Opened” within CorelDRAW, they are “Imported” into an existing document.

Launch CorelDRAW and create a New Document, color mode RGB with an appropriate page size to contain the file.



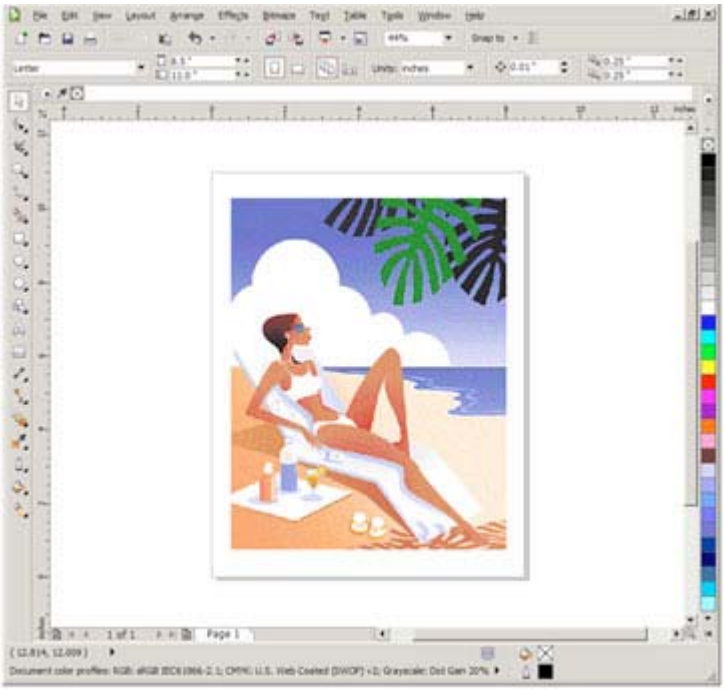
Next select “Import” from the File Menu. When the Import dialog box appears, make sure the file type is set at “All File Formats”. Now locate the DCS File and click “Import”.

When the Import EPS dialog box opens, check the “Place As Excapsulated PostScript” button. Click OK.



The DCS file has now been placed in the CorelDRAW document.

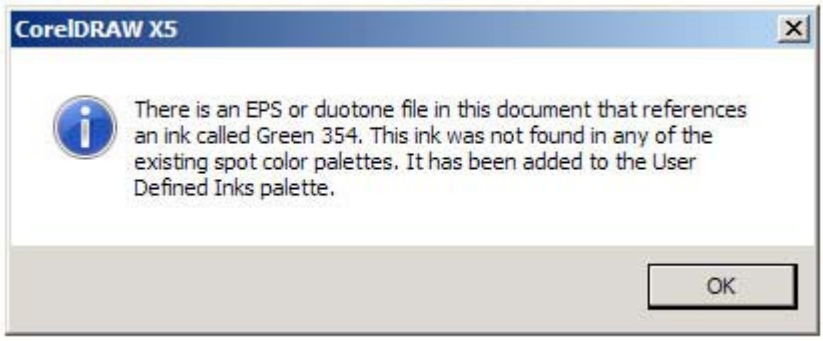
Don’t be alarmed by its appearance! The image might look grainy and pixelated when compared to the preview within Photoshop. This is Normal and is only a low quality screen preview.
The separations will print as expected.



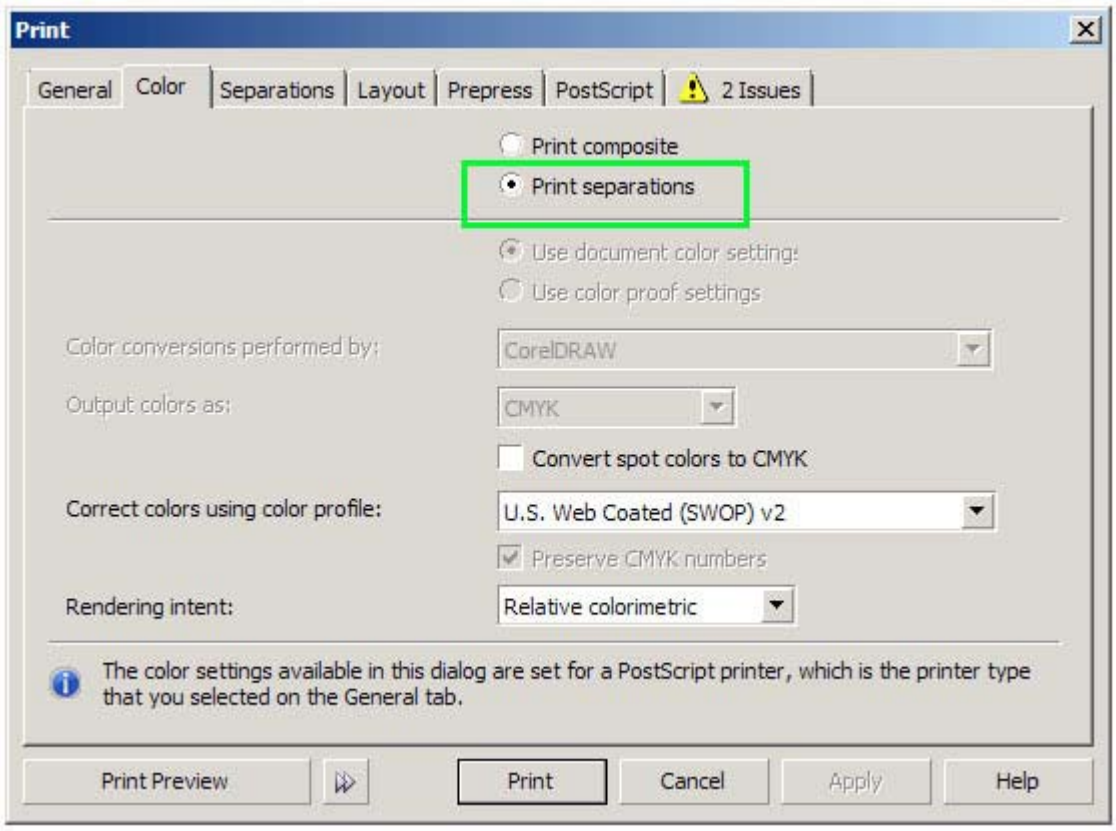
Select “Print”.

After doing so, you’ll probably get a few alerts similar to the sample here regarding inks not found within the existing color palette.

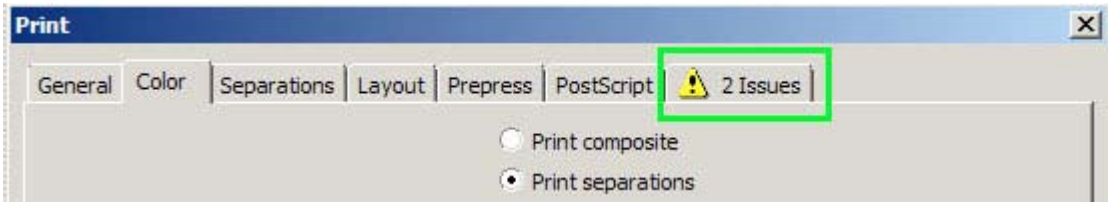
Just click OK for each.



In the “General Tab”, make sure the correct Printer, etc. is selected.
Next choose the “Color Tab” and click “Print Separations”.
The Composite Tab has now changed to “Separations”.



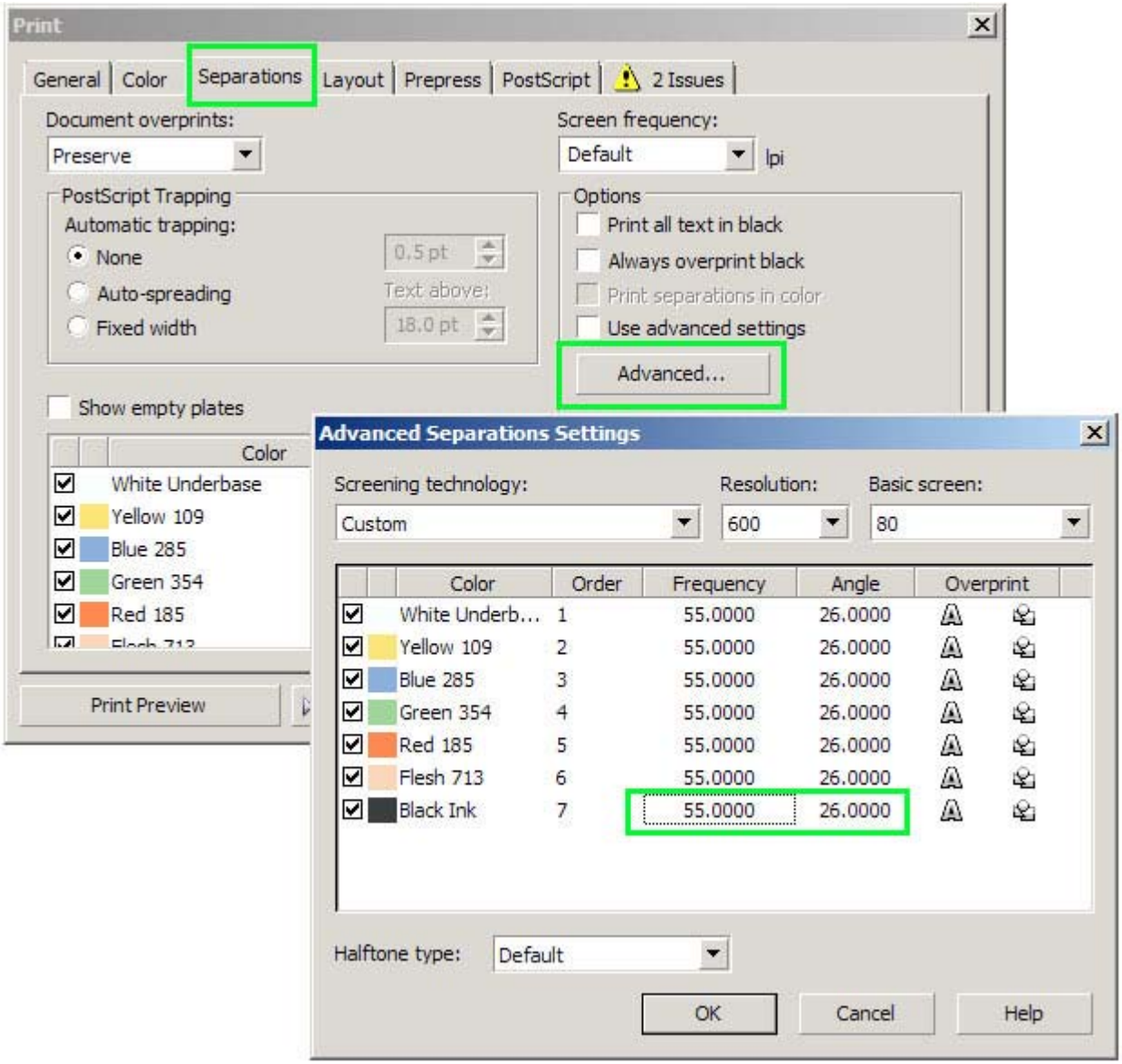
CorelDRAW will most likely post a few “Issues”. These can usually be disregarded as most don’t relate to screen printing and consist of spot plate and screen angle warnings directed towards offset printing.



Select the “Separations Tab” and click “Advanced”.

In the “Advanced Separations Settings” set the “Frequency” and “Angle” for each channel. Click OK.

Click “Print”. The separations are now sent to your printer.



Register marks can be added by using CorelDRAW’s standard marks in the “Prepress Tab”, adding marks to the file using the Actions prior to saving the DCS or create your own custom vector register mark which is a great idea.

Just design a register mark with CorelDRAW using the color “Registration”. The mark can then be duplicated and placed exactly where you’d like them and they’ll print on each channel. Save the register mark created for use on all files printed from CorelDRAW.