

Printing Films From Adobe Illustrator

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 Illustrator CS4 or lower 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 UltraSeeps 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.

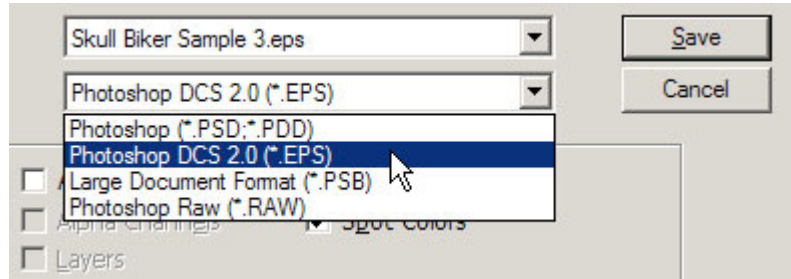


File Ready To Be Saved In DCS 2.0 Format - RGB Channels Intact

From the File Menu
choose **"Save As"**

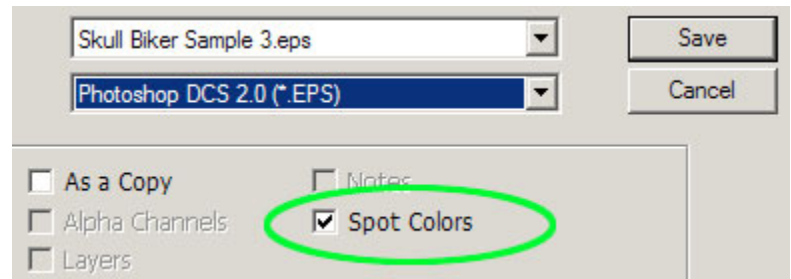


When the Save As dialog
box appears select
Photoshop DCS 2.0 (*.EPS)



Make sure Spot Colors
is checked.

Click Save.

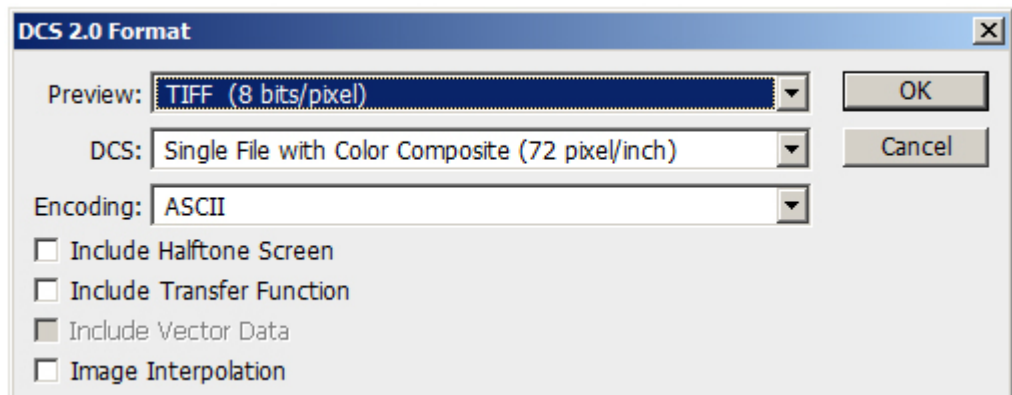


When the DCS 2.0 Format Box opens, enter the following settings and click OK:

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 Adobe Illustrator

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

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

Next select “Place” from the File Menu.

When the Place dialog box opens, locate the DCS file and click “Place”.



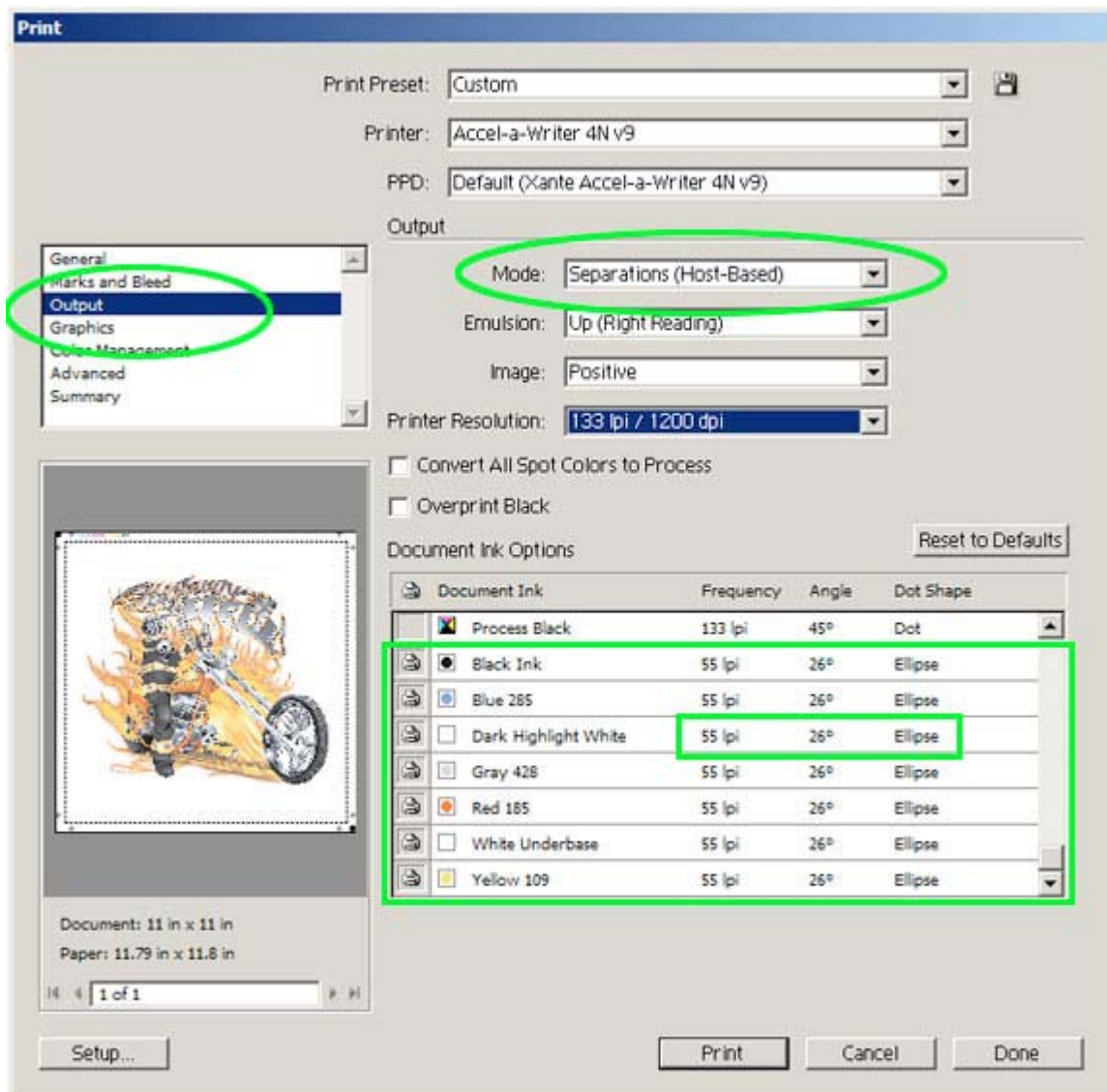
The DCS file has now been placed in the Illustrator document.

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



Go to Print and choose your Printer, set the correct page size then select "Output". Within "Mode" select "Separations (Host Based)". All the spot channel colors should now be selectable below.

Deselect all Process Colors and only select the channels required for film output. Change the Frequency, Angle and Dot Shape of each channel to be output to film. The file is now ready to send to the printer.



Register marks can be added by using Illustrator's standard marks, adding marks to the file using the Actions prior to saving the DCS or create your own custom vector register mark with Illustrator is a great idea.

Just design a register mark with Illustrator 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 Illustrator.

Printing A Photoshop Color Separation Using Illustrator CS5, CS6 Or Higher

Although Illustrator CS5, CS6 and higher can handle DCS 2.0 files, its not required to use them.

These newer versions of Illustrator can open Photoshop (PSD) color separation files directly without any need to save as DCS 2.0.

Just save the color separation using Photoshop as you normally would and make sure to KEEP the RGB Channels.

Delete any other channels not required for film output.

Now just **OPEN** this file using Illustrator CS5+ (Do Not Place It) and follow instructions on the previous pages to send the channels to film.

Note: NEVER name any of the color channels "black, yellow, cyan or magenta" when using Illustrator to print from. Doing so will confuse an application such as Illustrator into thinking its a composite CMYK document. Printing errors will 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.



Photoshop Separation Ready To Be Opened Using Illustrator CS5, CS6 Or Higher - RGB Channels Intact