

EfiColor XTension Notes

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Color Conversions for PICTs

EfiColor will correct the screen display of all images, except when the disk file is a PICT. In this case, EfiColor will correct the colors of the image when printing, but will not correct the screen display. If you want EfiColor to correct PICT images for display, you should convert your PICT files to TIFFs using another application.

Color Shifting

Highly saturated RGB colors may undergo color shifting when printing to CMYK devices with EfiColor. This is because the EfiColor Photographic and Solid Color rendering styles are not intended for use with highly saturated colors, such as the default QuarkXPress Red, Blue, and Green colors, or the colors you might find in a bar chart.

The EfiColor Processor v. 2.0 will introduce the Business Graphics rendering style, which will properly convert highly saturated RGB colors when printing to CMYK devices. The EfiColor Processor v. 2.0 will be available separately or in EfiColor Works in the spring of 1994.

Color Simulations

To simulate the colors that will be rendered from your final output device, you should pre-separate your images as CMYK TIFFs for your target device. When you import these CMYK TIFFs into QuarkXPress, select Solid Color from the Rendering Style pop-up menu in the Get Picture dialog box (File —> Get Picture). EfiColor will adjust to simulate the colors as they will appear on-press.

This procedure is especially important when you use a dye sublimation printer, which has a larger color gamut than most printing presses. If you do not pre-separate your images, EfiColor will expand the gamut of the picture to fulfill the capabilities of the device. The result may be pleasing, but will not match the colors produced on-press.

GCR and CMYK

GCR is applied when RGB colors are converted to CMYK colors. Therefore, GCR has no effect on colors or images that are already defined in CMYK. As a result, when you import a CMYK file into QuarkXPress and make separations, you will not be able to adjust GCR. If the image was converted from RGB to CMYK in an image editing program like Cachet or Photoshop™, then the GCR should have been applied in that program.

Importing EPS and DCS Files from Other Programs

The EfiColor XTension does not convert colors when images from EPS or DCS files are printed. However, if you save these images as CMYK TIFFs, EfiColor will convert them when printing to a composite color printer [when Separation is set to Off in the Print dialog box (File —> Print)].

Installing EfiColor on Systems with EfiColor Already Installed

The QuarkXPress Installer (or Upgrader) replaces the current EfiColor Processor with the Processor from the Installation/Upgrader disk. If you have a newer version of the EfiColor Processor, reinstall it after the QuarkXPress installation/upgrade is complete. If the Installer/Upgrader finds a folder named EfiColor DB, it does not overwrite any current profiles, but adds profiles from the installation/upgrader disk to the EfiColor DB folder.

NOTE: If you have EfiColor from Cachet™ 1.0, you will not be able to use the old profiles from Cachet.

Missing Picture Files

You cannot change a profile assigned to a picture using either Profile Usage (Utilities —> Profile Usage) or Profile (Style —> Profile) if the image file for that picture is missing or has been moved to another folder. To enable Profile Usage for that picture, open the Picture Usage dialog box (Utilities —> Picture Usage) and update the picture.

None Profile Setting

When you print to a PostScript device, EfiColor is inactive if the selected profile in the Page Setup dialog box (File —> Page Setup) is None. RGB TIFFs and PICTs will not be separated into CMYK plates, even if Separation is set to On in the Print dialog box (File —> Print).

When you print to a QuickDraw printer, EfiColor is still active even if the selected profile in the Page Setup dialog box is None. Conversions are made using the default RGB profile set in EfiColor Preferences (Edit —> Preferences —> EfiColor). If you disable the XTension in EfiColor Preferences, no conversion will be done.

Printing to a Calibrated Fiery Printer

The Fiery profile shipped with the EfiColor XTension contains a file called ‘rcur,’ which is not required when you print to a calibrated Fiery. It will cause EfiColor XTension users to encounter “double calibration” if it is not removed or renamed. If you are printing to a calibrated EFI Fiery Print Server, you need to rename the file in the EfiColor Database before printing as follows:

1. Using the Finder, locate the EfiColor DB folder. For most EfiColor XTension users, this will be in the System folder on your hard disk.
2. Open the “fiery500” folder inside the EfiColor DB.
3. Select the file named “rcur” and rename it “rcur.ignore”.

You can now use EfiColor and QuarkXPress with a calibrated Fiery.

Profiles Displayed from Document, Master Pages

To display profiles for pictures on document pages only, choose Profile Usage (Utilities —> Profile Usage) while a document page is displayed. To display profiles for pictures on master pages, choose Profile Usage while a master page is displayed.

Same Source and Target Profiles Selected

If the source profile of an image is the same as the target profile selected in the Page Setup dialog box (File —> Page Setup), no EfiColor conversions take place and all other selections, such as a different GCR setting, will be ignored.

Save Page as EPS

When you select Save Page as EPS (File —> Save Page as EPS) and choose one of the following formats: Mac Color, Mac DCS, Mac DCS 2.0, PC Color, PC DCS, and PC DCS 2.0, you can choose an EfiColor profile and GCR setting. See “Preparing and Printing a Document to a PostScript Device” on p. 26 in *Using the EfiColor XTension with QuarkXPress* for an explanation of these controls.

The colors in your QuarkXPress document are converted for the target device only as the EPS is saved, so you need to specify the target device at the time that you create the EPS. You will not get consistent colors if you import the EPS into another QuarkXPress document and print to a device different from the device that you specified when you created the EPS.

Separations for CMYK Pictures

EfiColor will convert CMYK images when you print to a composite color printer [Separation is set to Off in the Print dialog box (File —> Print)]. However, EfiColor will *not* convert CMYK pictures if you are printing separations. EfiColor converts RGB pictures whether Separation is set to On or Off.

Separations for QuickDraw Printers

Quark does not recommend using EfiColor to produce separations to a QuickDraw printer for complex four-color documents that include halftones. Using a QuickDraw printer might be adequate for jobs consisting of spot colors; we recommend checking with your commercial printer before producing final film.