File Specs for Providing PDF Files for Commercial Printing Presses

In order to protect digital file integrity between creators and end users Adobe has provided the Graphic Industry with the PDF (portable document file) format. There are many ways to create these type of files for different end users. This document will outline the settings needed to create High Resolution PDF files for printing presses.
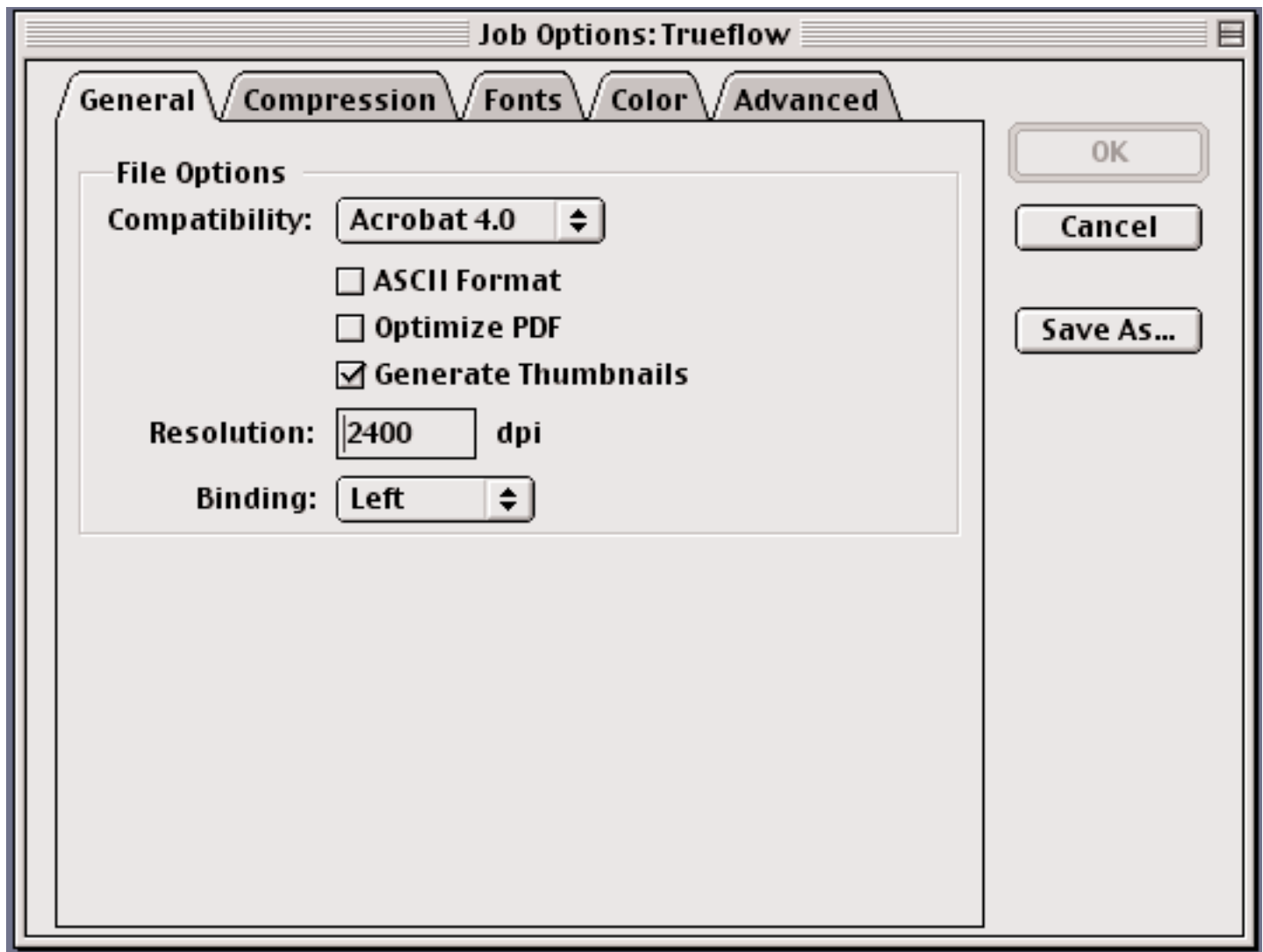
When creating native files in Quark, Pagemaker, etc there are a few settings to be aware of to assure the results are achieved in the final piece. All color photos must be in cmyk color mode and be at 300 dpi resolution. Bitmap photos need to be at 600 dpi resolution. Photoshop Duo-tones import colors into page layout programs so these colors must remain the same names. An example would be a Duo-tone using Black and PANTONE 123 CVC imported into Quark 4 will show up as Black and PANTONE 123 CV. You must add the extra "C" to the end of the pantone color. Quark 5 the colors will end in "C" for coated or "U" for uncoated. Be sure all elements brought into the page layout program are named exatly the same for each Spot color. This also holds true for ILLUSTRA-TION Programs. All colors must be set to their proper mode for output. If the final output is to be 4/c process then all spot colors must be changed to cmyk. If a spot color is to be used then leave it in spot color mode.

Page sizes created should be to the final size used in the magazine. When postscript pages are written include .125" bleeds and set the output size one inch bigger.

You will need a full version of Adobe Acrobat which includes Distiller to create PDF files. A worth while investment is a plug-in for Acrobat that allows you to check for fonts, trim, colors, etc, such as Pit-Stop.

On the following pages are screen captures of the necessary job settings needed in Acrobat Distiller to produce PDF files for printing.

Job Settings
for
Distiller 4.0

Job Options: Trueflow

General \ Compression \ Fonts \ Color \ Advanced

File Options

Compatibility: Acrobat 4.0

☐ ASCII Format
☐ Optimize PDF
☑ Generate Thumbnails

Resolution: 2400 dpi

Binding: Left

OK

Cancel

Save As...

Job Options: Trueflow

General / **Compression** \ **Fonts** \ **Color** \ **Advanced** \

OK

Cancel

Save As...

Color Bitmap Images

☐ Bicubic Downsampling at ◆ 300 dpi

☑ Compression: [JPEG ◆]

   Quality: [High ◆]

Grayscale Bitmap Images

☐ Bicubic Downsampling at ◆ 100 dpi

☑ Compression: [JPEG ◆]

   Quality: [High ◆]

Monochrome Bitmap Images

☐ Average Downsampling at ◆ 100 dpi

☑ Compression: [CCITT Group 4 ◆]

☑ Compress Text and Line Art

Job Options: Trueflow

General / **Compression** / **Fonts** / **Color** / **Advanced**

☑ **Embed All Fonts**

☐ **Subset All Embedded Fonts Below:**   `100` %

When Embedding Fails: `Cancel Job ⬍`

Embedding

`Base 14 Fonts ⬍`

| Courier |
| Courier-Bold |
| Courier-BoldOblique |
| Courier-Oblique |
| Helvetica |
| Helvetica-Bold |
| Helvetica-BoldOblique |
| Helvetica-Oblique |
| Symbol |
| Times-Bold |
| Times-BoldItalic |
| Times-Italic |
| Times-Roman |
| ZapfDingbats |

`>>`

Always Embed:

| CaslonFiveForty-Italic |
| CaslonFiveForty-ItalicOsF |
| CaslonFiveForty-Roman |
| CaslonFiveForty-RomanSC |
| Helvetica-Narrow |
| MyriadMM |

Never Embed:

`>>`

`Add Name...`   `Remove`

OK

Cancel

Save As...

Job Options: Trueflow

General \ **Compression** \ **Fonts** \ **Color** \ **Advanced**

Conversion

- ● Leave Color Unchanged
- ○ Tag Everything for Color Mgmt (no conversion)
- ○ Tag Only Images for Color Mgmt (no conversion)
- ○ Convert All Colors to sRGB

Assumed Profiles

Gray: None

RGB: sRGB IEC61966–2.1

CMYK: Adobe CMYK

Options

- ☑ Preserve Overprint Settings
- ☑ Preserve Under Color Removal and Black Generation
- ☑ Preserve Transfer Functions
- ☑ Preserve Halftone Information

OK

Cancel

Save As...

Job Options: Trueflow

General | **Compression** | **Fonts** | **Color** | **Advanced**

Options

☑ Use Prologue.ps and Epilogue.ps
☑ Allow PostScript File To Override Job Options
☑ Preserve Level 2 copypage Semantics
☑ Save Portable Job Ticket Inside PDF File

Document Structuring Conventions (DSC)

☑ Process DSC
　☐ Log DSC Warnings
　☑ Resize Page And Center Artwork For EPS Files
　☑ Preserve EPS Info from DSC
　☑ Preserve OPI Comments
　☑ Preserve Document Info from DSC

Default Page Size

Width: 6　　Units: Inches
Height: 9

OK

Cancel

Save As...