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Xitron has been developing prepress solutions since 1977. Our mission is to engineer intuitive, productive, and affordable alternatives capable of driving output devices manufactured by the most popular vendors on the market today.





MAKING PREPRESS AFFORDABLE

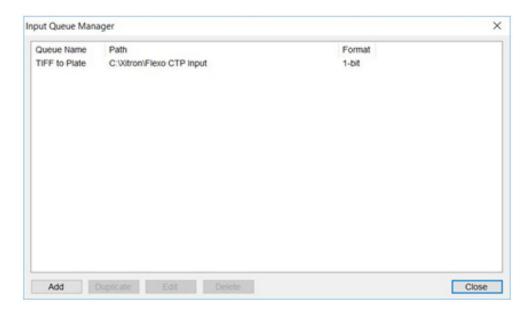
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Navigator Plate Controller Quick Start Guide

Navigator Plate Controller is designed to assemble multiple jobs and s eparations onto a single one-bit TIFF file for imaging on a flexographic CTP device. The purpose is to use as much of the plate area as possible to eliminate waste. While there are many advanced features within Navigator Plate Controller, this guide will focus on the basics of input, placement, and output.

Create an Input Queue

An input queue is location to which 1-bit TIFF files will be delivered either from the RIP or screening module. To create input queues, go to the **"Advanced"** menu and pull down to **"Input Queues."** The following window will appear:

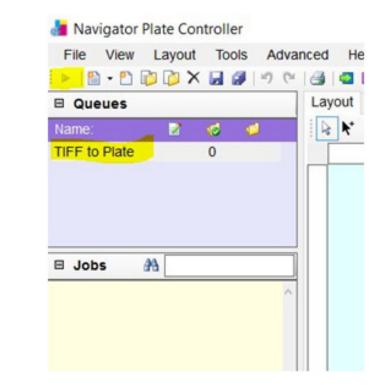


Click, "Add" to create a folder that Plate Controller will scan for incoming files.

Input Queue Name:			
Input Folder:	1		-
Input Formats			
O PDF Files			
-			
1-bit Files	TIFF / LEN Files (*.tif, *.tiff, *.len)	Filename Rule: Harlequin TIFFs	~
	Netflow Raster Files (*.ras)		
	Harlequin Page Buffer Files (*.pgb)		
	1-bit File Setup		
	Number of separations: 4	Timeout: 120 sec Pre-separated	d files
	Accept all resolutions	Accept only this resolution: 1200.0	
	Monochrome	Color Order: Normal	`
Job ID			
Always assign J	ob ID as:	Default Job ID Setup	· .

Enter the Queue name, select the designated input folder, and ensure it is set for the proper file types. Click, **"Save."** The named queue will appear in the upper left corner of the main plate controller window under **"Queues."**

To activate the queue and start receiving input files, highlight the desired queue and click the green **"Play**" button as shown below:



As TIFF files come into the folder, the number indicator will increase and thumbnails will appear under the **"Jobs"** heading.

Creating a Plate

Standard plate sizes can be created and then quickly selected for use and output. To create a plate size, go to the "**Advanced**" menu and draw down to "**Plates.**" The following Plate Setup Manager window will appear:

late Setup Manager			×
Plate Name	Width	Height	
660 x 560	660 mm	560 mm	
14x9	355 mm	229 mm	
Add Duplicate	Edit Delete		Close

Click "Add" to create a new plate size.

Plate Name:						
Width:	0 mm			Width		
leight:	0 mm		1	Gripper		
sripper:	0 mm					
osition:	Bottom	~	Height -			
			1			
			*			
Plate Marks					Save	Cancel

Give the plate a name (usually the dimensions), enter the desired width and height, and click, "Save."

Usually you will not require a gripper entry.

Creating an Output Layout

To begin populating a plate for output, you must start with a layout. From the **File** menu, draw down to **"New Layout."** The following Layout Setup window will appear:

Layout Name:		-	-				
Work Style:	Single-Sided					×	
Plate:	660 x 560					<u>_</u>	
	Width: 660 mm	Height:	560	mm Gripper: 0 mm			
Paper.	<< None >>					~	
Paper Position				Gripper			
Horizontal placement of j	paper			Top offset to paper MER Top			
Center paper horizon	ntally on plate		PA	IMPOSITION			
O Left offset to paper	0 mm	aper		and other	120		
Vertical placement of page	per	Set to	μŋ		Fight		
Center paper vertica (excluding gripper)	lly on plate	Left offset to paper					
 Top offset from gripp 	er 0 mm			Bottom			
Margin							
Left:	0 mm		_				
Тор:	0 mm						
Bottom:	0 mm						
Right:	0 mm						
Set all margins to the	e left margin						

Enter a name for the layout. It could be a date and time reference for production or it could correlate to a particular customer. Whatever it is, it should be relevant to the jobs being ganged.

For "**Work Style**," choose Single-Sided. Choose the "**Plate**" that was created in the previous section. Leave "**Paper**" set to "**None**." Add overall plate margins if required. Click "**OK**."

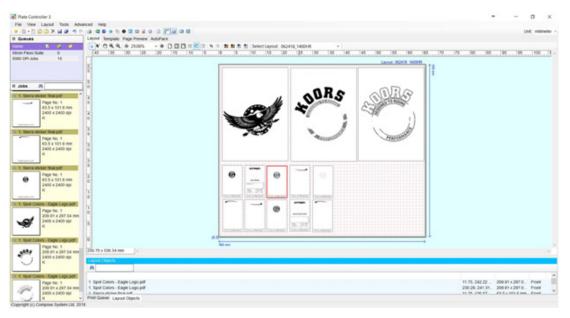
The main window will now display the plate, ready for populating as shown below:

1 1 1 1 1 1 S			ayout 072318	2 00mm
0.0				

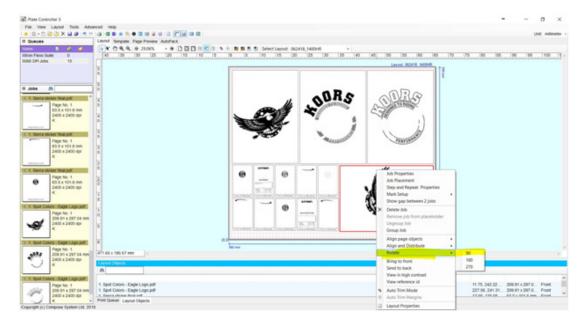
Populating the Plate

To begin populating the plate with jobs and

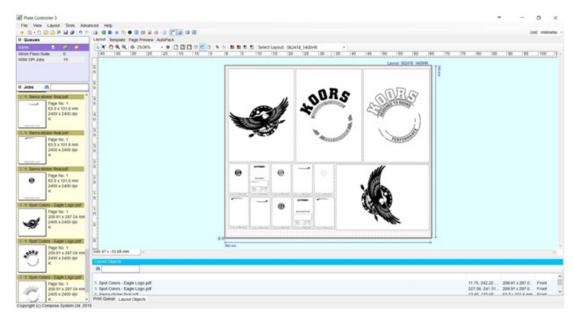
separations, simply select them from the left side of the window and drag them to the plate. You can position them however and wherever you like to achieve the best fit. The window below shows partial plate population:



Any separation can be rotated in order to fit the area available. To rotate a job, drag it to the plate area, right-click it, then drag down to "**Rotate**." Select the degree of rotation desired as shown in the window below:



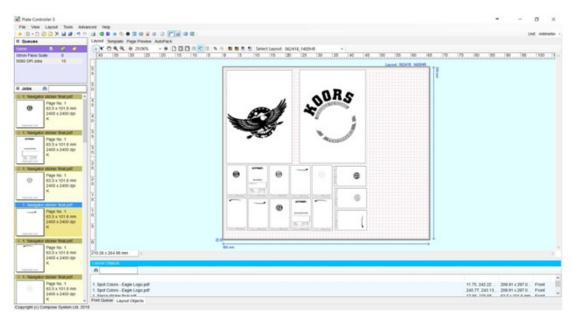
After selecting the rotation, continue to drag the job into the empty area of the plate. The window below shows a fully populated plate after rotating one of the jobs:



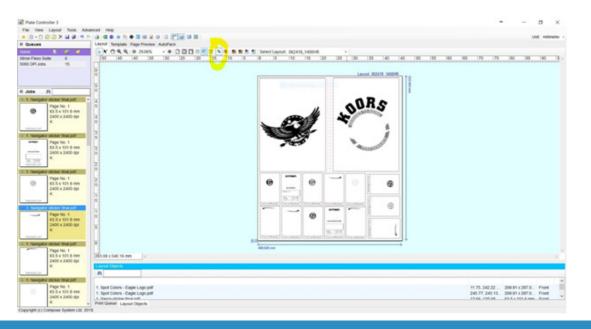
There may be times when the jobs available will not fully populate a particular plate size. In these instances, Navigator Plate Controller can automatically trim the final 1-bit TIFF based on the left over space. To use **Auto-Trim**, simply click the **Auto-Trim** button in the tool bar shown below:



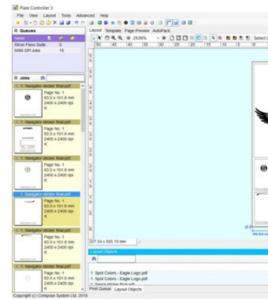
In this example, there is still un-populated plate area on the right side, but all the available jobs have been placed.



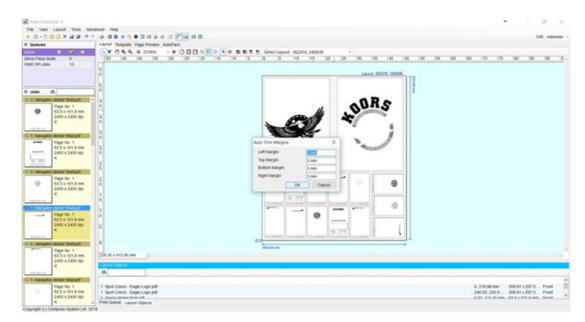
Instead of creating a one-bit TIFF for the platesetter that will needlessly expose wasted plate material, the operator can click the Auto Trim button with the following results:



Auto Trim margins can also be added by right-clicking the plate and drawing down to "Auto Trim Margins."



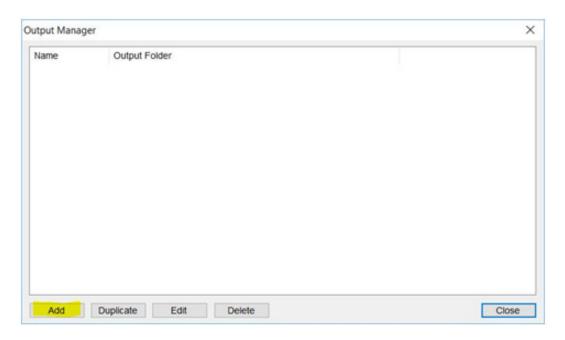
This will bring up a second window allowing the entry of whatever margin amount is desired:



Output Queues

Once a plate has been populated, the final one-bit TIFF file can be written to any directory. This could be the input directory for the CTP engine, or an archive location on the network. Begin by selecting "Output Queues" under the Advanced Menu. The following Output Manager window appears:

		Land Ki2nt M00m		
		Shore gap between 2 jobs Shore gap between 2 jobs Define Joh Remove job from placeboder Ungroup Job Croup Job		
-	0	Align page objects + Align and Datribute + Rotate + Rotate + Bring to front Sent to back View in houck contrast		
16.31	toreac	View reference id Auto Trim Mode		
-	0	Auto Time Margins Legout Properties Torrange		
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		



Click "Add." The Output Setup window will appear.

Output Setup						X
Name:						
Output Folder:						
1-bit Output Format:	TIFF Files				~	
Tiff Compression:	CCITT Group4				~	
Output Filename:	Default				~	
	1-bit Raster File Outpu	Monochrome	[Mirror		
	Output Job Naming		Rotation			
	Use First Job Nan	ne	. 0	0 90		
	O Use Layout Name	1	0 180	○ 270		
	1-bit Raster File Separ	ation Order				
	Enable Separatio	n Order			-	
	Remove Output Filer	name White Space	[Bounding Boxes		
	Output GapFinder Jo	b Information File				
	Print only the Paper	area				
				OK	Can	cel

Give the setup a name relative to the function. Locate the desired output folder and select it. Make any other changes (such as TIFF compression specific to the output device) and then click, "**OK**." Your output queue will now appear in the Output Manager window. Click, "**Close**."

Final Output

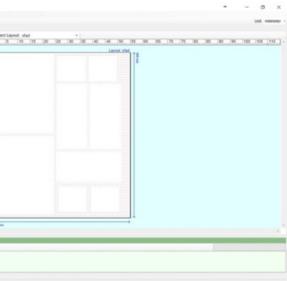
To output your fully populated layout, simply se window will appear:

Output Setup:	Output for Flexo CTP Engine V
Output Folder:	C:\Users\bfarrah\Desktop\B\Flexo CTP TIFF Catcher
Output Format:	TIFF Files v
Tiff Compression:	CCITT Group4 ~
Output Filename:	Default ~
	1bit Raster File Output Setting Negative Monochrome Mirror
	Output Job Naming Use First Job Name Use Layout Name Change Job Name to
Output Surface:	Front
Output Color List:	Black
	GapFinder Options
	Output Setting:

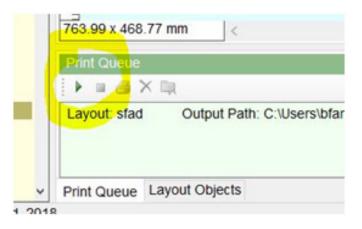
The Output Setup will display according to what you entered on the previous setup window. If you have multiple setups, they are selectable by clicking the "…" button on the right. If all the settings are correct, click, "**Print**." You will be able to see the request in the Print Queue window at the bottom of the screen as shown below:

	Layout Tools A		
Queues		Linyth Template Page Prevers AutoPack	
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	Page No. 1		
	43.5 x 101.6 mm 2400 x 2400 mi		
	K Sector A page of a	· Print Queue Layout Objects	

To output your fully populated layout, simply select "Print" under the File Menu. The following



Click the green "Play" button to complete the process.



As mentioned earlier, there is much more functionality built into Navigator Plate Controller that will allow the operator to pre-set and automate much of the process. This includes using grid lines in the layout window, "snap-to" placement settings, and preferences that change the behavior of certain windows.

For example, unless changed in the Preferences located under the Advanced menu, dragging a job into the layout will always cause the Job Properties window to display and await action from the operator. An example is shown below:

ob Name:	. Navigator sticker final.pdf	
Properties Placement	Glue Margin Descriptions	
Trim Box		Bleed margins Top
Width:	63.5 mm	Trim box
Height:	101.6 mm	
Bleed Margins		d Width → B ^R Statesholder → Statesholder
Left:	0 mm	
Right:	0 mm	Height
Тор:	0 mm	+
Bottom:	0 mm	Bottom
Same margins f	for 4 sides	Rotation
Alignment		● 0 ○ 90 ○ 180 ○ 270
		Step And Repeat Options
Horizontal Offset:	0 mm	1
Vertical Offset:	0 mm	j

The two relevant tabs are, "Properties" and "Placement." However, they may only require occasional changes depending on the layout so this window may prove cumbersome once all setups have been managed. To turn this function off, go to the Advanced menu and select Preferences. The Preferences window shown below will appear.

references						×		
Storage Folder:	C.\ProgramData\Compose\Plate	Controller 3/Folde	rs/Storage					
Layout Folder:	C:\ProgramData\Compose\Plate	Controller 3/Folde	rs\Layout					
AutoPack Folder:	C:\ProgramData\Compose\Plate	Controller 3/Folde	rs\AutoPackQueue					
Temp Folder:	C:\ProgramData\Compose\Plate	Controller 3/Folde	rs\Temp					
	Layout Editor							
	Show Page Placement dialo	g when drag the p	age to layout					
	Default First Job Placement	Position To Top-L	eft Corner					
	AutoPack Queue							
	Automatically create AutoPa	ck Queue when c	reate a template					
	AutoPack Input Defau							
	AutoPack Archive Queue:	<< None >>	~					
	Waiting Time:	200	sec					
	Sheets Per File:	1						
	ColorMatrix Service							
	URL: http://localhost/Compos	eColorOrderWeb	Service	Mar	nager			
	Auto Trim Margins							
	Left Margin: 3 mm		Right Ma	irgin:	3 mm			
	Top Margin: 3 mm		Bottom /	Aargin:	3 mm			
	EWF Support							
	Express Workflow Support							
	(iii) Express Workflow 3							
	Start Input Queue When Sta	art Application						
	Default Archive Setup					OK Cancel		

To change this behavior, click, "Show Page Placement dialog . . ." and click, "OK."

Should you need to change the attributes of any job placed in the layout, simply right-click the job and select, "Job Placement" or "Job Properties" from the drop-down menu.