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Credits

Xitron PDF Viewer uses the following libraries.

Clipper

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Introduction

Xitron's PDF Pathfinder software offers an easy to use drag and drop interface and was developed to give users a more efficient way of dealing with color and cut specific print tasks. The software allows users to quickly view what colorants are being utilized within a PDF and rename those colorants as needed. But the software goes well beyond just previewing and color mapping. Users can also add or manipulate White underlayment and/or UV topcoat colorants. These additional colorants can be generated using a variety of predefined shapes (circle, square, or polygon), a custom user-defined area, or an automatic selection where the software bases the underlayment or topcoat data on the artwork within the file.

While built with screen print, direct to garment, label, and contour cut markets in mind, the software gives any and all PDF based workflows an efficient way to quickly modify, duplicate, or manipulate colorants within a PDF file; all possible without ever having to go back to the front end or design application. Not only does the software give users the ability to generate the extra colors, but users can also opt to knockout blank spaces on the newly created White underlayment or UV topcoat. Going well beyond basic color duplication, the software also includes settings to control whether to 'choke' or 'spread' the newly created color data along with the ability to configure the trap width for the newly created channel.

PDF Pathfinder is an extremely versatile application and includes the ability to generate custom clipping paths (using a custom color channel), which can then be sent over to a desktop or large format contour cutter. With the software's built-in ability to view layers within a PDF file, users can easily generate a clipping path along with a naming convention based on their specific cutter's needs. This clipping path can be set using preset shapes (circle, square, or polygon), a custom user-defined area, or an automatic selection where the software bases the cutting area on the artwork within the file.

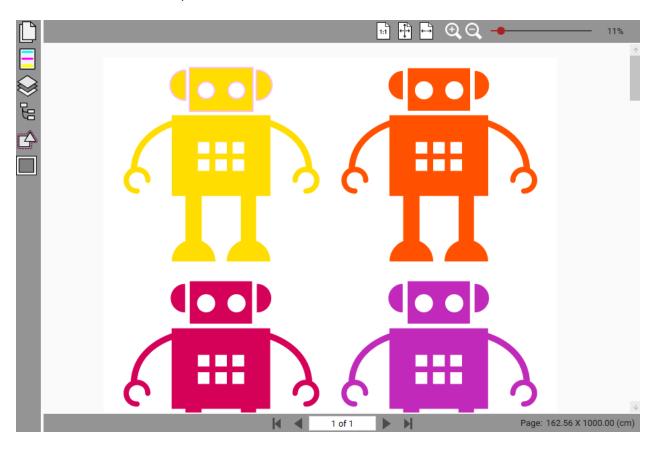


Opening a File

Files can be opened by dragging and dropping files onto the main window. Files can also be opened through the *File* menu in the top left-hand corner by selecting *File > Open* and then browsing to the file you would like to open.

Once the file is open, the main window will show the first page of the document. If the document is already open in another instance of the software, the window will be brought to the foreground.

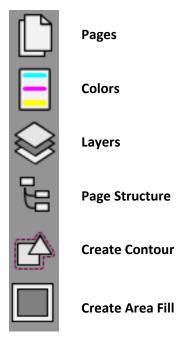
Within this User Guide, the preview area shown below will be referred to as the document view.





Viewing and Modification Tools

The buttons shown in the left-hand column contain individual functions and tools that can be used to view or modify the currently open file. Each of the side panel functions are outlined below. Users can click on the side panel buttons to slide out each panel. A side panel can also be resized by holding and dragging its right-hand edge left or right while the panel is open.





Pages

The Pages panel shows a smaller version of each page in the open document. Resizing the panel will also resize the thumbnails.



When a thumbnail in the panel is selected, the main document view will navigate to that page and the thumbnail will remain selected. Alternatively, scrolling up or down between various pages of a file within the main document view will cause the thumbnail panel (view) to highlight the page currently being viewed.





Page Navigation

The buttons at the bottom of the document view are used to navigate through the document.



The first and last buttons navigate to the beginning and end of a document; the middle two buttons navigate one page at a time. You can also go directly to a page by selecting the current page number and typing a new page number in the box.

Page Zooming

The buttons at the top right of the document view are used to navigate within the document.



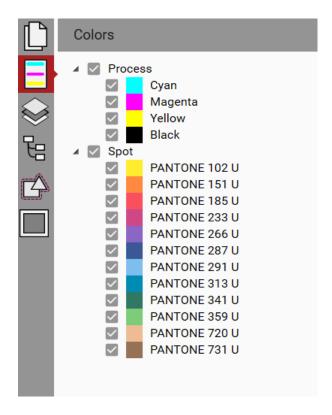
The following zoom features are present (from left to right):

- Zoom to actual size (1:1)
- Fit the page to the window
- Fit the width of the page to the window
- Zoom in by one step
- Zoom out by one step
- Zoom in/out
- The current zoom level (%)



Colors

The Colors panel shows each color, or separation, in the currently open document. All colors will be shown, even if contained in a layer that is currently hidden.



Within the Colors panel, users can view or select the following:

- Process Colors
 - Cyan
 - Magenta
 - Yellow
 - Black
- Spot (This section contains any Spot Colors currently in the open file)

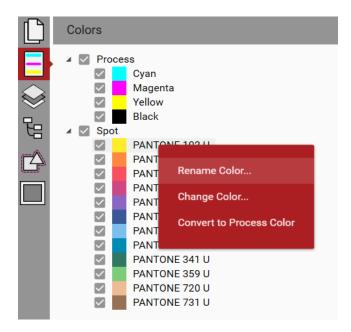
Show

The effect of a color or separation can be seen by toggling the checkbox next to the color. If the checkbox is checked, the effect of that separation will be shown in the main document view. If the checkbox is not checked, the main document will be shown without that separation present. If there is just a single separation checked, the main document will be shown in grayscale. Toggling the checkbox for a grouping will toggle the visibility of all the separations inside that group. Users can quickly view their White or Varnish colorants by unchecking other colors within the file.

Rename Color

To rename a spot color, right-click on the spot color you would like to rename and select the "Rename Color" option from its context menu.





This will open the Rename Color window.

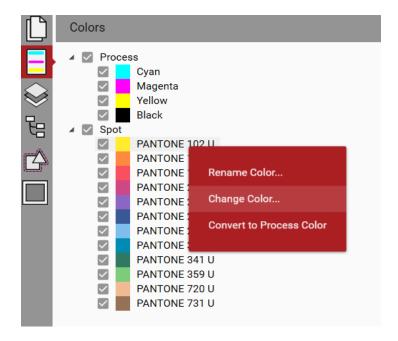


Type in a new color name and click "OK" to assign the spot color a new name. Note: The new name must be an ASCII string of a maximum length of 32. It cannot be the reserved name "None" or "All", or a name that is already used in the document.

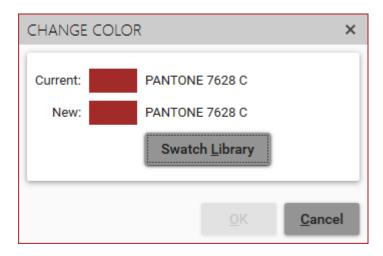
Change Color

Right click on a spot color from the colors list and select "Change Color" from the context menu.



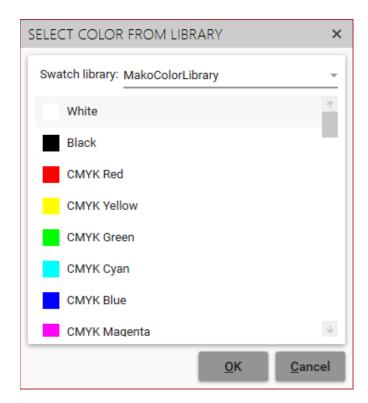


This will open the Change Color window. Within the Change Color window, you will be able to modify the currently selected color.



Current: The "Current" row shows the current name and color of the selected spot color. **New:** The "New" row shows the intended new name and color of the selected spot color. **Swatch Library:** This allows a color from an installed ASE library to be used. Clicking the "Swatch library..." button will display the following dialog:





The Swatch Library lists all installed ASE color libraries. When selecting a color library, the color list below will update to show all entries in the library.

Click "OK" within the "Change Color" dialog window to apply the color, replacing the selected spot color in the "Color Panel". The view will also update accordingly.

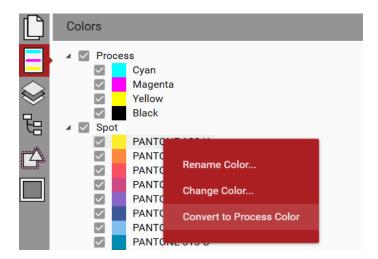
Once you have selected your New color, click the "OK" button to apply the color change.

Convert to Process Color

Note: This conversion is not reversible and hence cannot be undone. If other undoable changes are made prior to the conversion, the document must be saved before proceeding. A warning dialog will be displayed in such situations.

Right click on a spot color from within the color list and select "Convert to Process Color" from the context menu.





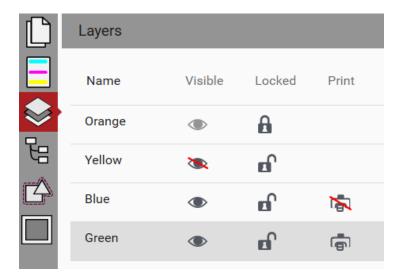
Once selected, the spot color will be converted to a CMYK process color and removed from the spot color list. Please note color conversion is an algorithmic approximation. Converted colors may show variations from originals, particularly when they are blended with other colors.

Note: When creating contours, the same color cannot be picked for both contour types. When updating a spot color, all objects in the document containing that spot color will also be updated.



Layers

The Layers panel gives the ability to toggle the visibility of individual layers in the document. Note: Layers may also be referred to as *optional content* in other applications or documentation.



Within the Layers panel, users can select the following:

Visibility

The visibility is toggled by selecting the eye icon, under the Visible column. When the locked icon is present, the layer's visibility cannot be toggled.





Visibility icons enabled or disabled

Locking

The Locked column indicates if a layer is locked. The Locked status can be toggled by selecting the "locked" or "unlocked" icon. If a layer is locked, its visibility cannot be changed.



Locked or unlocked state

Printing

The Print column indicates if a layer is going to be present when printed. If the print icon is present, the layer will be printed. If the icon is not present, the layer will be printed if the layer is visible. If the icon has a strike-through, the layer will not be printed.



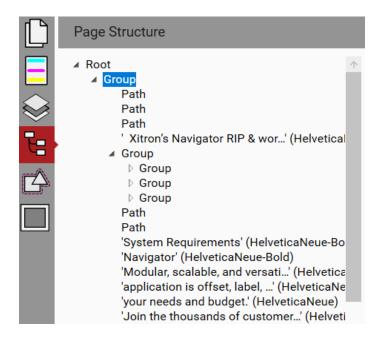


Print enabled or disabled



Page Structure and Object Selection

The Page Structure panel gives users the ability to closely examine the tree of objects which make up the page content.



Selecting an Object from within the Page Structure List

Expanding the tree of objects on the left-hand panel will show you the various objects within the job. You can either select the objects within this section of the software or you can click on objects within the document view window. In the example below, we have selected the text that reads 'CHART YOUR COURSE' from within the objects list.





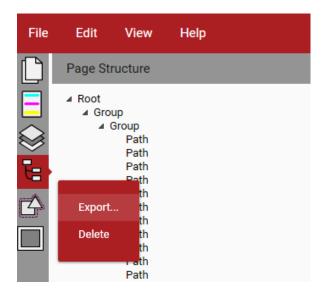
Preview and Clipping Information within the Page Structure List

Hovering over an item in the page tree will automatically generate an image preview and will also include size and clipping information about the object(s). In the example shown, we have hovered over the object within the tree of objects to preview the object 'CHART YOUR COURSE.' Clipping information is reported as one of the following:

- None. No clipping is defined.
- **Simple.** A rectangular clip path is defined.
- **Complex.** A non-rectangular clip path is defined.

Export an Object from within the Page Structure List

Right clicking on an object within the Page Structure List allows the user to 'Export' or 'Delete' the selected object. The Export function creates a 1:1 scale image of the selected object.



Selecting an Object from within the Document View Window

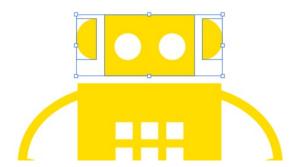
Alternatively, users can select an object by left clicking on the from within the Document View Window. Once selected, objects can be resized and moved using the grab points around the object. Hold the *Shift* key to perform a proportional resize. Note: Selecting items within form objects is not currently supported. Attempting to do so will result in no selection.





Selecting Multiple Objects from within the Document View Window

Multiple objects can be selected within the Document View Window by either holding down the *Shift* key while selecting or using the *Select All* feature (Ctrl-A). Using the *Select All* feature will only select content on the current page.



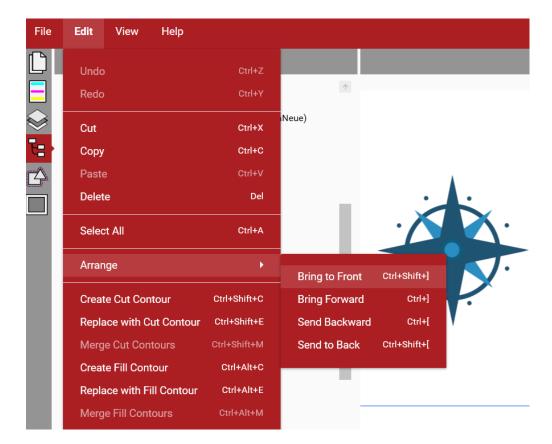
Z-Order Selection

The Z-Order selection feature can be used to select an object which is covered by another object. Z-Ordered selection can be enabled by holding down the *Ctrl* key while selecting. While the *Ctrl* key is held, each click will select the next object in the Z-Order of the object tree. When there are no more objects in the Z-Order the selection will return to the highest object again. Note: Z-Order selection cannot be used when a multiple selection already exists.

Control Over Z-Order of Objects

Once one or more objects have been selected within a page, users can change the Z-Order of the selected object(s) by going to the *Edit* > *Arrange* menu.





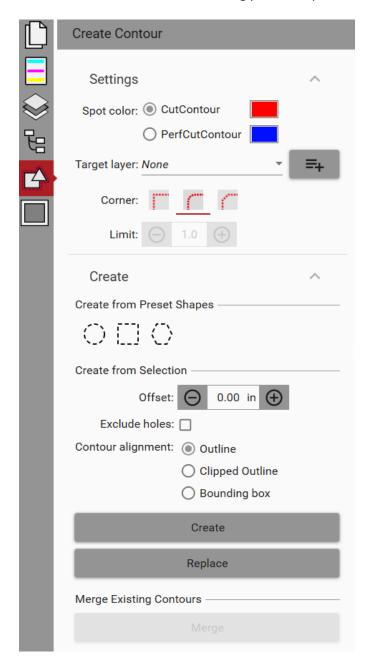
Users can then opt to modify the object(s) Z-Order by selecting one of the following from the list:

- **Bring to Front.** Moves the selected object(s) to the top of the Z-Order. If multiple objects are selected, they will be sequentially bought to the front, with the original gaps between objects removed.
- **Bring Forward.** Moves the selected object(s) up the Z-Order by one level. When moving forwards, the object(s) may leave or enter different groups. This may cause clipping or other effects to be applied or removed.
- **Send Backward.** Moves the selected object(s) down the Z-Order by one level. When moving backwards, the object(s) may leave or enter different groups. This may cause clipping or other effects to be applied or removed.
- **Send to Back.** Moves the selected object(s) to the bottom of the Z-Order. If multiple objects are selected, they will be sequentially sent to the back, with the original gaps between objects removed.



Create Contour

The Create Contour panel gives users the ability to create contours, either around selected objects within the main document view, using preset shapes, or with a freehand line tool.



Within the Create Contour panel, users can select the following:

Select a Spot Color: CutContour or PerfCutContour

Choose from CutContour or PerfCutContour. If a spot color channel with the chosen name does not exist, it will be created automatically. To the right of the spot color is a preview color box. Clicking the preview color box will open a color palette which can be used to update the appearance of the spot



color for either CutContour or PerfCutContour. The same color cannot be picked for both contour types. Note: When updating a spot color, all objects in the document containing that spot color will also be updated.

Target Layer

Select from an existing layer or create a new one. The new path is created on this layer. The new layer will be set as visible and to print.

Corner Type

The corner type can be chosen, altering the shape of the contour created around an object. Note: The limit adjustment value will remain grayed out unless you have selected square corners.

Creating a Contour based on Object Selection

Contours can be created from selected objects in the main document view. Contours can be created around a single object or multiple selected objects. Alternatively, users can also utilize the Preset Shapes tools to create a custom Contour.

Creating a Contour from Preset Shapes

Contours can be created from a list of preset shapes. To do this, choose the "Spot Color" and "Target Layer", click one of the preset shapes and draw to the desired size on the main document view.



Note: The creation process will be cancelled if pressing the shape icon again, pressing the "Esc" key, or the document is navigated away from the page that the contour is being created on. The preset shape selected in the "Contour Panel" will be highlighted until the creation is finished or cancelled. The size of the shape is constrained by the border of the current page.

Ellipse Preset Shape







Selecting "Ellipse" will create an ellipse contour. Press and hold the left mouse button on the document view and move the mouse to define the shape. Release the button when the desired size is reached. An ellipse contour of the size will be created. If the "Shift" key is pressed while the mouse button is moved, a circle will be created.

Rectangle Preset Shape







Selecting "Rectangle" will create a rectangle contour. Press and hold the left mouse button on the document view and move the mouse to define the shape. Release the button when the desired size is reached. A rectangle contour of the size will be created. If the "Shift" key is pressed while the mouse button is moved, a square will be created.



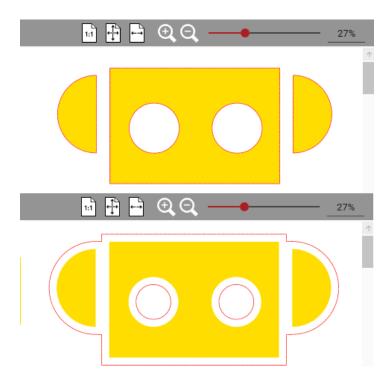
Polygon Preset Shape (Custom Shape)



Selecting "Polygon" will allow creation of an arbitrary polygon contour. Press the left mouse button multiple times to choose the vertices of the polygon. A polyline is created or extended with each click. After three clicks, a small square will be shown at the first vertex. Clicking inside the square will complete the process and a polygon contour will be created. This can also be used to create a custom defined area.

Offset

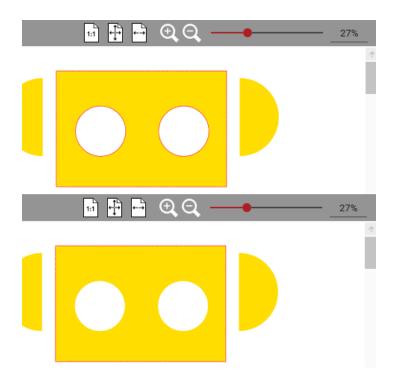
Controls the distance between the selected object(s) and the cut line. The measurement unit can be set within the Preferences section of the software.



Exclude Holes

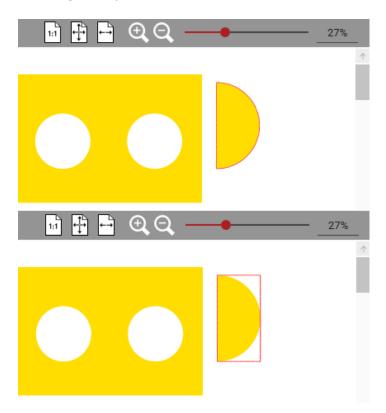
When enabled, any holes generated as part of the contour will be omitted. For example, when creating a contour for a line of text letters with holes may not be desired.





Contour Alignment

Controls whether the contour follows the object path, the clipped object path, or the bounding box enclosing the object.



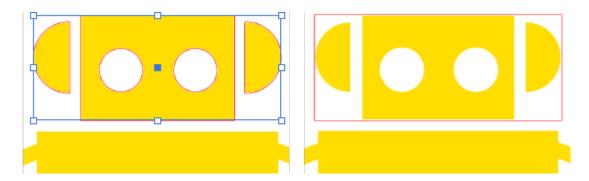


Creating Contours

To create the Contour addition with the file, click the "Create" button.

Replacing Contours

When a one or more objects are selected, the option to replace them with a single contour becomes available.



To replace the objects, use either:

- The "Replace" button in the UI.
- The "Replace with Contour" option in the "Edit" menu.
- The shortcut CTRL+SHIFT+E.

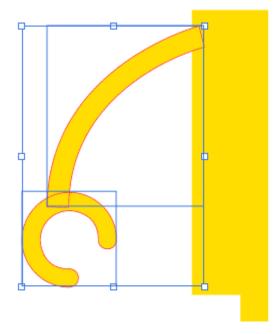
When replacing, a new contour will be created, and the previously selected objects will be deleted. The process will use the global contour settings, including:

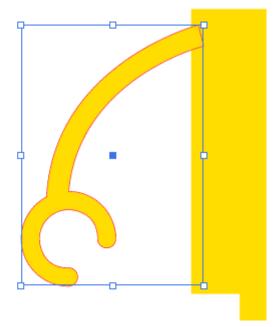
- Spot Color
- Target Layer

Merging Contours

When two or more contours are selected, the option to merge them becomes available. Multiple contours can be selected using the *Shift* key when selecting the contours. For an object on the page to be considered a contour it must use one of the specific contour spot colors.







To merge contours, use either:

- The "Merge" button in the Create Contour panel.
- The "Merge Contours" option in the Edit menu.
- The shortcut CTRL+SHIFT+M.

When merging, a new contour will be created, which is the union of the original contours. No holes in the original contours will be preserved. The merging process will use the global contour settings, including:

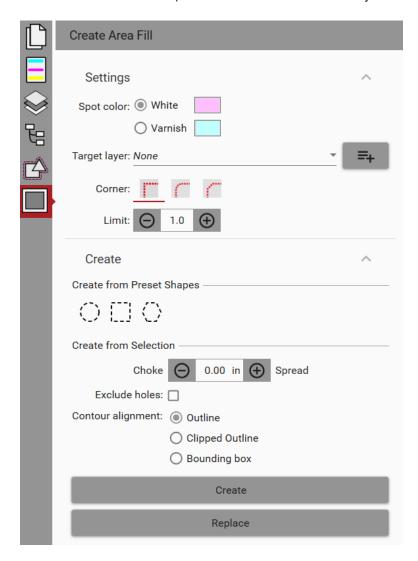
- Spot Color
- Target Layer

During the merging process, the original contours will be removed, and any new layers and spot colors will be created and assigned to the new merged contour.



Create Area Fill

The Create Area Fill panel gives users the ability to create fill contours. These are often used when creating a White underlay or UV/Varnish topcoat but could also be used for any other colorant users would like to add to a file (as the colorant name can be adjusted after creation).



Within the Create Area Fill panel, users can select the following:

Spot Color: White or Varnish (Note: This colorant name can also be renamed later)

Select whether you will be creating a White or Varnish fill. If a spot color channel with the newly selected fill (White or Varnish) does not exist, the spot color channel will be created automatically within the Colors panel. This channel can then be renamed within the Colors list should a user want to modify the color name for a specific application.

White acts as underlay, so once generated, it will appear under the selected object, or in the case of a preset shape, it will automatically go to the back of the Z-Order.



Varnish is an overlay, so once generation, it will appear over the top of the selected object, or in the case of a preset shape, it will automatically go to the top of the Z-Order.

Target Layer

Select from an existing layer or create a new one. The new path is created on this layer. The new layer will be set as visible and to print.

Corner Type

The corner type can be chosen, altering the shape of the contour created around an object. Note: The limit adjustment value will remain grayed out unless you have selected square corners.

Creating a Fill based on Object Selection

Area Fills can be created from selected objects in the main document view. Area Fills can be created around a single object or multiple selected objects. Alternatively, users can use the Preset Shapes tools to create a custom fill.

Creating a Fill from Preset Shapes

Fill contours can be created from a list of preset shapes. To do this, choose the "Spot Color" and "Target Layer", click one of the preset shapes and draw to the desired size on the main document view.



Note: The creation process will be cancelled if pressing the shape icon again, pressing the "Esc" key, or the document is navigated away from the page that the contour is being created on. The preset shape selected in the "Contour Panel" will be highlighted until the creation is finished or cancelled. The size of the shape is constrained by the border of the current page.

Ellipse Preset Shape





Selecting "Ellipse" will create an ellipse contour. Press and hold the left mouse button on the document view and move the mouse to define the shape. Release the button when the desired size is reached. An ellipse contour of the size will be created. If the "Shift" key is pressed while the mouse button is moved, a circle will be created.

Rectangle Preset Shape







Selecting "Rectangle" will create a rectangle contour. Press and hold the left mouse button on the document view and move the mouse to define the shape. Release the button when the desired size is reached. A rectangle contour of the size will be created. If the "Shift" key is pressed while the mouse button is moved, a square will be created.



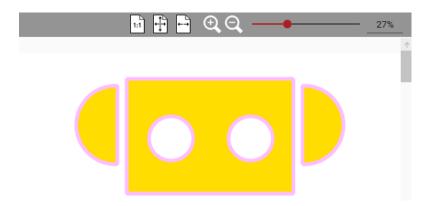
Polygon Preset Shape (Custom Shape)



Selecting "Polygon" will allow creation of an arbitrary polygon contour. Press the left mouse button multiple times to choose the vertices of the polygon. A polyline is created or extended with each click. After three clicks, a small square will be shown at the first vertex. Clicking inside the square will complete the process and a polygon contour will be created. This can also be used to create a custom defined area.

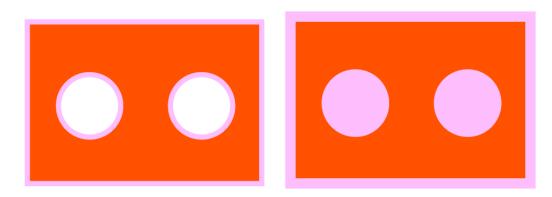
Choke / Spread

Controls the spread or choke of ink in order to provide a margin of error for the registration between successive print stages that lay down the inks. The measurement unit can be set within the Preferences section of the software.



Exclude Holes

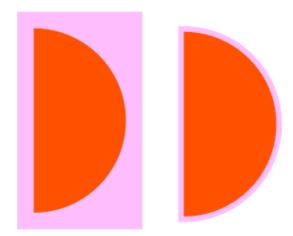
When enabled, any holes generated as part of the fill contour will be omitted. For example, when creating a filled contour for a line of text letters with holes may not be desired.



Contour Alignment

Controls whether the fill contour follows the object path, the clipped object path, or the bounding box enclosing the object.



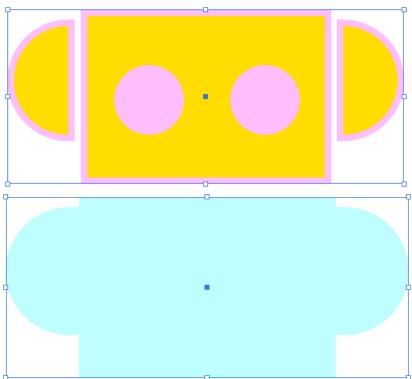


Creating the Fill

To create a new fill, click the "Create" button.

Replacing Fill Contours

When a one or more objects are selected, the option to replace them with a single fill contour becomes available.



To replace the objects, use either:

- The "Replace" button in the Create Area Fill panel.
- The "Replace with Fill Contour" option in the *Edit* menu.
- The shortcut CTRL+SHIFT+E.



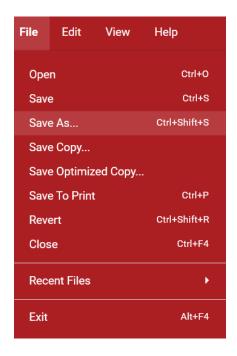
When replacing, a new fill contour will be created, and the previously selected objects will be deleted. The process will use the global contour settings, including:

- Spot Color
- Target Layer



Saving a File

Once you have completed making modifications to your file, you will need to save the modifications. Using the File drop down menu, the software offers several options for saving your work:



Save

File > Save...

Saves the currently open file. This operation uses 'PDF incremental save' for performance - see *PDF Incremental Save* below.

Save As

File > Save As...

Saves the currently open document under a new name and/or file location by displaying a file selection dialog. After the new file has been saved, the currently open document assumes the path of the new file. This operation will optimize the PDF by rewriting the file to remove incremental save information, which may take longer than an ordinary *Save*.

Save Copy

File > Save Copy...

Saves the currently open document under a new name and/or file location by displaying a file selection dialog. Once saved, the currently open document remains as it was. This operation uses 'PDF incremental save' for performance.

Save Optimized Copy

File > Save Optimized Copy...

Save Optimized Copy will behave like Save Copy... but will also optimize the PDF by rewriting the file to remove incremental save information.



Save To Print

File > Save To Print

Copies the currently open document to the print folder. The print folder location is specified in *Preferences*. This operation uses 'PDF incremental save' for performance.

PDF Incremental Save

An incremental save is one where any changes are appended to the end of the PDF, and the internal references updated accordingly. This is usually the fastest way to save a PDF, although at the expense of an increased file size.

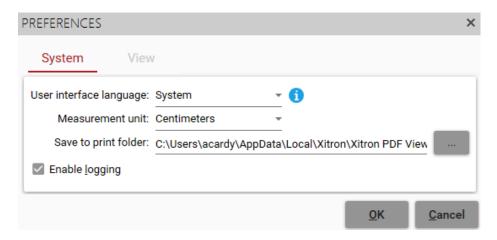
PDF Versions

When saving, the software will attempt to retain the same PDF version as the original PDF. In certain circumstances this may not be possible. This includes when the version of the original PDF is not supported as an output target. Supported PDF versions include PDF 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, and 2.0. If the version of the original PDF is not supported, when saving, the PDF will be re-targeted to 1.7. This behavior will be the same across all save types.



Preferences

The software can be configured through the Preferences dialog. To open the Preferences dialog, use the *View* menu to select *View* > *Preferences*.



Within the Preferences window, users can set the following:

User Interface Language

By default, the application chooses the most appropriate user interface (UI) language based on the languages supported by the application and the language of the operating system. If this is not an appropriate choice, you can override the UI language by choosing one of the supported languages in the *User interface language* dropdown. Note: Changing this setting will require a restart of the application for the changes to take effect.

Measurement Unit

The measurement unit can be customized to any of the values in the *Measurement unit* dropdown.

Save to Print Folder

The Save to print folder is the path used when the file menu option Save to Print is used. When saving to the print folder the currently open document will be copied to the folder specified in this preference. If the folder doesn't exist when updating the value an attempt will be made to create it. By default, the save to print folder will be: %localappdata%\<company name>\\roundame>\

Logging

If support is required, logging can be enabled by checking the checkbox. When checked, logs will be generated at the location: %localappdata%\product name>.log.txt

When requesting support, it is useful to enable logging. By default, logging is turned off.