Tips and Tricks in Color Editor

efi GmbH
Kaiserswerther Str. 115
40880 Ratingen
Germany
www.efi.com

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1 System configuration

This document applies to the following system configuration:

Software Version:

Colorproof XF v2.6 and higher
Color Editor Option

Note: The programs may change in future software releases!

Miscellaneous:

2 Topics

This article gives an overview of what is possible with Color Editor in conjunction with EFI Colorproof XF 2.6 or EFI Colorproof XF 3.0.

Color Editor handles a range of standard spot color libraries, such as Pantone, HKS and Toyo, and provides users with additional features for creating and manipulating customized spot colors.

This document explains:

- How to substitute color channels.
- How to change the black channel.
- How to set the color channel to 0.

It concludes with a summary of the discussed topics.

2.1 Substitution of color channel

2.1.1 General explanation

It has always been possible to replace Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black with spot colors. However, until now, they needed to be defined as spot colors in the DTP application (InDesign, Quark, etc.). From version v2.6, this is no longer necessary and they can stay defined as they are by default. Thus, process colors can now be replaced in Color Editor with spot colors or user-defined color values. For example, it is possible to replace Cyan with “Reflex Blue” and Magenta with “Pantone Red”. This means that the software will not print Magenta or Cyan at all. It will replace these process colors with the newly defined colors. These may be Pantone colors such as “Reflex Blue” or user-defined CMYKOG or L*a*b* values.

2.1.2 Advantage

Color channel substitution makes it possible to create a color-accurate proof of color sets with additional spot colors. Similarly, you can create color sets in which the process colors have been replaced with spot colors. Nowadays, the printing industry needs to be very flexible and be able to print customized colors in the press. Furthermore, it must be possible to simulate

the resulting print on a digital proofing system. In Color Editor this can be done without having to change the original file.

2.1.3 Implementing in Colorproof XF

To substitute a color channel in Color Editor, proceed as follows:

- Open the EFI Color Editor.
- Choose an empty spot color table and type in the name of the color channel you want to substitute (e.g. Magenta or Black).
- From the "File" menu, select "Show Internal".
- In the drop-down list box "Type, select "Alias".
- In the drop-down list box "Alias for", select the spot color you want to use.
- In the drop-down list box "Type", select "CMYK" or "L*a*b*". This enables you to substitute the color channel with a different color.
- In the characterization table, type in a color value (CMYK or L*a*b*).
- Save the spot color table to "\...\Server\Profiles\Spotcolor". This is the default folder.

To use this new spot color table in **Colorproof XF v2.6**, proceed as follows:

- Go to "Workflow Designer" and load or create a workflow.
- Highlight the output icon.
- On the "Output" bar of property inspector, select the tab "Separation".
- In the drop-down list box "Table", select the new spot color table. If the table is not listed, make sure that you copied the table to the correct folder. If the table is still not displayed, you may need to refresh the Client or restart the Server.

To use this new spot color table in **Colorproof XF v3.0**, proceed as follows:

- Go to "System Manager" and create a workflow.
- Select the "Color" bar and click on the "Spot Color" tab.
- In the drop-down list box "Table", select the new spot color table. If the table is not listed, make sure that you copied the table to the correct folder. If the table is still not displayed, you may need to refresh the Client or restart the Server.

2.2 Changing the black channel

In some cases, Color Editor can be made to work as a Device Link profile. This is done by substituting the black channel with pure black from the inkjet device. In this way, the black channel is preserved as if a Device Link profile is being used.

2.2.1 Advantage

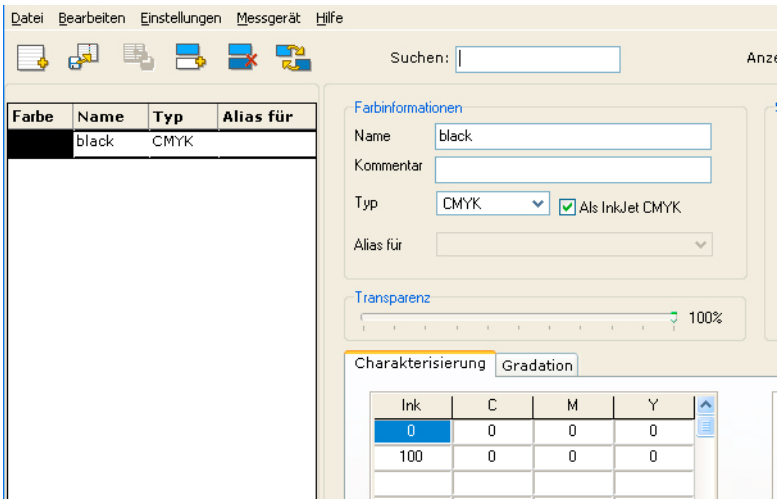
The advantage is that the black channel is preserved without the use of a Device Link profile. By defining additional color values, it is even possible to change the color tone of black or gray. This feature might be used, for example, for photography purposes in order to print gray images in different tints.

2.2.2 Implementing in Colorproof XF

- Open Color Editor.
- Choose an empty spot color table and define a new spot color as “Black”.
- In the drop-down list box “Type”, select “CMYK”.
- Activate the check box “As inkjet CMYK”.
- Define the black value as 100%.

It is also possible to adjust the tint of printed black by adding Cyan, Magenta or Yellow values as well.

If this feature is applied to pure greyscale images, it is possible to create different gray tints (warm, cold, reddish, greenish etc.).



2.3 Setting the color channel to zero

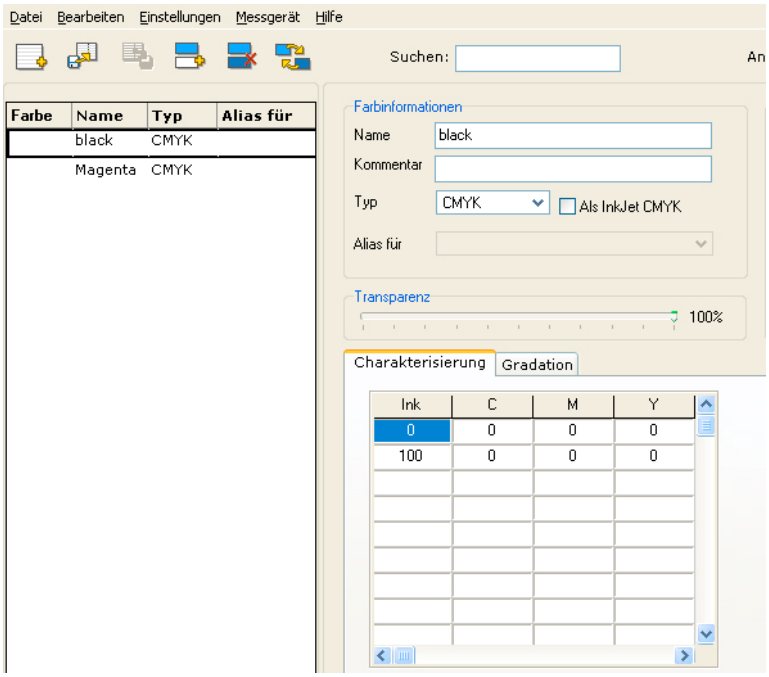
As well as replacing the color channel with a different color, it is also possible to set all values to zero. This technique offers users the possibility to simulate a progressive proof.

2.3.1 Advantage

Setting the color channel to zero makes it possible to simulate a printing press which is not using all the print units.

2.3.2 Implementing in Colorproof XF

- Open Color Editor.
- Choose an empty spot color table and type in the name of the color channel you want to substitute (e.g. Magenta or Black).
- In the drop down list box “Type”, select “CMYK”. This enables you to substitute the color channel with a different color.
- In the characterization table, type in CMYK values of “0” in the row for 100% color. This means that Colorproof XF will print zero ink for that channel of the color you specified.
- If you want to disable another color, add a new spot color and repeat the above procedure.



2.4 Resulting images

Original image

Substituted color (black replaced with Reflex Blue)

Substituted color (Cyan, Magenta replaced with Red and Blue)

Progressive proof

3 Summary

Article summary

With Color Editor v2.6 or v3.0 it is possible to change the color channel in order to:

- Replace an existing color channel with an alternative color without editing the original file.
- Create a progressive proof.
- Create a grayscale image with different color tints.
- Preserve the black channel without using a Device Link profile.

Area of application

Editing the color output is important all across the graphic arts industry. Giving grayscale images a different color tint can be used for photographic printing or production printing.

Replacing a process color with a pure spot color may be of special interest in the packaging industry.