PRINT COMMANDER

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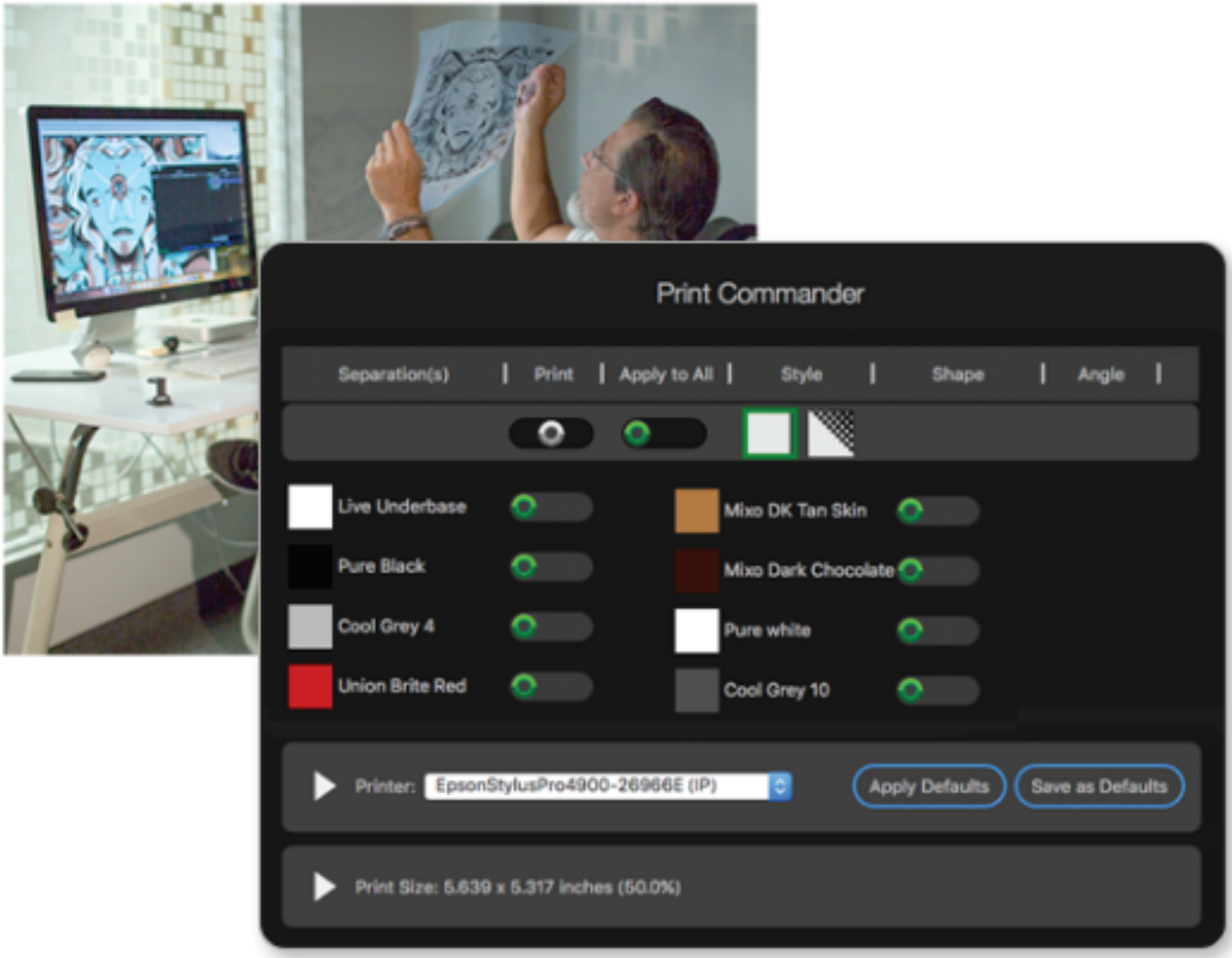
PRINT COMMANDER SP PDF

Spot Process Separation Studio 4™ provides Direct to Inkjet Output for supported printers.
No additional RIP needed for “Spot Process” and “PDF” separation jobs managed in SPSS4.

This documentation provides Print Commander information for both a SPOT PROCESS and PDF separation output.

Make changes in Print Commander to separations being output that override the default settings.
TIP: Make sure you have performed the Droplet Weight Desity Test Print to determine the proper droplet weight for your film/ink combination.



SPOT PROCESS Separation File Output SP PDF

The PRINT option is available as a BUTTON, an option under the FILE Menu, and by keyboard command (Command P, or Control P). The Print Commander will open as a Window on screen.

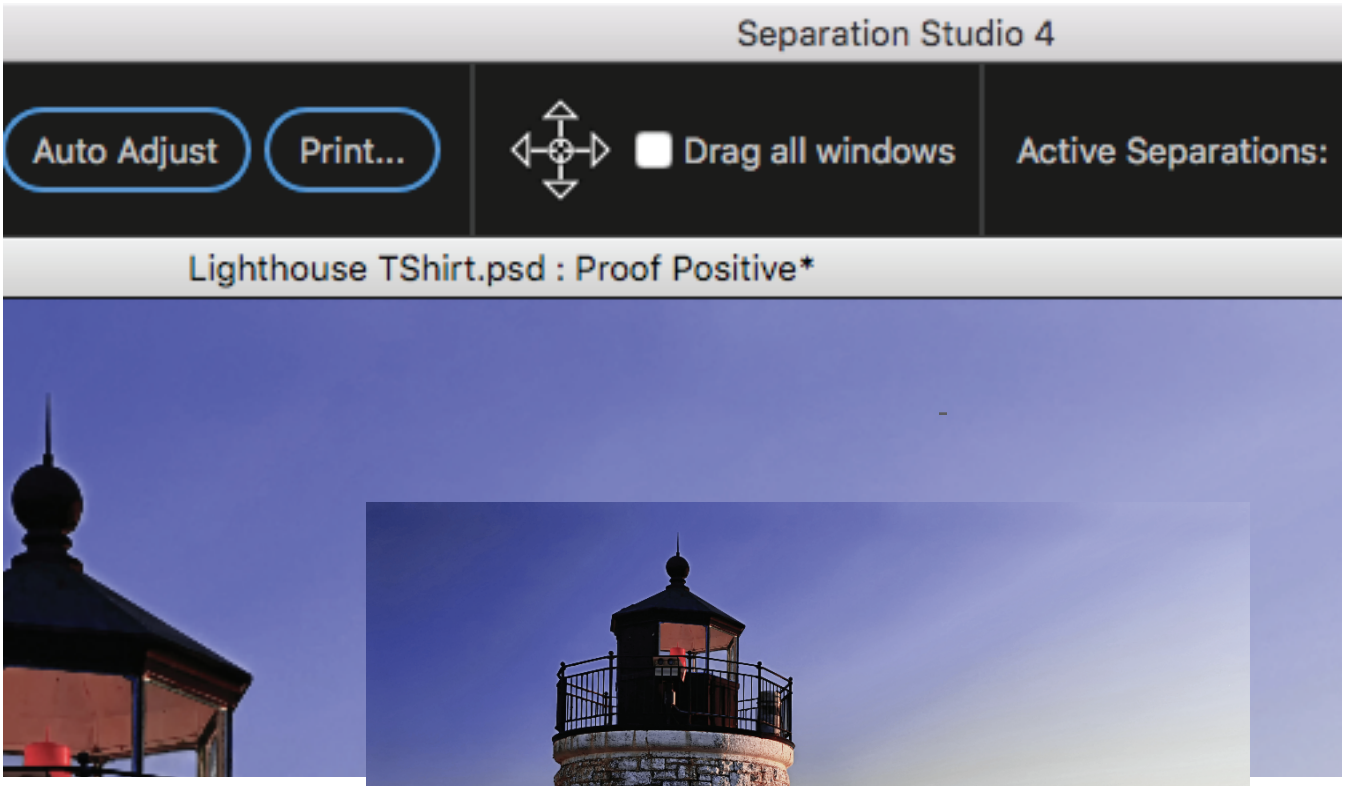


Image separated by the Spot Process engine in SPSS4 and the separation used in the chapter to describe the features and function of Print Commander.

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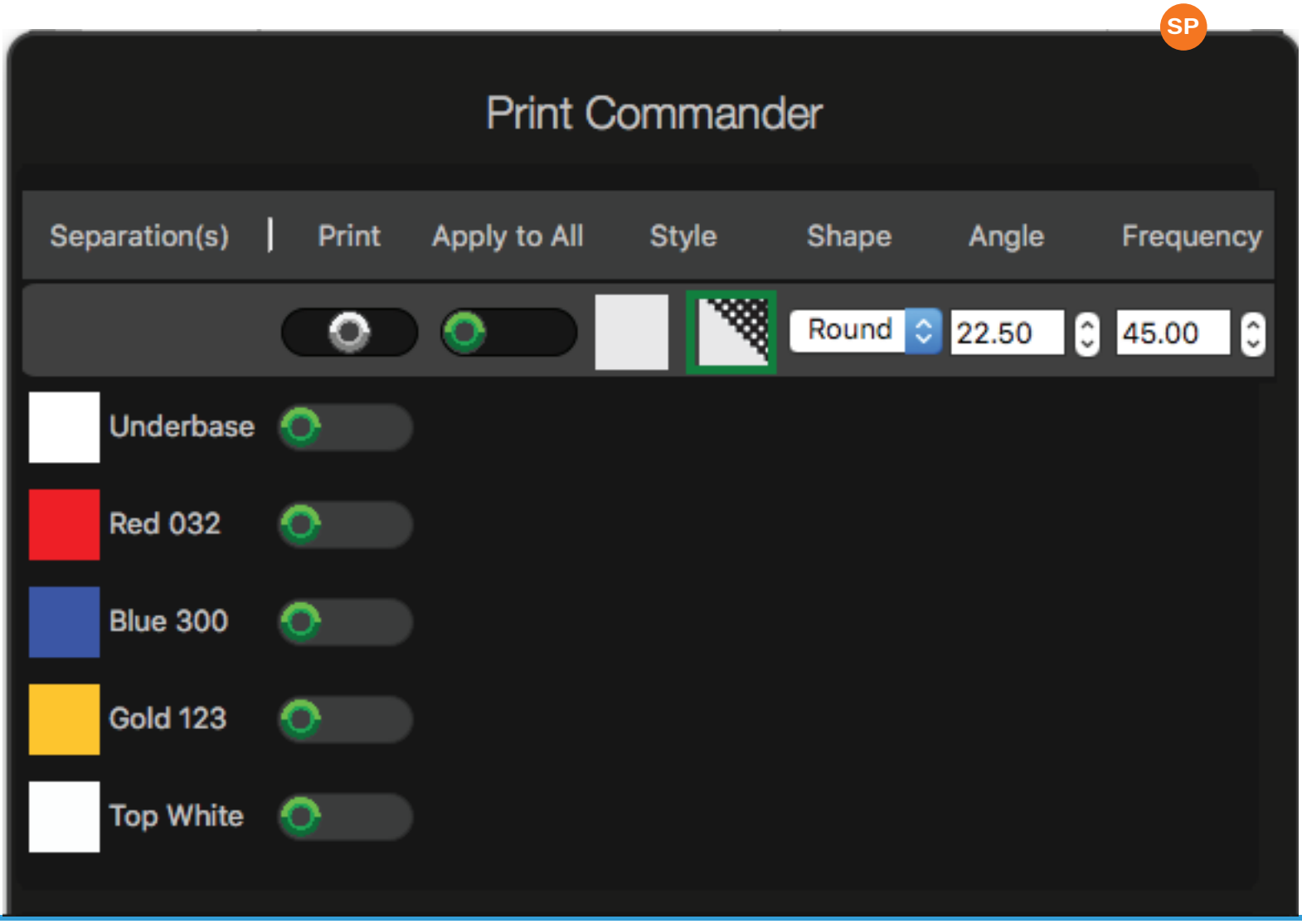
Shown (below) is the Separation(s) options of the Print Commander. In this area you will have control over the STYLE, SHAPE, ANGLE and FREQUENCY (line screen size) of each of the channels of a particular separation. Our Lighthouse Spot Process separation, for example, has an Underbase, Red, Blue, Gold and Top White channels that when output will correspond to individual screens for a press production run. The numbers next to the colors reference PMS numbers to mix/purchase for press ink. Spot Process colors will always be the same set of spectral values. If a user adds and custom labels a color, or renames a color, it will be listed by name.

Note: all films will output as BLACK Inkjet Ink on clear film. Color happens on press!



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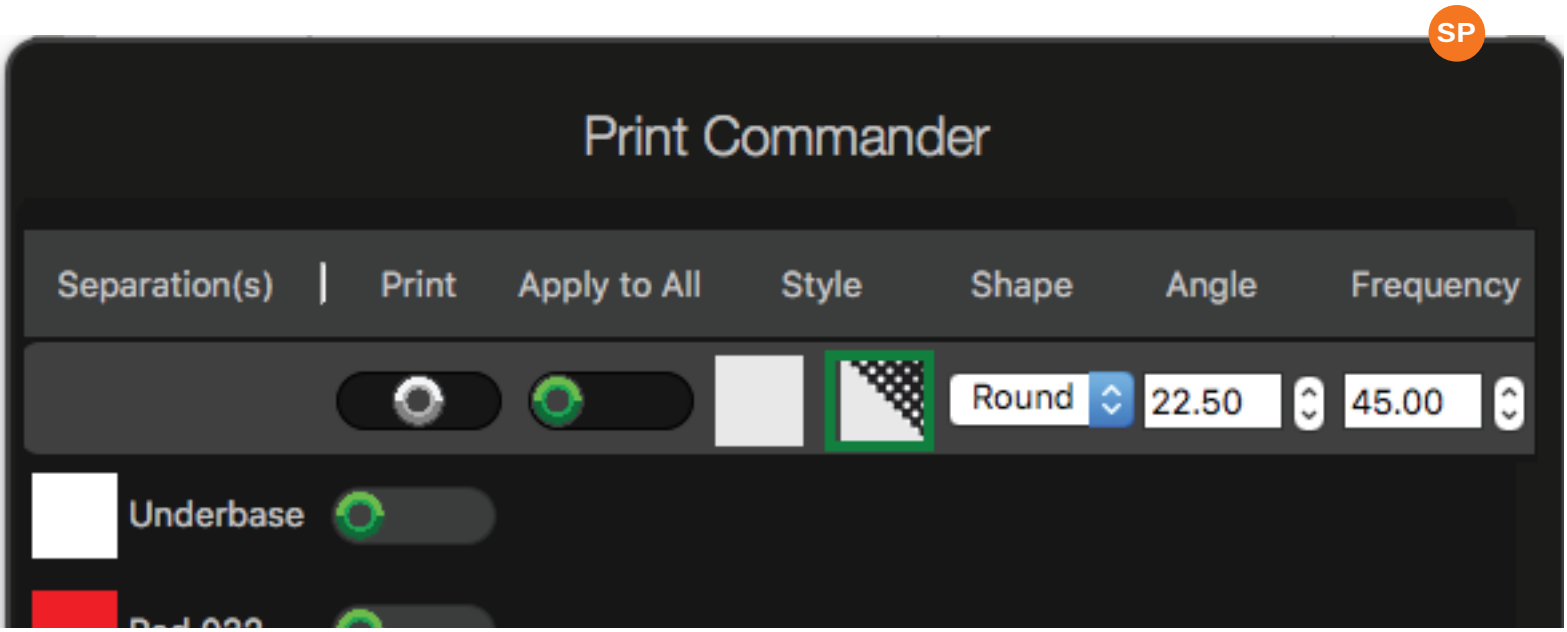
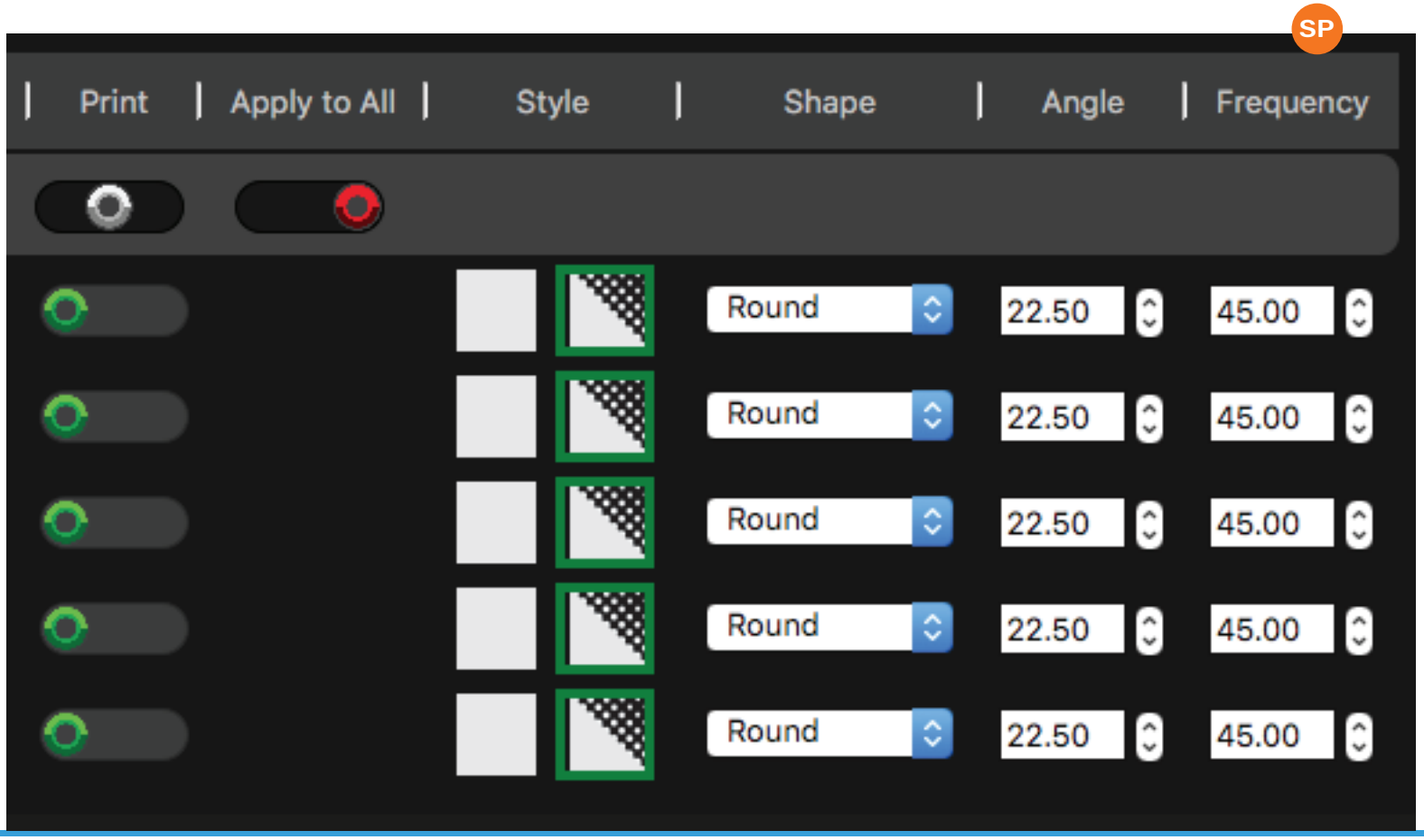


(Above) Apply to ALL is ON as noted by the green toggle. (Below) Apply to All is OFF as noted by red toggle. With the toggle in the OFF position options become available for each color channel.



SEPARATIONS SP PDF

Located under the Print toggle feature are the color channels listed in print order.

Next to each color name is a green or red button controlled by the toggle. Green (ON) indicates that channel will print at output. Red (OFF) means that channel will NOT print.

Style: Since the SPOT PROCESS engine is a HALFTONE separation and print solution, keep Apply to All ON selecting white/halftones icon (right). This is the default setting.

SP

PDF

Your separation channels will print with halftones, and solids when 100% color exists. The PDF side has greater creative flexibility to make use of both solid and solid/halftone options.

SHAPE SP PDF

The pop-down option allows you to select the shape of the halftone as ROUND, ELLIPSE, DIAMOND or LINE. The default is Round. You can individually set the halftone Shape, but it is NOT recommended for Spot Process separations to mix shapes.

ANGLE SP PDF

Set the angle of the halftones using the up/down arrow or type in number. By default the angle is 22.5%. It is also the recommended angle to prevent moiré. You can individually set the Angle, but it is NOT recommended for Spot Process separations to mix angles. Spot Process is a proven separation system first released in 1995. It is recommended you follow the suggestions for best results.

FREQUENCY SP PDF (Lines Per Inch or LPI)

Set the line screen (dots/shape per square inch) using the up/down arrow or type in anumber. A common frequency range for screen printers is 40 - 55. A lower number is coarser, higher is finer. Finer are more difficult to capture during screen exposure and washout. Select a MESH count that works with the frequency. The formula is 5 times the frequency. Frequency X 5 = Mesh (i.e. 45 TIMES 5 = 225 or the closest higher mesh 230). Formula works with Europen metric too.

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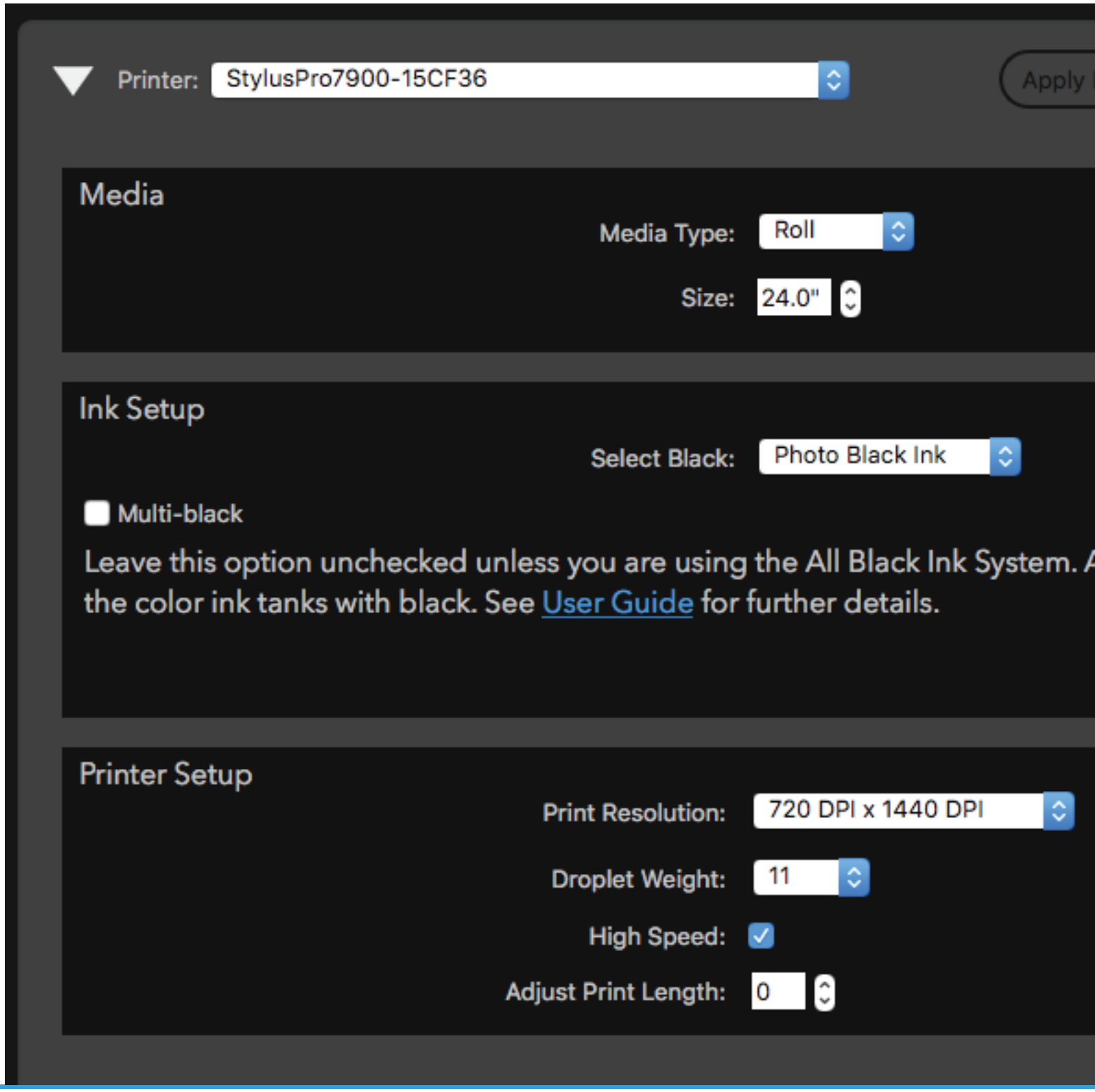
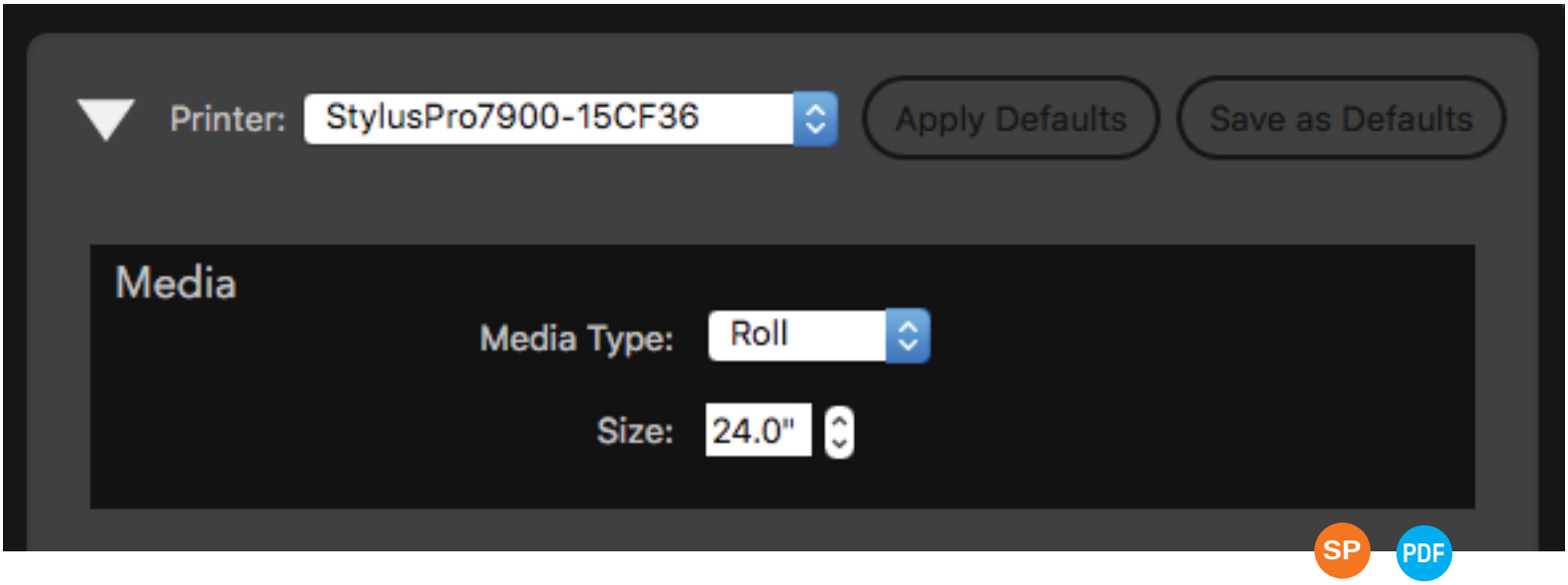
Click the Triangle to Open the Printer options: Printer, Media, Ink Setup and Printer Setup.





Select the Printer Model from the pop-down. SPSS4 will automatically display detected and supported printer models on your Network. You should already have gone through the Printer Installation setup of a supported printer in order to have it available as a detected printer.

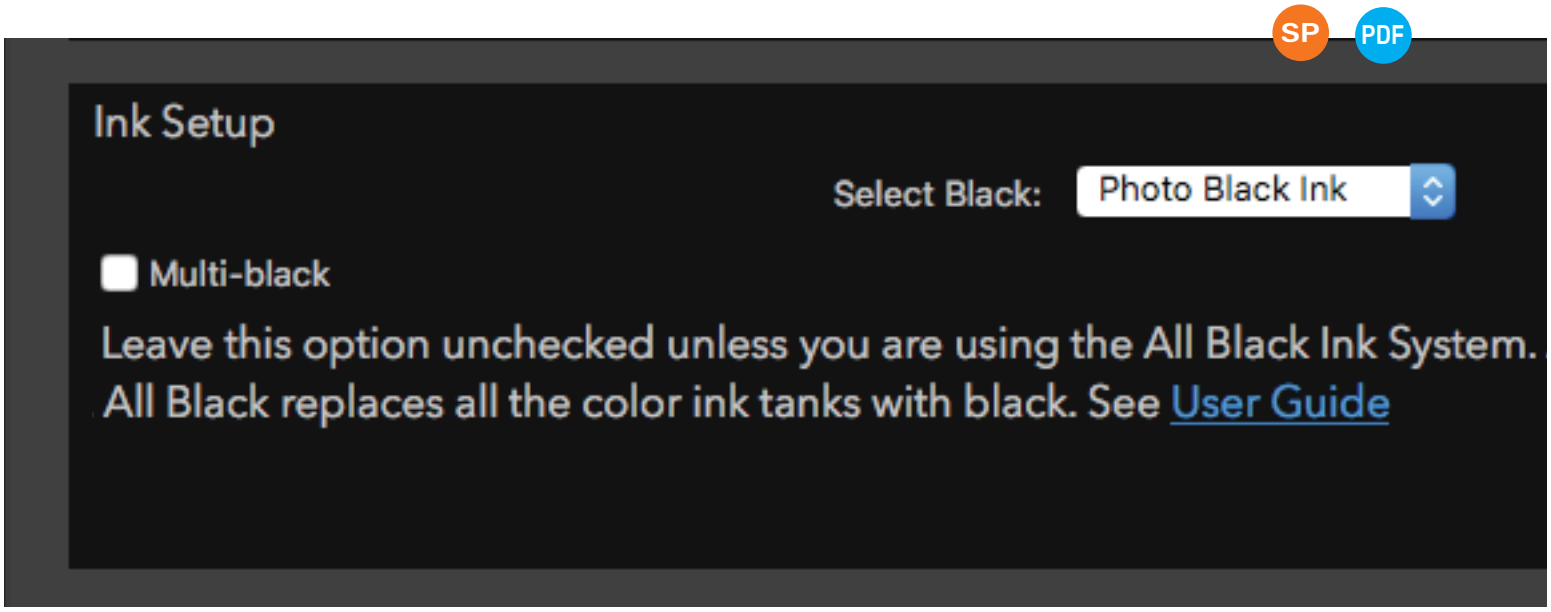
MEDIA

Select either Roll or Sheet based on the ability of the printer selected and what media is being used. Your Size option selection will vary and depends on the Media Type selected and the media size you need to output your separations to.

APPLY DEFAULTS / SAVE AS DEFAULTS

For your convenience you can set your selections as your SPSS4 defaults - overriding the program defaults. You can change them and apply them as desired.

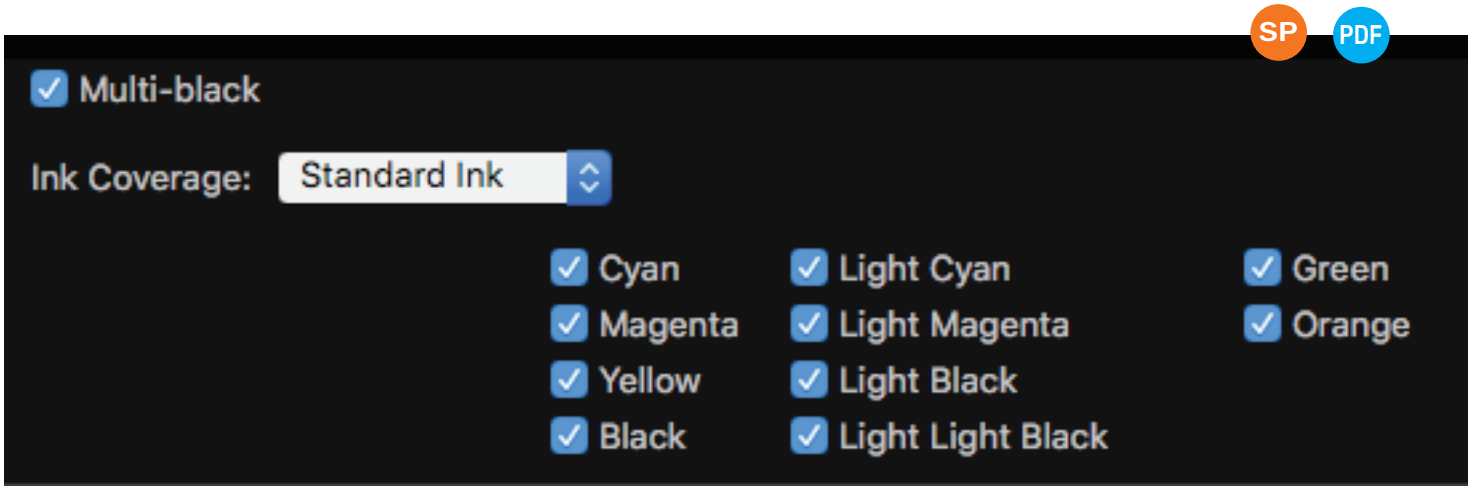
Tip: Media and Ink selection are critical to your success. Films need to properly block UV light during screen exposure. For best results consult the Freehand web site Screen Print Tips, or submit a support ticket online. Expect successs. If you receive anything other than great results then contact our Tech Team for their expert assistance. A variety of Tips, Articles and Videos on our web site are valuable materials to review.

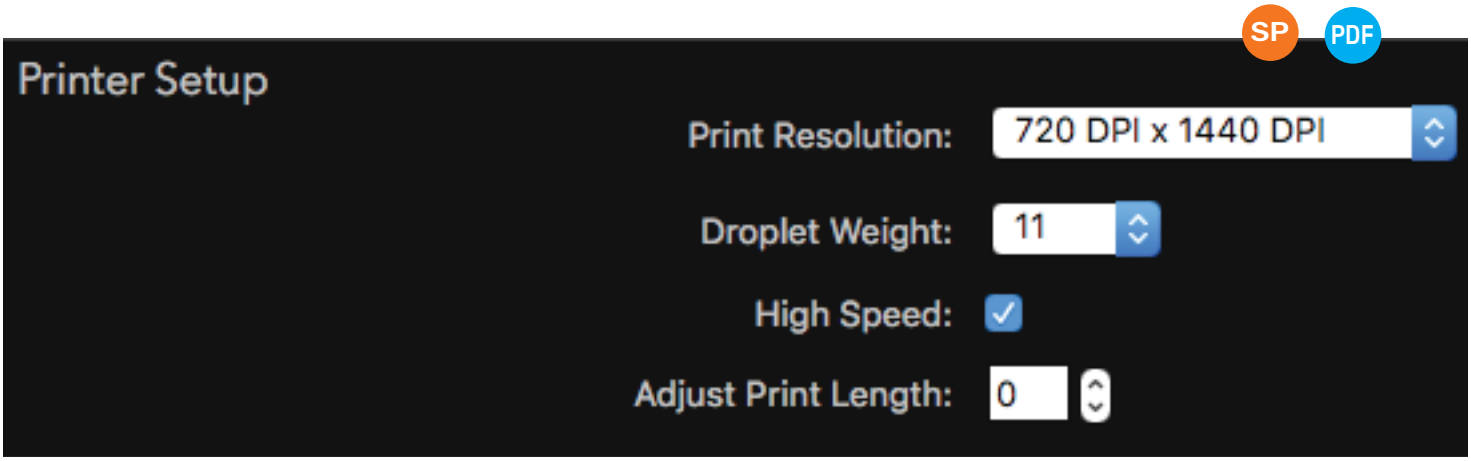


INK SETUP

Select either the single BLACK slot of the printer model to spray during the film output process, or if you are a user of an All Black Ink system you can select Multi-black option.

The Multi-black feature when checked ON will tell the printer to spray ink from all (or designated) slots. That means these slots MUST have black inkjet ink. You do NOT want to spray color ink onto film. You need the UV light blocking ability of quality dye, or a visual black pigment to block light. You can check on/off any combination of slots based on the ink supply in your printer.





PRINTER SETUP

Provides options for Print Resolution, Droplet Weight, High Speed Printing, and Adjust Print Length.

PRINT RESOLUTION

From the pop-down menu select an available printer resolution. The higher the resolution the slower the output process. Find the lowest resolution that delivers the quality results you desire for greatest productivity.

DROPLET WEIGHT

Determined during setup after performing a Droplet Weight Density Test Print (Edit Menu > Default Printer Settings), move the arrow up or down to dial in the desired droplet weight. Too high or too low can result in films that are too wet or not dense enough.

HIGH SPEED

When checked on the printer will spray ink as the head moves in BOTH directions across the media. You are not speeding the movement of the head (not an option with inkjet technology), but by spraying with each pass the print time is reduced. If print quality drops or is not acceptable, turn High Speed off by unchecking the option.

ADJUST PRINT LENGTH

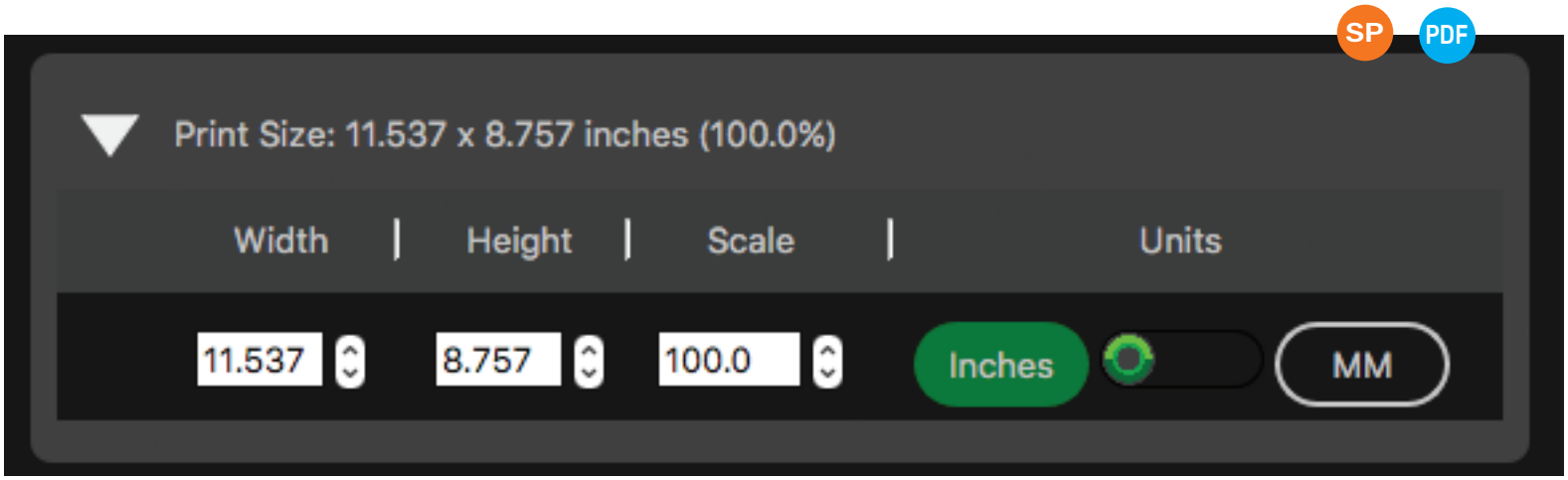
Software adjustment to assist with the stretching of film through rollers. Contact the Tech Team.

PRINT SIZE

The Print Size option allows you to adjust the Width and Height of the Separation. The file dimension will automatically appear at 100% scale. It is recommended that you work at 100% scale as a routine to prevent errors if you reprint at a later time.

You can use the Scale feature to print the file at greater or less than 100%.

By default the setting is Inches, but can be switched to MM (millimeters) by moving the toggle to the right.



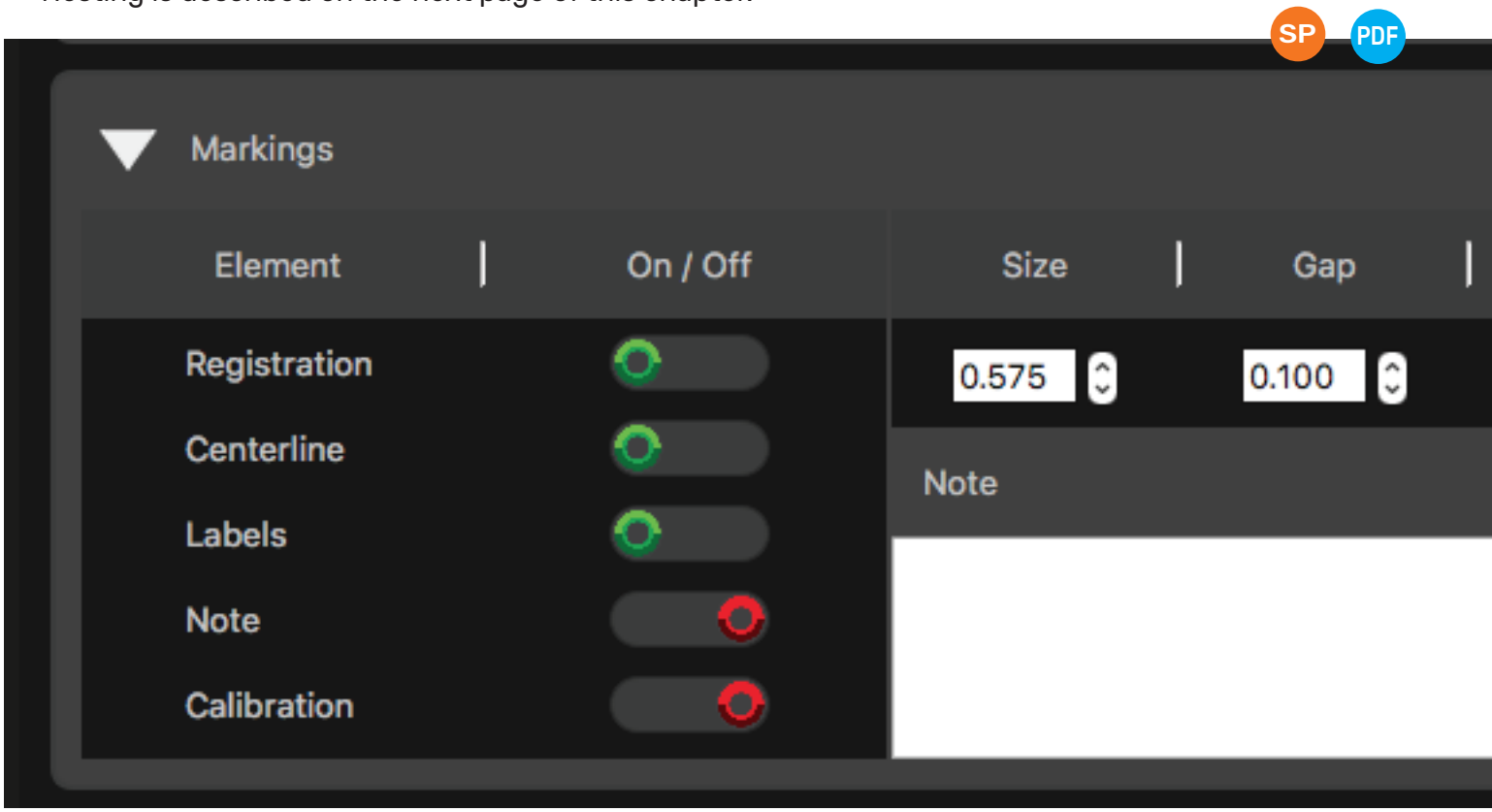
MARKINGS

Having the option to produce markings specific to the needs of a screen printer is a great assest for setting up and registering screens on press.

Print Commander offers control of Registration Marks, Centerline, and Labels. It also has a notes and calibration option that by default are off.

Adjust the Size of the markings, the gap between and their position on the film using the built in arrows and toggles. In the Preview Window in the Print Window you will see the effect live.

TIP: Changes in the Markings section can have an affect on Auto Nesting. With the feature being live you can make the adjustments and view the results in the Print Commander Preview Window. Nesting is described on the next page of this chapter.

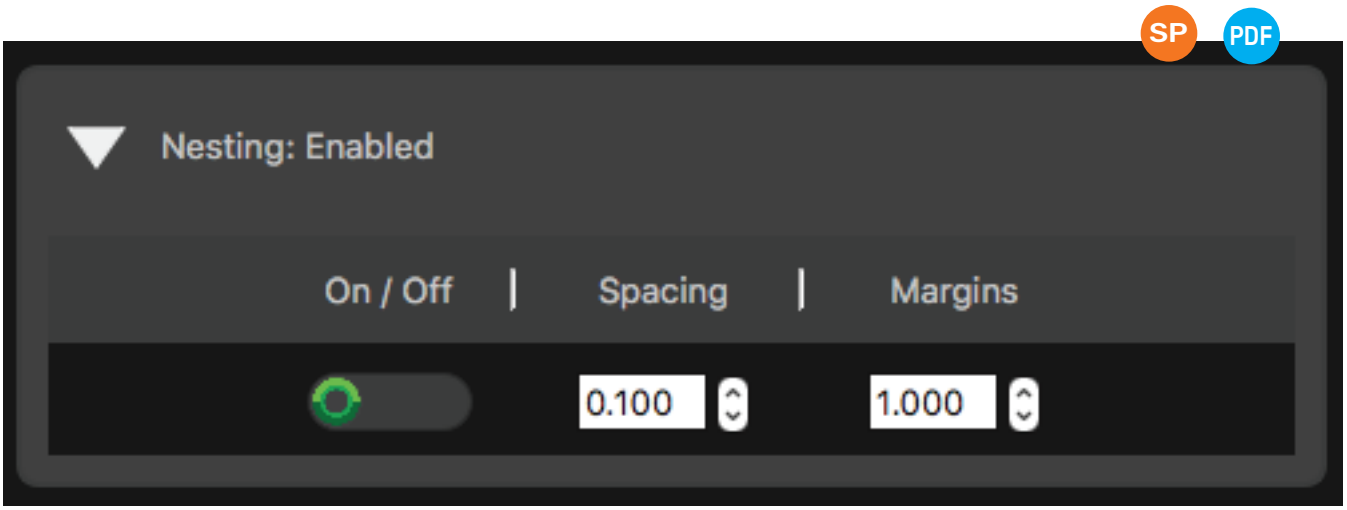


Note: Not shown in the image above is the Position toggle with the top or side option.

NESTING

Nesting, N-UP printing, or ganging separations is the key to saving film media during output. Nesting is an Auto feature in the Print Commander, and as you will see while working in Print Commander that you have control as well.

By default it is on as indicated by the green toggle in the ON position with the notation showing “Enabled”. You can easily move the toggle to OFF to prevent the nesting process. You have control over the spacing between and the margins. The adjustments made will be seen live in the Print Commander Preview Window.



Nesting automatically applies the mathematics that would be difficult to calculate, taking in consideration image size, media size, markings, labeling and their placement.

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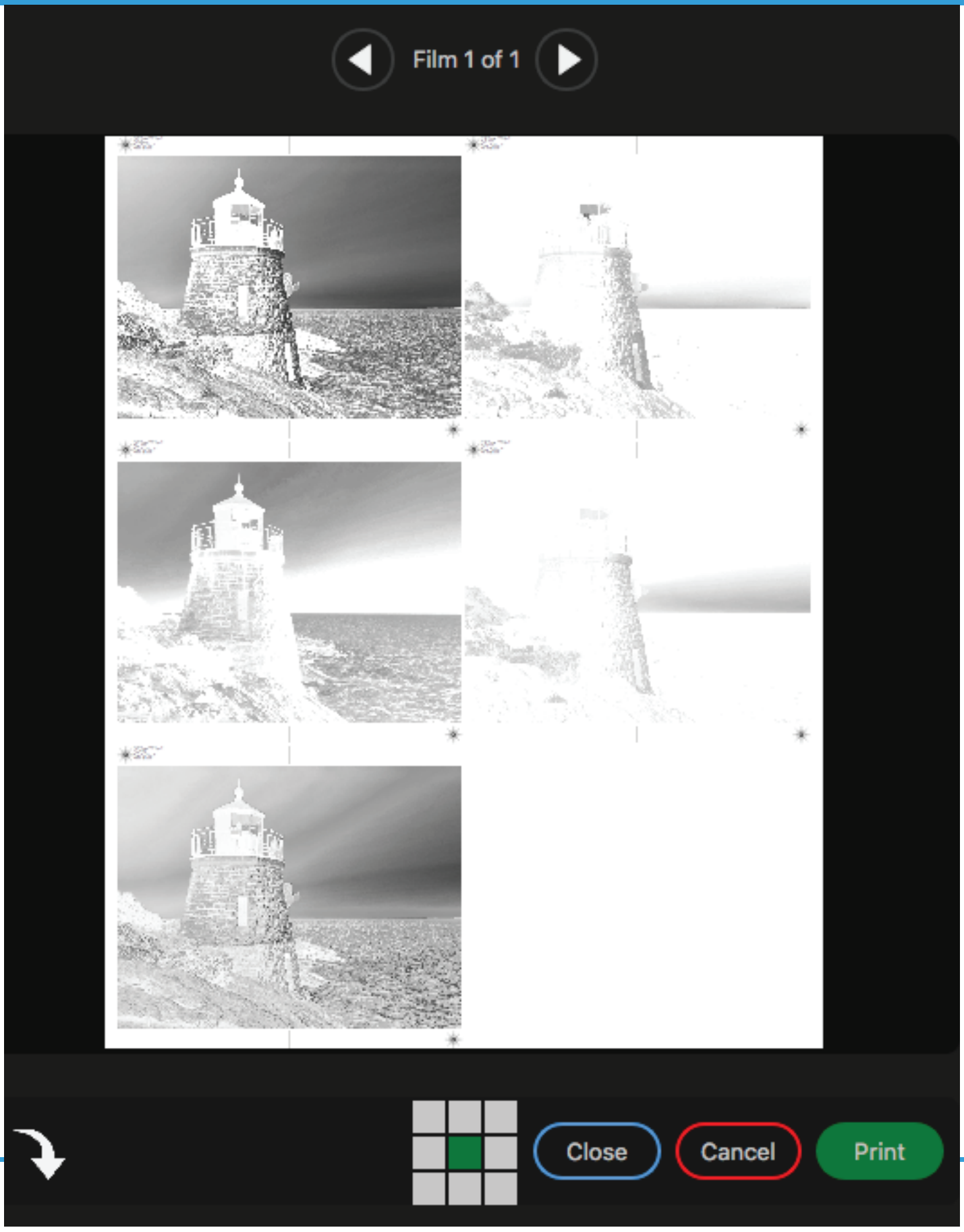
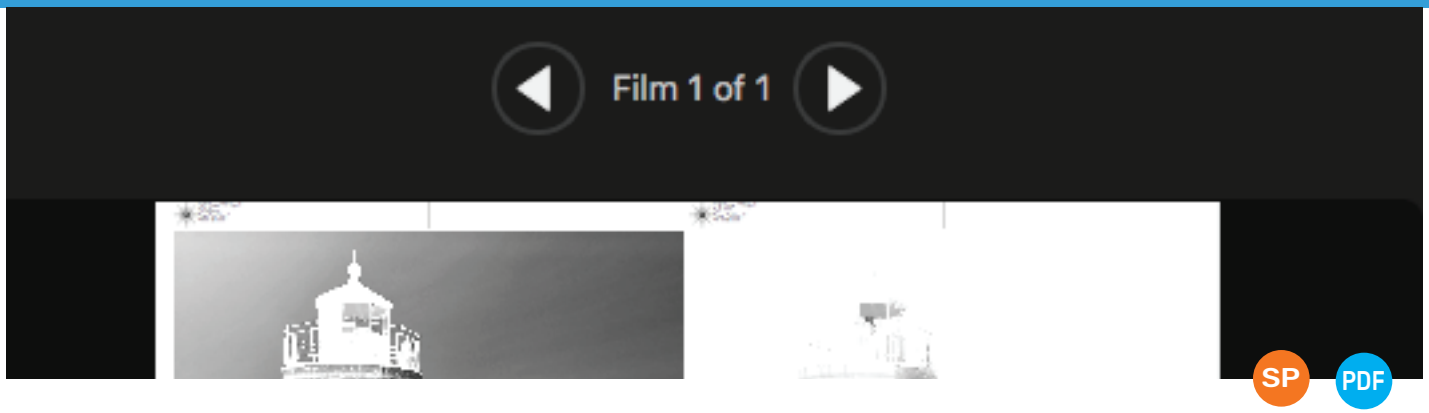




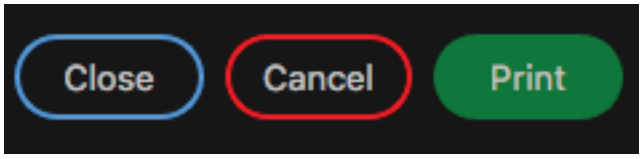
PREVIEW WINDOW

While working in the Print Commander Window you will have a Preview displayed at the right of the controls.

On page 13 is the complete Preview Window showing ONE sheet of film with 5 channels nested on the one film. Center lines, registration marks and labels are in place.

The nine squares in the bottom graphic show separations centered on film as indicated by the green square. Adjust the placement as a unit on the film by clicking a gray square, or rotate the separations using the arrow icon. The Live Preview allows you to make the best selection.

The final selections in Print Commander are Close, Cancel and Print.



CLOSE will close the Print Window while retaining the selections made in Print Commander. CANCEL will also close the Print Window, but purge any changes made. PRINT will send the file data to the printer.

Multiple films can be viewed. Simply click the arrow to the right or left.

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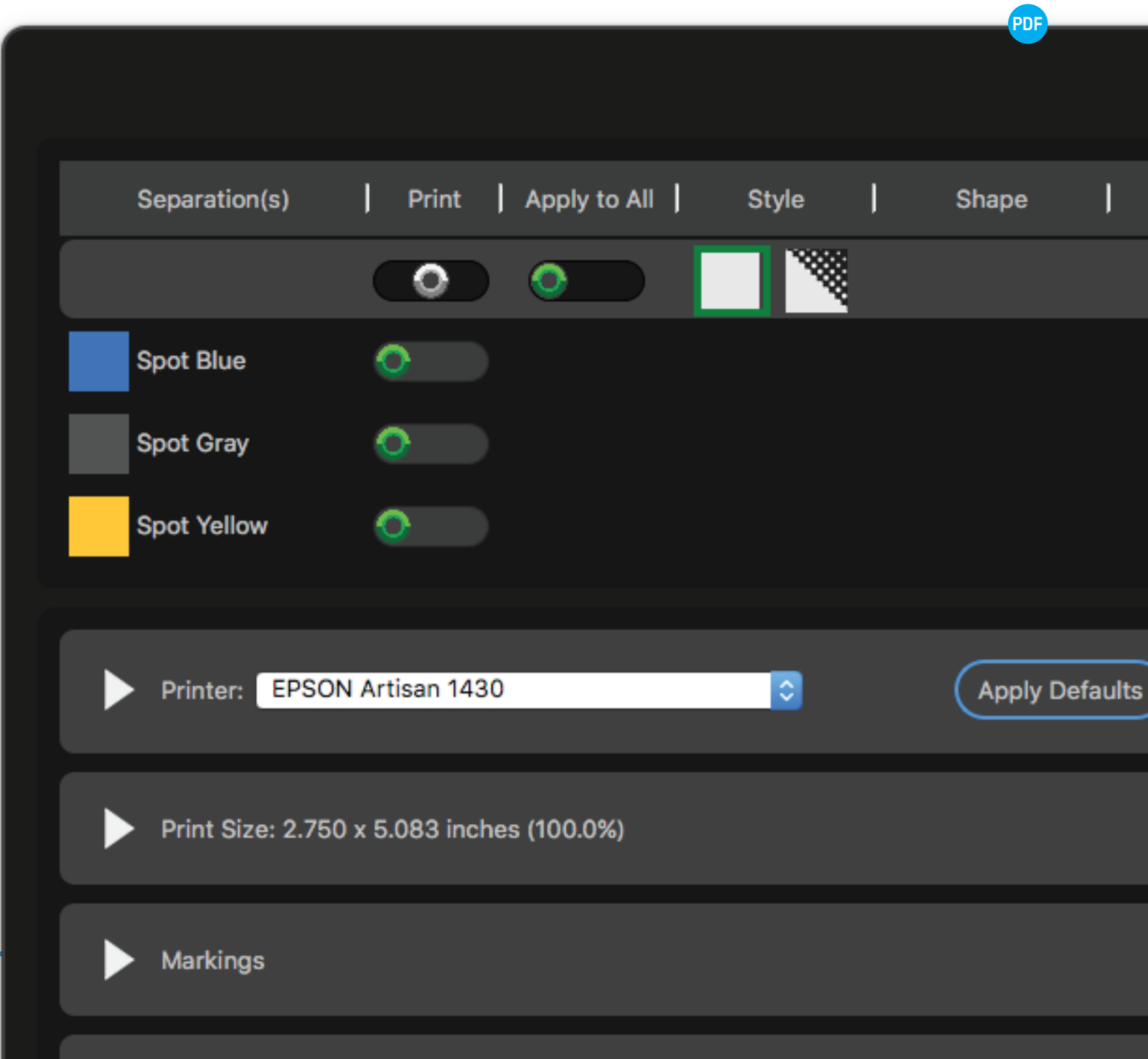
PDF Separation File Output

When ready to output a PDF format separated file managed in SPSS4 simply select PRINT. The PRINT option is available as a BUTTON, an option under the FILE Menu, and by keyboard command (Command P, or Control P). The Print Commander will open as a Window on screen.

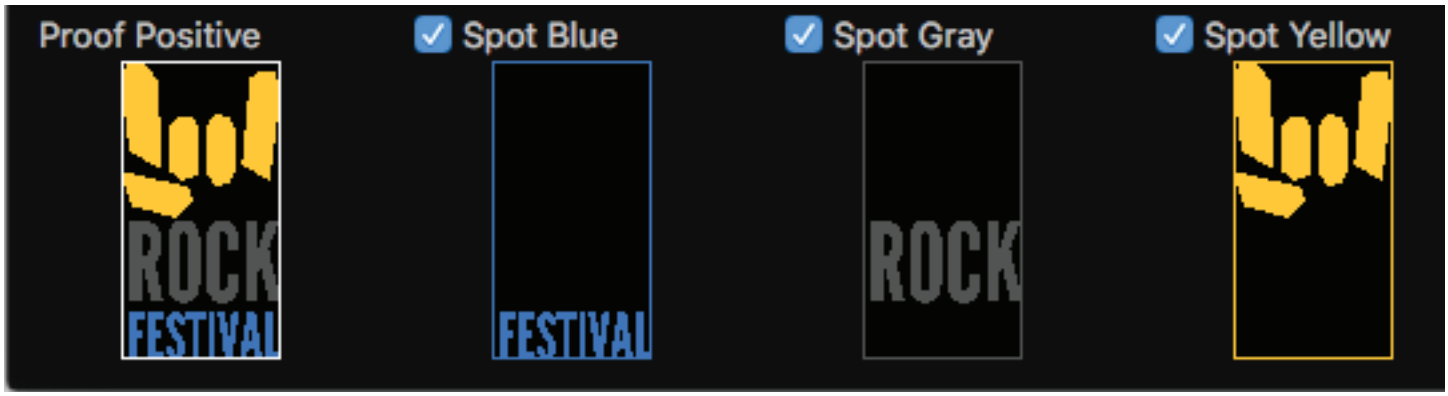


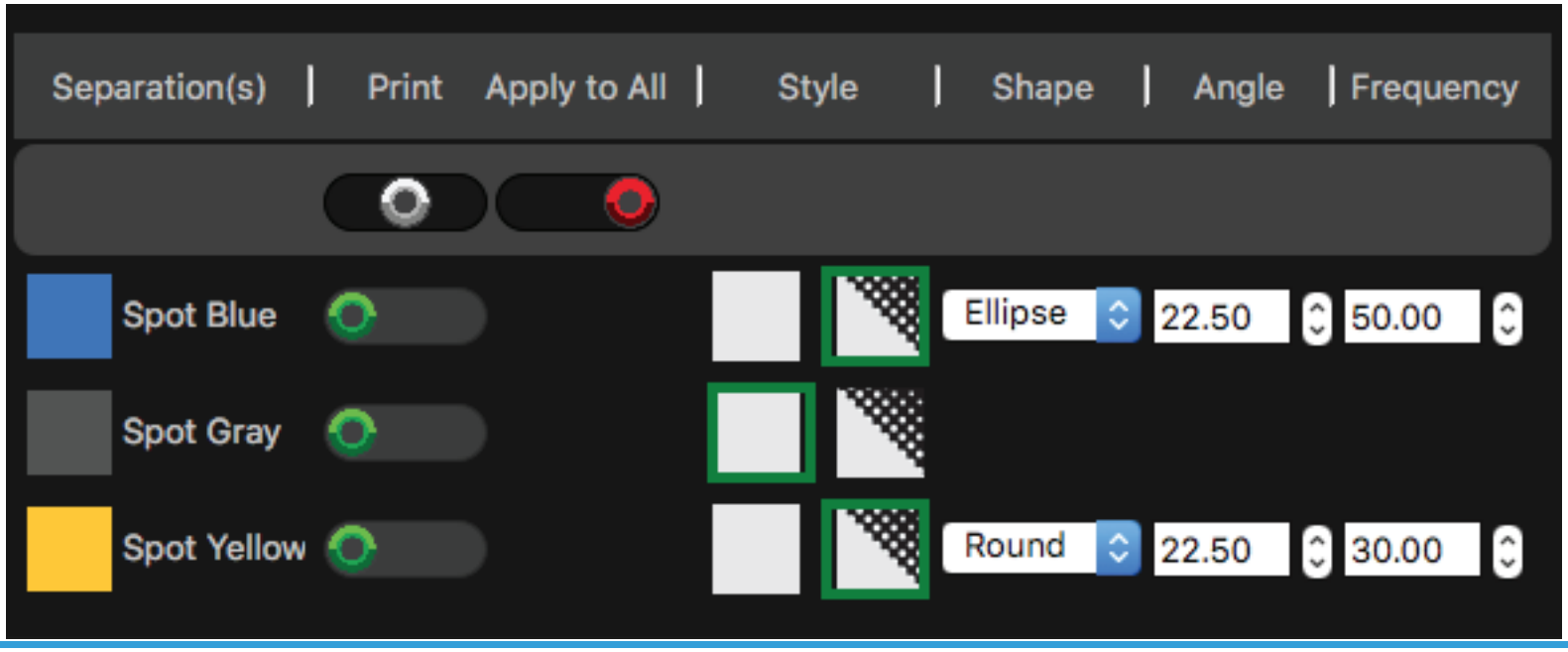
PDF Separation File Output

First, review the Print Commander info on pages 1-15 as they apply to both engines, then review the PDF specific information below.

In the PDF separation (below) you see the Proof Positive Preview plus 3 spot colors. With 3 colors (blue, gray and yellow) interest can easily be added as each separation is printed to film thanks to the PDF specific STYLE controls.

Creatuve Example: Turn off Apply to All. Set Spot Blue as a 50 lpi halftone (Ellipse), Spot Gray as a solid, and Spot Yellow at 30 lpi (Round). These settings will apply to the film at output.





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So much more than a Print Window, the PRINT COMMANDER in Spot Process Separation Studio 4 also allows users to be creative with on design after a file is separated and ready for output to film.

Mix halftone shapes (ellipse, round, line) in one job. Change the frequency (dpi/lpi) in a job and transform even the simplest of files into a creative press print.

Watch the Videos posted on solutionsforscreenprinters.com for great ideas. You'll be amazed at what you can achieve with screen-print specific software by Freehand.

ENJOY!