

RECOMMENDED WORKFLOW FOR CREATING PDF/X-1a FILES FOR MAGAZINES

Prepare. Create. Check. These three words are the mantra for pass4press v10. Use this workflow diagram as a reference when creating a PDF: time spent on setting up a job will save you time in the long-run and mean the resulting PDF/X-1a will accurately reflect your requirement. Use the form below to record details about your job.

The pass4press v10 brochure contains more detailed information on all the steps listed here, with additional screengrabs on how to configure QuarkXPress 8 and InDesign CS4.

Go to www.pass4press.com to download presets for all the major applications and for guides on how to set up older applications. Also on the website is more detailed information on colour management, proofing and international standards.

JOB INFORMATION

MAGAZINE NAME

SIZE INFORMATION

Trim box size (mm)

Bleed box size (mm)

Type box size (mm)

COLOUR INFORMATION

Target colour space

ICC profile name

JOB/DELIVERY DETAILS

1: PREPARE



PAGE SPECS

Magazine specification
 Make sure you have all the key information you need to create the page, particularly trim size, bleed information, print resolution, paper type and the target colour space.

APP SETUP

Colour management
 Create custom colour settings for each job as necessary. Make sure all your applications use consistent settings (use Bridge to manage Adobe applications)

- Edit>Colour Settings
- Edit>Colour Setups>Source
- Edit>Colour Setups>Output

Presets
 Download appropriate preset application settings where possible and modify for the publication. Check your general preferences, PDF export and transparency settings.

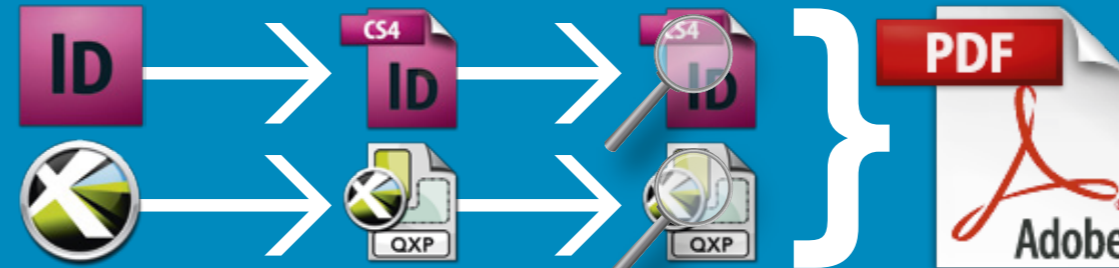
- InDesign>Preferences>Appearance Of Black
- File>Adobe PDF Presets
- Edit>Transparency Flatten Presets
- QuarkXPress>Preferences>Job Jackets
- Edit>Output Styles
- QuarkXPress>Preferences>PDF

Environment
 For soft proofing on screen, make sure your display is regularly calibrated and pay attention to your office environment

CONTENT

Image formats
 Check your raster, bitmap and vector files meet the criteria for the job: it's critical that these external files have the correct resolution and colour space.

2: CREATE



PAGE CREATION

Document set-up
 Ensure your page is set up exactly according to the publisher's spec. Start with the correct trim size; extend objects fully into the bleed area when necessary, and pay attention to the 'safe' type area. Double-check your colour management settings against the job.

Colours
 All colours and swatches used in a document must be CMYK.

- Window>Swatches
- Window>Colours

Fonts
 Fonts must be available on your system and in the correct format.

- Type>Find Font...
- Utilities>Usage

Placed images
 Ensure all images are correctly linked.

- Window>Links
- Utilities>Usage

Layers
 If transparency effects are used, layers must be utilised in tandem with the correct flattening settings to ensure accurate results.

- Window>Layers
- Window>Layers

PREFLIGHT

Live preflight
 Use in-application tools to help monitor the status of your page:

- Window>Output>Preflight
- Job Jackets

Soft proofing
 Utilise soft-proof tools to check colour as you create the page:

- View>Proof Colours
- View>Overprint Preview
- View>Proof Output

PDF EXPORT

PDF/X-1a settings
 Use the presets created in the prep phase to export your PDF/X-1a. Always double-check all settings before export. Only export single page PDFs, even if you have a spread.

COLOUR MANAGEMENT

ICC PROFILE
 Using the correct colour profile for a job is absolutely essential. Always make sure you have the appropriate CMYK profile selected when checking layouts, at the output stage and, critically, when proofing.



3: CHECK



FLIGHTCHECK

Presets
 Always run your PDF through a flightcheck before transmitting it to the publication. You can find presets at gwg.org for most major flightcheck vendors; a pass4press preset for Acrobat Professional 9 is also available.

Common Errors
 The majority of problems are easily solved by correctly having your CM set up and using the downloadable pass4press PDF export presets. Ink limits for the print conditions of the magazine are controlled using the target CMYK profile. PDF/X-1a is a print-specific format that reduces the chance of non-printing items causing problems in the PDF.

PROOF

Hard or soft
 Whether on screen or paper, contract proofs exist for one reason: to produce an accurate view of how the PDF will be reproduced when printed. Hard copy proofs must be created using a combination of proofer and RIP that can accurately represent the final printed product, otherwise they are useless. On-screen proofing relies on a calibrated, high quality screen in tandem with appropriate viewing conditions.

SUPPLY

Transmission
 Name the PDF appropriately and include any job information you have. Embed metadata, such as XMP or JDF, to help identify your file.