

Rethinking the Packaging Workflow:

Golden Masters and Color Spaces

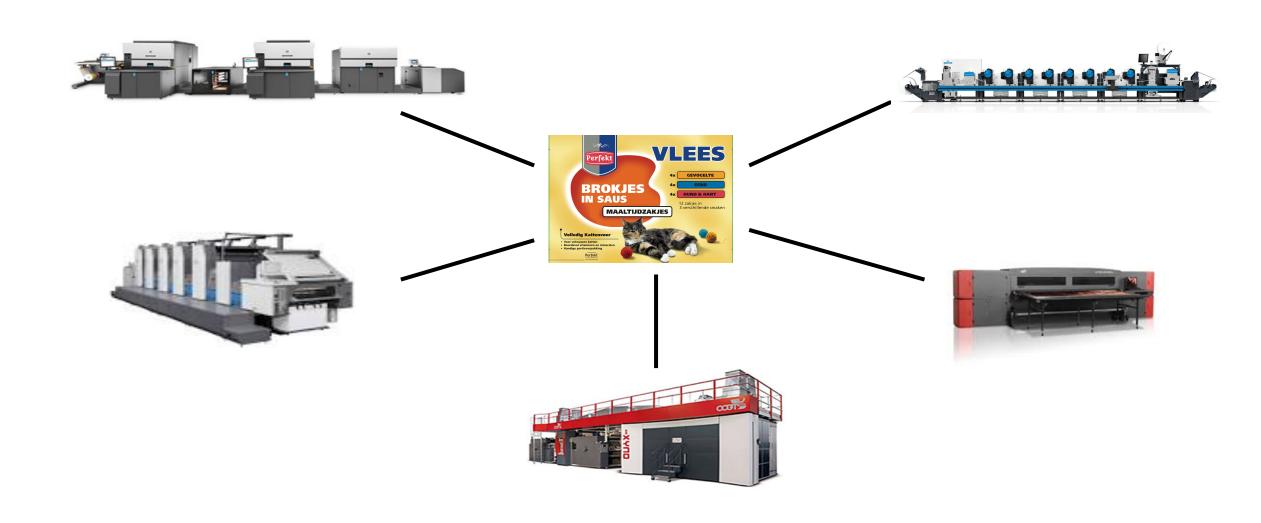


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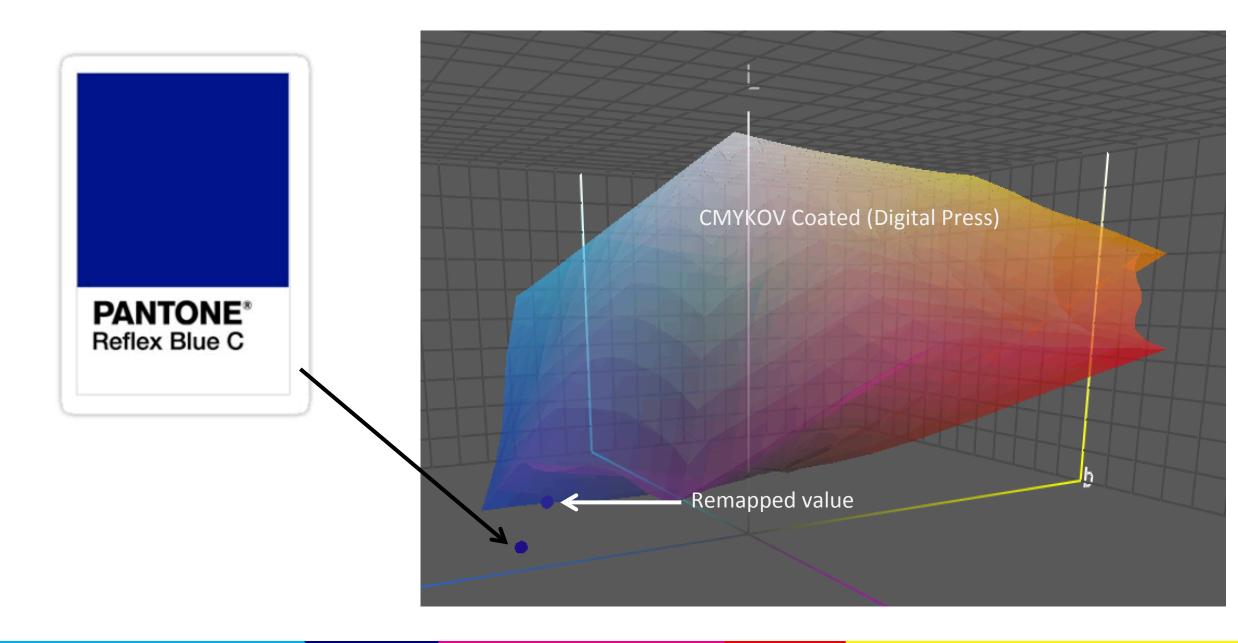
Printing Today: Multiple Outputs



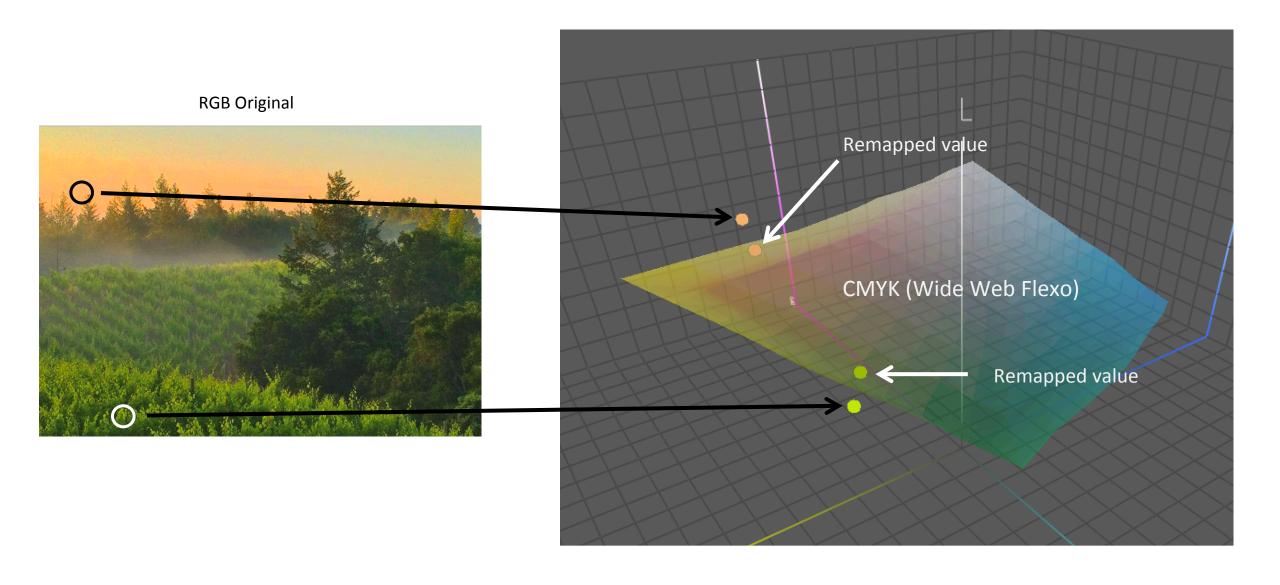
Multiple Destinations = Multiple Conditions

- Different inks and substrates
- Changes in density, hue, tonality, ink trapping
- Change in color mode:
 - CMYK and RGB to 5-, 6-, 7-color process
 - Spot color to CMYK
 - Spot color to multicolor (ECG)
- Change in print order (overprint color)

Color Remapping: Spot Colors



Color Remapping: RGB

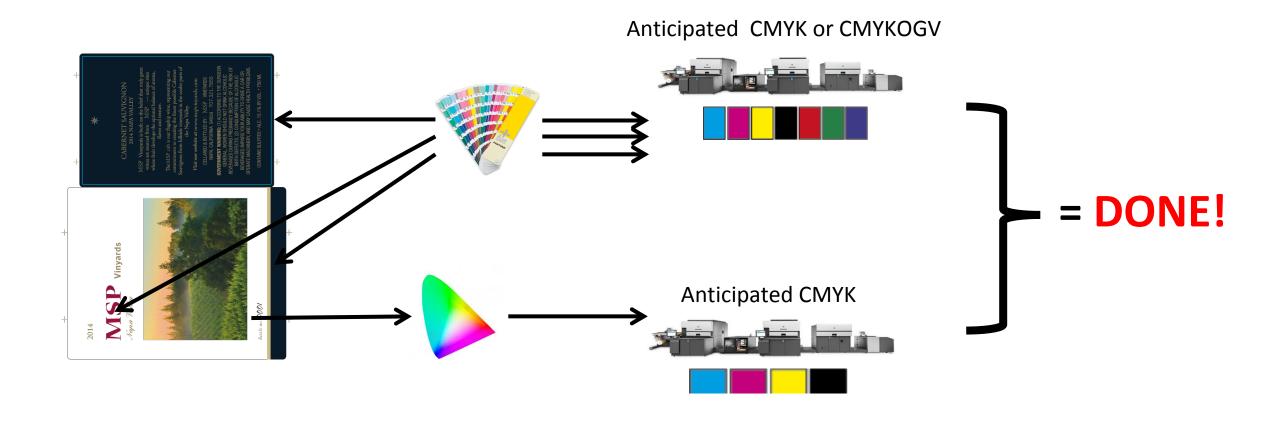


Design Complexity = Conversion Challenges



Transparency CMYK vector object CMYK image

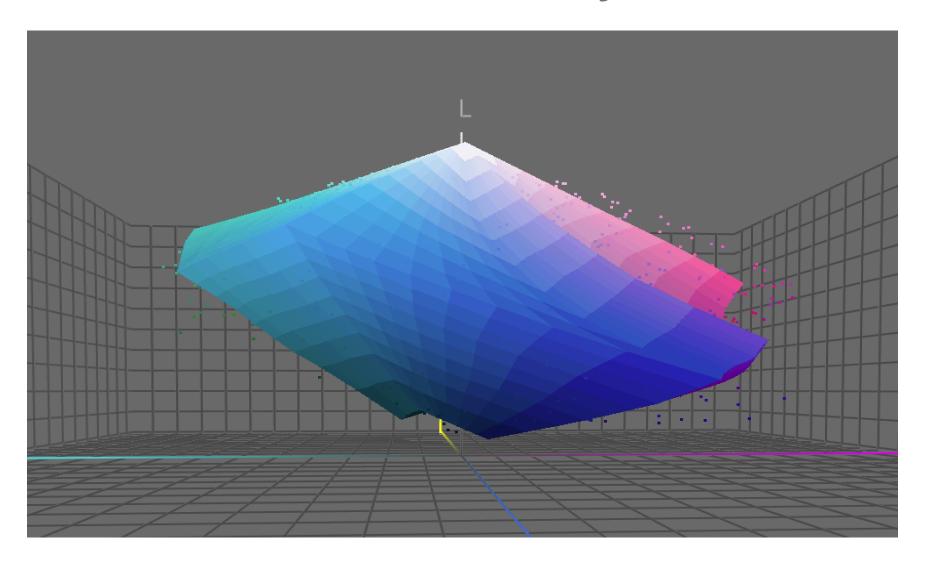
Early-Binding Normalization: A Reliable Stake in the Ground



But Choices Have Consequences!



Future Printability?

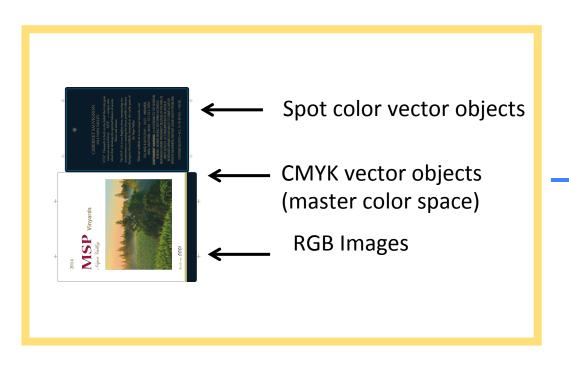


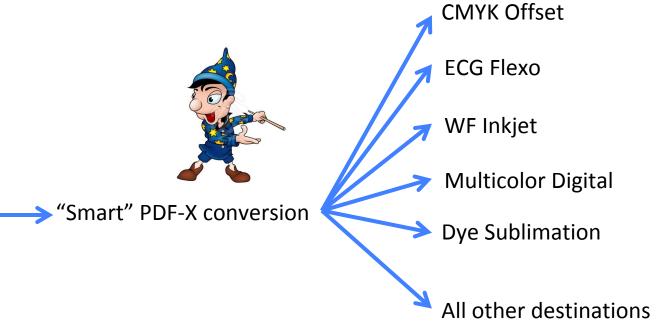
Early-Binding Normalization: a Good Tradeoff?

- Reduces complexity up front
- Minimizes need for special skills or software
- Comforting predictability
- May distort or diminish customer colors
- May later require difficult retouching to match new targets
- Risks losing track of original colors

Late-Binding Conversion: One File, Many Outputs

Source Document





Late-Binding Conversion: Pros and Cons

- Maximizes flexibility
- Preserves color integrity, respects customer intentions
- May fail to account for "mechanical" factors requiring manual intervention
- May require specialized software

What is a "Golden Master" PDF?

An optimized, flexible source file:

- Errors fixed
- Retains original design colors
- Original fonts (not outlined)
- Usually flattened
- Data-rich—all objects tagged, spot & process colors defined

Why a "Golden Master"?

- Serves as a reliable, permanent record of brand owner's intentions
- Retains as much flexibility as possible
- Saves time
- Makes more effective use of skilled prepress labor



Have Profiles for any Intended Print Condition











PDF-X4: A Big Container



Document color space intent: CMYK, RGB, Multicolor (X-5n)

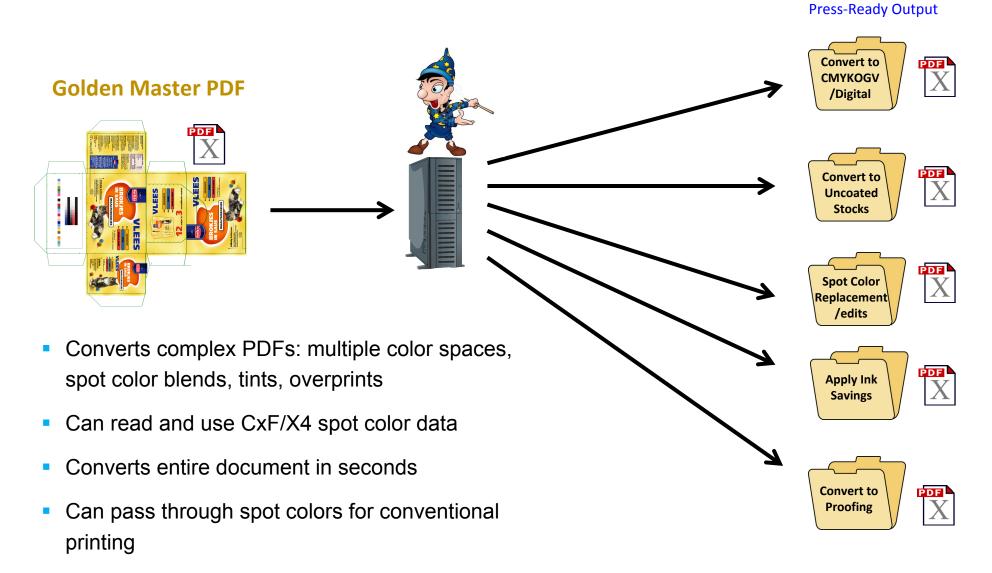
Tagged ICC profiles for vector & image objects:

- RGB
- CMYK
- Lab

Embedded spot color names, measurements: solids, tints, overprints on black (opacity)

Transparencies

Automate: Dedicated Color Server



Can be highly accurate

Communicate: Spot Color Reports

Configuration: To_Offset_CMYKOGV

Target Profile: Miraflex Target XG CMYKOGV-G7+ISO20654.icc

Source Data: Designer

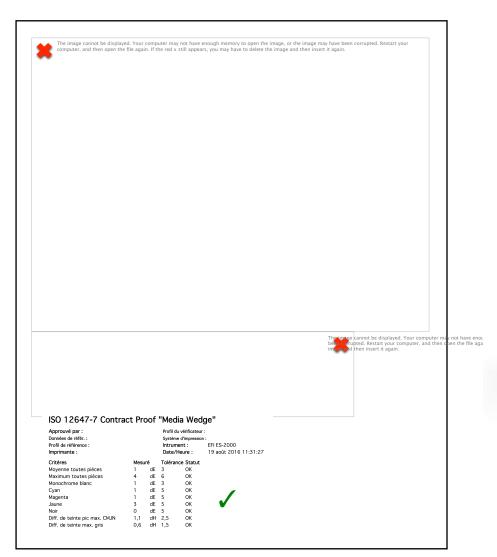
Average dE00: 0.5

Maximum dE00: 5.6 (Singani Orange)

Median: 0.1 dE00 < 1: 78.9% dE00 < 2.5: 96.7%

Name	Conversion:	Target Lab	7CLR	Lab (Profile)	dE00 dE76
HP Spot Gold	Designer	58.00 3.00 29.00	0.0 17.9 63.2 40.8 0.0 0.0 0.0	57.99 3.01 29.00	0.0 0.0
P872MR60001	Designer	58.00 3.00 29.00	0.0 17.9 63.2 40.8 0.0 0.0 0.0	57.99 3.01 29.00	0.0 0.0
Starfield Bluelines ZE	Preserved	_	-	_	
Starfield Blue ZE	Designer	24.10 -2.40 -16.30	76.8 39.3 0.0 72.4 0.0 0.0 0.0	24.19 -2.43 -16.23	0.1 0.1
Starfield 872 ZE	Designer	85.00 0.00 30.00	0.0 5.7 43.7 5.7 0.0 0.0 0.0	84.90 0.03 29.86	0.1 0.2
Lagier Blue ZE	Designer	31.80 -6.40 -14.80	58.8 17.0 0.0 69.1 0.0 0.0 0.0	31.83 -6.34 -14.87	0.1 0.1
Lagier Green ZE	Designer	45.13 -3.59 6.70	0.0 0.0 24.4 68.6 0.0 0.0 0.0	45.13 -2.72 6.88	1.1 0.9
Coppola Blue ZE	Designer	30.93 3.71 -27.54	50.3 0.0 0.0 52.5 0.0 0.0 58.0	30.99 3.72 -27.40	0.1 0.2
Eggshell Cream ZE	Designer	93.16 1.29 11.19	0.0 0.0 14.1 0.0 3.8 0.0 0.0	92.15 1.22 11.02	0.6 1.0
Cider Grn ZE	Designer	59.44 -19.96 25.59	40.8 0.0 68.9 27.1 0.0 0.0 0.0	59.40 -20.02 25.62	0.0 0.1
Cider Red ZE	Designer	47.82 39.82 21.00	0.0 73.6 57.5 24.8 0.0 0.0 0.0	47.81 39.66 20.87	0.1 0.2
Capsule Red ZE	Designer	37.36 60.51 41.99	0.0 100.0 0.0 25.9 85.0 0.0 0.0	37.48 60.19 41.95	0.1 0.3
Pana Gray ZP	Designer	68.70 0.60 3.30	0.0 5.1 13.1 33.6 0.0 0.0 0.0	68.68 0.68 3.32	0.1 0.1
Pana Black ZP	Designer	26.21 -0.77 0.82	0.0 0.0 5.9 92.4 0.0 0.0 0.0	26.25 -0.79 0.88	0.1 0.1
Pana Orange ZP	Designer	61.94 28.91 41.86	0.0 0.0 0.0 24.9 62.3 0.0 0.0	61.86 30.11 41.47	0.8 1.3
Spirit Orange ZP	Designer	63.30 47.10 48.97	4.8 35.6 0.0 0.0 71.3 0.0 0.0	63.31 47.18 49.03	0.0 0.1
Spirit Green ZP	Designer	59.60 -57.20 0.84	0.0 7.8 10.4 0.0 0.0 86.5 0.0	59.61 -57.24 0.84	0.0 0.0
Breck 303 ZP	Designer	32.40 -8.70 -11.50	48.4 0.0 0.0 75.1 0.0 0.0 0.0	32.41 -8.75 -11.54	0.0 0.1
OneEight Black ZP	Designer	18.00 -0.00 -0.30	0.0 0.0 0.0 100.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	20.01 0.00 -0.00	1.4 2.0
Messina Cream ZP	Designer	82.80 -2.00 15.13	0.0 0.0 25.0 14.1 0.0 0.0 0.0	82.96 -2.88 15.03	1.1 0.9
Rich K ZP	Designer	17.00 0.60 0.80	0.0 0.0 0.0 100.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	20.01 0.00 -0.00	2.4 3.2

Communicate: Accurate Proofing



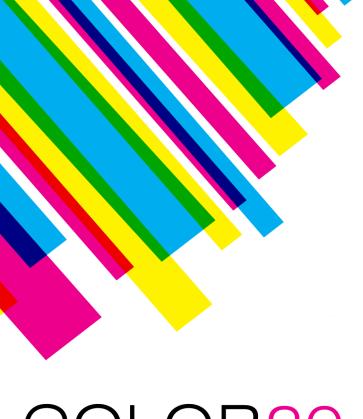


Dos and Don'ts

- DO always have or make a "package" with all job assets
- DON'T have customers make PDFs or convert colors—that's your job
- DO assume that variety of print and virtual outputs may be used
- DON'T reflexively convert RGB images or designs to CMYK
- DO make sure that all objects are correctly tagged with ICC profiles
- DO export Golden Master design as PDF-X3 or higher
- DO use smart color server technology to automate PDF conversions

Summary:

- Customer expectations guide the process; target color to serve their needs
- Preserve master documents with original customer art and colors intact. When in doubt ask for "packages" with all assets included.
- Make master PDFs data-rich: Output intent, all objects tagged, spot colors defined, with CxF/ X4 embedded. Think PDF-X4.
- Target and convert color at the end of the workflow for the specific output condition
- Master current color management and PDF technology to leverage the power of the Golden Master.



COLOR20

get the answers here





THANK YOU

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