

Compare the mask margin options

When you apply a mask, you can expand the crop area by selecting a mask margin width that affects only the crop area. The cut area is unchanged. Or, if desired, you can apply a mask that creates only a cut file, without cropping the separation.

Apply a mask that crops the image without adding a mask margin

1. Open the **Lesson 8.cta** file.
2. Select **Edit > Select > All**.
3. Right-click a separation and select **Apply external mask > with 0 mm margin**.
4. Browse to the **Lesson 8** folder, select the **Mask_Margin.p1_v0_Mask.TIF** file, and click **Apply**.
5. Zoom the layout, and notice that the crop area is exactly at the image area.

? Unknown Attachment

6. Output the layout.
7. Undo your actions—press Ctrl+Z three times to cancel the mask that you applied.

Apply a mask that adds a margin to expand the crop area

1. Right-click a separation, and select **Apply external mask > with 4 mm margin**.
2. Browse to the **Lesson 8** folder, select **Mask_Margin.p1_v0_Mask.TIF**, and click **Apply**.
3. Zoom the layout, and notice that the crop expanded to an extra 4 mm around the image area.

? Unknown Attachment

4. Output the layout.
5. Undo your actions—press Ctrl+Z three times to cancel the mask that you applied.

Apply a mask without cropping

1. Right-click a separation, and select **Apply external mask > with no crop**.
2. Browse to the **Lesson 8** folder, select **Mask_Margin.p1_v0_Mask.TIF**, and click **Apply**.
3. Notice that the layout preview remains unchanged. However, the Inventory panel displays an icon beside the file name, indicating the mask.

? Unknown Attachment

4. Output the layout.

View and compare the results

1. Open all three cut file animations.
2. Notice that the cut line is the same for all three and that the crop area is different for all three.

0 mm margin	4 mm margin	no crop
<div data-bbox="220 201 555 258">  Unknown Attachment </div>	<div data-bbox="591 201 925 258">  Unknown Attachment </div>	<div data-bbox="959 201 1294 258">  Unknown Attachment </div>

3. In Preview mode, open the output TIFF files.
4. Notice that the first preview (0 mm margin) shows no margin text, while the other two previews show margin text.