

# Tell me more about variable marks

When you send pages or sheets to an output device, you may want to include information about that output, such as the name of the color separation, job name, and output date. Variable marks, also known as marks or slug lines, allow this information to be gathered at the time of output.

You can create both sheet and page variable marks. To create variable marks, you can create a marks page in any desktop application and then output the marks page to PostScript and distill to PDF. Once you have created your Marks.pdf, you map to the sheet and page mark PDF files in the output PDF process templates. For more information, see [Creating page and sheet mark files that include variable marks](#).

If you are creating a Preps imposition plan for imposed page-based output, you can create your variable marks using Preps text marks feature. When you print your Preps populated job ticket, Preps also automatically prints a marks PostScript file as well, which you must then distill to PDF. If submitting the populated job ticket via hot folders, you must also submit the Marks.pdf file at the same time. If you are submitting the populated job ticket via the template palette, you only need to submit the populated job ticket. When you submit a JDF (job definition format file) imposition file to any submission channel, you only need to submit the JDF file. Prinergy Evo software automatically assigns the Marks.pdf. For more information, see [Outputting an imposed page-based proof, film, or plate](#).

When Prinergy Evo software activates the output from PDF process template, variable marks are replaced with the correct information.

## Variable marks template format

Use the following format:

`$(tag<n1, n2>]`

where: **tag** is the name of a variable mark, for example, Job or Color. For supported variable marks, see below. **n1** is an optional element and represents the index number, a number that begins at 0 for the left-most character and increases sequentially for each character to the right. For example, if your text reads, "Prinergy" then "P" is index number 0, "r" is index number 1, "i" is index number 2, and so on. **n2** is an optional element and represents the maximum number of characters for the variable mark.

For example, if the text is "TestJob", the variable mark `$(Jobname<2, 4>]` displays **stJo**. Alternatively, if you use `$(Jobname<3, -3>]` the variable mark displays **est**.

## Optional parameters

For some variable marks, you can add these parameters:

This Parameter	Can Be Used With These Variable Marks	To Do This
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<code>_block</code>	<code>\$_[angle] \$_[color] \$_[colour]</code>	Use this parameter to print a swatch or block of color before the color name. For example, if you use <code>\$_[color_block]</code> , a block of color is printed before the color name. If the color name was "black" a black swatch of color would appear before the color name "black."
<code>_offset</code>	<code>\$_[angle] \$_[CalCurve] \$_[color] \$_[colour] \$_[MappedPrintingColors] \$_[PageColor ] \$_[PageColour] \$_[PlateID] \$_[PrintingOrder] \$_[WebGrowthExpansionX ], \$_[WGEX] [WebGrowthExpansionY], \$_[ WGEY] \$_[WebGrowthTowerID], \$_[WGTID ]</code>	Use <code>_offset</code> to introduce space between printed information. For example, if you use <code>\$_[color_offset]</code> , and your job contains Cyan, Magenta, and Black, you will see "Cyan Magenta Black" in their own colors. If you don't use <code>_offset</code> , "Cyan Magenta Black" would be printed on top of each other (in their own colors).
<code>_replace</code>	Any mark	Use this parameter to allow you to shorten long color names. For example, to shorten the color mark "PANTONE-1234" to "PMS-1234" the color mark is <code>\$_[color_replace(PANTONE,PMS)]</code> . To shorten the color mark "PANTONE-1234" to "1234" the color mark is <code>\$_[ color_replace(PANTONE-,)]</code> .

### List of variable marks

The following table lists, in alphabetical order, all valid variable marks and the type of information they represent. Variable marks are not case sensitive.

Page Marks are those that take data from the closest page.

Sheet Marks are those that take data from the surface.

Variable Mark	Mark Type	Information Represented
<code>\$_[angle]</code>	Page Sheet	The screen angle applied to a particular separation.
<code>\$_[CalCurve]</code>	Sheet	The name of the Harmony calibration curve used to calibrate the output device.
<code>\$_[color] \$_[colour]</code>	Page Sheet (common)	The proper color name of an individual color separation. In making a composite proof, it is replaced by the word <i>composite</i> .

<code>\$(colorsOnPage)</code> <code>\$(coloursOnPage)</code>	Page	<p>This page mark is replaced with a list of all colors that were on a given page before any color mapping was done. This page mark can be used for separated or composite files. The output is in the following format:</p> <p><code>&lt;color1&gt;, &lt;color2&gt;, &lt;color3&gt; ...</code></p> <p><b>Tip:</b> Make sure the font used for the page mark is small enough so that all colors will fit in the list.</p>
<code>\$(colorsOnSurface)</code>	Sheet	<p>This sheet mark is replaced on output with all colors that are present on a surface. The output is in the following format: <code>&lt;color1&gt; &lt;color2&gt; &lt;color3&gt; &lt;color4&gt; ...</code></p> <p>The colors listed are all colors that were present before any color mapping was done. This mark can be used for separated or composite files. The output is in the following format: <code>&lt;color1&gt;, &lt;color2&gt;, &lt;color3&gt;</code></p>
<code>\$(ColorSetupName)</code>	Page Sheet	<p>This variable mark shows the ColorFlow color setup that was selected in the refine to PDF process template. For more information, see the <i>ColorFlow User Guide</i>.</p>
<code>\$(compound)</code>	Page Sheet	<p>This mark enables you to print more than one variable mark on a single line for page or sheet marks.</p> <p>For example, if you want a mark that has the job name and color on the same line, use the following text string: <code>\$(compound_JobName:%jobname%_color:%color%)</code>.</p> <p>When using this mark to separate the different marks that you want printed on the same line, you must use <code>%mark%</code> instead of <code>\$(mark)</code>, and an underscore instead of a space.</p>
<code>\$(device)</code>	Sheet	<p>The name of the output device that produced the proof or plate. If the output was to a file, this mark will contain the directory that output was directed to.</p>
<code>\$(DeviceConditionName)</code>	Page Sheet	<p>A ColorFlow device condition name is a combination of a device and the operating conditions in which the device captures or produces an image. For more information, see the <i>ColorFlow User Guide</i>.</p>

<code>[\$[DeviceName]]</code>	Page Sheet	A ColorFlow device name is an individual occurrence of a physical device that captures or produces an image. For more information, see the <i>ColorFlow User Guide</i> .
<code>[\$[DotShape]]</code>	Sheet	The name of the default or override dot shape used to create the output.
<code>[\$[FMPattern]]</code> and <code>[\$[FMPattern_offset]]</code>	Sheet	On output, this mark displays the Staccato pattern number that is used to screen the separation. For example, Cyan may be 1, Magenta may be 2, and so on.
<code>[\$[iccprofile]]</code>	Page Sheet	The path and name of the ICC profile used during color management.
<code>[\$[ImpBleedSizeX]]</code>	Sheet	The horizontal bleed size of the imposition.
<code>[\$[ImpBleedSizeY]]</code>	Sheet	The vertical bleed size of the imposition.
<code>[\$[ImpPlanName]]</code>	Sheet	The name of the imposition plan used to create the output.
<code>[\$[ImpTrimSizeX]]</code>	Sheet	The horizontal trim size of the page position closest to the mark as defined in the imposition plan.
<code>[\$[ImpTrimSizeY]]</code>	Sheet	The vertical trim size of the page position closest to the mark as defined in the imposition plan.
<code>[\$[ImpRasterScaleX]]</code> or <code>[\$[IRSX]]</code>	Sheet	The horizontal raster scaling amount applied to the surface.
<code>[\$[ImpRasterScaleY]]</code> or <code>[\$[IRSY]]</code>	Sheet	The vertical raster scaling amount applied to the surface.
<code>[\$[ImpVectorScaleX]]</code> or <code>[\$[IVSX]]</code>	Sheet	The horizontal vector scaling amount applied to the surface.
<code>[\$[ImpVectorScaleY]]</code> or <code>[\$[IVSY]]</code>	Sheet	The vertical vector scaling amount applied to the surface.
<code>[\$[Job]]</code>	Sheet	The Prinergy Evo job name. When you submit a process through the Template Palette, you can specify a job name in the Process Start dialog box, <b>Job name</b> box.
<code>[\$[JobID]]</code>	Sheet	The Preps job identification.

<code>[\$Jobname]</code>	Sheet	The Prinergy Evo job name and process name. When you submit a process through the Template Palette, you can specify a job name in the Process Start dialog box, <b>Job name</b> box. The process name is the text that displays in the <b>Name</b> field in the dialog box.
<code>[\$MarksFileDate]</code>	Sheet	Prints out the time of the marks PDF in %D:%M:%Y format.
<code>[\$MarksFileTime]</code>	Sheet	Prints out the time of the marks PDF in %H:%M:%S format.
<code>[\$MappedPrintingColors]</code>	Sheet	This displays the names of colors that were mapped to other spot or process colors during output.
<code>[\$medium]</code>	Sheet	The applied Harmony medium.
<code>[\$OutputComment]</code>	Page Sheet	The value in the <b>Output Comment</b> box on the Process Start dialog box.
<code>[\$OutputDate]</code> , <code>[\$Date]</code>	Sheet	<p>The date the output is created (yy-mm-dd). If you use the <code>[\$OutputDate]</code> mark, the format is yy-mm-dd. If you use the <code>[\$Date]</code> mark, the format can be adjusted using these tags:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• %y for year (two digits)</li> <li>• %Y for Year (four digits)</li> <li>• %m for month</li> <li>• %b for month (3 characters)</li> <li>• %d date</li> </ul> <p>For example, to create a mark that shows the month, day and year, the tag could be <code>[\$date_%b-%d-%Y]</code> for Mar-11-2006. The tags are case sensitive and the underscore after the date in the variable is required. Separate the tags using colons or dashes. Spaces and underscores are supported.</p>
<code>[\$OutputMonthYear]</code>	Sheet	Prints the date in %M-%Y format on output.

<code>[\$OutputTime], [\$Time]</code>	Sheet	<p>The time the output is created (hh:mm:ss). If you use the <code>[\$OutputTime]</code> mark, the format is hh:mm:ss. If you use the <code>[\$Time]</code> mark, the format can be adjusted using these tags:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• %H for hour</li> <li>• %M for minute</li> <li>• %S for second</li> </ul> <p>For example, to create a mark that shows only the hour and minutes, the tag could be <code>[\$time_%H:%M]</code> for 4:15. The tags are case sensitive and the underscore after the time in the variable is required. Separate the tags using colons or dashes. Spaces and underscores are supported.</p>
<code>[\$PageColor] [\$PageColour]</code>	Page	Prints the colors that exist in the PDF page that is closest to the variable mark. For example, if a page contains Cyan, Magenta, and Black, this mark will display Cyan (in cyan), Magenta (in magenta), and Black (in black).
<code>[\$PageFileDate]</code>	Page	The date that the PDF page was created. This mark prints the date on each layer if additional layers are present.
<code>[\$PageFileName]</code>	Page	The name of the PDF page that is closest to the PDF file containing the variable mark.
<code>[\$PageFileTime]</code>	Page	The time that the PDF page was created. This mark prints the time on each layer if additional layers are present.
<code>[\$PageName]</code>	Page	The name of the PDF page that is closest to the variable mark. This mark will print out the page file name used for each layer, if additional layers (versions) are present.
<code>[\$PagePositionName]</code>	Page	The page position name for the PDF page closest to the variable mark. Page position names are the identifiers used to indicate position within a page set.
<code>[\$PagePositionNumber], [\$PPN]</code>	Page	The page position number for the PDF page closest to the variable mark. Page position numbers are the identifiers used to indicate position within a page set.
<code>[\$PageOffsetX] [\$POX]</code>	Page	The horizontal offset of the page closest to the PDF file containing the variable mark.

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`\${PositionNumber}`	Page	The page position number for the PDF page closest to the variable mark. Page position numbers are the identifiers used to indicate position within a page set.
`\${PrintingOrder}`	Sheet	The order that colors will be printed on press.
`\${Processname}`	Page	Name of the process name. The process name is the text that displays in the <b>Name</b> field in the Process Start dialog box, which appears when you add input files to a process template.
`\${ProcessPlanName}` `\${ProcessTemplateName}`		The name of the output process template used to create the output.
`\${ResolutionX}` `\${RX}`	Sheet	The horizontal resolution of the output.
`\${ResolutionY}` `\${RY}`	Sheet	The vertical resolution of the output.
`\${RIP}`	Sheet	The RIP that was used for output, either Adobe CPSI or the Adobe PDF Print Engine.
`\${ScreenRuling}`, `\${SR}`	Sheet	The default or override line screen ruling used during output. For AM screening, this refers to the size of the screen ruling in lines per inch (lpi). For FM screening, this refers to feature size in microns.
`\${ScreenSystem}`	Sheet	The default or override screening system family name used for the output.
`\${Sheet}`	Sheet	The sheet number.
`\${Signature}`, `\${SIG}`	Sheet	The signature number.
`\${SnapshotNumber}`	Page Sheet	A ColorFlow snapshot captures the state of the entire color database, making its elements available to the workflow, as well as providing a convenient backup.
`\${SurfaceID}`, `\${SID}`	Sheet	The surface ID of the plate. If the plate is the front side, "U" is printed. If the plate is the back side, "L" is printed.
`\${SurfaceLetter}`, `\${SL}`	Sheet	The letter identifier for the surface. For example, a four-surface signature for a dual web press would be labeled A through D.
`\${SurfaceName}`, `\${SN}`	Sheet	The name of the surface-either Front or Back.
`\${UnmappedColorsOnSurface}` `\${UnmappedColoursOnSurface}`	Sheet	The list of colors that you'd get for the surface, had you not mapped spots to process.



<code>\$(username)</code>	Sheet	Identifies the user that ran the output process.
<code>\$(VMResolution)</code>	Sheet	The Variable Mainscan Imaging (VMI) resolution that is added to the VMI <b>dpi</b> box. The <b>dpi</b> box is located in the <b>Device</b> section of the output from PDF, output from imposition, and output from TIFF process templates.
<code>\$(WebGrowthExpansionX), \$(WGEX) [ WebGrowthExpansionY], \$(WGEY)</code>	Sheet	The actual web growth distortion factor on the plate. Use these marks to show the horizontal or vertical web growth expansion factor that was used for the separation as specified by "expansion xpercent" in the XML profile file (with suffix .wpg ).
<code>\$(WebGrowthProfile)</code>	Sheet	Name of the web growth profile used, if a web growth profile is selected in the process template.
<code>\$(WebGrowthTowerID), \$(WGTID)</code>	Sheet	Shows the tower ID for the separation as specified in the tower-color map file. The tower-color file is a text file that specifies the names of the color separations in a file and the number of the press color tower running each color.
<code>\$(Workstyle)</code>	Sheet	The imposition's workstyle, such as "sheetwise ."