

Creating solid cutback curves

To avoid putting too much ink onto the substrate, some print applications, such as gravure, require solid areas be screened. To screen solids you will need to create a “solid cutback” Transfer Curve in ColorFlow. The solid cutback curve can be used as is, or can be applied as a Print Curve to fingerprint your print condition and create a final Print Calibration curve.

Creating a solid cutback Transfer curve in ColorFlow is not an intuitive process, because you cannot use the default method of setting Tint In/Out Points (node-based editing).

Use the following method to create a solid cutback Transfer Curve.

1. In the **Print Curves** tab, under **Transfer Curves**, click the **Add** button .
2. Go to the Curve Parameters viewing panel on the right side of the window and enter specifications from top to bottom.
3. Enter a name for your curve and leave the **Show in Prinergy** check box selected to make it visible in Prinergy.
4. Under **Device Condition**, enter or select appropriate device condition values.
5. Under **Curve Channels**, select **One channel for CMYK** or **Separate Channels for CMYK**, as appropriate. (If you eventually intend to align your print condition to an ISO standard or G7, you will need to select **Separate Channels for CMYK**.)
6. Add any required **Spot Inks**. (You will have to click the **Apply** button to make any new Spot Inks visible under **Curve Definition** in the next step.)
7. Under **Curve Definition** choose **CMYK** or **Spot** as appropriate. (If you’ve selected **Separate channels for CMYK**, you will need to repeat the following procedure for each **C M Y K** channel.)
8. From the **Curve Origin drop-down menu**, click **Custom Shape** and click **Apply**.
9. Now click the **Adjust** button at the bottom of the panel and click **OK** to accept the warning.
10. In the **Transfer Curve Adjustments** panel that appears, click **Transfer Curves**.
11. Click in the **Tint In** entry box, enter **100** and press **Tab**.
12. The **Tint In** and **Tint Out** values will change to **99.90**.
13. In **Tint Out**, enter the desired solid cutback value (eg. **80%**) and press **Apply**. The solid cutback curve has been created.
14. Hit the **Close** button to return to the Transfer Curve Adjustments window. Hit **OK** to complete the process of creating a solid cutback curve.
15. Note that if you hit the **View...** button at the bottom of the panel, the curve appears linear. The actual cutback curve is only visible in the Curve Adjustments panel after pressing the **Adjust...** button.
16. In a Prinergy Output Process Template, choose **ColorFlow Current State** as the **Curve Source** and select the solid Cutback Transfer Curve.
17. Also under **Calibration and Screening** in the Process Template, check the **Screen Solids ...as** checkbox and enter the same value you entered in your solid cutback curve for **99.90 Tint Out**. (eg. 80)
18. Output your print target with the solid cutback curve applied.
19. If you want to just make additional dot gain adjustments after measuring the printed target, you can do this by hitting the **Adjust...** button and moving the adjustment sliders for each channel.

20. If you want to proceed to do make a **Print Calibration Curve** to align your print condition to a specific standard, hit the **Add** button  under the **Print Calibration Curves** panel and create a new **Device Condition**.
- Press the  button to open the **Device Condition Properties** panel, enter the appropriate properties and press **OK**.
 - Hit the  button, select the target you printed with the solid cutback curve, and press the **Measure** button.
 - For **Print Curve**: select the solid cutback curve you applied when you output the target and proceed to measure the target.
 - Press Close, hit the  button on the Device Condition, choose the desired **Target** print condition and press **OK**.
 - Make sure that **Show curves in Prinergy** is checked.
 - Create a new output process template with the **Print Curve** you just created selected under **ColorFlow Current State Curve Source**.