

Activity 2: Create an AutoGang job with hot folders

AutoGang with hot folders

If you are using a Prinergy workflow system that Preps monitors, this feature allows you to create hot folders, either on the local drive or on the hot folders share. Regardless of how you use the hot folders, you must set up the root hot folder in the Preferences dialog box. After setting up hot folders, you can create quantity-based folders and select to either manually or automatically print AutoGanged layouts.

Setting up the root hot folder

1. On your Desktop, create a new folder called `Preps AutoGang Hot Folder`.
2. Perform one of the following actions depending on your client operating system:
 - Macintosh: Select **Preps > Preferences**.
 - Windows: Select **Edit > Preferences**.
3. In the Preferences dialog box, select the **AutoGang** tab.
4. In the **Root Hot Folder** box, browse to the location of the root hot folder and click **OK**.

Creating a mark rule

You may have already performed this task in [Module 4 Activity 4](#).

1. Select **Resources > Mark Rules Editor**.
The Preps Mark Rules Editor application opens.
2. In the Preps Mark Rules Editor, click **[+]** at the bottom of the **Rules** pane to add a new rule.
In the **Rules** box, **Untitled Rule 1** appears.
3. In the **Rule Parameters** pane, **Rule Name** box, type `autogang1`.
4. In the **Binding Type** list, select **Flat Work**.
Note: It isn't necessary to provide a value for each of the settings. For example, a generic rule to apply crop marks to all autocreated signatures might contain only the rule name.
5. In the **SmartMarks** area, double-click **Sample Group**.
You can also add an individual mark to the mark rule by double-clicking the mark rather than the marks group.
Sample Group appears in the **Marks to be added** area.
6. Click **Save Rules**.

Setting up an AutoGang hot folder

1. In your root hot folder, set up the following sub-folders: `JDF Layouts`, `Product Files`, and `Jobs`.
2. In the **Resources** pane, click **AutoGang** to expand the list.
3. Select **Manual print**.
4. Click **[+]**.

5. In the **AutoGang Hot Folder Name** box, type a name.
In this case, type `MyCo`.
6. In the **Scan every** box, change the number of minutes to 5.
7. In the **Quantity Folders** boxes, type 100, 250, 375, and 500.
8. In the **Output ganged layout to** box, browse to and select the `JDF Layouts` folder.
9. In the **Move product files to** box, browse to and select the `Product Files` folder.
10. In the **Output Preps .job files to** box, browse to and select the `Jobs` folder.
11. Click **OK**.

AutoGanging a job

Requirement: Use the files from the `Activity files` folder for this activity.

1. Locate these training files in the `Flatwork` folder:
 - `BrassiaPostcard.pdf`
 - `Flyer2pg_Spa.pdf`
 - `OrchidBusinessCard2.pdf`
 - `OrchidBusinessCard3.pdf`
2. Add the files to the quantity-based folders as follows:
 - a. Add `BrassiaPostcard.pdf` to the 100 folder
 - b. Add `OrchidBusinessCard2.pdf` to the 250 folder
 - c. Add `Flyer2pg_Spa.pdf` to the 375 folder
 - d. Add `OrchidBusinessCard3.pdf` to the 500 folder
3. Return to Preps, and in the **Resources** pane, **AutoGang** list, click **Rescan**.
4. Click the triangle to expand the `MyCo` folder.
5. Click the triangle to expand **Sheet1** when it appears.
6. Select **Sheet1** to display the preview of the layout in the workspace.
7. If you are happy with the layout that Preps automatically generated, in the **AutoGang** list, click **Print**. Preps automatically prints the layout in the format that you selected when setting up the hot folder.
If you are not happy with the results, adjust the layout manually or change the AutoGang preset settings and re-gang the job.

Changing an AutoGang hot folder to automatic print

1. In the **Resources** pane, **AutoGang** list, select **MyCo** and click **Edit**.
2. Click **Automatic print** at the bottom of the dialog box.
3. In the **Print** list, select when you want Preps to automatically print AutoGang jobs.
4. (Optional) Adjust how much of the sheet must be used before printing by changing the percentage displayed in the **when sheet utilization is above** box.
5. Click **OK**.

Note: To remove a hot folder from **Automatic print**, click **[-]**.