

DeviceN

DeviceN is needed to preserve spot colour information required for a composite printing workflow and for proper PDF generation.

DeviceN colour spaces

PostScript 3 and PDF 1.3 introduced the DeviceN colour space, which allows arbitrary combinations of colour channels for composite printing. Such colour channel combinations include the widely known Pantone® Hexachrome™ six channel colour system, or CMYK plus two spot colours, or Black plus one spot colour. Without the DeviceN colour space, images with such channel combinations cannot be represented in composite PostScript and PDF; they can be approximated with CMYK colours only. DeviceN colour spaces can be used both for composite printing and for in-RIP separations.

The advantage of DeviceN colour spaces is that many more colour combinations with spot colours can be expressed for composite printing, they come into full play when printed on a device with separate physical colour channels.

There are two disadvantages of DeviceN. The first problem is that many devices in use do not yet support PostScript 3 with DeviceN. Printing jobs with DeviceN color spaces on these devices will result in PostScript errors. The second problem is DeviceN colour spaces are used frequently to express spot colours, and no CMYK based printer, not even a proof printer, can reproduce spot colours adequately.

Documents with spot colours can only be reproduced and viewed adequately when printed on a device with separate physical output channels for all used spot colours. This means that all CMYK or RGB based devices cannot reproduce documents with spot colours adequately. It even applies to the screen view of PDF documents with spot colours generated by Adobe Acrobat.

Please supply separated proofs altogether with your composite PDF if you use DeviceN colour space in you artwork.