

FirstPROOF v1.5 Release Notes

The 1.5 version of FirstPROOF marks another significant step forward for Hamillroad Software, as FirstPROOF has been further re-engineered internally to use a well designed flexible class hierarchy with substantial class inheritance. This has allowed us to build a common viewing platform on top of classes to handle different viewing capabilities.

As a result, the FirstPROOF product has now expanded to a family of FirstPROOF products; FirstPROOF PGB, FirstPROOF TIFF and FirstPROOF Dual.

In the PGB version we support Harlequin RIP-PGBs, in the TIFF version TIFF files and in the Dual both Harlequin RIP-PGBs and TIFF files. Note the difference here – the Harlequin RIP-PGB classes have resulted in a viewing tool which works with PGBs in a Harlequin RIP, whereas the TIFF classes have resulted in a viewing tool which works with TIFF files. We could in fact build a third variant of FirstPROOF which works with PGB files, or indeed with any other image format or RIP.

As part of the work we've done, we've also extended the Viewer API (and Viewer Test Application) so that it can now view either PGB files or TIFF files or both (depending on if you have Viewer PGB, Viewer TIFF or Viewer Dual).

No performance enhancements are in this version (as FirstPROOF is already extremely fast). However, as well as the new TIFF capabilities, there are a number of new and improved features. The following describes firstly the additions to the base FirstPROOF product and secondly the changes added for TIFF. Obviously Dual contains both of these.

1. Changes To The Base Product (FirstPROOF PGB, TIFF and DUAL):

1. The zoom levels have been extended to include 200%, 400% and 800%. These three zoom levels are available all the time (in addition to 100%. The choice of 200, 400 & 800 was to a degree arbitrary; this could be expanded to include 1600% and 3200% (or more) if required.
2. The Zoom In/Out buttons have changed from being an instantaneous zoom, to setting the current view mode to Zoom In/Out. This changes the cursor in the roam view to one of a magnifying glass and allows for quick multiple zooms. A click-n-drag whilst in one of these modes will allow for dragging of the image though. Pressing the Control key down whilst in this mode reverses the zoom direction. A single instantaneous zoom can be performed by holding the Control key down whilst clicking on the Zoom In/Out buttons. A Hand Mode button has been added, which is the default, which resets the current mode to normal hand movement. In Hand Mode, a double click still picks up the image; beware though - in Zoom In/Out Mode, it will do two zooms.
3. Jobs in the Job Name popup have been reversed, so that the newest jobs are at the top (and so are easy to locate – as opposed to scrolling down a potentially long list).
4. There is a new checkbox in the Color Manager titled “Override color in job”. If this tick box is enabled, then when the job hierarchy is built each separation is looked up in the Color Manager, using its name (and alias, using a case insensitive

comparison) and if it is found its original color (obtained from the source image) is replaced with that from the Color Manager.

5. There is a new checkbox in the Color Manager titled "Add colors from job". If this tick box is enabled, then when the job hierarchy is built each separation is looked up in the Color Manager and if it is not found there, then it is added. This enables for easier adding of spot colors to the Color Manager, thus allowing for subsequent color changes.
6. Each color created in the Color Manger can now have an alias, e.g. Cyan is aliased to C, and Gray is aliased to Grey.
7. The demo mode time period has been extended to 30 days. When this period expires, the user must enter a Product Key. The s/w will then function for a further 10 days during which the s/w must be activated. If the Product Key is entered straight away, then the user gets 10 days during which the s/w must be activated.
8. When selecting a folder/directory for the "Page Buffer Path" or the "TIFF Input Path" in the Configure Input dialog, if the "Input Name" field were empty, FP used to either enter the word "Local" for a local directory, or the name of the machine for a remote directory. In the former case it now extracts the leaf part of the selected directory name and uses that instead of "Local".
9. 'Millimeters' has been added to the list of available units.
10. FP will automatically locate a "Samples/PGB" folder, or "Samples/TIFF/Input & Output" and on first boot create a "Sample PGBs/TIFFs" Input. This can be used for providing users with example files for evaluation.
11. PGBs in the MediaSavingDir directory are now shown in the Job list with an Orange 'M', but are not viewable (since we don't know when the Hqn RIP is going to move/delete the files - it is therefore 'dangerous' for us to open them for viewing).
12. Busy cursors have now been added whilst FP is processing. Also status information (in the bottom status bar) indicating the task being performed is now displayed for all time intensive tasks.
13. The Register FirstPROOF menu item now allows you to change the Product Key (if one so wishes to) as well as re-generate the ARF file (or switch to a text file).
14. The "Send to RIP" button has been renamed "Send To Output".
15. A few menus, dialogs and messages have had their names shortened, simplified or made generic (with for example the word RIP removed, or Connection changed to Input). e.g. for Menus - "Set Rip Output Mode" -> "Set Output Mode", "Purge Workspace Folder" -> "Purge Workspace" & "Custom Color Manager" -> "Color Manager".
16. New FP logos are now used throughout, that give a more dynamic look.

2. Additions For The TIFF Capabilities (FirstPROOF TIFF and DUAL):

1. A Filter Manager has been added for use with TIFF Inputs. Filters are created and these can be selected for use by a TIFF Input. This is used to extract information from the TIFF filename, such as Job Name, Page Number, etc...
2. The Input Manager in FP TIFF displays TIFF Inputs and in the Dual version both PGB and TIFF Inputs.
3. TIFF Files can be viewed. Supported formats include:
 - a) 1 and 8 bit (2, 4 and 16 bit formats are not supported).

- b) Bi-level, Grayscale, Palette, RGB and CMYK color spaces (YCbCr and CIE L*a*b* color spaces are not supported).
- c) Scan line images (Tiled images are not supported).
- d) Packbits, CCITT Group 3, 4 & RLE, LZW and JPEG decompression are supported (JBIG, PixarLog, SGILog/24 and 'zip/deflate' are not supported).
- e) Only the first image in a TIFF file is supported.
- f) Associated Alpha is NOT supported.

Further support will be added as per demand.

4. A TIFF Input is created containing a TIFF Input Path, TIFF Output Path (optional), Source Language and File Name Filter.
5. A TIFF Input also has a couple of additional fields: a) Stabilization Time – used to assist in determining when another (badly written) application has finished copying a TIFF file into the Input folder), b) Job Name Tag – used to detect the Job Name when an application uses a non-standard TIFF Tag to store the Job Name (such as the Harlequin TIFF Plugin – although this one we've built in).
6. If a TIFF Output Path was supplied, then the "Send to Output" button is enabled and moves the TIFF files from the TIFF Input Path directory to the TIFF Output Path directory. If this requires moving a TIFF file from one machine (or disk) to another, progress information is shown. Note we do this properly – that is we write a file "filename.tmp" and once the move has completed, rename it to "filename.tiff" – which prevents a subsequent application trying to open it when it's incomplete.
7. The Job Hierarchy manager now understands the concept of the front side of a page and the back side of a Page, as well as Jobs, Pages and Separations. This can only be taken advantage of with the TIFF capabilities, where one can extract this from the TIFF file name (using the '%s' directive).
8. TIFF files in the TIFF Input Path directory are indicated with a Red "I" icon and TIFF files in the TIFF Output Path directory are indicated with an Orange "O" icon.
9. TIFF files in the TIFF Input Path can be viewed. TIFF files in the TIFF Output Path can not be viewed (since we don't know what the following process is going to do to the files - it is therefore 'dangerous' for us to open them for viewing).
10. FirstPROOF TIFF and Dual have their own specific Product Keys (as are classified as separate products).

3. FirstPROOF v1.4 To v1.5 Changes (FirstPROOF PGB):

1. If the 1.5 version of FirstPROOF PGB is installed alongside an existing 1.4 version, then all the existing RIP Connections, Color Manager, FirstPROOF Options, Registration Details and Security Settings (Product and Activation Key) database files are automatically updated to work with 1.5. Beware though that this is a one way process (FP1.4 knows nothing about FP1.5).
2. An Update FirstPROOF menu item has been added which allows you to enter your existing Product and Activation Key (from the 1.4 version), without generating an ARF file and sending it off again.

4. Bug Fixes:

1. A potential rare crash in the garbage collector has been fixed.
2. The Job Builder (Hierarchy) has been fixed to prevent crashes under rare circumstances.
3. A crash when using a RIP Input that is no longer useable (e.g. the RIPs machine has been switched off) has been fixed. This only occurred on the PC and depended on the particular OS and its libraries.
4. A small memory leak per job (~16 bytes) has been fixed.
5. A rare bug in the ruler display (which resulted in a 'solid-bar' of tick marks) for very small/low resolution jobs has been fixed.
6. Selecting a subsequent separation with a single click (e.g. Magenta) whilst viewing a previous separation (e.g. Cyan) no longer disables viewing and so no longer requires one to click on the View button again. The arrow keys now also allow single separation changing (apart from going over a Page, whereupon the view is closed).
7. Best Fit now does exactly that; it selects the zoom level that best fits the current roam view – sometimes slightly larger, and sometimes slightly smaller.

5. Mac Changes:

1. The buttons on the tool bar have been improved so that one can now easily tell which are pressed (that is which functionality is enabled, such as Positive/Negative).

6. PC Changes:

1. The mouse automatically gives focus to the Roam View or the Control Box when moved over it. This allows the arrow keys to function both in the Roam View (to move the image) and the Control Box (to move any selection in the Page List).
2. The Data and Workspace have been moved from their default location in the installation directory (typically C:\Program Files\Hamillroad\FirstPROOF 1.5 OEM\Data) to the Shared Documents directory (typically C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\FirstPROOF OEM). The files and directories that FP creates are also now created with permissions set to read/write for the 'Users' group; this therefore works with all Administrators and Limited Users, but not for Guests (which didn't work beforehand anyway). This allows FirstPROOF to pass

Windows Certification (previously we were creating files and directories with unlimited access, which failed Windows Certification).