

FirstPROOF v2.1 Release Notes

The 2.1 release of FirstPROOF is a major update of Plus containing a number of important new tools, features and improvements, and a minor update of PGB & TIFF containing a few bug fixes and small improvements.

1. Changes and Fixes To FirstPROOF:

1. The position, size and zoom state of all windows (where applicable) are now remembered across runs of FirstPROOF. This includes the main FirstPROOF window, Navigator window, Control Box and Rulers in PGB/TIFF/Plus as well as the Magnifier window, Measurement Tools and Configure Dot Gain window in Plus.
2. The state of all tools is now remembered across runs of FirstPROOF. That includes Trap Black in PGB/TIFF/Plus as well as Grid Lines, View Black, Ink Limits, Dot Gain and Compare Separations in Plus.

2. Changes and Fixes To FirstPROOF PGB/TIFF:

n/a

3. Changes and Fixes To FirstPROOF PLUS:

1. Dot Gain Tool. This is used to show any dot gain that an output device has. Otherwise soft proofs are too light (as the job gets compensated for gain). This is quite unique to FP Plus and is very powerful. As well as dot gain due to overlapping dots/scanlines, pixel/dot loss in the fast scan direction due to under-exposed output can also be shown. As well as showing mechanical/physical dot gain on an imagesetter or CtP device, dot gain of ink on press can be shown. Dot Gain Sets can be created and selected to show what output would be like on different devices/presses.
2. Auto-Screen Tool. This is used to automatically calculate the screen frequency and angle that a job uses. A fast and fully automated version, you just select an area of the image and it does the rest. Accuracy is much better than the manual tool, and gets the frequency/angle correct to within 0.03/0.02 lpi/degrees (or better). [Selecting an area of an FM screen will typically report a very high lpi, such as 600 lpi! This reports the 'equivalent' AM screen ruling if AM screening were used. The angle reported is also effectively the direction in which the 'energy' of the FM screen is 'directed'.]
3. Magnifier Window. This is used to zoom in to 800% without having to change the zoom level. Assists greatly in accurately selecting measurement points for the Measurement Tools. Also useful when zooming in to inspect image detail without having to change zoom levels.
4. Min Ink Limit Tool. This is an improvement to the existing (Max) Ink Limit Tool and shows areas in a separation with too little dot area that will drop out on output/press. This tool should really only be used with the 12.5% or 6.25% zoom levels (or below).
5. Separation Comparison Tool. Sometimes when ripping a job a mistake can be spotted that needs correcting. However, it might only be a small part of a page. The compare separations tool allows you to re-rip the entire job having corrected the mistake, and then check that only the part you corrected has changed and not anything else. This allows you to quickly spot that nothing else has gone wrong – e.g. a font on the system got removed, or an OPI image is no longer available (got deleted), etc... Areas in the

first separation but not in the second are shown in Green, in the second but not in the first are shown in Blue and differences between the two are shown in Red. Areas that are unchanged between the two are shown in their original color.

6. Color Picker Tool. This is used to see the RGB value of an area of an image (as opposed to the Density Tool which shows the underlying colorants - CMYK).
7. Separation Merge. In the same way that we can Delete separations that are incorrect, you can select two separations and merge them into one. This is typically used when dealing with spot colors, where two separations are produced that should be the same. For example if the RIP produces Pantone 123 C and Pantone 123 CVC which should be the same, these two separations can be selected and merged together.
8. Ruler (Origin) Adjustment. The rulers can be moved so as to adjust their origin and align them on any part of the page/image. This is done either by dragging the rulers and moving them (just like the main roam view - horizontally for the horizontal ruler and vertically for the vertical ruler) or clicking in the 'corner' between the two rulers (where the units are reported) and selecting a new origin in the image. The former is useful for minor adjustments to the ruler position, whereas the latter is useful for setting a new ruler origin anywhere on the image. Note that in the latter case, the image can still be moved to help locate where the new ruler origin will be, either by clicking in the Navigator window or dragging the Roam View (as normal).
9. Guide lines. These can be placed anywhere on the image to assist with checking the alignment of objects or imposed pages. Simply click-and-drag the horizontal ruler into the image to create a horizontal guide line (ditto a vertical guide line). Guide lines can be adjusted by selecting them and moving them around, or deleted by selecting them and pressing Delete/Backspace.
10. Color/Density Aperture. The color and density tools can now switch between using an aperture or selecting an area by clicking on the 'dashed icon' above the aperture size. The old method of holding down the Control key to make an area measurement whilst in 'aperture' mode still works.
11. Measurement Adjustments. Once a measurement has been made, you can adjust the measurement by selecting and moving any of the measurement points (a point, corner, or side), or by moving the measurement area around the image (by selecting and moving the center).
12. Measurement modifiers. When making a measurement, holding down the Shift key now constrains the measurement to a 'vertical' one, holding down the Control key to a 'horizontal' one, and holding down both the Shift & Control keys to an 'aligned' one.
13. Density Measurements are now reported to within 1 decimal place.

4. Mac Changes:

1. The security system could occasionally lose its Activation Key requiring that it either be re-entered or worse still that FirstPROOF be re-activated. This has been fixed.
2. Old versions of Norton Disk Doctor could harm some of our data files which could end up requiring re-activation. This was a Norton Disk Doctor 'bug' which we have worked around so that it is no longer an issue.

5. PC Changes:

1. The toolbar has been made larger (21x21 pixels vs 16x16 pixels). This makes it easier to use, permits the two rows of Min/Max Ink Limits in Plus and means we now use exactly the same bitmaps on both platforms.