

FirstPROOF v4.0 Release Notes

The 4.0 release of FirstPROOF is a major update focusing very much on numerous customer requests. As well as providing new capabilities, there are a number of new features which are designed to make FirstPROOF an even more efficient tool to use in a production environment.

FirstPROOF Standard has also been extended with a number of Option Packs: a) Advanced Tools Pack, b) Page Modification Pack and c) Printing & Export Pack. These allow users with reduced expenditure to purchase just the tools they want, rather than having to upgrade all the way to Pro.

An additional Special Option of “Scum Dot Removal” for Flexo Printing has also been added.

Given the significant additions in this release it is a chargeable upgrade. Users who have registered their copy of FirstPROOF within the last 12 months will however get a free upgrade.

1. FirstPROOF:

1. The User Interface has been improved, using more modern tab panels for both the Configure FirstPROOF and Configure [RIP/TIFF] Input dialogs.
2. The Toolbars can now be floated or docked, hidden and their order/position changed.
3. The Page List has been extended to use a (new) Thumbnail View as well as the previous List View. With the Thumbnail View, a separate floating window is used to get the Separation List (double click the Thumbnail).
4. Default Units have been added to the Configure FirstPROOF dialog. These default units are used when a new Input is created, but more importantly when “Open...[TIFF]” is used.
5. The extension used to detect TIFF files is now settable in the Configure TIFF Input dialog. The default setting of “TIF[F]” is augmented by whatever is set here. So for example, the user can now specify “RIP” for use with the StudioRIP, which generates TIFF files with a “RIP” extension.
6. Jobs that have been Output can now be excluded from the Job Names (ignored on Refresh).
7. An alert mechanism has been added, allowing FirstPROOF to be back-grounded and the user alerted (using the standard Windows & Mac alert system) when:
 - a) A job is encountered for the first time (a new job).
 - b) A job has not been output and a certain time interval has passed (an old job).New Jobs are displayed in **bold** and are also underlined (until selected), e.g. “**Musicians**”. Old Jobs are displayed in *italics* and are also underlined, e.g. “*Musicians*”. A (new) job that has never been selected and so has not been output (and is therefore also an old job), is displayed in both **bold**, *italic* and underlined, e.g. “***Musicians***”
8. The Job Notes feature can be completely disabled (now the default). This prevents FirstPROOF from creating the small Job Note files it used to.
9. A Down Sample Server has been implemented, allowing for Idle Time background down sampling. This means that when you come to view a page, it is possible that the zoom levels required have already been processed, leading to instant zooming. You can choose to down sample either just the Thumbnails, or the View [Down Sample] Setting.
10. If the Down Sample Server is enabled, the Separation Ink Coverage percentages are now automatically calculated and displayed (there is now no need to go View first).
11. FirstPROOF now automatically detects (uses heuristics to determine) if a job is positive or negative and enables the Negative Tool as appropriate.
12. A Custom setting has been added for the Default View. If a particular plate size is always used, this allows the user to zoom in to their preferred zoom level when they go View.
13. When the user changes to a zoom level that is not present, FirstPROOF now displays an Orange screen (think of traffic lights). This means that FirstPROOF is processing the data

required and will display it as soon as possible. This is in contrast to getting a red screen, which means that there is an error and FirstPROOF cannot display the required data (for example if a job is deleted under FirstPROOF's feet).

14. When down sampling (on View), FirstPROOF used to indicate its progress in the Navigator window. This was fine as long as the Navigator window was visible. In case this is not so, FirstPROOF now also displays its progress using its normal progress bar.
15. The Paper Color Tool has now been extended to provide the list of colors from the Color Manager. As well as the (possibly long) list of colors from the color manager, there is also a smaller list of Recent Colors to assist in finding the required color. This allows for simpler and faster switching of page color.
16. The ability to process Opaque as well as Transparent inks has been added.
17. The order of separations being view (ink lay down order) can now be changed by simply dragging a separation into the desired position (separations at the top get inked first).
18. The Dot Gain, Tone Curve and Page Color used for a particular job are now retained for that job, meaning you don't have to change it every time you view a job with different requirements.
19. The Modify Feature has been extended to allow the Job Name to be modified. [Note that all separations of a job must be selected to enable this.]
20. Jobs that are owned by the Harlequin RIP can now be remotely deleted by FirstPROOF.
21. TIFF files can be dynamically re-directed on Output to any sub-folder in the Output Folder. The small popup triangle to the right of the Output button allows the choice of "Default" (files in the Input Folder get moved to the Output Folder, and, files in sub-folders of the Input Folder get moved to the same sub-folder in the Output Folder), "Root" (files in the Input Folder or sub-folders of the Input Folder get moved to the Output Folder) or a selection of the available sub-folders.

2. FirstPROOF Std:

1. The Find Tool has been added as standard.
2. The Modify Tool has been added as standard.
3. The Sort-Jobs-By Tool has been added as standard.
4. The Multi-Job Selection Manager has been added as standard.
5. The Paper Color Tool has been added as standard.
6. The Grid Lines Tool and Guide Lines have been added as standard.
7. The Rulers can now be adjusted as standard (either by dragging or selecting).
8. The Magnifier Window Tool has been added as standard.
9. The Selection Tool, View Selection Tool & Selection Manager have been added as standard.
10. The Backup Files option on Output has been added as standard.
11. An [optional] Option Pack for the 'Advanced View' Tools has been added.
12. An [optional] Option Pack for the 'Page Modification' Tools has been added.
13. An [optional] Option Pack for 'Printing & Export' has been added.

3. FirstPROOF Pro:

1. A Duplex View Tool has been added. Pages can be (in some cases automatically) marked as Front & Back (or F & B, or Verso & Recto, or...). Then when viewed together and the Duplex View Tool is enabled, the Back Page is reversed and shown as if 'looking through the paper'. Whether the Back Page is 'Turn'ed or 'Tumble'd can be controlled as well the amount of transparency of the paper. The page can also be turned over using a "Flip Page" button. This allows the user to check the front-to-back alignment of plates.
2. A new Rotate Tool has been added. This allows the user to rotate (and/or mirror) a job permanently by 90, 180 or 270 degrees. If a job has accidentally been rotated and so will no longer fit on the film (or plate), this allows the user to rotate it so it does, without having to re-rip it. The performance of the Rotate Tool is exceptionally fast (subject to network access for extremely large separations (100+MB) if FirstPROOF is being used remotely).

Note that this tool like the Merge Tool only works with 1-bit separations.

3. The Density Tool has been extended to work with N colorants.
4. The Auto-Screen Tool has been extended to work with N colorants.
5. The performance of the Auto-Screen Tool has been substantially improved. On average this tool has doubled in performance, in some cases by even more.
6. The Dot Gain Manager now allows for Dot Gain to be specified on a per colorant basis. This is required when viewing output destined for a Digital (DI) Press, where the Dot Gain can differ according to the viscosity of the different inks.
7. The Measurement Tools window is now permanently floated for ease of use.

4. FirstPROOF Options:

1. An [optional] Scum Dot Removal Tool has been added. This can automatically remove single isolated dots, or additionally diagonally isolated dots (ones with no vertical or horizontal neighbours) from 1-bit separations, preventing scum dots when printing on Flexo Plates.

5. FirstPROOF Mac:

1. The View Coordinates on the Status Bar are now always underneath the Info panel (like they are on the Windows version of FirstPROOF) and so are easier to locate. Previously they moved as the window size changed.

6. FirstPROOF PC (Windows):

n/a