

## **FirstPROOF v2.0 Release Notes**

The 2.0 version of FirstPROOF marks another significant step forward for Hamillroad Software, as FirstPROOF has been further developed to create a new high end version, FirstPROOF Plus, which contains many new tools, a number of which are unique in the industry. Further enhancements have also been made to the current versions.

Unfortunately we have recently encountered several cases where attempts have been made to get around FirstPROOF's security and use copies illegally. As a direct result of this we have had to make changes to tighten up on certain things. The most visible of these is that FirstPROOF no longer saves any settings unless it has been fully activated. So if you create any Inputs, create or modify any Colors or Filters, or change any Options, FirstPROOF will not remember these when it Quits. If you try to Quit and anything has been modified, FirstPROOF will warn you and give you the option not to Quit, so that you can fully activate the product (whereupon any settings that have changed are saved).

Some performance enhancements are in this version, especially on the PC, and there are a number of new and improved features. The following describes firstly the additions to the base FirstPROOF products and secondly the changes added for Plus; Plus also includes all the PGB/TIFF functionality of FirstPROOF Dual.

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

1. The Units of Measurement in the Inputs dialog (for both PGB and TIFF) have been extended to contain three sets of measurements; Page Dimension, Image Resolution and Screen Frequency. The first of these is used for things such as page width, page height, page area, object measurements (Plus only), etc..., the second of these is used for reporting the job resolution in the Info Box, and the third for reporting the screen frequency in the Screening Tool (Plus only).
2. The default setting of "Trap Black" in the Options Dialog has been removed. The "Trap Black" feature is meant to be toggled on/off when required to see black traps and is not appropriate for saving across runs. It is still retained across views though, as are all other view settings.
3. A new setting of "Default View" has been added to the Options Dialog. This selects which view is shown at the start – either "Full Size" (100%) or "Best Fit". If the "Best Fit" view does not exist, then it will be calculated and then displayed.
4. New buttons exist for instantaneous zooms (a "+" and a "-"), to make it more obvious that these exist. A control-click on the "Zoom In/Out Mode" buttons still performs an instantaneous zoom (as per the previous version).
5. The default setting of "Positive/Negative" is now remembered across runs of FirstPROOF.
6. Multiple job selection is now available in the case of where one wants to view separations across multiple jobs. E.g. if one RIPs a job, deletes the Black and then re-rips the black (as a separate job). Multiple jobs can be selected by control-selecting a second job (hold down the control key and select a second job), with all the resulting pages & separations being shown in the "Page List". In the case of a multi-job selection, the "Delete Job" and "Send To Output" functions only apply to the single job as displayed in the "Job Name" popup.

7. The Info Box now displays the image area for a job and the file size for a selected separation or page (when a single one is selected, or all selected separations/pages are the same size).
8. New menu items have been added for all the common viewing controls, such as Best Fit, Rotate Right, etc... Since these also have keyboard accelerators, it is now easier to move around the view. A few menu accelerators have changed, so as to accommodate these additions and improve consistency.
9. The memory manager has been made less aggressive; previously it would remove data from various caches when it didn't need to. This now provides much higher performance for large images.
10. Changing the view color of a separation has been made easier by adding the list of colors in the Color Manager to the Change Color popup menu. This allows for fast single separation color changes with a single mouse click.
11. An Upgrade FirstPROOF menu has been added to the Security menu. This allows for upgrading from a previous version of FirstPROOF to a later version, whereby the user can simply enter their existing Product and Activation Key without re-registering the product.

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

1. The ExtraSamples tag with non-zero values is now supported and produces colorants called "Channel 1", "Channel 2", etc...
2. A Filter Wizard has been added to assist in creating File Name Filters. [Actually added in 1.5.1].
3. The filter mechanism has been extended so as to allow character restrictions for advanced use (the Filter Wizard does not support these though). A command such as "%1{cmyk}c" now results in a match for a single character which is one of 'c'/'C', 'm'/'M', 'y'/'Y' or 'k'/'K', and a command such as "%~{ }c" now results in a match for any number of characters excluding spaces.
4. Outputting Jobs. This has been made much more robust, with the space required to output files being checked before attempting to output and the error handling improved. Specifically, the amount of disk space required to output the job is calculated at the start and the user is prompted to continue if there is insufficient space. Similarly, as each PGB or TIFF file is output, the amount of disk space required to output that file is calculated and the user is prompted to continue if there is insufficient space. This allows for either the system (some do dynamically) or the user to free up space if insufficient exists.

## **3. Additions For FirstPROOF Plus:**

A number of new tools have been added to this new version of FirstPROOF to provide more powerful features for viewing, checking and approving images:

1. Paper Color. The paper (background) color can be set by using the Paper Color button. This allows you to see the effects of printing on non-white paper, such as yellow or pink newspaper. [This only works for CMYK or Gray jobs which use a subtractive color space and not for RGB jobs which use an additive color space.]
2. The orientation in which a job is rotated and mirror flipped is now remembered. This means that if a job is rotated so as to view it correctly, it no longer needs rotating to subsequently view it correctly. Similarly, the last orientation used to view a job is also

used for any new jobs (for example if all jobs need rotating and flipping, this is now done automatically). The current page orientation can be seen in the Paper Color button, which displays a 'page' rotated and flipped as required.

3. The Navigator window now displays a 'red box' with a 'red cross' in it when the mouse moves into the 'green box'. The mouse can 'pick up' this 'red box' and drag it (and the 'green box') around the Navigator (by clicking on it and then moving), updating the main view at the same time.
4. The Navigator window can now select an area to view by click-dragging a rectangle over the area of interest. Whilst the click-dragging is going on, the resulting area is displayed. Releasing the mouse both zooms the main view to the best level that contains this area, and centers that area in the main view.
5. Total Area Ink Coverage. When you view a separation, the total area covered by ink is calculated and displayed in the Page List to the right of each separation. This gives a good indication of how much 'content' is on a separation and so what to expect in the view. It can also be used for costing a job – as it will give you a good indication of the amount of ink a job will use for each of its separations.
6. A Tools Mode has been added (alongside the Hand Mode and Zoom In/Out Mode). This brings up a new floating Tools window which contains the following tools:
  - a. Object Measurement Tool (1D). To use this tool simply click on a first point, and then click on the second point. As you move the mouse around (before you click on the second point) the measured distance and angle are continuously updated. Holding down either the control or shift whilst moving around (after the first click) locks the line to the nearest 45 degree axis. Two measurements are reported; to switch between them simply click on the corresponding radio button. This allows you to make a first measurement, and then a number of subsequent measurements, comparing the first measurement against the subsequent ones.
  - b. Object Measurement Tool (2D). This tool behaves in the same way as the Object Measurement Tool (1D), but reports the width and height of the measured rectangle. Holding down the control or shift key in this case locks the rectangle to a square.
  - c. Screen Measurement Tool. This tool provides a simple manual method to measure the frequency and angle of a screen. It works in a similar way to the Object Measurement Tools - simply click on the center of a first dot and then click on the same part of an adjacent dot in the angle of the screen. In order to get an accurate measurement, this is best done whilst zoomed in to 400% or 800%. Holding down the control or shift key behaves in the same way as with the Object Measurement Tool (1D). [A later version of Plus will also produce an automatic calculation to go along with your manual one (in the same area of the page).]
  - d. Density Measurement Tool. This tool reports the underlying densities of the colorants in the job. It can display up to four of these (the first four colors being viewed). There are two modes in which this tool can be used:
    - i. Point mode – in this case simply move the mouse around the view and the densities will be reported. An aperture is used, set in the Tools window, over which the density is integrated (that is the average density is calculated).
    - ii. Area mode – in this case “click, move and click” to select an area over which the density is integrated (much like the Object Measurement Tool (2D)). Once you have clicked a second time, the tool reverts to

Point Mode, so will get updated as the mouse moves. To prevent this, hold down the Control or Shift Key and the update is temporarily suspended.

In all the tools, at any time (even after a first click) you may scroll around the main view (using any of the usual methods – click-drag in the view, use the scroll bars or use any of the Navigator features), or use any of the zoom tools (both in and out).

7. **Grid Lines.** This displays a grid of horizontal and vertical lines in the main view (only – deliberately not in the Navigator view). A value of 0 produces a grid that matches the Rulers spacing, and any positive number produces a grid with spacing as per the current units.
8. **View Black.** This views all separations as Black. It has three main uses:
  - a. Checking screen moiré and rosette patterns. When viewing a job using CMYK, any screening pattern (moiré or rosette) does not always show up clearly. Switching all the separations to Black clearly identifies any screening moiré or rosette pattern. [Note that typically one would further turn off the Yellow separation (after observing/checking the (hopefully small) moiré with it on), since Yellow usually produces a moiré.]
  - b. Easier identification of problem areas with Ink Limits (see later). When checking Ink Limits, it may not always be obvious where any red problem areas are, especially if a job contains red areas itself (as opposed to the red areas indicating saturated areas). Switching all the separations to Black clearly identifies any areas that exceed the Ink Limit, since they are displayed in Red (everything else being displayed in Black).
  - c. Clearer viewing of single separations. When viewing a single separation, such as Yellow, the content is not always easy to view. This is because certain inks on their own, such as Yellow, are not a strong colour and are hard to see. Switching to Black produces a clearer view.
9. **Ink Limits.** This displays the areas of the job where a certain Ink Limit has been exceeded. For example, if your press can only cope with a maximum (for example) of 280% of ink before the paper gets too saturated and the ink starts running, enter 280 into the Ink Limit box, turn on the tool and all areas of the page that exceed 280% will be displayed in red (unless this is changed by the user). Checking this should be done with both the main view and the reduced views (and Navigator view), since the main view can give false positives (where small areas of dots overlap to give a value higher than the ink limit, but the average value in an area does not).
10. **“Find Job” / “Find Job Again”.** This allows you to search multiple Inputs for a particular job. Each Input in the Inputs is refreshed and then searched in turn, the comparison being case insensitive.
11. **Job Sorting.** This allows you to sort the Jobs in the Job Name popup according to Date, Name or Status.
12. **Backup Jobs.** This allows you to specify a backup folder which receives a copy of the job when outputting (after a job has been approved). The amount of disk space required to backup the job is calculated at the start and the user is prompted to continue if there is insufficient space. Similarly, as each PGB or TIFF file is copied, if there is insufficient space for that PGB/TIFF file the user is warned and given the choice to continue or not. This allows for simple backing up of jobs to CD or DVD, where the user can change the CD/DVD when space runs out before continuing. Restoring jobs has to be done manually, either by copying them into a TIFF Input

folder, or copying them into the RIPs Held folder (in ScriptWorks, [SW,] PageBuffer, HMRHold folder).

13. The security system has been extended to accept Upgrade Keys. These allow a user to upgrade from one of the base products (FirstPROOF PGB, TIFF or Dual) to Plus.

#### **4. FirstPROOF v1.5 To v2.0 Changes (FirstPROOF PGB/TIFF/DUAL):**

1. If the 2.0 version of FirstPROOF is installed alongside an existing 1.4 or 1.5 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 2.0. Beware though that this is a one way process (FP1.4/1.5 know nothing about FP2.0).

#### **5. Bug Fixes:**

1. The 'green box' in the Navigator is now always correctly shown. Previously it failed to get drawn on initial view and when resizing the floating Navigator.
2. Screens refreshes have been fixed so that only a single refresh occurs. In certain circumstances multiple refreshes were happening, leading to some slight screen flicker.
3. Escaped characters contained within strings in ARF files have been fixed; previously they were incorrect. This was purely a cosmetic issue and didn't affect anything.
4. Job Name parsing had a bug whereby a gray separation in a job that consisted of mainly cmyk separations would not be considered part of that job, but would appear as a separate job.
5. Menus items that were selected but disabled no longer show the selected 'tick' state when disabled. This now more closely follows UI guidelines and previously looked a bit odd.

#### **6. Mac Changes:**

1. The buttons on the tool bar have been improved even further. They now look and behave like proper push buttons, retain their pressed state, are better spaced out, and are divided into groups (just like the PC).

#### **7. PC Changes:**

1. The screen refresh has been fixed to use the correct device context on update; it now uses the paint device context as opposed to a client device context. This means that it now only redraws the update area as opposed to a larger amount (in the worst case (actually quite common) it used to re-draw the whole screen when it didn't need to). When scrolling by a small amount, this drastically reduces the time it takes to update the screen, making scrolling much faster.
2. The Data and Workspace have been moved from their previous location in the Shared Documents directory (typically C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Shared Documents\FirstPROOF OEM) to the Application Data directory (typically C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\ Application Data\FirstPROOF OEM). This is deemed to more closely follow Windows guidelines for application user data.