

Chapter 4

CTP Digital Plate Making

Note *Only in CTP/CTF version, this CTP function can be used; Standard version has no function of CTP.*

4.1 System Introduction

MainTo CTP digital plate making system developed by MainTop company is a specialized CTP digital plate making solution for printing house. The system adopts new-plate making process which does not need film and eliminates the tedious manual layout steps. The system realized the digitalized, high efficient plate making process and shorten the color printing period of time. Therefore, MainTop CIP Digital Plate Making System will be the most perfect choice for printing houses to increase their operation efficiency.

4.2 Solution Process

A proof of customer's file is produced by using large format printer under MainTop CTP Digital Plate Making System first. RIP procession steps such as color separating, screening, merge will be followed on. Then contents of text and image are directly printed onto a specially coated CTP plate by using high quality, large format printer. By finishing the processing steps of burning, developing, fixing, the plate is ready to be inserted into printer.

4.3 Operation and Application

Among steps of process described above, color proof is produced by suing large format printer, plate burning and printing steps are similar with the conventional processes, digital plate making is mainly completed under MainTop RIP Management System, and its operation process is also as same as the normal RIP process. For detailed explanation see "3.3 MainTop RIP Management System Application" and "3.4 RIP Process". Differences and key points will be described in following sections.

■ Large Format Printer

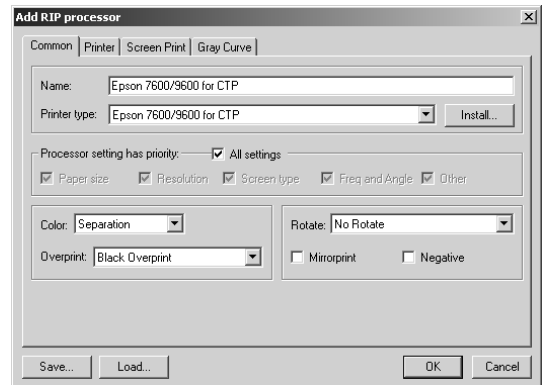
Normally Epson Stylus 7699 or Epson Stylus 9600 printer is selected. Printing format of Epson Stylus 7600 printer can reach 2-fold, and Epson Stylus 9600 can reach one-fold. In addition, their resolution can reach 2880x1440 dpi, which satisfies the printing requirement.

If USB interface printer is selected, Windows driver must be installed first. If parallel port is used, there is no need to install Windows driver.

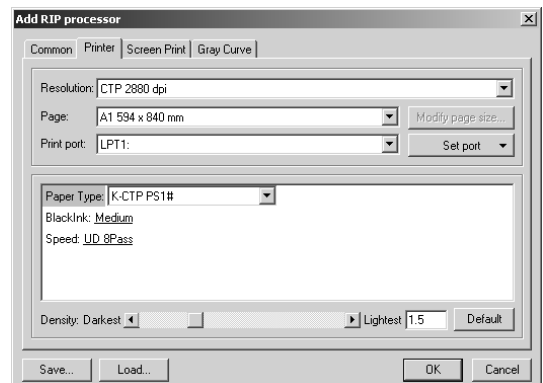
■ RIP Operation

❑ Config RIP Processor

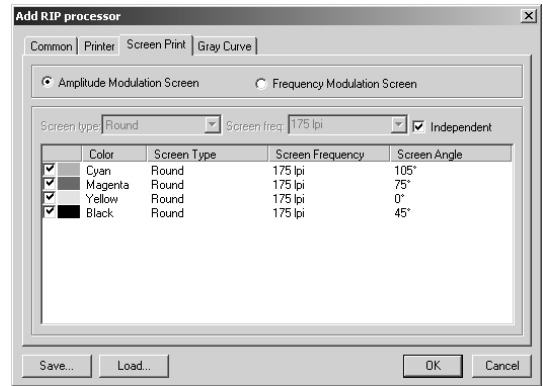
As shown below, select "Epson 7600/9600 for CTP" as printer type, "Separation" as color and "Black Overprint" as overlap printing mode.



From "Printer" options, select "CTP 2880dpi" as printing quality, "USB001" or "LPT1" as printing port according to the interface of printer.



Select **Amplitude Modulation Screen** from Screen Mode.



❑ Imposition

Normally combine 4 color films together. Set size of gripper edge appropriately.

■ Plate Printing

For paper type, select "Single Paper Inserting"

Note *Plate must be printed in dark room.*

■ Plate Developing and Fixing

Density of the developing and fixing agent can be adjusted according to the requirement. When developing and fixing operation have been finished, bath the plate with water, and touch the ink layer with finger lightly. When your finger has the rough going feeling, washing can be stopped.

■ Plate Burning

There is no vacuum need for plate burning. Plate can be placed on glass plate. Plate burning time should be shorter than conventional burning time. Reference figure is 3 quarters of original time period.