Color Management in QuarkXPress

What you need to know to survive

Presenter: Dan Reid
What is the role of QuarkXPress in production?

• QuarkXPress is layout program
• Not engineered to handle conversions or proofing elegantly.
• Do you really need to proof or convert from within QuarkXPress?
What do you want Quark CMS to do for you?

• Conversion
  – Separation from RGB to CMYK
  – Repurpose CMYK objects to a different CMYK color space

• Proofing
  – Monitor soft proofing
  – Hard copy proof of target print conditions (press)
Which version of QuarkXPress CMS is best?

- **QuarkXPress v4.x**
  - Don’t go there! Pandora’s box of CMS problems.
  - RGB workflow a mess between the updates
  - Can’t proof to RGB composite device

- **QuarkXPress v5.x and v6.x**
  - The same GUI for each version
  - RGB workflow better and allows RGB composite proofs
Big Problems in Quark v5 and v6

• No way to easily tell if CMS is enabled.

• Monitor ICC profile not automatically loaded from the system display control panel.

• CMS settings are saved into the document
  – Monitor ICC profile designation saved as part of the doc

• Both versions do not recognize ICC profiles contained in sub folders of Colorsync (i.e. Adobe ICC profiles)
  – Allows only one additional folder of ICC profiles to be selected.
Big Problems in Quark v5 & v6

• Changing separation or composite ICC profiles in the Print dialog also changes the documents color management settings too.

• Converted RGB output (printer) docs do not allow selection of the printer ICC profile as source when placing in Quark layout.
  – Only input or working space RGB profiles are listed.

• No option to change white point simulation in soft proof to the screen or hard proof.

• CMM selected by default listed inside ICC profile.
Embedded ICC profiles in bitmaps documents

• Embedded ICC profiles are not always recognized.
  – Both QuarkXPress 5 and 6 have exactly the same behavior in recognizing embedded ICC profiles.
  – Neither recognizes embedded ICC profiles in JPEGs but does in TIFFs.
  – Must select “embedded” in the color management pull down list to use in the Get Picture window.

• Does not display the actual embedded ICC profile, instead listing “embedded” in Profile Info window.
Good news in v5 and v6!

• Thankfully CMS is disabled by default
• Even if CMS is enabled the default is to not color manage CMYK but do so for RGB
• Must change each object to “Color manage source (RGB or CMYK) to (RGB or CMYK) destination” to invoke color matching for that object
Good news for v5 and v6! - continued -

• Ability change the CMS preference for each color model independently

• No more reliance on Kodak CMS for QuarkXPress v6 on the Mac

• Collect for output allows ICC profiles to copied for transmittal
New CMS options in QuarkXPress v6

- Added option to print as DeviceN colors instead of composite CMYK or RGB
- Added option to print As Is Color Space
New in QuarkXPress v6, As Is Color Space

- As Is Color is not applied when Quark CMS is active
- “As Is Color Space” allows a RIP to handle color conversion (rather than QuarkXPress) from their source color space.
- Best option for in-RIP separation and simulations.
- Does not emit spot color plates
New in QuarkXPress v6, DeviceN color

- Available when Quark CMS is enabled
- QuarkXPress applies the ICC profile that you specify in the Separation Output pop-up menu of the CMS preference
- Emits spot color plates and process plates (CMYK)
- Ready for plate setter or can composited at the RIP for proofing
PMS colors and Quark colors

- PMS colors are handled very differently in QuarkXPress v4 then in QuarkXPress 5 and 6
- QuarkXPress 5 and 6 uses the new 2000 PMS library update
  - Synchronized with current Adobe applications
- Quark created color builds are based upon the solid color ICC profile for that color model
Proofing:
Soft Proofing to your screen

• Easy to select an incorrect monitor profile.

• If “Color Manage to RGB destination” is unchecked for the object, no soft proof.
  – This option controls both the screen proof and separation to the same color model
  – Your monitor is considered destination, why wouldn’t you want a soft proof to screen?
Proofing: Hard copy local proofs

- No absolute colorimetric rendering option for composite simulates separations.
- Hard copy proof will not be correct if “Manage CMYK source to CMYK destination” is unchecked.
Praxisoft CompassProXT

- PMS colors are converted using LAB libraries to device numbers from destination output profile
- Color Manage EPS file including nested bitmaps objects. (Placed images in AI)
- Ensure PMS colors in AI objects (EPS) and Quark PMS color designation print the same.
- Recognizes embedded ICC profiles in TIFF and JPEG
- Color manages Quark solid color builds too
Alright, so what do I do!

- Color manage raster and vector objects in their native applications.
- Purchase Praxisoft CompassPro XT to suitably convert files for proofing and separation.
  - Does not help in soft proofing on the screen
- Utilize the conversion options at the RIP or employ a color server product. (Gretag iQue, or Praxisoft Autoflow)
Summary

• Convert your raster and vector artwork to final output color space

• Disable Quark CMS
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