

Getting the best from Ovation

This month Maurice Edmundson looks at the printing of posters, news-sheets and other large documents in Ovation.

Ovation can handle very large documents - in the region of 90cm square, although I usually prefer to stick to A sizes between A2 and A5. Of course, how large a size you can print depends on your printer, and in what follows I am assuming the maximum it can take is an A4 sheet. This means larger documents will have to be made up of A4 sheets pasted together, a process

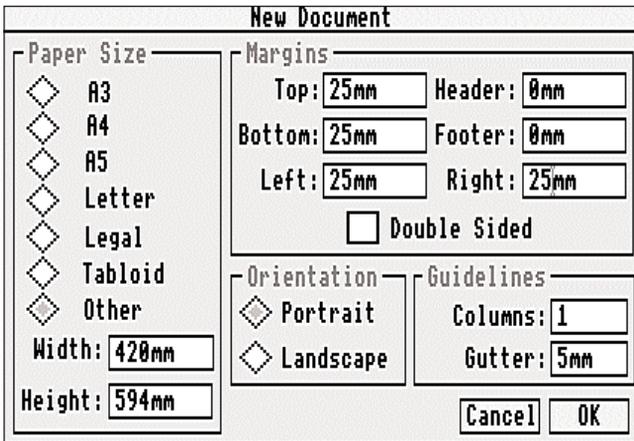


Figure 1. The new document dialogue box

sometimes known as tiling .

It is also necessary to know how close to the margins your printer can print. In my case it is about 8mm on all four sides. On some dot matrix printers the side margins may go down to a few millimetres. but the top and bottom margins on single sheets may be as much as 25mm. The point at issue is that you must design your poster or news-sheet in such a way that you constrain your print area within the limitations set by your printer.

From the Ovation icon bar menu, selecting New Document will bring up the dialogue box as shown in Figure 1.

A2 is not one of the pre-figured sizes, so highlight the other button and type in 420mm wide by 594mm high. For a poster of this size one can choose margins all round of 25mm without any header or footer, and portrait orientation with only 1 column. When you select O K the blank document will fill the screen. Just how much of it you can see depends on the screen mode you are using. If possible use a mode where you can see the full width of an A4 sheet. If you now view the document at 50%, the full width of the A2 document will be visible on screen.

Show the rulers and add guidelines 210mm along the top and 297mm down the side. These divide the sheet into four equal quadrants and represent the four A4 sheets which you will print and paste together to make up the full poster. From the View menu select Show Margins and immediately the screen will turn grey except for one quadrant which will remain white. This is the quadrant which will be printed. By default it will probably be the lower left quadrant which is highlighted. This highlighted area can be moved to any other quadrant from the Print setup dialogue box (File menu) by entering other values for Corner X and Corner Y.

To bring the print area to the upper left quadrant, enter X=-3mm, Y=-297mm (for starters) and click on O K. Now carefully modify these values until the white area just touches the vertical and horizontal centre lines as shown in Figure 2. Make a note of the values and repeat the process for the remaining three quadrants. You then know the X and Y values for all four quadrants.

You will now want to select the various type faces and sizes which will be required in the poster or news-sheet. These can be named in the Para. Style dialogue box and the document saved as a stylesheet for safety

and for future use. Prepare the poster using guidelines and text frames (or picture frames for a logo or illustration) to assist with the layout. You might find it easier to hide the margins for the time being. Remember that the centre guidelines will be where the pages are joined so keep this region as simple as possible. Don't worry, though, if a large letter is sliced in two. This will even help with the alignment when the pages are pasted together.

When you are satisfied with the layout, show the margins once again, and bring the highlighted area to the top left quadrant. Print

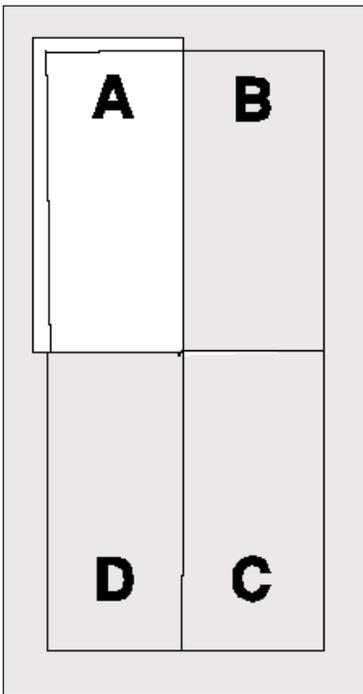


Figure 2.
Aligning the print area for the upper left

this section. Repeat for the other three quadrants using the X/Y coordinates previously noted. You will have four pages of print of which Figure 3 shows sections A and D. Sheet A should have its right and lower margins about 5mm wide. Trim if necessary. Section D will require the top margin trimmed off completely as indicated and its right margin trimmed to 5mm for another overlap with

section C.

The principles are fairly obvious. All four sheets can now be pasted together to make the finished poster. With care a seamless join can be achieved along every edge.

In the case of a news-sheet, the main text will be set in columns. These can be added in the New document window, or directly onto the page. If the latter, divide the page width into

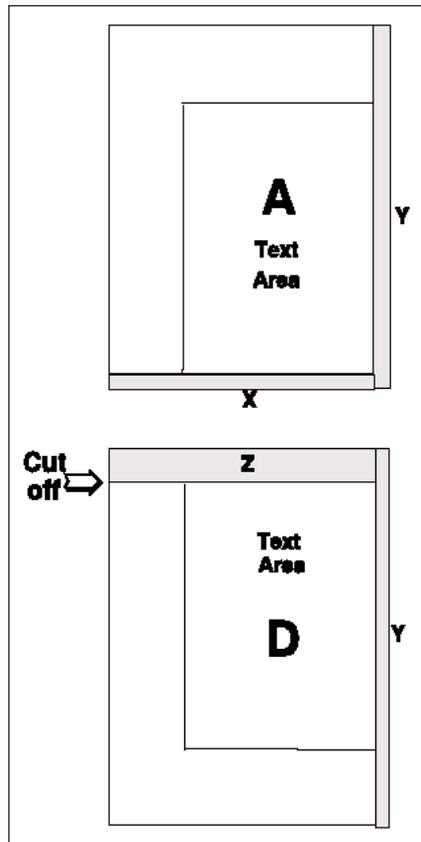


Figure 3.
Two of the four pages which make up the

four or six allowing 5 or 6mm for the gutters. Add guidelines at the appropriate positions across the page and snap text frames to these. This helps when joining the sheets, since the vertical join will coincide with a gutter. The final poster will be slightly less than A2 in size because of the margins which have been overlapped or trimmed off.

Of course if you required the finished **uR**