

AdobeSM Customer Services

Editing Line Screens in a PPD File

PostScript™ Printer Description (PPD) files contain information about the capabilities and characteristics of each type of PostScript printer, including the page sizes the device can output and some of the screen angles and frequencies the printer supports. Many PPD files are included with Adobe Illustrator in the PPD folder.

The Adobe Separator program™ uses the information in PPD files during the printing process. When you start the Adobe Separator program for the first time, you are prompted to select a PPD file. For best results, you should use the PPD file that corresponds to your output device.

The line screen angle and frequency combinations provided in the PPD files are designed to eliminate moiré patterns during printing; however, depending on your artwork, you may occasionally want to adjust the line screen angle and frequency combinations.

In Adobe Separator 5.0.1 and higher, you can edit the screen angle and frequency information of the PPD file in the application to change the screen angle and frequency; in earlier versions of Adobe Separator, you need to edit the PPD file using a text editor.

Tip: *If you own Adobe Photoshop™, you can use the Screen function in the Adobe Photoshop Page Setup dialog box to compute angle and frequency combinations. These combinations may then be used to edit the appropriate PPD file.*

To edit the line screen information in a PPD file:

1 Using any text editor, open the PostScript Printer Description (PPD) file that corresponds to your printing device. If you do not find the PPD file that corresponds to your printing device in the PPD folder, contact your printer manufacturer.

2 Near the end of the file, search for a group of lines that are similar to the following:

```
*% For 132 lpi / 2540 dpi
*ColorSepScreenAngle ProcessBlack.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"45.0"
*ColorSepScreenAngle CustomColor.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"45.0"
*ColorSepScreenAngle ProcessCyan.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"18.4349"
*ColorSepScreenAngle ProcessMagenta.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"71.565"
*ColorSepScreenAngle ProcessYellow.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"0.0"
```

```
*ColorSepScreenFreq ProcessBlack.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"119.737"
*ColorSepScreenFreq CustomColor.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"119.737"
*ColorSepScreenFreq ProcessCyan.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"133.871"
*ColorSepScreenFreq ProcessMagenta.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"133.871"
*ColorSepScreenFreq ProcessYellow.132lpi.2540dpi/132 lpi / 2540 dpi:
"127.0"
```

Several groups of lines are displayed; each group corresponds to a particular screen frequency and printer resolution (lpi/dpi) combination in the Adobe Separator Halftone pop-up menu.

- 3 Locate the group of lines representing the frequency/resolution (lpi/dpi) combination you want to modify.
- 4 Edit the screen angle value at the end of each line starting with `*ColorSepScreenAngle`. Edit only the values within quotation marks, and follow each whole number with a decimal point and a zero. For example, to enter 45 degrees, type `45.0`.
- 5 Edit the screen frequency value at the end of each line starting with `*ColorSepScreenFreq`. (These values are given in lines per inch.) Again, edit only the values within the quotation marks.
- 6 Save the new PPD file as a text file. Be sure to change the name of the file to prevent overwriting the original PPD file.

When you use the new PPD file with Adobe Separator, the choices in the Halftone pop-up menu do not change; however, when you select and print using the line screen frequency/printer resolution combination matching the set you edited, Adobe Separator uses the angles and frequencies from the new file.