Data requirements for FLEXOGRAPHIC PRINTING

File formats

» Data from the following programmes can be processed without any problems:
» ArtPro, Adobe Illustrator with pdf preview, Acrobat PDF.
» Ready-for-print PDF and additionally a view PDF => can be generated from all common layout programs (e.g. Adobe InDesign, Corel, QuarkXpress).

Settings for PDF export

» Adobe PDF 1.7 with layers (Cut or punching contours as an extra layer. This eliminates the need to remove them as individual parts).
» No X3 file, because the data will be calculated flat; images will be fragmented.
» The fonts must be embedded or converted to paths. However, you can also supply these if necessary.

Colour space

» Create print data / images in CMYK, not RGB! Files can also be converted to CMYK in Acrobat.

Images

» The image should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi, line drawings should be saved as a bitmap (tif) with a resolution of 600-1200 dpi.
» If possible, a psd file (Adobe Photoshop) with layers should be included so that, for example, the background can be better separated from other elements (in case individual motifs need to be moved or have extra colour processing).
» Text should be set in the layout program, not the image editing program, so that the edges are sharp.

Raster widths

Raster

» The raster width is determined according to the printing process and the type of paper.
» To avoid leading edges, a hairline is sometimes placed around the raster areas.
» Fond from a special colour as a solid tone remains, no matter which raster width is chosen.
» Fonts also remain sharp at the edges if they are not screened. To be on the safe side, they should be vectorised.

Line widths

» Thin lines are thickened to hold them in the printing plate.

Data adjustments

Number of outs

» When punching without an intermediate cut, the background is usually mirrored, rotated or otherwise retouched so that the wrong parts of the motif do not appear on the other flap in the event of punching variations.

» Motifs (e.g. logos and text) are pulled back 3-5 mm from the crease so that they do not appear on the other flap.

Bleed

» Elements that exceed the net format should have a minimum bleed of 10 mm in flexo printing. In the case of a background printed in full colour, the background must be supplemented if the data has no or too little bleed (min. 10 mm). The image data is supplemented, mirrored or retouched.

Continuous motif

» In the case of a continuous design, the data is modified so that the designs match when the box is assembled.

Creaser distances

» The motifs should have a minimum distance to the creaser of 5 mm. If necessary, the motif must be reduced or shifted.

Raster widths / trapping

» The lighter colour is overfilled into the darker colour. White outlines should be approx. 1 mm thick to prevent the colours from showing through when multiple colours are printed together.

» Do not save screen rulings, screen angles or print characteristics with the images. Trapping and screen ruling are created specifically for the printed image.

Document format

» Always create your documents at 1:1 original size. Send an open programme file that is created in layers and not reduced to a background.

» Settings such as UCR (Under Colour Removal, see above) are set by us.

Fonts

» Ideally, you should convert fonts directly to vectors.

» Use only PostScript fonts, and attach them in a separate folder. Under no circumstances should you use PC or Macintosh system fonts.

» Always select the original font style (e.g. Futura Condensed Bold). It is not desirable to select semi-bold or italic fonts by specifying bold or italic in a program's font style menu. Please vectorise font designs.

Proofs

» Proofs, tailored to our flexo presses, are produced by us and submitted to you for approval.

Technical drawings

» Technical drawings can be produced in CFF, DXF, EPS, PDF, HPGL and PIC formats and can be converted into all common programmes.

Contact

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