

Graphic File Formats

The file format you choose for your graphics depends on your workflow and final output.

Both InDesign and QuarkXPress now support native Photoshop documents, complete with image layers and effects. InDesign also lets you place native Illustrator files into a page layout document. To reduce the number of document versions, and to see the best quality image onscreen, use native Photoshop files in either page layout application. Use Illustrator files in InDesign and Illustrator EPS files in the latest versions of QuarkXPress.

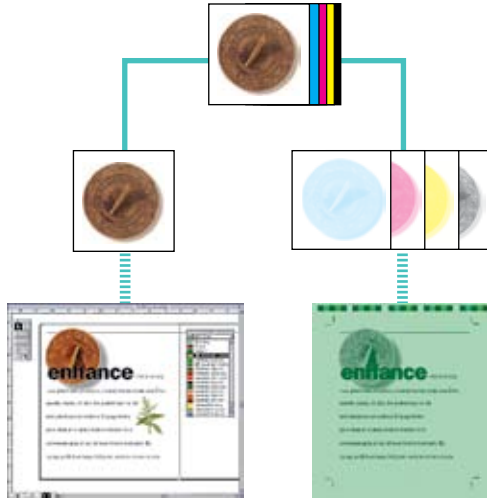
For duotones (and tritones and quadtones), use the EPS format. But don't use EPS for other raster images (photographs). The EPS format doesn't support some of the embedded information needed by the latest versions of InDesign and QuarkXPress.

The TIFF file format is useful for grayscale or color images. TIFF supports layers, clipping paths, and most color spaces. It also allows ICC color profiles to be embedded, which makes this file format a good choice for page layouts.

Desktop Color Separation (DCS) files are EPS files that combine a low-resolution display image with high-resolution data for color separations. DCS supports additional colors beyond CMYK. Up to 24 channels can be saved in a DCS file, those colors created in Photoshop's Multichannel mode. In the page layout application, each color in a DCS image is treated as a spot color.

Photo CD files contain raster images in several resolutions and are stored on a special CD in a format called YCC. Photo CD files can store images from 35mm, 70mm, 120mm, and 4-by-5-inch film. Although it's possible to get film scanned and stored on Photo CD discs, such discs aren't common today.

DCS file (can have up to 24 channels of color)



Low-resolution file used for placement

Separation files used for output

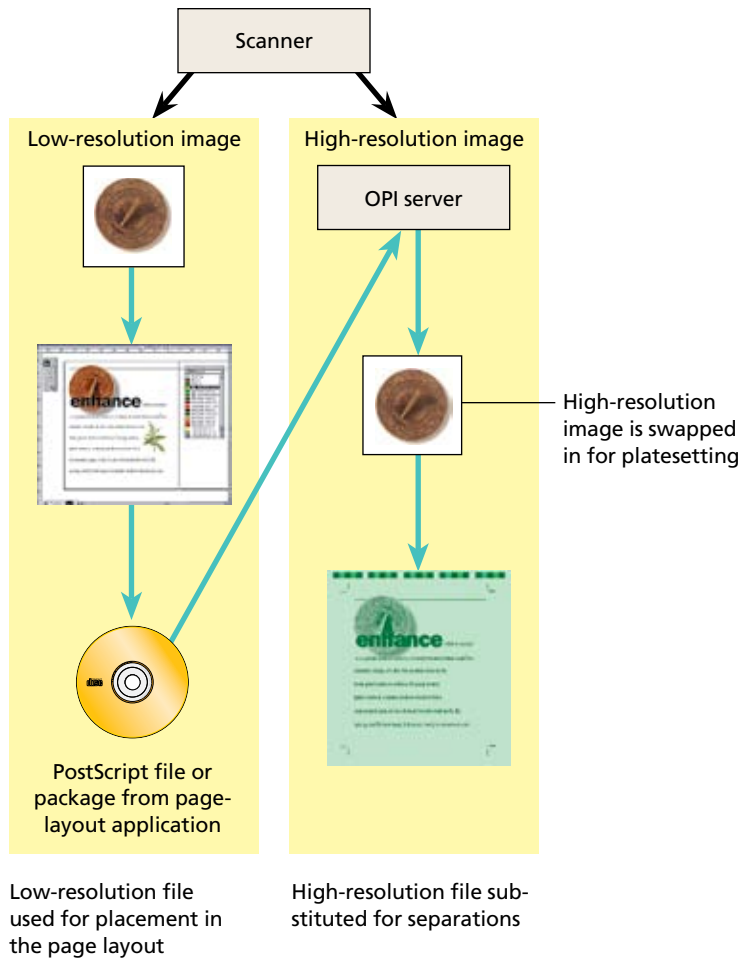
Open Prepress Interface

Open Prepress Interface (OPI) is a method of using low-resolution images in a page layout and then substituting high-resolution images at the time of printing. The process is sometimes known by the term Automatic Picture Replacement (APR); both terms are trademarks of the companies that developed them.

When you use an application that supports OPI, your service provider can scan your artwork, keep the high-resolution images, and give you low-resolution placeholder images to use in design and layout. You don't need the large storage capacity or fast processing speed required to store high-resolution images.

After you create your publication using a page-layout program that supports OPI, you or your service provider can generate a PostScript file containing OPI comments that specify the page, placement, size, and cropping of any TIFF images. Your prepress service provider uses a prepress application that automatically substitutes the high-resolution versions of the images while imaging.

If you intend to edit your images, you must use the high-resolution images; low-resolution images are *for position, scaling, and cropping only*.



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