Layered printing and split head control

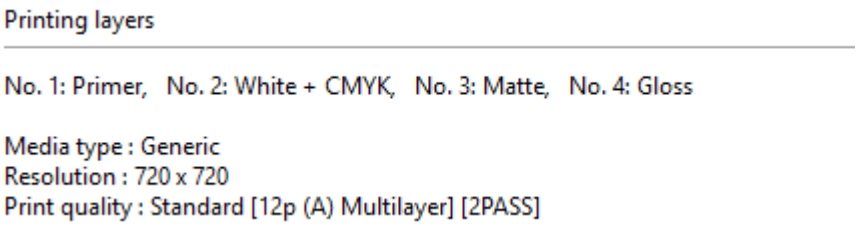
Roland printer drivers have settings for split head control and multi-layered printing

Layered printing

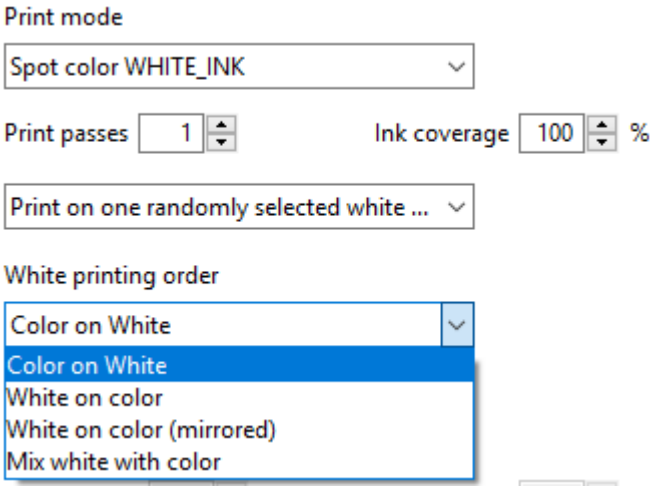
Roland printer drivers can print data in layers. Each color is placed in a separate layer.

The driver prints the data in layers (feed- and drying cycle) to separate process color printing from spot color printing which results in a better quality of colors. You can see all the layers that are printing in the “Printing layers” section of the “Special Settings” panel of Command WorkStation.

In the example below, there are four layers: Primer, White + CMYK, Matte, and Gloss. If any of these colors does not contain any data, that layer will not be printed.



You can prevent layered printing by selecting “Mix white with color”. You can find this setting in the “White printing order” section of the “Special Settings” tab. Similar settings are also available for other special inks. However, be aware that this setting blends the available colors and may produce unexpected output.



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The recommended way to prevent layered printing is to apply split-head printing. Roland printers support split-head printing, which means that the nozzle head can dedicate colors to specific ink nozzles, therefore avoiding color blending. As an example, if “White + CMYK” is a split-head printing layer, White and CMYK are printed in the same pass, but with dedicated nozzles.

Split head settings

Some printers can print layers of ink by splitting the nozzle heads to shoot two or more different inks. Roland printer drivers allow you to select whether to use split heads for printing layers. You can find the settings on the “Special Settings” panel of Command WorkStation. The settings are displayed only if the printer supports White, Metallic, Clear, or Primer ink. The following settings are available:

- Print inks in same layer as CMYK when possible
- Print White Ink in separate layer
- Print Clear Ink in separate layer
- Print Primer Ink in separate layer

If you select “Print inks in same layer as CMYK when possible”, Command WorkStation tries to merge as many layers that are adjacent to each other in the print order as possible. The applied order of colors for split-head printing is CMYK > Metallic > White > Gloss > Primer.

If two colors are selected for split-head printing and the job’s layer order is Primer, White, CMYK, Matte, then White and CMYK will be printed using split nozzles because White is given preference over Matte.

If the print head can split nozzles for three colors for the given resolution and print mode, then White, CMYK, and Matte will be printed in the same layer using nozzle splitting.