



Fiery Prep-it

Fiery proServer and Fiery XF workflow recommendations

This document provides recommendations on how to set up a workflow in Fiery XF supporting Fiery Prep-it jobs.

Recommended version of Fiery XF server, Fiery Command WorkStation, and Fiery Prep-it

- Fiery XF server v7.3.2
- Fiery Command WorkStation 6.7.0.419 or later
- Fiery Prep-it 6.3.0.214 or later

General Fiery XF settings

Media size set up

Fiery Prep-it is unaware of any media sizes set up in Fiery XF. A Fiery Prep-it user must define appropriate media width and height in the Fiery Prep-it material list to cover Fiery XF-specific media sizes.

- Devices without hardware margins

Typically, devices that use rigid media or boards like VUTEk, Matan, or wide-format devices. In this case, the media in Fiery Prep-it should reflect the complete board size itself.

Example: Printing on a board with 2x3 meters recommends that a sheet media size in Fiery Prep-it be 2x3 meters.

- Devices with hardware margins

EPSON, HP, or Canon printers typically use roll media or single sheets with a predefined hardware margin. The material size in Fiery Prep-it must reflect the roll or sheet size from the printer reduced by the hardware margin.

Example: EPSON printer with a 44 in. roll loaded. The media size in Fiery Prep-it must be set to 1117 mm (44 in.) – 2*2.96 mm (left and right hardware margin of the EPSON device)

It is recommended not to use full roll length (for example, 30 meters) as media height in Fiery Prep-it because it will lead to a low media usage (round about 1%) when doing a nest in Fiery Prep-it. Further, the preview in Fiery Prep-it is hard to examine in this case.

Note: In the case of using Fiery Prep-it in a Fiery XF CutServer workflow (see below), the media size set in Fiery Prep-it must also consider the size of the marks created by Fiery XF.

Workflow Layout options set up

All settings for scaling, rotation, margin, alignment, tiling, nesting, and step and repeat must be done in Fiery Prep-it. Ensure that in Fiery XF, the workflow-related settings are set to Off for nesting/step and repeat/tiling, set to 0 for margin, offset, scaling, and left-aligned with no rotation. This setup is needed to make sure that cut mark positions given with the Fiery Prep-it job will fit the printout done with Fiery XF and the related cut file.

Note: If cut marks are not set up in Fiery Prep-it, Fiery XF can consider alignment, rotation, and scaling. It is not recommended but possible as in that case, Fiery XF most likely creates the cut mark (see CutServer and Print&Cut workflow below)

Workflow Job Detection and Hotfolder set up

The integration of Fiery Prep-it into Fiery XF is based on a hot folder. Users must define the output folder as a hot folder in Fiery Prep-it and start the job detection in Fiery XF. Fiery Prep-it will generate a PDF/XML file combination, which enforces Fiery XF to detect these jobs created by Fiery Prep-it. In Fiery XF Job Editor, you can check out the source file information for such a job.

Workflow Finishing Marks set up

Fiery Prep-it allows a fully integrated print and cut workflow with Fiery XF. Depending on the cutting device, follow the recommendations below.

- Devices driven with CutMarks Option

All devices driven with the CutMarks Option in Fiery XF use circle cut marks. The Fiery XF server creates a file format that the cutter front-end software can read. Typical cutting devices like these are the Zünd cutting tables driven with the ZCC file format, Kongsberg cutter using Esko's iPC with i-cut integration, or SUMMA F-Series cutter consuming an SGP format through GoProduce.

Set up the Fiery Prep-it to create circle cut marks for all jobs and let Fiery XF consume these PDF files. As a result, when opening the Fiery Prep-it job in Fiery XF Job Editor, the additional cut mark options for these cutters are disabled. Fiery XF generates, when printing, related cut file with media information, barcode, and cut mark position inside of the cut file (i.e., ZCC, i-cut, or SGP file) defined in Fiery Prep-it.

- Devices driven with CutServer Option

Fiery XF CutServer driven devices have various cutmark types and do not use front-end software. Known cutting devices driven by CutServer are all SUMMA Vinyl cutters and Graphtec cutters.

As these cutters need rectangle cut marks or other shapes, it is recommended to set the cut marks in Fiery Prep-it to No Marks for any job type Fiery Prep-it generates. On the other hand, set up in Fiery XF and Fiery XF CutServer the cutting device you want to cut on in the usual way.

The exported PDF file from Fiery Prep-it will not have cut marks, and the Fiery XF server will create needed marks around the job. As a result, you can cut any file, even with a SUMMA or Graphtec cutter sent from Fiery Prep-it.

Note: The Fiery XF server will add needed cut marks around the job in this workflow. So, the total size of the job to be printed is the PDF file size plus the size of the cut marks. Please consider this additional space needed for the cut marks when setting up the cut media in Fiery Prep-it; otherwise, any job sent to this workflow will exceed the maximum printable area.

Note: The Fiery XF CutServer does not support any barcode generated with Fiery Prep-it.

- Print&Cut devices

The Fiery XF server supports devices that can print and cut like Mimaki or Roland printers. This workflow is similar to the Fiery XF CutServer driven devices that disable cut mark generation in Fiery Prep-it.

In the Fiery XF setup, the Print&Cut device is selected to make the cuts in Printer Special Settings, allowing the Fiery XF server to consume the PDF file sent from Fiery Prep-it. The Print&Cut device will print the job and cut it afterward as defined in Fiery Prep-it.

Note: The Print&Cut devices can be set up to use marks. The size of the cut marks in the cut material size setup of Fiery Prep-it should be considered. Otherwise, the combination of the PDF file size plus the size of the cut marks generated by the printer will exceed the maximum printable area.

Workflow Finishing Contour Cutting Set up

The Fiery Prep-it can create Advanced nestings with optimized job placement on cut paths. These cut paths can either be already in the file loaded into Fiery Prep-it or created by Fiery Prep-it itself or by any PDF Boxes. In all of these scenarios, the user must assign dedicated paths to a cut contour color predefined in the cut material setting in Fiery Prep-it to get the job processed.

Within the Preference setting of the Fiery Prep-it server, the connection into the Fiery XF defines that each cut path created by Fiery Prep-it will have a prefix in its name. The default prefix is Fiery. As a result, a Fiery Prep-it job will contain the following for example:

- A color named, FieryTrimBox, if the PDF TrimBox is set to be a cut path.
- A color named, FieryCutContour, if a color CutContour has been used as a cut path in the selected cut material.
- A color named, FieryKissCut, if a file with a cut path named, CutContour, is loaded into Fiery Prep-it, and its cut path is assigned to a color named, KissCut, defined in the used cut material.

This behavior leads to the following recommendations when processing those jobs with the Fiery XF server:

- Set up the Contour Cutting settings in the Fiery XF Server Manager a color name, FieryTrimBox, to be a default cut path to cover the first example mentioned above. The same can be done with any other PDF Box like Art, Crop, or MediaBox.
- If the original file contains a spot color layer designed for cutting, the resulting PDF job from Fiery Prep-it will create two spot color layers in Fiery XF. The original color name from the file and the new color name created by Fiery Prep-it according to the prefix. In the examples mentioned above, the resulting PDF file will have CutContour and FieryCutContour as spot color layers or CutContour and FieryKissCut as spot color layers.

To cover this, do one of the following settings in Fiery XF

- Ensure that Fiery XF handles only the original cut path from the original file as the cut path. Set CutContour as the cut path and leave either FieryCutContour or FieryKissCut from the examples above deselected in the Contour Cutting settings.
- Allow both cut paths to be extracted in the Contour Cutting settings, but make sure that only one cut path is used for cutting in the final cutting application like ZCC, GoProduce, or OptiScout. In the case of ZCC or GoProduce, you can also enforce that by setting up the cut method to {none} for the related cut path.

Fiery Prep-it can also handle PDF jobs using cut paths on a separate PDF layer. The workflow to make use of these layers in Prep-it nestings is identical to the one using separate spot color layers. On top of that you can define in Fiery Prep-it an Automation, where a PDF layer can be hidden from the output. This leads to the following setup/example:

- Define an Automation in Fiery Prep-it in which you define the layer CutContour as layer to be hidden in the output
- Define in the used cut material for this automation the color CutContour as color to be assigned to be a cut path
- Load a PDF job in such an automation, which has a separate PDF layer named CutContour

Depending on your Automation such a setting will generate immediately or even manually an advanced nesting with only one spot color layer called 'FieryCutContour' and can be consumed easily in Fiery XF.

As mentioned in the beginning also simple paths which are not part of any spot color can be assigned in Fiery Prep-it into a cut path. To do so, you need to manually select this path and select either Move to or Copy in the Prep-it Editor to assign them to any of the existing cut path colors of the selected cut materials. As a result, the created PDF job sent into Fiery XF will just have a spot color named FieryKissCut or FieryThroughCut and this can be used as a cut path.

Integration workflows

Zünd ZCC workflow

With the Fiery XF 7.3 release, you can download the cutting materials directly from the Zünd ZCC database into the Fiery XF server. On the other hand, the starting point for all activities in Fiery Prep-it is the setup of the materials on which you want to place your job. Ideally, the material you have downloaded from the ZCC server and the name of related material in Prep-it are the same. This workflow allows you to detect a related-cut job in ZCCs CutQueue cut ready, so the operator on the Zünd cutter can start directly.

If the material name is not matching, it is recommended that the user set up the same material name in a Fiery XF workflow. For this purpose, select one of the downloaded material names from the ZCC server in the Contour Cutting settings in the Fiery XF, which overwrites the material name sent from Fiery Prep-it.

EUROSYSTEM OXF workflow

Similar to the Zünd ZCC integration workflow, the Fiery XF allows the user to do the same material setup with cutters driven with the EUROSYSTEM OXF format. Starting with Fiery XF server version 7.3.2, you can also download materials from the EUROSYSTEM database. After the material setup is done, select it in the Contour Cutting settings in the Fiery XF for an OXF-format driven cutter (like SUMMA F-Series), and let the Fiery XF server overwrite the cut material name sent from Fiery Prep-it. This workflow will also lead to cut-ready jobs in the EUROSYSTEM front-end software OptiScout 8.

Special workflows

Nesting of Tiles

Using Fiery Prep-it with the Fiery XF server enables the nesting of tiles and a combination of single jobs and tiles in one nesting job. Check out the paneling feature in Fiery Prep-it. After the paneling is done, these panels can be combined into one single nesting and sent to the Fiery XF. Further, the paneling in Fiery Prep-it allows creating panels along with the MediaBox of the PDF job and sending over cut information to the Fiery XF and the TrimBox.

UserUnits with Fiery Prep-it

As scaling of PDF content is limited in most well-known DTP applications, users can determine a so-called UserUnit within the PDF job for additional scaling. Fiery XF can consume jobs using UserUnits but will fail if a Fiery Prep-it nesting contains jobs that have multiple different UserUnits.