February 6, 2002

Creo Spot Colors Plug-In for Acrobat User Guide

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Creo Spot Colors Plug-In

Introducing Creo Spot Colors Plug-In

The Spot Colors Plug-In allows you to interactively check and set spot color data in PDF documents opened in Adobe Acrobat. The Spot Colors Plug-In does not actually change the color data in a PDF. Instead, it adds additional data that can modify the behavior of a Brisque or PS/M digital front end.

> Note: in the remainder of this document the term Brisque will be used, but the workflow is the same on PS/M as well.

There are two versions of the Spot Colors Plug-In, one for Macintosh and one for Windows.

Minimal Configuration

Adobe Acrobat version 4.x or newer

> Note: The Acrobat Reader is not supported.

Power Macintosh (Mac OS 8.5 or newer) or Windows NT (v4.0 or newer)

Installation and Operation

Before installing and using Spot Colors PI carefully review the Read Me file for the latest instructions.

- Remove any previous copies of Spot Colors PI.
- Place the appropriate Spot Colors plug-in (Macintosh or Windows) in the Plug-Ins folder within the Acrobat folder. (Note: Do not place it in the "Optional Plug-Ins" or "Photoshop Plug-In" folders.)
- Start Adobe Acrobat.

Working with Spot Colors PI

The user interface for the Spot Colors plug-in is very similar to the Spot Colors XT for QuarkXPress. If you are familiar with this Spot Colors XT you will find the Spot Colors PI very familiar.
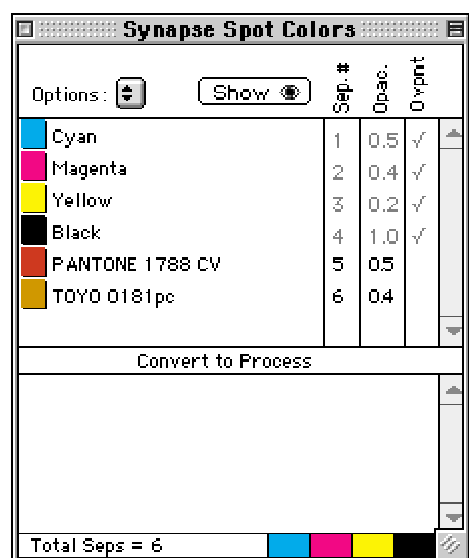
Display the Spot Colors palette

Choose "Spot Colors" from the Plug-Ins menu in Acrobat.

Plug-Ins
  Synapse Spot Colors

Spot colors used in the current PDF document will be listed in the Spot Colors floating palette. If spot color parameters have been previously set in the PDF, they are retrieved; otherwise default values for the parameters are displayed.

> **Note:** Most spot colors used in the current PDF document are listed in the Spot Colors floating palette. PDF colors are handled depending on whether they are "separation" type, "DeviceN" type, or "indexed type.
>
> **'separation' colors** - all separation colors that include DeviceCMYK alternative space data are listed except for the special colors named "All" or "none".
>
> **'DeviceN' colors** - all DeviceN colors are listed UNLESS they are missing colorant dictionary data
>
> **'indexed' colors** - indexed colors are not listed

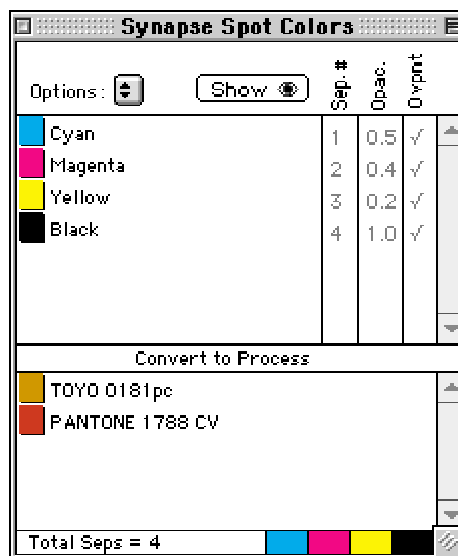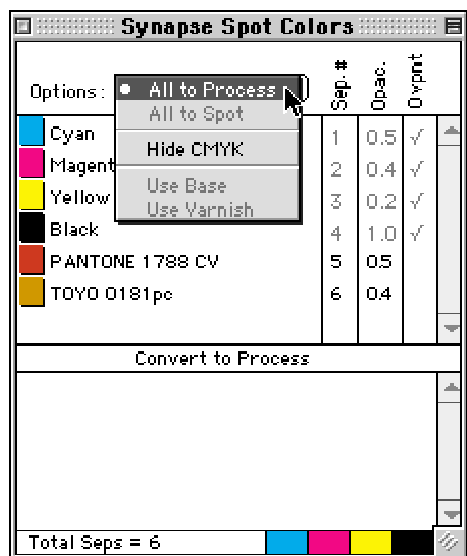## *Changing a spot color to process (and vice-versa)*

To instruct the Brisque to convert a spot color to process colors drag the color item to the "convert to process" box at the bottom of the palette, or simply double-click a spot color's name in the list of spot colors.

To undo, drag the color back out of the "convert to process" box, or double-click it.

Note: On Macintosh systems you must first select (single-click) a color before you can drag it.
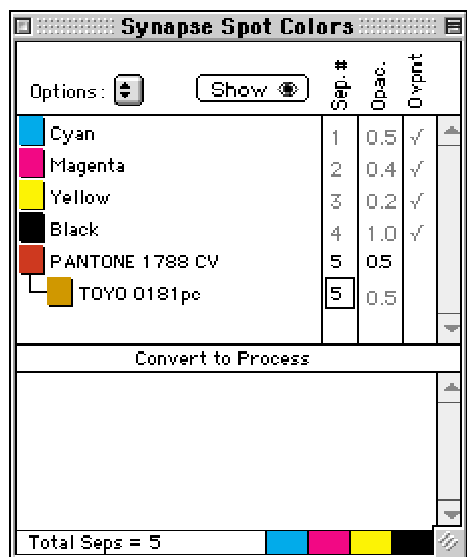
Changing all spot colors to process (and vice-versa)

To convert all spot colors to process, choose "All to Process" from the Options menu. To make all spot colors retain their identity, choose "All to Spot."
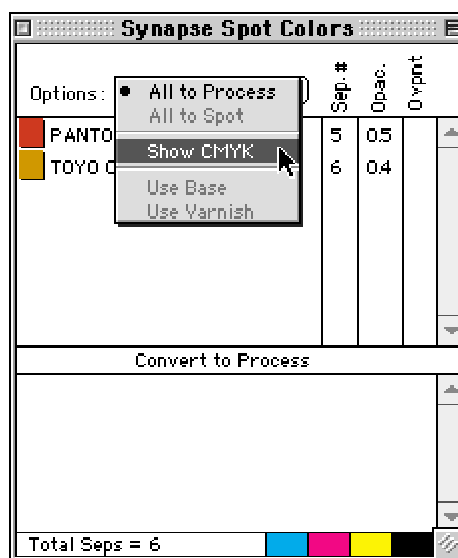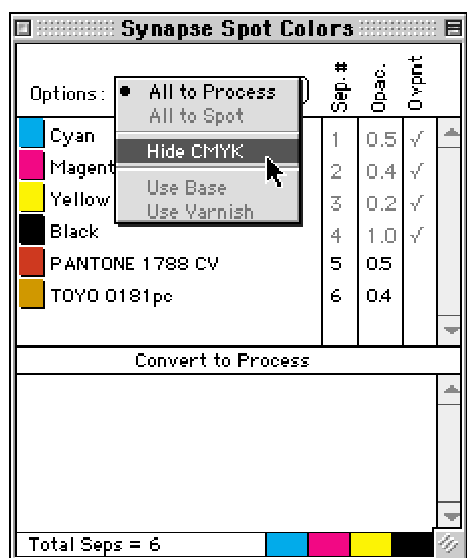
Merging spot colors

Merging a spot color forces image data assigned to that spot color to go to another separation. You can merge spot colors to another spot color separation or to a specific process (CMYK) separation. When merging, you select a "parent" color and a "child" color. To merge spot colors select the "child" color separation number and type in the separation number of the "parent" color.

Show or hide process colors

Select "Show CMYK" in the Options menu to show or hide process colors within the palette. If a spot color is merged with a process color then you cannot hide the process colors.

Change the order of spot colors

You can change the separation order by selecting and then dragging spot colors up or down in the list.

Note: Changing the order of spot colors using the Spot Color plug-in affects the order that they will be displayed in the "Specific Colors" window in the Brisque or PS/M. However, recent versions of the Brisque and PS/M do not necessarily produce plates in the same order as shown in the Specific Colors window. If this is the case with your Brisque or PS/M then there is no benefit to changing the order of spot colors in the Spot Colors plug-in. Future versions of Brisque or PS/M may use the Specific Colors window information to determine plate order; in that case the Spot Colors plug-in user will be able set the order in advance.

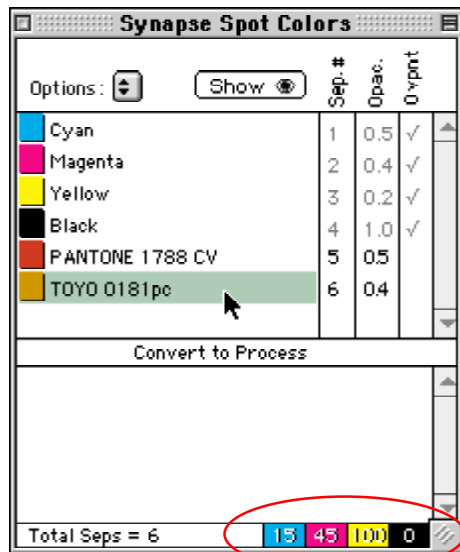## Change the opacity value of spot colors

You can modify the opacity value for a selected color. Select an opacity value and type a new value. This affects the operation of the Framing engine during trapping.

Change the overprint status of spot colors

You can specify that a particular color will overprint by clicking in the overprint column for that color. (A color specified as Base cannot overprint. A color specified as Varnish will automatically be set for overprinting.) This affects the operation of the Framing engine during trapping

Display CMYK equivalence values

Click on a color name to display CMYK equivalence values at the bottom of the palette.

Setting Base and Varnish

To mark a color as Base or Varnish, select the separation field number and type a "B" or "V." You can also select the color and choose "Base" or "Varnish" from the Options menu. To undo, select the separation field and type an unused separation number. Base and Varnish colors are placed at the bottom of the list.

You may mark more than one spot separation as Varnish.

Saving the PDF file

When you save a PDF file after modifying the spot color settings your settings will be saved with the file for later use. However, the actual color data in the PDF is not changed, the Spot Color plug-in only inserts information to be used by the plug-in itself and by the Brisque.

Processing the PDF file

When you are ready to process the PDF you have two choices.

For older Brisque and PS/M PostScript Level 2 configurations, you must create Postscript. With Acrobat 4, either export PostScript or EPS. With Acrobat 5, use the Save As PostScript… option. The Spot Colors Plug-In must be loaded (in the Plug-Ins folder) when Acrobat was started, but the palette need not be displayed. The necessary codes will be inserted into the Postscript so that the DFE can recognize the parameters you have set using the Spot Colors plug-in.
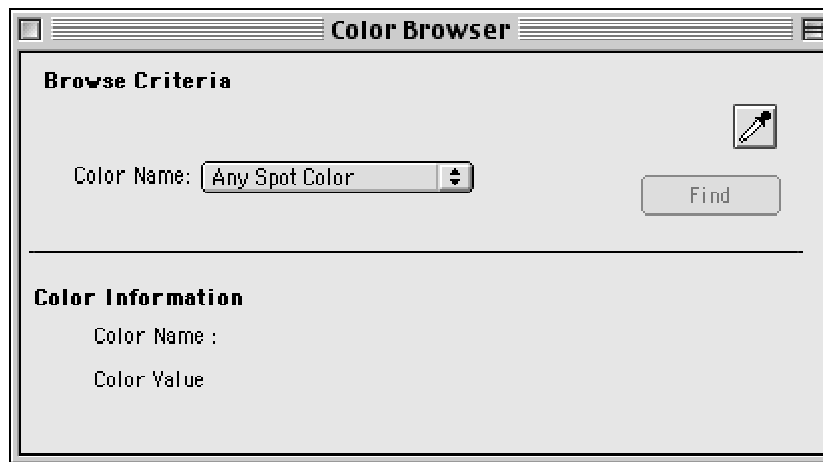
For newer configurations with the Extreme (PostScript 3) option, after you have used the Spot Colors plug-in to make changes to the spot color settings and saved the PDF, you can then process the PDF directly in the Brisque or PS/M system.

Using the Color Browser

The Spot Colors PI has a color browser feature to help you locate spot colors used in the document. Click "Show" on the Spot Colors palette to access the Color Browser.
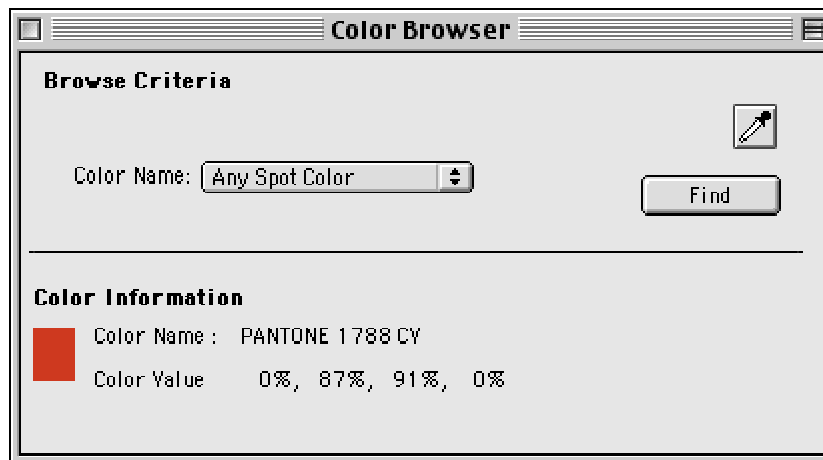

When the Color Browser window appears, you can either use the eyedropper tool to check what kind of color is used on an object in the page, or you can select from the Color Name list to find where a specific spot color is used.
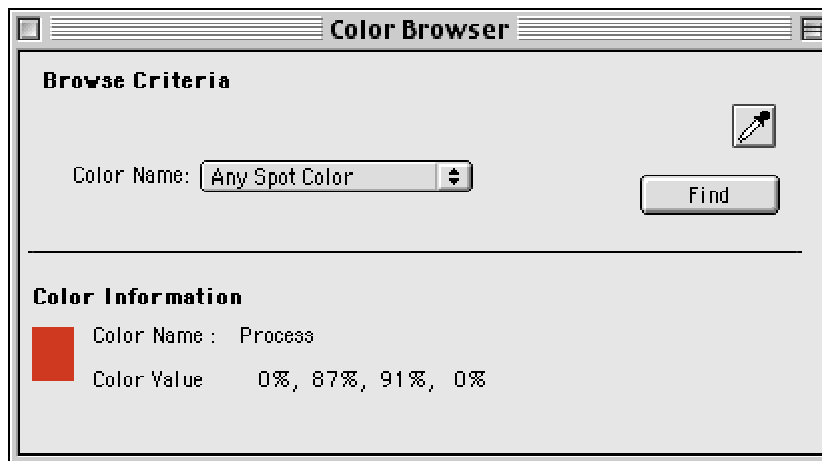

Checking an object on the page

To check an object on the page, first click the eyedropper tool on the Color Browser, then click an object on the page. If the object was a spot color, then the Spot Color name is displayed, along with its CMYK equivalent values.
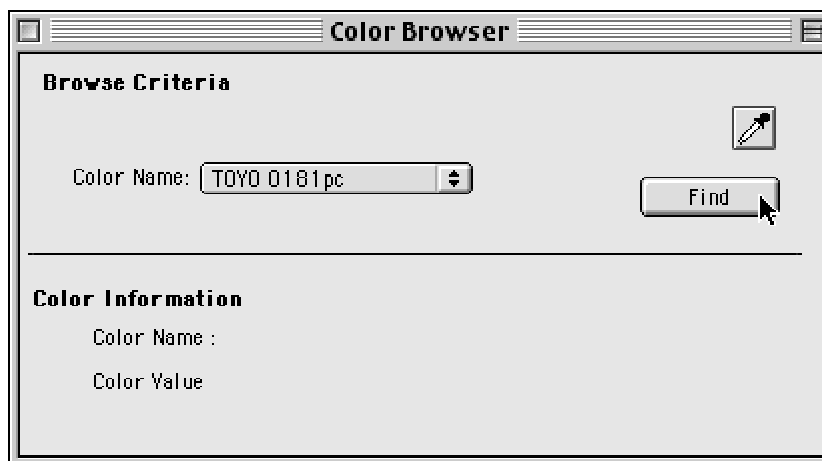
If the object was formed using process colors, then the color values are shown.

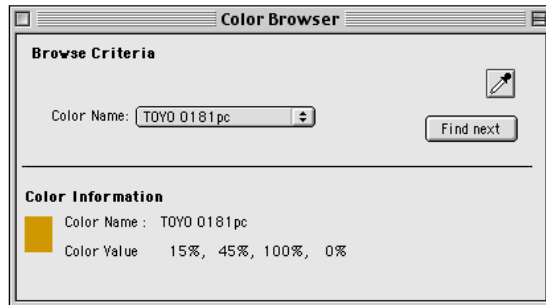

Finding where specific spot colors are used

If you wish to see where a specific spot color is used in the PDF document, then select the spot color name from the Color Name popup and click the Find button.

The first object using the selected color is displayed with a border surrounding the object.

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After you have found a spot color the "Find" button becomes "Find Next" so you can find the next usage of that spot color.

Macintosh-specific Usage Notes

- You can adjust the size of the palette using the grow box on the bottom right. You can also adjust the width of the separation, opacity, and overprint columns by adjusting the line on the left of the separation column.

- To select a number value so that you can edit it, single-click the number.

- You must single-click a color name to select it before dragging it.

- As a shortcut to merge colors, first select a color name, then hold the <option> key while dragging the child color on top of the parent color.

Windows-specific Usage Notes

- To select a number value so that you can edit it, double-click the number.

- You can view CMYK values for colors in the palette list by using the arrow keys to select them.

- The Options menu is not labeled on the palette.