

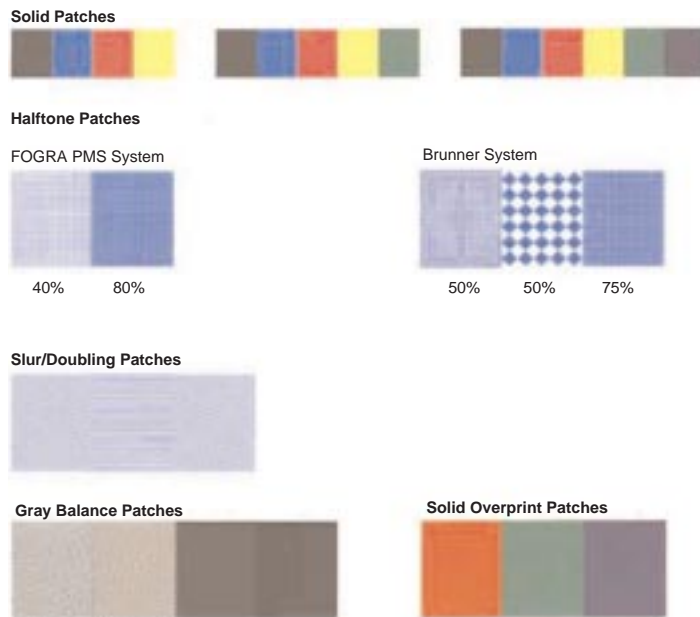


PRINT CONTROL STRIPS

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PRINT CONTROL STRIPS

The solid and halftone densities required for measuring quality control are as a rule measured on a print control strip printed along with the image. They comprise of a combination of solid fields and various dot fields, plus signal elements for visual checking. Numerous versions are available from research institutes and suppliers. The FOGRA and Brunner systems are the ones which have found the widest acceptance. These control strips are printed in the margins and are removed when trimming the publication to its finished size.



Solid Patches

In each ink zone there is a solid for every colour. Solids enable the uniformity of the inking to be checked across the entire image width.

Halftone Patches

FOGRA: These patches contain circular dots of 40% and 80% halftone value with a screen value of 150lpi. They are especially designed for measuring dot gain and print contrast.

Brunner: Uses a 50% fine halftone dot at 150lpi. The patches also check positive and negative highlight dots down to a size of 0.5%.

Slur/Doubling Patches

Uses screen angles of 30 degrees right and 30 degrees left. Allows dot gain to be shown visually with slur and doubling.

Gray Balance Patches

Given correct solid density and a normal dot gain approximately 15% the CMY halftone field gives a neutral gray. This corresponds in line to the black halftone patch on its left.

Solid Overprint Patches

The four-colour print control strip contains measuring patches for assessing the ink trapping in two- and three-colour overprinting.

To see a selection of print control strips visit the **Graphical Arts Technical Foundation** website and download the *Process Controls* file: www.gatf.org

QUESTIONS ON PRINT CONTROL STRIPS

- (1) What do the following control strips measure:
 - (a) Solid patches
 - (b) Halftone patches
 - (c) Gray balance patches
 - (d) Solid overprint patches