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Adjusting the image registration on the plate

When a head is replaced in the field it is necessary to adjust the image registration back to the nominal factory set position to account for variances between the beam position from one exposure head to another. The plate registration jig is used for this purpose.

1. Once the head is installed plot an inchgrid pattern on a plate (either the postscript inchgrid file or the plot 0 test pattern). Process the plate.

2. The plate registration jig clamps over the plate at the registration pin locations. The registration pins on the drum are 20.5 inches (520 mm) apart. Using a tape measure, locate the centre of the plate along the leading edge. The registration pin locations are 10.5 inches (260 mm) from either side of the center. Locate the crosshairs on the plate that are closest to the registration pin locations.

3. Clamp the plate registration jig on the plate over the crosshairs that are closest to the registration pin locations. Take care that the edge of the plate contacts the registration pins on the jig.

4. Plot 1 and the inchgrid pattern have a cross 1 inch in from the edge of the plate. This cross should coincide with the plate registration jig crosshair. Using a 75X Microscope with an reticule marked in imperial units, measure the distance between the jig crosshair and the cross on the plate in the main scan direction. The main scan direction is around the drum and the sub-scan direction is parallel to the tracks. Verify the measurement at the other registration pin location.

   Measure the accuracy in the main scan direction. Locate the edge detect mark. Clamp the jig on the side of the plate over the cross hair that is nearest to the edge detect mark. Verify that the cross hair is 1” from the edge of the plate.

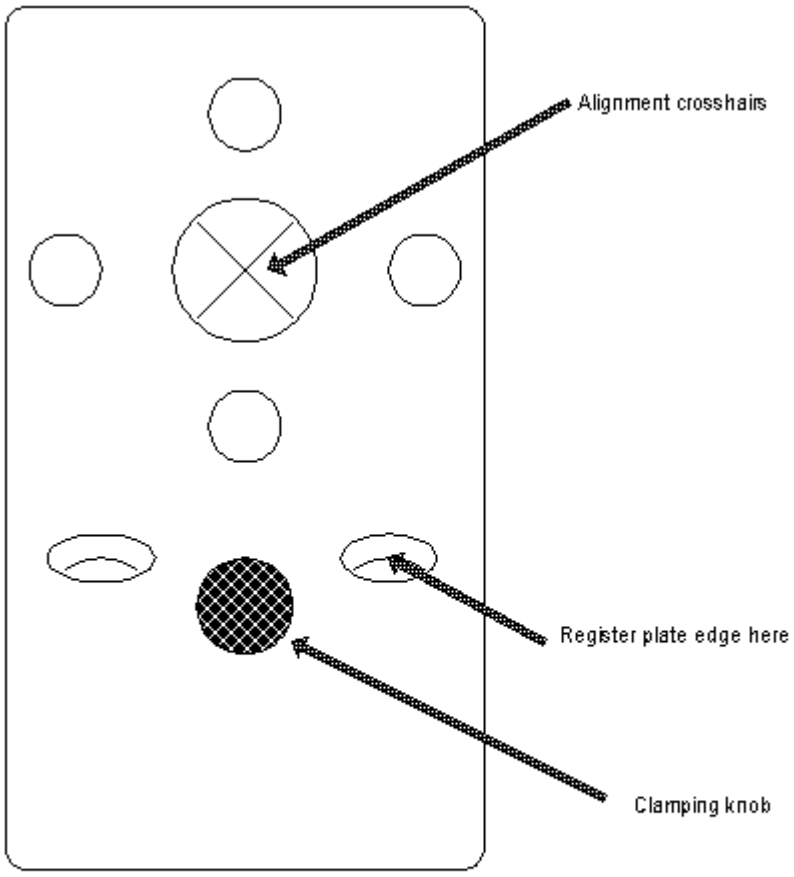


Figure 1 Use of the plate registration jig

5. The measured deviations should be used to correct the main scan shift adjust and sub-scan shift adjust parameters. Normally, only the main scan direction changes when a new exposure head is installed. Type the following commands to access these parameters:

set gc mssa <value in mils>
set gc sssa <value in mils>

6. Increase or decrease the sssa parameter by the amount that you measured in step 5.

7. Plot another plate and verify that the cross is exactly on the plate registration jig crosshairs. Adjust if necessary.

Save the values by typing *nvs save gc*