Allegro Workstation Software

Release 1.6b, Service Pack 1

Release Notes

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CREO

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INTRODUCTION

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your comments and feedback on the Platesetter 3244 system. We are pleased to send you the latest release of the Allegro workstation software, which includes new features and enhancements that were made as a result of your input.

In every design we try to anticipate the needs of our customers, but this is never enough. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable to us and enable us to improve our products and make them more useful for you, our customer.

These release notes highlight the changes and improvements that were made to the 1.6 release of the Allegro workstation software for your Platesetter 3244. Where appropriate, they refer you to the Platesetter 3244 Operator manual, or the Allegro RIP Reference Guide. Changes made after the user guides were published are described in detail in these Release Notes.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Platesetter 3244 system, the user guides, or the release notes, please feel free to contact us at:

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What Is in These Release Notes

The release notes include the following sections:

New Features and Enhancements – lists and describes new menu options, fields, windows or dialog boxes that have been added to the Allegro workstation software.

Problems Fixed – lists problems that existed in the previous release of Allegro workstation that have now been solved.

NEW FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS

Allegro RIP 4.1

This release is shipped with a new version of Allegro RIP, version 4.1.

The features of Allegro RIP 4.1 that pertain to the Platesetter are listed in an appendix in your *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

New Calibration Files

New calibration files have been created for use with Allegro RIP 4.1. They are in D:\PSFiles\CalStrips.

These new calibration files replace the previous calibration files, which were in D:\PSFiles\Calibrat.

Note: The old files have not been removed; however, they cannot be used with Allegro RIP 4.1.

Aborting Jobs if Calibration Curves Not Found

The software now waits until the interpretation part of RIPing is completely done before determining whether the job should be aborted.

This is important because of the way that the RIP interprets the file. Many times curves get loaded into the RIP but are never used for the job because they are superceded by other curves. By waiting until the end of interpretation, it only aborts if the calibration curve not found is actually required for the job.



CAUTION:
If a file is too large to be handled by the RAM on your system, Allegro RIP paints the file to disk when RIPing. Painting the file to disk causes the report of calibration curves used to be missing some of the screens. If the report misses a screen for which the calibration curve was missing, the job will not be aborted even though it should have been. This bug in the Allegro RIP software is current being addressed.

Calibration Curves in RIP Monitor

Only the calibration curves that are actually used in the job will be displayed in the RIP Monitor. This feature provides a more accurate picture of how your file is being processed, and is useful for troubleshooting.

If a file fails because of missing calibration sets, the RIP monitor will contain a complete list of the screens for which calibration curves were missing.

Handling of 180° Image Rotation

A problem with image positioning during image rotation or mirroring has been fixed; however, this fix causes a image shift away from the leading edge IF 180° rotation is used in the page setup. See *Image Positioning Errors Fixed* on page 7 for details of this fix and how to account for a 180° rotation.

Windows NT 4.0

The 4.0 version of the Windows NT operating system is now supported with this release of the Allegro workstation software.

The Allegro workstation software user interface appears slightly differently using Windows NT 4.0. For example, the windows have a different look, and the maximize, minimize, and close buttons are in the top, right corner of the window.

The new appearance does not affect the use of the Allegro workstation software.

For more information about the new features of Windows NT 4.0, consult your Microsoft NT documentation.

User Interface Changes

New Scripts Menu Option

A new menu option called **Scripts** has been added to the **Tools** menu. This menu option is used to run PERL scripts to perform maintenance or troubleshooting tasks. This menu will be grayed out unless Creo Service has loaded scripts onto your system.

Amount of RAM and Disk Space Displayed in Message Log

After the interpretation phase of RIPing files, the amount of RAM and disk space required by Allegro RIP to interpret the file is displayed in the Message Log.

This is useful for determining whether your system requires more RAM or disk space for processing the file.

New Statuses Added to Status Table

Two new statuses will now appear in the Status Table section of the Creo Allegro Workstation window. The new statuses are:

Searching for Edge means that the exposure head is searching for the edge of the plate.

Balancing Beam means that the thermal head is initializing prior to imaging.

For more information about statuses appearing in the Status Table, see *Chapter 2, Getting Started* in the *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

Note: These new statuses will only appear once your recorder firmware upgrade is installed.

RIP Interpretation and Imaging Exposure Times Displayed

The amount of time that the RIP took to interpret the file, and the amount of time that it took the exposure head to image the plate, now appear in the Image Status list.

Allegro Exposure Field Name Changed to Medium Index

The Allegro Exposure field is used to link dot gain calibration curves, created in Allegro RIP, to a media type, a plate type, or a print setup.

To reduce confusion between its function and the function of calibrating the laser exposure of the Platesetter's imaging head, the name of the Allegro Exposure field has been changed to Medium Index.

The function of the field remains the same. For more information about dot gain calibration, see *Chapter 5* of your *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

Enabling Sweeper Option Removed – VLF Only

Note: This feature was for VLF Platesetters only.

The sweeper has now been removed from VLF Platesetters; therefore, the **Sweeper Enabled** option, which allowed you to enable or disable the sweeper, has been removed from the VLF Bay Configuration dialog box.

Thermal

1600 DPI Imaging Resolution for Thermal Heads

With release 1.6b, all models of Platesetters equipped with a thermal head are able to image raster data that was scanned at 1600 dpi, which means that you can now send 1600 dpi files to thermal systems.

Note: To enable this feature, Creo Service must also upgrade your firmware and configure your recorder to support 1600 dpi.

Thermal Recalibration is No Longer Required As Operator Maintenance

The procedure for recalibrating the thermal head is no longer required as an operator maintenance procedure.

The **Thermal Head Recalibration** menu option has been removed from the **Tools** menu, and the procedure has been removed from *Chapter 6, Maintenance* in the *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

Spool Folder Configuration

New Option Added to the Configure Spool Folder Dialog Box

A new option called **Scan input file for plate name** has been added to the Configure Spool Folder dialog box.

Enable this option if for all files placed into the spool folder you want to use the plate type or print setup specified in the PostScript file.

Disable this option if for all files placed into the spool folder you want to use the plate type or print setup associated with the spool folder.

The default for this option is enabled.

For more information, see *Configuring Spool Folders* in *Chapter 5* of your *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

Deleting Spool Folders Now Removes Directory

When you delete a spool folder, the directory is now also removed from your hard drive, unless there are files in the directory.

For more information, see *Configuring Spool Folders* in *Chapter 5* of your *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

PPD and PPX Files

Line Frequencies Configured Per Color

In the Configure PPD dialog box, you can now set a line frequency for each separation color.

As well, decimal values are now allowed for line frequencies. For example, you can now set the lpi to 85.5.

For details, see *Configuring PPD and PPX Files* in *Chapter 5* of the *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

PPD and PPX Created Automatically

PPD and PPX files are now automatically generated when you change information that affects the file.

For details, see *Configuring PPD and PPX Files* in *Chapter 5* of the *Platesetter Operator Manual*.

PPX File Smaller

The PPX file now contains only the PPX specific information which makes the file much smaller. In the past, this file contained all of the PPD information as well as its specific comments.

Name of Workstation Added to Device Name

The Device Name that appears in the imposition package, such as Preps, now shows the name of the Allegro workstation on which the PPD was generated. The workstation name is in brackets following the Device Name.

Additions to the Manual

In addition to the new or changed tasks outlined in these release notes, the following information has also been added to your Operator manual:

Platesetter 3244 Operator Manual

Loading Instructions for Polyester Media – see *Chapter 4, Operations*.

Additional Safety Label Information – see *Appendix D, Labels*.

VLF Platesetter Operator Manual

Additional Safety Label Information – see *Appendix D, Labels*.

PROBLEMS FIXED

This section list the problems that were fixed in the current release.

Rosette Drift Fixed

Each page in an imposed flat now has its own halftone origin, which fixes the rosette drift problem on large plates. You will now always get clear centered rosettes.

Note: This fix only works if your imposition package uses DIG comments to standard. It will work with Preps since it complies with DIG comment standards.

PlateMaster Client Process (PCP) Performance Fix

The system performance is now greatly enhanced when OPIing large files to the Allegro workstation.

Image Positioning Errors Fixed

Positioning errors that occurred when the **Rotate** or **Mirror** options in the Page Setup dialog box were selected have been fixed.



CAUTION:
With this fix, if you apply a rotation of 180° the image will shift 0.2 inches away from the leading edge of the plate on a Platesetter 3244, or will shift 0.26 inches away from the leading edge on a VLF Platesetter. You can correct for this shift during imposition, or you can correct it in the Allegro workstation software by adjusting the plate's imposition modifiers.

To correct for image shift from leading edge during 180° rotation:

1. From the **Configuration** menu, select **Plate Types**.

   The Configure Plate Types dialog box appears.

2. From **Plate Type**, select the plate type that you want to adjust for the 180°-rotated image.
3. Click on the **More Options** button.
4. Under Shift relative to, set the **Leading Edge** to 0.2 (for Platesetter 3244) or to 0.26 (for VLF Platesetter).
5. Click **OK**.
6. Repeat for each plate type that you want to change.

CORRECTIONS TO THE MANUAL

All Platesetter Operator Manuals

In Appendix A of your manual, the **Tools** menu shows the **File Manager** and **Program Manager** options. This is not correct.

For Windows NT 4.0, **Program Manager** and **File Manager** are now replaced by Explorer, and an **Explorer** option has been added to the **Tools** menu.