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Technical bulletin

What's New in Pandora 2.0

New Features and Functionality

Automatic bleed path creation from CAD die-cut files
A typical workflow for creating step-and-repeat layouts in Pandora involves importing CAD die-cut files, automatically snapping the artwork to die stations, and editing the bleed where necessary by using the versatile Bleed tool. Pandora 2.0 makes this process even easier by automatically creating the bleed the moment the artwork is "snapped" to a die station. The bleed shape is determined by the geometry of the die station and is extended by a user-defined amount.

Automatic bleed overlap detection and correction
Complex nesting of packaging printing layouts allows for better usage of materials; however, it can create challenging bleed issues. Pandora 2.0 addresses these issues by automatically creating default bleeds. If any bleeds overlap in rectangular artwork, Pandora resolves the overlaps automatically. For non-rectangular artwork, all bleed overlaps are automatically identified and displayed. The user selects the overlap and instructs Pandora how to resolve the overlap (for example, extending the bleed of a printing flap into a non-printing flap when the two flaps share a common knife). Other options are also available, such as equally splitting the overlapping bleed.

Die-station ordering and automatic die station number marks
Many factors contribute to the ever-increasing number of "combination" runs being produced by the converters, including decreasing print runs, increasing number of products, the need for targeted regional printing, the ability to effectively simulate special colors using six-color process, and Hi-Fi printing. The challenge is to effectively identify different designs for easier post-processing. Pandora 2.0 addresses that issue by greatly expanding its CAD die-cut file processing. The user can now set the ordering by die station by selecting the starting station and starting number, then selecting the "snaking" or "zigzag" numbering path. To identify the die station order on printed pieces, the user selects the die station number mark, then chooses its color, font size, and its position relative to a single die station. Pandora 2.0 then automatically places the die station mark on all die stations of the same shape, rotating where necessary.

SmartMark die station marks
Placing marks in Pandora is easy with Pandora's SmartMarks™. A huge success with Pandora users, the marks are automatically positioned on the press sheet. Pandora 2.0 takes the SmartMarks concept even further by allowing marks that need to be placed in the same position relative to each packaging design to be placed once, assigned to a die station, and automatically placed on all die stations of the same shape, in the same relative position.

Die mirroring for creation of double-sided layouts
An increasing number of packages are being printed on both sides. Pharmaceutical packages are frequently produced with the dosage instructions printed on the inside of the package, instead of on separate pieces of paper, which represents a considerable savings in materials. Pandora 2.0 automates the creation of double-sided layouts by allowing the user to use the same CAD die-cut file for both the inside and outside layout. This result is achieved by mirroring the die either horizontally or vertically.

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