Using Layering and Nesting

English

Preps

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Using Layering and Nesting

Overview

"Layering" in Preps is the digital equivalent of creating a double-burn effect, in which page information from two separate source files is superimposed. "Nesting" describes fitting two or more non-rectangular source files together to maximize space on the press sheet. Both layering and nesting are relatively simple to accomplish in Preps.

For layering and nesting to be possible, the files that are on the top layer must have transparent backgrounds. Transparency is determined by the application that creates the source PostScript® files. For example, Adobe® FrameMaker® PostScript begins each page by laying down a block of white that covers the whole page, so the background is not transparent. Vector items, such as those created by most drawing applications, usually have transparent backgrounds. TIFF images have image data in every pixel, even if it is white, so they do not have transparent backgrounds.

Enabling Layering and Creating a Layering Profile

If you use layering in Preps for some, but not all, jobs, the first step is to enable the layering feature. Because enabling layering changes the way Preps processes files, it is best to not have layering enabled as the default setting for all jobs. We recommend that you create a custom profile that you can use when you need to use this feature. For additional information on preferences and profiles, see the *Preps User Guide*.

To enable layering:

1. Select an output device.
2. Set up the **Fitting/Tiling** options.
3. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Preferences**.
4. On the **General** tab, under **Output Options**, select the **Image by template page number** check box.
5. Configure the other preferences as required.
6. Click **OK**.

To create a layering profile:

1. From the **Setup** menu, choose **Save Profile**.
2. In the **Profile Name** box, type a descriptive name, such as `Layering`.
3. Click **OK**.

Creating a Layering Template and Job

The easiest way to explain how to create a layering template and job is to explain the steps for a sample job. The following exercise explains how to create a 4-up single-sided layering template that has a common base image for all four pages, and different black type (version information) superimposed, or double burned, onto each page.

Creating the Layering Template

To create a layering template:

1. Create a template for the bottom layer using the following specifications:
   - **Binding Style: Flatwork**
   - **Work Style: Single Sided**
   - **Press sheet size:** 25" x 19"

   Create an imposition:

   - **Finished Page Size:**

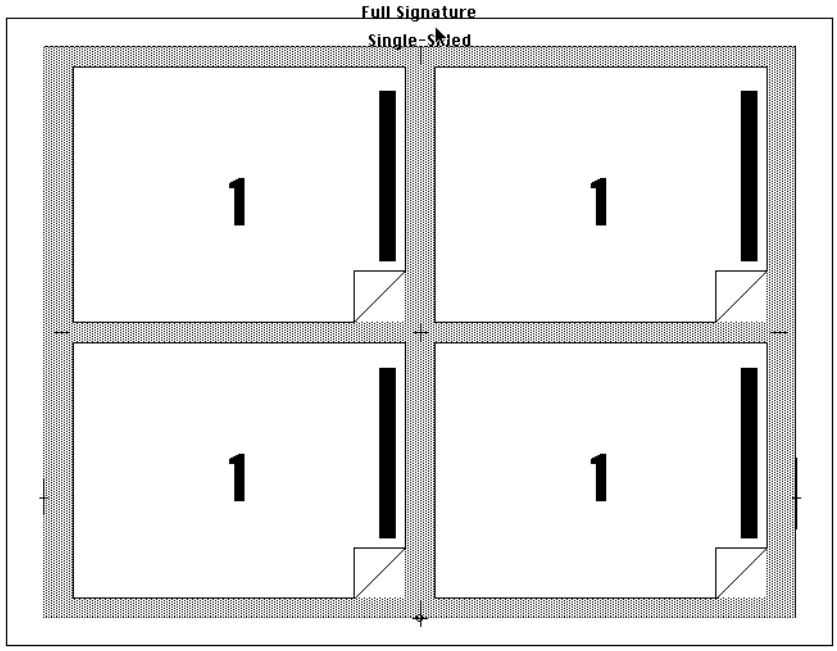
     Width: 8.5 in

     Height: 11 in
   - **Number of imposed pages:**

     Horizontal: 2

     Vertical: 2
   - **Lower Left Page's Head Faces: Right**
   - **Layout Additional Pages: Head to Foot**
   - **Distance from Press Sheet Edge to Imposition:** Center vertically and horizontally

The template should look like the example below. All four pages are number 1. The common image on the bottom layer will be the first page in the run list.



2. Hold down the SHIFT key and click each of the imposed pages to select them.
3. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Copy**. This action copies the page number, size, and placement information of the imposed pages.
4. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Paste**. This action pastes four independent pages directly behind the four imposed pages.
5. Click anywhere off the press sheet to deselect everything.
6. Click the page in the upper left corner of the imposition to select it. This action selects the topmost page.

Tip: To select a page that is underneath the top page, hold down the SHIFT+COMMAND keys (Macintosh) or SHIFT+CONTROL keys (Windows) and click to select the next layer in the stack.

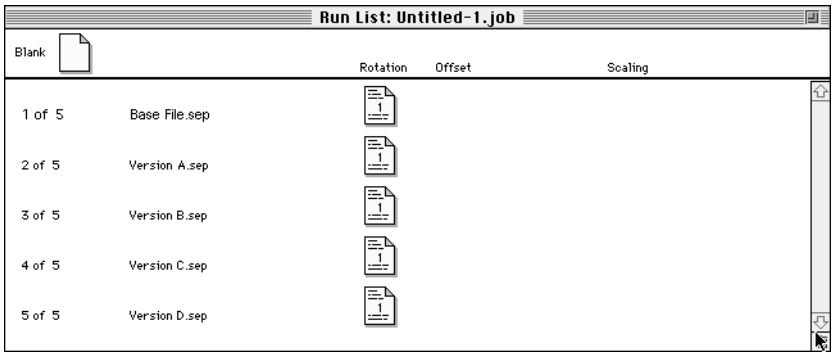
7. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Get Information**.
8. Under **Page Number**, in the **Front** box, type 2. Page 2 in the run list images in this location, superimposed over page 1, which is the base art.
9. Click **OK**.
10. Click the page in the upper-right corner of the imposition to select it.
11. Repeat steps 7 and 8, but type 3 in the **Front** box for the page number.
12. Repeat this procedure for the pages in the lower-left corner and lower-right corner, changing the page numbers to 4 and 5, respectively.
13. Save the template.

Creating the Layering Job

There are no sample files that ship with Preps for creating a layering job. You can create your own files if you want to proceed. The first file contains the base art that is common to all pages. The other four files each contain different information to be superimposed on top of the base art.

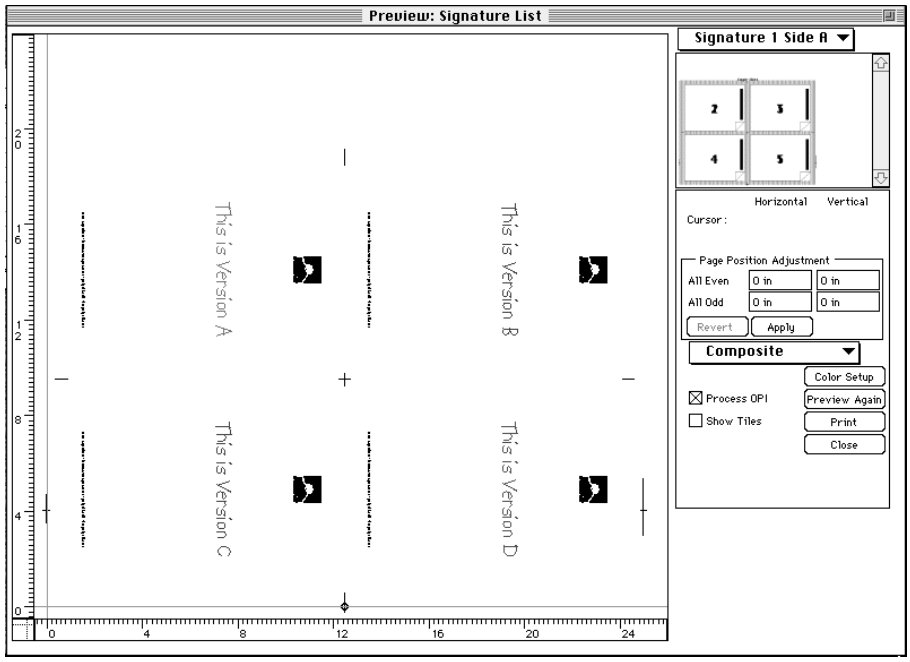
To create a layering job:

1. From the **File** menu, choose **New Job > Mixed Files->PostScript**.
2. Add files to the file list, as shown below. Page 1 is the base art that prints on the bottom layer and is common to all four pages.



3. Page 2 in the run list superimposes on top of the base art in the upper left corner of the imposition. Pages 3, 4, and 5 image in their respective positions on the template.
4. Click the **Signatures** button in the Signature List window.
5. Select the layering template, then click the **Auto Select** button or the **Add** button to add the signature to the signature list.
6. Click **OK** to impose the run list pages.
7. From the **Setup** menu, choose **Load Profile**.
8. Select the **Layering** profile, then click **OK**.
9. Click the signature in the signature list to select it.
10. From the **File** menu, choose **Preview.**

11. In the Preview: Signature List window, click the **Preview** button. The preview of the signature is shown below.



Creating a Nesting Job and Template

A nesting template is similar to a layering template, except that the pages only partially overlap instead of being superimposed directly on top of each other. The following exercise explains how to create a template for a multiple-up die-cut label. Because nested files partially overlap, the source files must have transparent backgrounds.

Creating the Nesting Template

To create a nesting template:

1. Create a template using the following specifications:
   - **Binding Style: Flatwork**
   - **Work Style: Single Sided**
   - **Press sheet size:** 38" x 25"
2. Add an independent page:
   - **Page Number:**

     Front: 1
   - **Finished Page Size:**

     Width: 6.0416"

     Height: 3.0416"
   - **Lower Left Corner of Page:**

     Horizontal: 0.5626"

     Vertical: 0.50663"
   - **Page Orientation:** Up
3. Click **OK**.
4. With the new independent page still selected, from the **Edit** menu, choose **Step and Repeat**.
5. Under **Total Number**, in the **Horizontal** box, type `6`.
6. In the **Vertical** box, type `5`.
7. Under **Displacement Offset**, in the **Horizontal** box, type `6.1666 in`.
8. In the **Vertical** box, type `5.2791 in`.
9. Click **OK**.

10. Add another independent page:
    - **Page Number:**

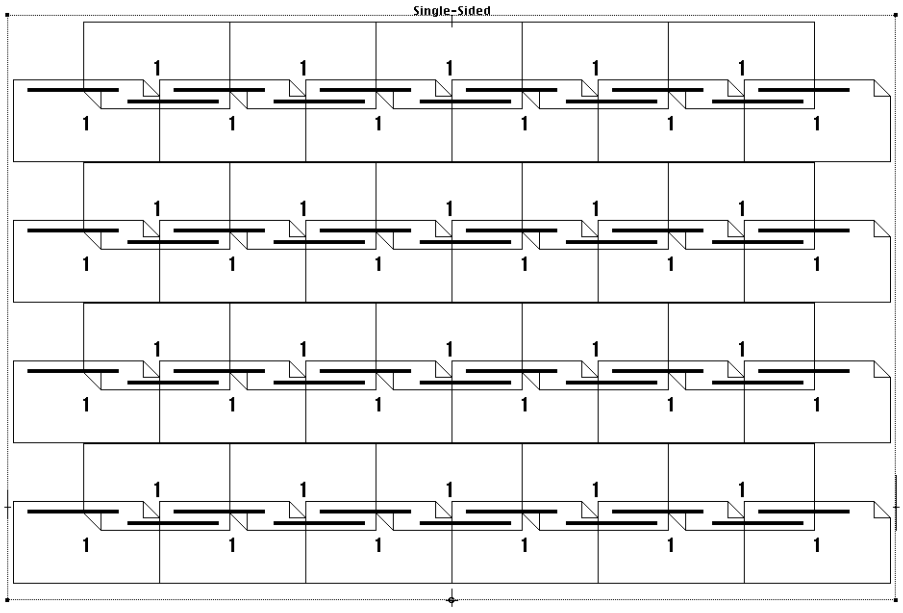
      Front: 1
    - **Finished Page Size:**

      Width: 6.0416"

      Height: 3.0416"
    - **Lower Left Corner of Page:**

      Horizontal: 3.64356"

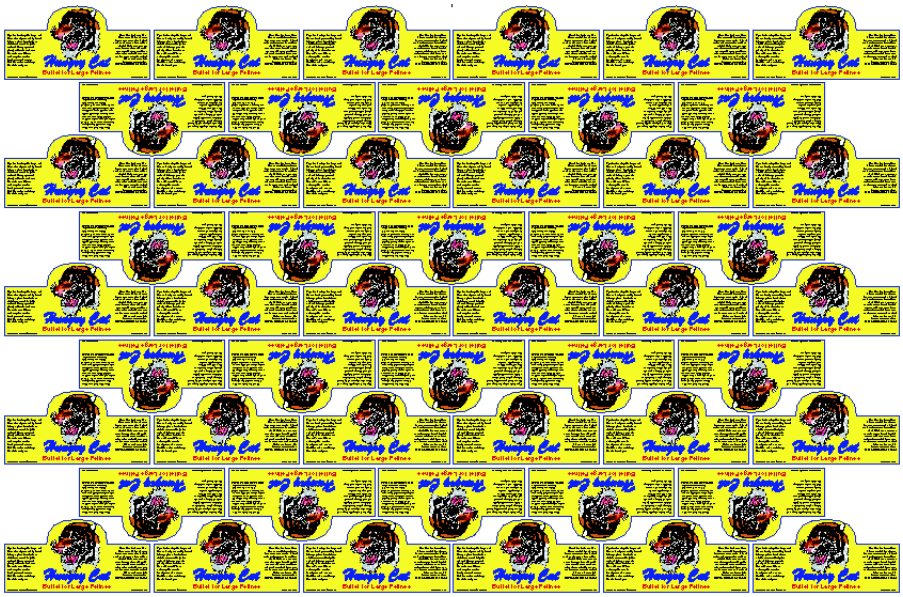
      Vertical: 2.61913"
    - **Page Orientation:** Down
11. Click **OK**.
12. With that page still selected, from the **Edit** menu, choose **Step and Repeat**.
13. Under **Total Number**, in the **Horizontal** box, type `5`.
14. In the **Vertical** box, type `4`.
15. Under **Displacement Offset**, in the **Horizontal** box, type `6.1666 in`.
16. In the **Vertical** box, type `5.2791 in`.
17. Click **OK**.
18. Save the template. The template should look like the example below. All 50 pages are number 1.



Creating the Nesting Job

To create the nesting job:

1. From the **File** menu, choose **New Job > Mixed Files->PostScript**.
2. To the file list and the run list, add the **necklabel.fh8.eps** file. This file is on the Preps CD in the **Sample Files:Training Files:NeckLabel** folder.
3. In the Signature List window, click the **Signatures** button.
4. Select the nesting template, then click the **Auto Select** button, or select the signature, then click the **Add** button, to add the signature to the signature list.
5. From the **Setup** menu, choose **Load Profile**.
6. Select the **Layering** profile, then click **OK**.
7. Click the signature in the signature list to select it.
8. From the **File** menu, choose **Preview.**
9. In the Preview: Signature List window, click the **Preview** button. The preview of the signature is shown below.





Tip: To speed up processing for a step-and-repeat job such as this one, enable PostScript Level 2 forms caching. In the Device Configuration dialog box, click the **Level 2 Options** button, then select the **Use PostScript Level 2 forms optimization** check box. Forms optimization works only when you print composite or in-RIP separations from Preps; it does not work for host-based separations.