Plate Builder User Guide

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Overview

Plate Builder is a Creo plug-in to Adobe® Acrobat® that enables you to add white, bump, and varnish plates to refined PDF files, and gives you an automatic mechanism to create varnish and white separations for appropriate portions of graphics. You can:

- Create varnish or white objects from existing objects in a file
- Copy objects from one varnish or white separation to another separation
- spread or choke objects belonging to varnish or white separations

Checking Client Machine Requirements

You can use the Creo Plate Builder plug-in on client computers that include the following minimum requirements.

Operating System

Microsoft Windows® 2000 Service Pack 1

Or:

Microsoft Windows XP

Or:

Apple® Macintosh® OS X 10.3.9 or 10.4

Software

Adobe Acrobat 6.0

Or:

Adobe Acrobat 7.0

Minimum System Requirements

- 256 MB RAM
- 300 MHz PII or G3 processor
- 100 MB free disk space for temporary files
- mouse or trackball
- TCP/IP network connection to the Prinergy primary server

The Plate Builder plug-in is a licensed feature of the Prinergy Workflow system. It is installed by the existing and/or new Workshop Client Installer.

Installing and Updating Plate Builder

Installing the Plate Builder Plug-In

The plug-in is installed in a special folder when Adobe Acrobat and Prinergy Workshop are installed on Prinergy servers or on Windows and Macintosh client machines. For Prinergy Evo, copy the Plate Builder plug-in to your plug-ins directory.

Updating the Plate Builder Plug-In

Creo delivers a Plate Builder plug-in update with a Prinergy client software update. Check the Prinergy update's readme file to confirm that it includes a Plate Builder update.

Viewing the About Dialog Box

From the Acrobat main menu, select **Help > About Third Party Plug-Ins > Creo Plate Builder** to display the Plate Builder dialog box, where you can check which version of the plug-in is installed in the Acrobat plug-ins folder.

Setting Preferences

You can modify the following Plate Builder preferences:

- Object and border colors
- Units of measure
- Location where the warning box appears

To set Plate Builder preferences:

1. From the **Edit** menu, select **Preferences > Creo Plate Builder**.

2. In the **Colors** area, select the object and border colors.

   The **Object Selection** color indicates a selected object that is not in the separation.

   The **Object in Separation Selection** color indicates a selected object in the separation.

   The **Border in Separation Selection** color indicates the border between an object in the selected separation and an object that is not in the selected separation.

3. From the **Units** box, select a unit of measure.
4. Select or clear the **Enable all warning dialogs** check box.

Starting Plate Builder

To start Plate Builder:

1. Start Adobe Acrobat.
2. Start the Plate Builder toolbar by either:

   • Selecting **Tools** > **Creo Tools** > **Show Creo Tools Toolbar**

   Or:

   • Selecting **View** > **Toolbars** > **Creo Tools**



Figure 1: Plate Builder toolbar

3. Move the toolbar to the desired position—for example, to the top or side of the Adobe Acrobat window.

Note: When you start Plate Builder, the **Properties Editor** dialog box also appears, but you cannot manipulate settings until you first select an object.

Sample Plate Builder Workflow

This is a example of a typical Plate Builder workflow for adding a varnish plate.

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session and then select the objects you want to add to the varnish plate.

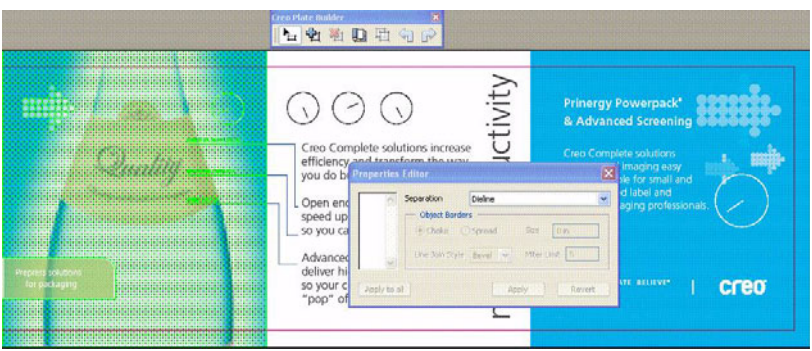


Figure 2: Plate Builder toolbar and Properties Editor

2. Add the new separation to your PDF document by clicking the **Edit Separation** tool and adding a new Separation with your desired ink type and color recipe.

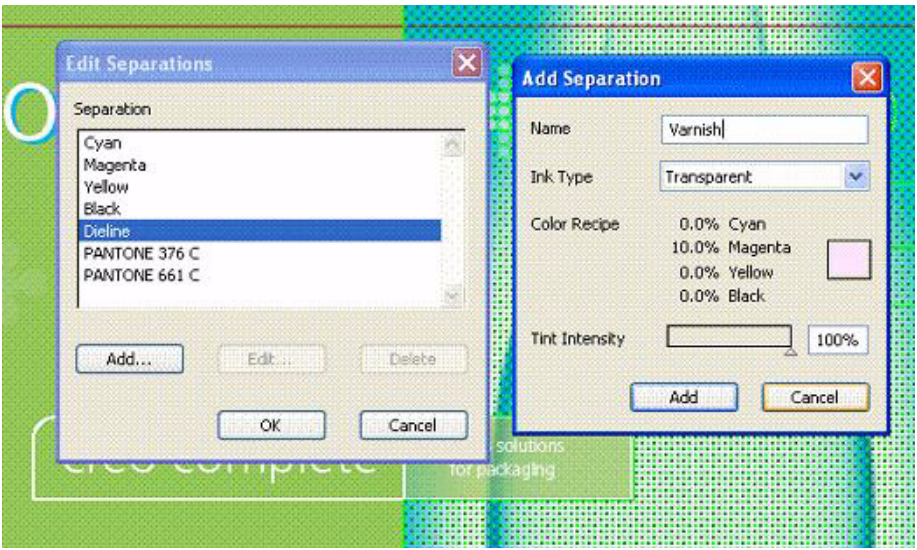


Figure 3: Adding a new separation

3. Click **Add Selected Objects to Separation** tool. If the varnish object needs to be spread or choked, set the amount in the **Add Selected Objects to Separation** dialog box.

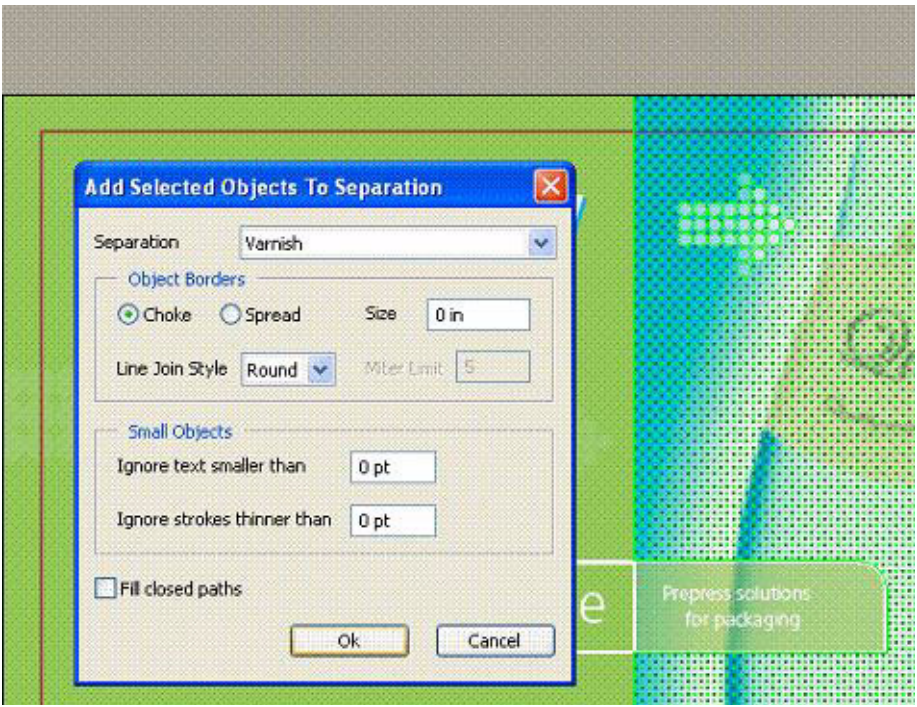


Figure 4: Adding selected objects to the separation

4. Click **OK**.

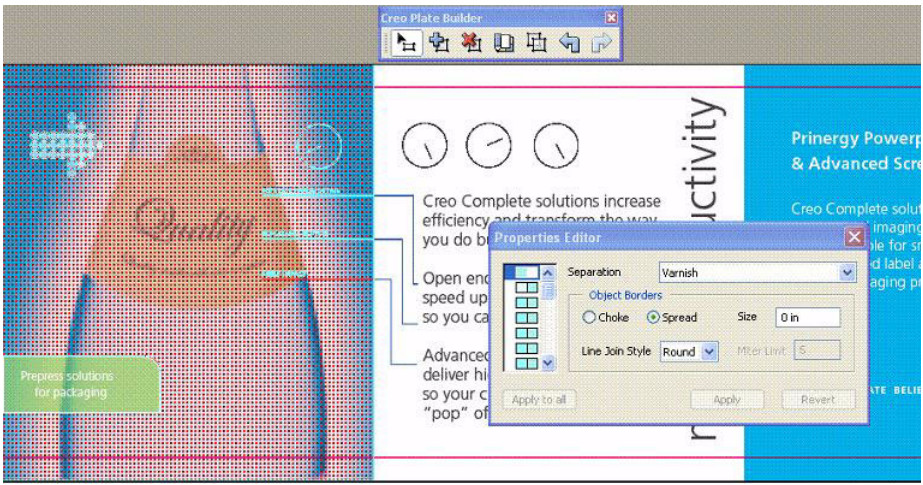


Figure 5: Object added to separation

Plate Builder will add an object in the shape of the selection to the new Varnish separation. The selection highlight turns red indicating the object is a member of a Plate Builder separation.

5. You can now add more objects to the varnish plate or adjust the spread or choke amount of individual borders using the **Properties Editor**.

Selecting Objects

Selecting With a Mouse Click

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. If the Properties Editor dialog box appears immediately, skip to step .

   If the Plate Builder Licenses dialog box appears instead, one of the following reasons may be the cause:

   - You have multiple servers on which Plate Builder is licensed and have not yet specified which server's license you want to use.

     If this is the case, in the **Servers** box, type the IP address or the name of the server whose license you want to use, or select the server name from the list, and click **Try Again**.

     Plate Builder connects to the specified server. The next time that you start Plate Builder, this dialog box will not appear and Plate Builder will automatically connect to the server specified for the previous session.

   - You have selected a server, but all of the licenses for that server are currently in use. (The dialog box displays the number of available licenses, and anyone currently using a license on the selected server is listed in the **Users** box.)

     If this is the case, you must wait until a license becomes available on the selected server and then click **Try Again**. Alternatively, if you have

multiple servers licensed for Plate Builder, you can select another server from the **Servers** box and see if that server has any available licenses.

Once you have successfully connected, the Plate Builder Properties Editor dialog box appears.

3. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Select Object**.
4. Click an object in the Plate Builder window.
5. To add an object, hold down the SHIFT key and click another object.
6. To remove an object from a selection group, hold down the SHIFT key and click the object.

Selecting by Marquee

Marquee selection allows you to more easily select several objects at a time.

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Select Object**.
3. To select several objects at one time, hold down the mouse button and drag a selection rectangle (a marquee) completely around the objects that you want.

   Plate Builder only selects objects that are fully inside the marquee.

   A selected object appears highlighted with the color that you specified in Setting Preferences on page 3.

4. To add an object, press SHIFT and drag a marquee around the objects.
5. To remove objects from a selection group, press and hold down SHIFT and drag a marquee completely around the objects that you want to remove from the group.

Selecting by Attribute

You can select objects according to their attributes.

Use a contextual menu to select the closest object or all objects with similar properties. You can also select objects of the same type and/or color.

To select objects according to attributes:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. On a Macintosh client computer, hold down CONTROL, and click an item in the Plate Builder window.

   Or:

   On a Windows client computer, right-click an item in the Plate Builder window.

   The contextual menu appears. The menu items available depend on the type of item selected, its attributes, and its context.

3. Click one of the following menu items:
   - **Select all objects of the same type (text, images, paths, gradients)**
   - **Select similar objects**
   - **Select all objects added to the separation**
   - **Deselect all**

   Select **Deselect all** to clear the entire selection group.
4. Press CONTROL + SHIFT + click (Macintosh) or SHIFT + right-click (Windows) to display the contextual menu to add more objects.

Adding, Editing, or Deleting a Separation

You can add or remove separations and control the ink type, color recipe, and tint intensity.

To add a separation:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Edit Separations**.

   Or:

   In the Properties Editor dialog box, in the **Separation** list, select **Edit Separation List**.

3. Click **Add**.
4. In the Add Separation dialog box:
   a. In the **Name** box, type a name for the separation.
   b. From the **Ink Type** box, select an ink type.
   c. Edit the **Color Recipe**, click the color swatch, modify values in the Color dialog box, and click **OK**.
   d. Modify the **Tint Intensity** by dragging the slider or typing a value in the **Tint Intensity** box.

      Entering a value of 100 will fill the objects assigned to that separation with solid color. Entering a value of less than 100 will screen back the objects to the entered intensity.
   e. Click **Add**.
5. In the Edit Separations dialog box, click **OK**.

To edit a separation:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Edit Separations**.

   Or:

   In the Properties Editor dialog box, in the **Separation** list, select **Edit Separation List**.

3. Click **Edit**.

   You can only edit separations that you added with Plate Builder.
4. Modify the separation values and click **OK**.
5. In the Edit Separations dialog box, click **OK**.

To delete a separation:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Edit Separations**.

   Or:

   In the Properties Editor dialog box, in the **Separation** list, select **Edit Separation List**.
3. Click **Delete**.

   You can only delete separations that you added with Plate Builder.
4. In the Edit Separations dialog box, click **OK**.

Adding Objects to Separations

You can add or remove objects from separations.

Although you cannot create objects, you can have Plate Builder fill any objects containing stroked paths that are closed by selecting **Fill closed paths**. In this way, you can use a position keyline to create an overall varnish or white backing plate. For example, to fill the following circle with a varnish or white separation, select **Fill closed paths** or edit the circle in the original desktop application so that the circle's fill color is no longer set to **None**; otherwise, Plate Builder will only add the outline of the circle to the separation.



Figure 6: Object to be added to a varnish or white separation

To add objects to a separation:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. Select an object or objects as described in Selecting Objects on page 9.
3. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Add selected objects to separation**, or right-click (CTRL + click) and select **Add Objects to a separation**.
4. In the Add Selected Objects to Separation dialog box:
   a. In the **Separation** list, select a separation, or select **Edit Separation List** and add a separation.

b. In the **Object Borders** area, select **Choke** or **Spread**, and type the size of the border in the **Size** box.

   You can "spread", or overlap, the border of an object to an underlying object or substrate, or you can "choke", or shrink, the border of an object for a color separation. You can also specify the geometry of line joins so that they are **Bevel** (default), **Round**, or **Miter**. If needed, you can set the Miter Limit.

c. From the **Line Join Style** box, select **Miter, Round**, or **Bevel** (default), and if needed, set the **Miter Limit**.

d. In the **Small Objects** area, in the **Ignore text smaller than** box, type smallest sized text that you want Plate Builder to recognize, and in the **Ignore strokes smaller than** box, type the smallest line size that you want Plate Builder to recognize. Plate Builder will not add objects smaller than these values to the separation.

e. Select **Fill closed paths** if you want Plate Builder to fill any stroked paths that are closed with the separation color.

f. Click **OK**.

   The highlight color changes to the **Object in Separation Selection** color.

To remove objects from a separation:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. Select an object or objects as described in Selecting Objects on page 9.

3. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Remove selected objects from separation**.
4. In the Remove Selected Objects from Separation dialog box, select an object.
5. Click **OK**.

   The highlight color returns to the **Object Selection** color.

Copying Objects From One Separation to Another

You can copy objects that you have added to Plate Builder from one separation to another.

To copy an object from one separation to another:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. Select an object or objects as described in Selecting Objects on page 9.
3. On the Plate Builder toolbar, click **Copy Objects from a Separation to another**.
4. In the Copy Separation dialog box:
   a. From the **To** list, select the separation where you want to copy the object.

b. In the **Object Border Adjustment** area, select **Choke** or **Spread**, and type the size of the border in the **Additional Size** box.

   You can "spread", or overlap, the border of an object to an underlying object or substrate, or you can "choke", or shrink, the border of an object for a color separation. You can also specify the geometry of line joins so that they are **Bevel** (default), **Round**, or **Miter**. If needed, you can set the Miter Limit.

   Entering a value in the **Additional Size** box increases the size of the border over its original size.

c. Click **Copy**.

Adjusting Object Borders

You can adjust the amount of spread or choke that is applied to the borders of a selected object that you have added to Plate Builder.

To change the borders of a selected object:

1. Click the **Plate Builder Tool** icon to start a Plate Builder session.



2. Select an object or objects as described in Selecting Objects on page 9.
3. In the Properties Editor dialog:
   a. From the **Border List** box, select a border.



If more than one border appears in the **Border List** box, you can isolate a border by clicking and holding the mouse button. The border flashes.

b. In the **Object Borders** area, select **Choke** or **Spread**, and type the size of the border in the **Size** box.

   You can "spread", or overlap, the border of an object to an underlying object or substrate, or you can "choke", or shrink, the border of an object for a color separation.

c. From the **Line Join Style** box, select **Miter, Round**, or **Bevel** (default), and if needed, set the **Miter Limit**.

   Once you change the border of an object, an asterisk appears next to the border icon.



Figure 7: Asterisk indicating a changed border

4. Click **Apply** if you want to only change the selected border.

   Or:

   Click **Apply to All** if you want to change all of the borders.

About Alert Messages

If Plate Builder encounters a problem during the plate-building process, one of the following messages may appear:

Alert Message	Possible Causes
One or more selected objects are already in this separation. Adding them again may change their appearance. Are you sure you want to continue?	You have already added the selected object to the separation, or an object in the selection was colored with the separation in the original desktop application.
All selected objects are small enough to be ignored.	All of the objects you have selected are smaller than the values in the **Small Objects** area of the **Add Selected Objects to Separation** dialog box, so Plate Builder will not add the object to the separation.
Objects have been added to this separation. Are you sure you want to delete it?	You are deleting a separation that contains objects that you have added.