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RIPit UP News

The Official Productivity Communication from RIPit® Computer Corporation

> volume 5 > number 1

The New OpenRIP® Symphony™ The Next Workflow



RIPit's latest edition to the award winning OpenRIP Series, featuring a multi-task, multi-device workflow

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New OpenRIP® Symphony™ Your Ticket to a Better Workflow

RIPit® is proud to introduce OpenRIP Symphony, a state-of-the-art software RIP which is built on the foundation of our award-winning OpenRIP product. In addition to controlling about a hundred imagesetters, platesetters, printers, and plotters natively, it can also control a wide range of Postscript and TIFF-in devices from a single interface.

OpenRIP® set the standard in a flexible, straightforward pre-press workflow and Symphony extends it to copier, printer, and out-of-shop work as well. Symphony features the Adobe® PostScript® 3™ interpreter (CPSI 3016) for the highest level of compatibility with modern graphics applications. It integrates scanning, trapping, proofing, and imposition into a single powerful package and provides those features to virtually any output device.

“We were hearing from a lot of frustrated customers, who had many different RIPs of various ages, and they all behaved differently,” says RIPit President Wayne Wasulko. “They told us they’d love it if we could build a RIP that would control their printers, copiers, and other output devices, and allow them to print the same pages the same way, every time. Users are tired of sending digital files to trade shops, and getting printed pieces back which had missing fonts, damaged links, and other problems. OpenRIP Symphony delivers file consistency across all their output devices.”

RIPit’s solution was to build a RIP which could control a wide variety of output devices, even those with their own RIPs, by pre-rasterizing files and sending them for output. Symphony provides a single, easy-to-use interface for controlling copiers, printers, inkjet printers and plotters, imagesetters, and platesetters. All the devices under the control of Symphony are able to use its features, in essence upgrading the capabilities of the entire shop.

Advanced File Control + Job Setup

OpenRIP Symphony improves productivity and reduces human error by automating the more tedious and error-prone prepress tasks. Symphony automates screening settings, trapping, plate templating, imposition (including crop marks, registration marks, color bars, and page information) and application of linearization and dot gain compensation. Once you’ve applied standard settings in OpenRIP Symphony, every job goes through the same workflow process, ensuring consistency throughout the production cycle.

continued next page >



Request a live, on-line demo of OpenRIP Symphony at: www.ripit.com/demoreqform.html

YES! Even Publisher Files!

“Now, it’s easier than ever to use In-RIP Trapping with Publisher 2003 files - even jobs which use spot colors. Simply print from Publisher in Composite CMYK mode, and OpenRIP will detect and output all the colors in the job. In fact, OpenRIP can render spot colors using most of the composite printing modes in the latest versions of Adobe PageMaker, InDesign, Illustrator, and Acrobat, as well as Quark XPress. See the Symphony Release Notes and the new manual for all the details.”

Some of Symphony's industry-leading features* include:

RasterView™: Preview the actual raster files dot for dot. Analyze ink coverage, output CIP3 files to automated presses, use the angle or density tools to measure screen characteristics.

OpenRIP® Remote: Control raster jobs on OpenRIP Symphony from your MacOS X or Windows workstation. Preview jobs, impose, e-mail PDF proofs, assign PostScript printer settings, analyze ink usage, and output files.

TIFFout, PSout, RRJout and GDlout Drivers:** Drivers for controlling a wide range of additional output devices. TIFFout is used to drive output devices which can accept TIFF files as input. PSout is used to drive output devices which have their own attached RIPs. RRJout is used to communicate with RIPit's ImagerQ software. GDlout is used to drive non-PostScript Windows-compatible printers from the RIP.

Adobe® In-RIP Trapping with TrapZone™: The leading RIP-integrated trapping solution allows you to apply complex trapping commands from Symphony. Our New TrapZone™ feature enhances In-RIP Trapping by letting you choose different trap settings for various parts of a page.

KoolKOLOR™ Proofing: Allows you to create color-accurate separated and composite proofs on a variety of inkjet printers and plotters.

KoolToning™ Halftone Simulator: Creates inkjet proofs which simulate AM halftones, for a true dot-for-dot proof of the press sheet.

AdvancedScan™ scan to plate: Allows you to add paper-based originals directly into your digital workflow. Scan, cleanup, and straighten images. Colorize text and images, remove and add tints, delete and place photos, perform step & repeat and save scans as low res PDFs for remote proofing. Then send edited scans to print queues for output.

In-RIP Color Management: Offers benefits for basic users and color experts. It allows you to automatically convert RGB images to CMYK (or vice-versa) automatically. It provides for full compliance with PDF/X-3 files, an emerging prepress file interchange standard. And if you profile your presses, you can color-manage plates for those presses at RIP time, rather than making changes to your source files.

StripRITE™ Imposition: RIPit's reliable, easy-to-use raster imposition feature allows you to generate spreads for books, step and repeat business cards, and perform other sophisticated imposition tasks quickly and easily.

Export Proof: Save raster files as low-res PDFs, TIFFs and JPEGs to soft proof at workstations or email proofs directly to customers.

PerfectBlend™ hybrid screening technology: Combines the benefits of traditional AM Screening and FM (stochastic) Screening to provide improved smoothness and highlight/shadow detail, allowing linescreens up to 80% higher than AM Screening alone.

Linearization and Dot Gain Compensation Wizards: Simplify the process of calibrating the different output devices which Symphony can drive, and allow for correction of press dot gain.

ScanLin: Uses an attached scanner to detect the appropriate plate density setting, and perform platesetter linearization.

***NOTE:** OpenRIP Symphony is a modular system designed to suit the needs of individual production environments. Device drivers and optional features may entail an additional cost. For a complete list of standard and available features visit www.ripit.com, select RIPit North America and use Product pull down to select OpenRIP Symphony, or contact us by email: sales@ripit.com, or call toll free: 888-947-4748

President's Message



As you can see we've been busy! With the recent release of OpenRIP® Symphony™, (the latest evolution in our award winning OpenRIP Series) and the introduction of

our new SpeedSetter™ VM [Violet Metal] CtP System, RIPit once again, is providing new solutions and technology for today's changing production environments.

OpenRIP Symphony is the long awaited answer for shops that have multiple output devices to feed multiple presses, yet want true file consistency from their inkjet proofer to their platesetter, imagesetter, etc...

Symphony's ability to handle complex digital files, automate prepress setup, control output quality, and drive every device in the shop, is the marriage of common sense, necessity, workflow and RIPit engineering.

The SpeedSetter VM CtP System was designed to be reliable, easy to use, easy to maintain and easy to afford. Yet, SpeedSetter VM (driven by OpenRIP Symphony) is a complete turn-key system with RIPit's award winning workflow and the ability to output high resolution, violet metal plates and color accurate inkjet proofs.

Also, be sure to check out page 5, and read about our PerfectBLEND hybrid screening technology. Adding this one feature provides higher linescreens, clean press runs and fantastic 4-color.

The release of these products, has already helped many shops increase production, print quality and of course, their bottom line.

Wayne Wasulko

New Product Highlight

RIPit® is pleased to introduce the **SpeedSetter™ VM (Violet Metal) 2-Up Computer-to-Plate System**. Like our SpeedSetter imagesetters, the VM provides industry-standard drum quality in a compact, easy-to-use package. The SpeedSetter VM is part of a complete turnkey CtP system which also includes the **OpenRIP® Symphony™ Core** and an **optional plate processor [P20 Photopolymer Plate Runner]**. In short, the SpeedSetter VM brings quality and affordability to digital metal platemaking.

SpeedSetter® VM

VIOLET METAL CtP

Built for quality. Built for the future.

We designed the SpeedSetter™ VM from the ground up to be easy to use, easy to service, and reliable. There are no intricate plate loading mechanisms – simply place the plate against the stops in the drum, let the vacuum take hold and close the lid. The 60mW laser is twice as powerful as those used on some other violet platesetters which are twice as large, meaning the laser is operating far below maximum power, improving its life and reliability. It also means that if new plate materials which require higher imaging power, become available in the future, there's a better chance that the VM will support them.

Low Cost of Ownership

Our engineer's main design criteria when we began the development of the SpeedSetter VM was to build a machine that has few moving parts, is easy to service and employs a powerful laser with a long run life. We chose a new, violet laser because it is less expensive and lasts far longer than thermal lasers. Therefore, your return on investment is higher than with other systems.

OpenRIP® Symphony™ Core Award Winning Workflow

Like all RIPit CtP Systems, SpeedSetter VM is driven by our award-winning OpenRIP Symphony Core, a PS3 RIP that makes it easy to handle complex digital files, automate job setup, control output image quality and drive every device in your shop (see page 2).



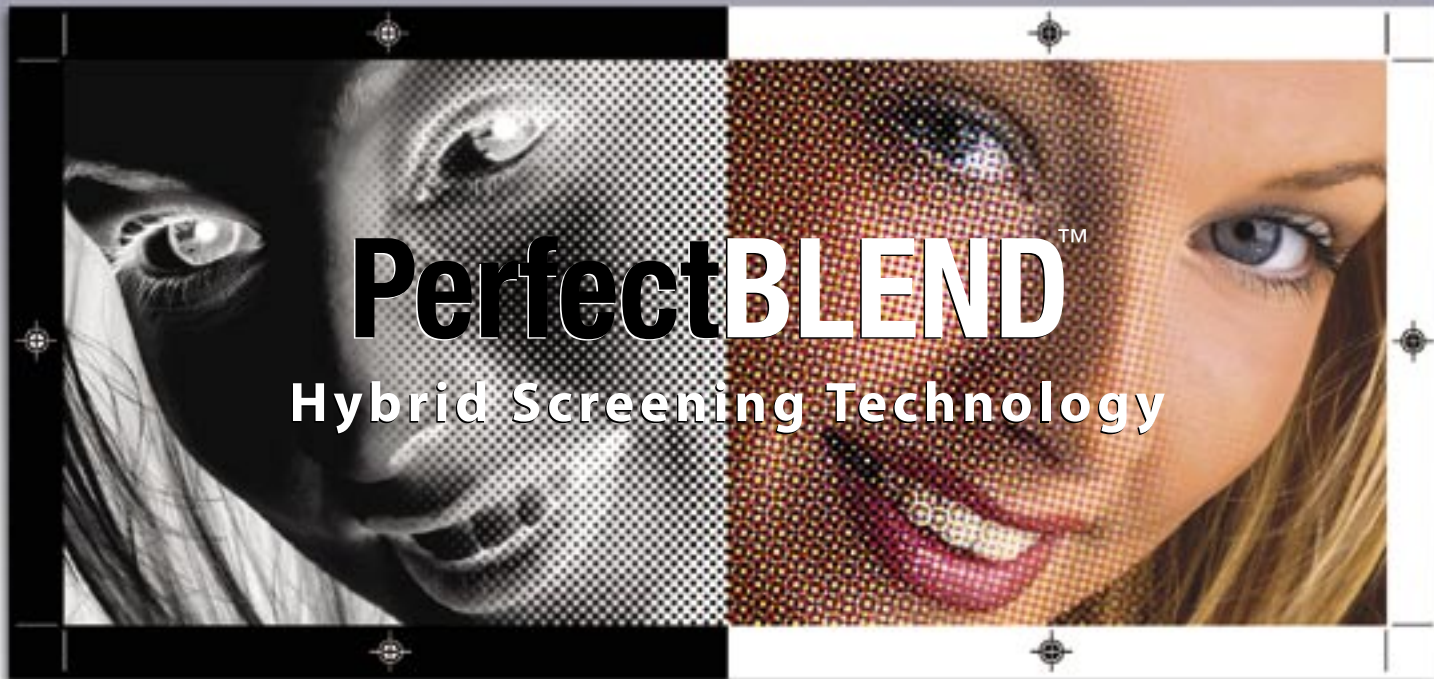
**Optional P20
PlateRunner**

Violet Plate Formats, Media and Photopolymer Processor

SpeedSetter VM can image all violet plates currently available on the market today ranging in width from 12.5" to 20.88", and in length from 15" to 19.88". That makes it compatible with all the common 2-up portrait and landscape presses on the market. It also provides a press upgrade path: you can create plates today for a portrait press, and tomorrow for a landscape press. The optional P20 Plate Runner (processor) can process all the available photopolymer plates so you won't be limited to a particular plate material.



New SpeedSetter® VM

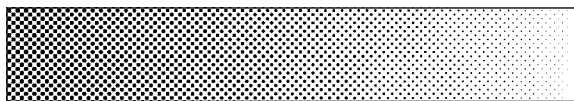


Higher linescreens, clean press runs and **fantastic 4-color!**

RIPit's New PerfectBLEND™ feature for CtP and Film Systems™ combines the benefits of AM Screening and FM Screening, allowing you to hold linescreens up to 80% higher than traditional screening methods.

Traditional AM Screening

Traditional halftone screening, often called AM Screening, consists of dots placed in a regular grid, which vary in size to produce lighter or darker regions. It has served the industry well, providing good quality while remaining relatively easy to use. The limiting factor has been the ability of printers to maintain dots at the low and high ends of the grayscale range; as linescreen goes up, it becomes more difficult to hold high-light dots and keep shadow screens open.



FM (Stochastic) Screening

Frequency modulated screening uses a different approach than AM, holding dot size constant and varying the distance between dots. Because the dots are smaller and closer together over most of the tonal range, FM screening provides more detail in the midtones and can remove moiré patterns. But, because it uses dots which are very small, the problems associated with highlight dots in AM screening are present over most of the tonal range in FM screening.

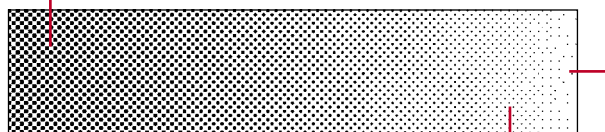


Hybrid Screening

We can see that the limiting factor in AM screening is the size of the dots in the highlights and shadows, and the limiting factor in FM screening is the size of the dots in the midtones. This suggests that a combination of the two could take advantage of the best characteristics of each. Hybrid screening uses a traditional AM halftone pattern over most of the tonal range, and an FM pattern in the highlights and shadows. By using hybrid screening, offset printers can increase the linescreens they use over the AM values, without increasing the difficulty on press.

AM Screening

FM Screening



PerfectBLEND™

Try it for FREE!

Would you like to see what PerfectBLEND hybrid screening technology can do for your print quality? Request your FREE sample file online at www.ripit.com/perfectsampleform.html

Making Contact

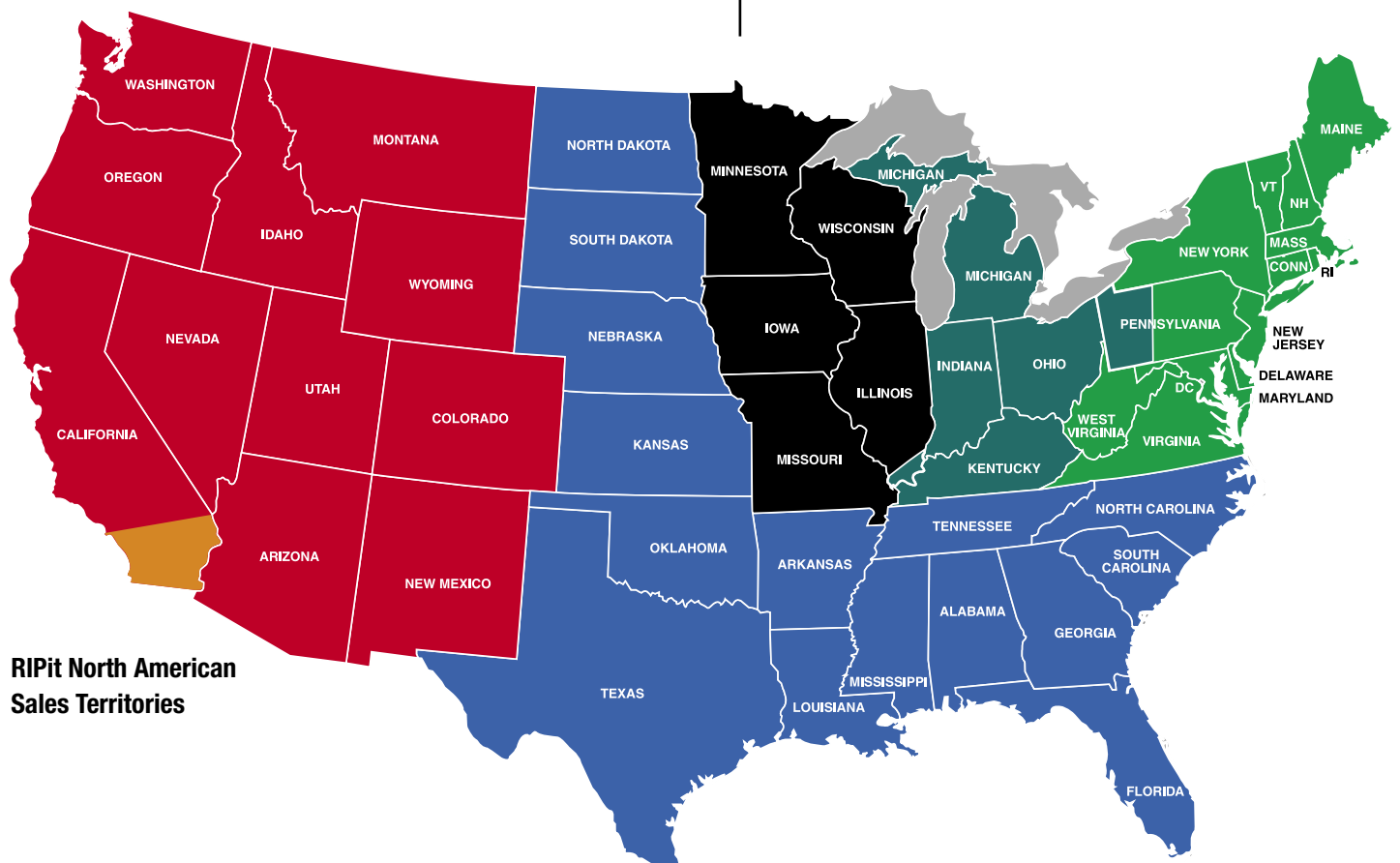
RIPit welcomes new sales, support and installation personnel to offer even more support for new and existing customers across North America. Below is a color coded list of RIPit Representatives and their territories.

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RIPit North American Sales Territories