Quick Overview of Aspen 6 Features and Changes

Page Setups

Below are pictured two different Page Setups (PSU's) in an Aspen System. I have circled the three main areas of interest to users newly upgraded to Aspen 6.

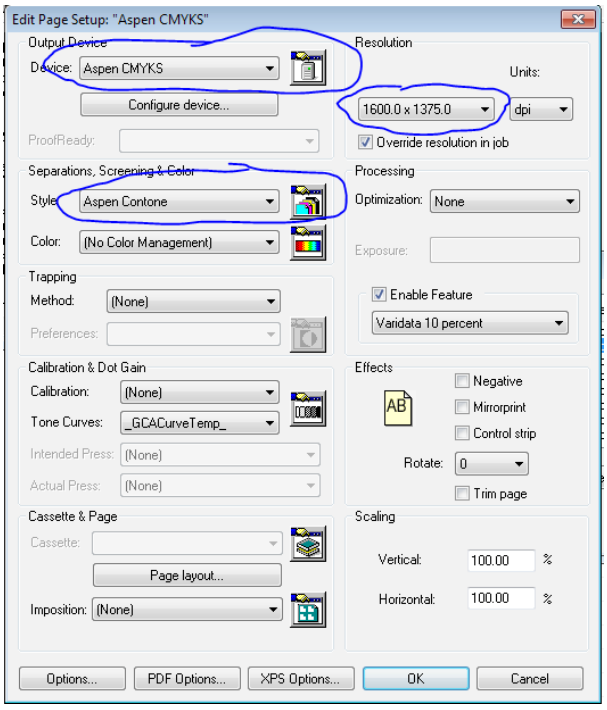
You will note that on the upper left of both Page Setups, I have circled the Device setting which for the page setup of the left is "Aspen CMYKS" and the Page Setup on the right has "Aspen."

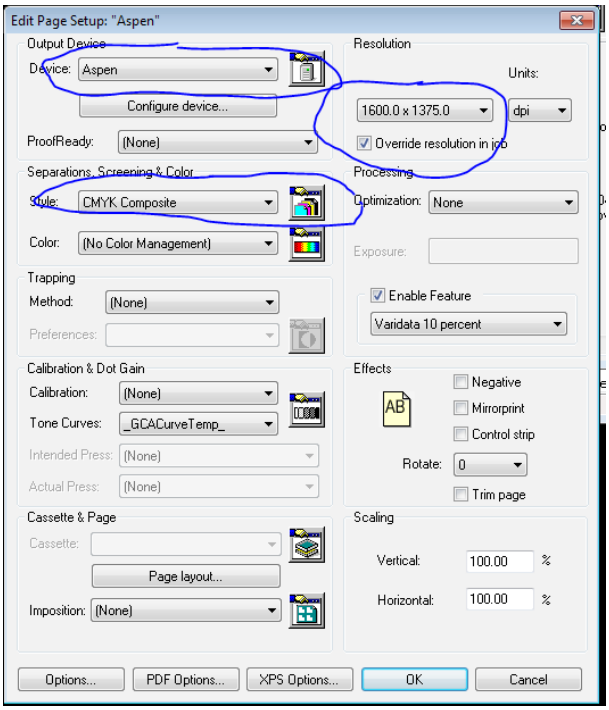
The basic difference between these devices is the Aspen CMYKS device supports direct adjustment of the Spot Color with color underlayment, while the traditional Aspen device does not. Either device can support spot color printing, but only the Aspen CMYKS supports adjustment to the spot color.

Next, you will note on the upper right of each PSU (Page Setup) I have circled the resolution the PSU will produce. In each case these page setups will produce output which is 1600x1375 dpi. The older version of the Aspen plug in had some variable resolutions supported but the final Aspen 6 version only supports 1375, 1135, 725 and 555 as vertical resolutions. We highly recommend having dedicated PSUs for each Device/resolution combination.

It is important to note that the resolution Aspen can produce can only be controlled through the PSU and not through settings in the job or workflow. This necessitates the creation of multiple PSUs on systems using multiple resolutions.

I have also indicated the Separation Style on each PSU. This dictates the type of data sent to the plug in and must not be changed or altered as the wrong setting in this area can disable the spot color adjustment function.





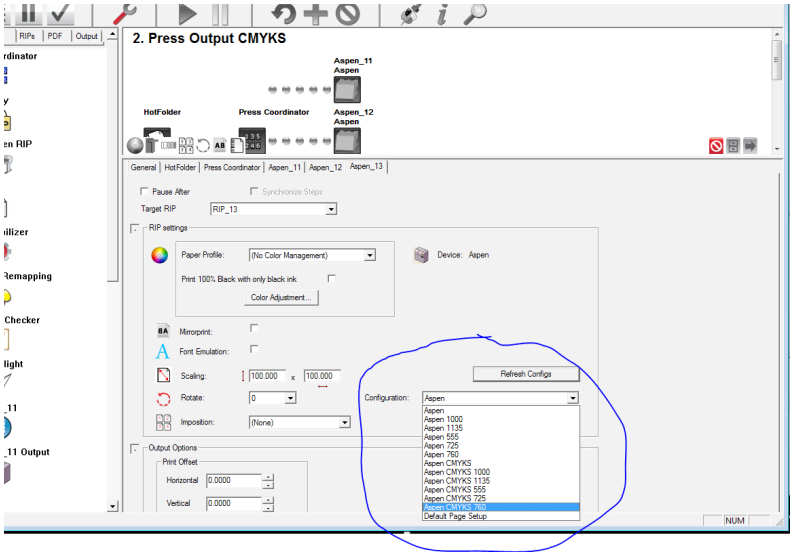
Workflows

Below is a screen shot of what a new Aspen 6 workflow might look like. Note that in the past, some users only operated with an “Aspen” Page Setup (PSU) and from the workflow might select one of many different Color Pro color management setups. With the addition of the CMYKS support for spot color adjustment, as well as the variable resolutions the single PSU approach will necessitate changes to workflow design.

In particular, it will now be recommended and necessary to have multiple PSUs which carry the different devices and resolutions preconfigured. It is our recommendation that individual workflows be implemented which carry the different device/resolutions configurations desired by the end users. This will likely be especially critical in installations with a multiple rip setup due to the real possibility of accidently having the various RIPs sending data of different resolutions on the same job to the spooler which will cause hard to track down errors. It is critical to verify that each RIP in a multi-rip installion has each workflow pointing to the same PSU. This cannot be emphasized enough.

Existing color profile setups created at 1375 dpi will not be accurate at lower dpi/higher press speed combinations.

Color management setups are Navigator device dependent. This means that if you create a new Color Pro setup for the Aspen CMYKS device, that setup will not be available for use in the traditional Aspen device. One would have to create the Color Pro setup for each device separately. The same ICC profile should be ok for both provided it was created at the same resolution.



Known Resolution/Chaining issue

If jobs of different resolutions are sent in sequence to the Gymea/Cedar, these jobs may not be chained at output.

The Gymea also can only load data from jobs of two different resolutions at a time. How this looks on the workflow Client is the job and Spooler appear to pause as the next job in sequence appears to RIP but never complete. What is happening is the Spooler is waiting for the Press to print the jobs of one resolution before the Gymea will accept the next resolution data download.