# User's Guide

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| Rev | Date | Pages | Text Changes |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 27 January 1999 | All | Initial external release; covers Raster Blaster software release, version 1.0 |
| B | 30 March 2000 | All | External release; covers Raster Blaster software release, version 2.0 |
| C | 29 September 2000 | All | External release; covers Raster Blaster software release, version 2.9 |
| D | 03 November 2000 | All | External release; covers Raster Blaster software release, version 3.0 |

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

## Description

Raster Blaster is a Xitron software system for imaging bitmaps.

Raster Blaster accepts screened black and white TIFF files in 1-bit/multiple strips, 2-bit/multiple strips, 1-bit/single strip formats, as well as a number of compression schemes including: CCITT Group3, CCITT Group4, CCITT Huffman, LZW, and Packbits, and outputs these files as pre-rasterized images to a wide number of imagesetters.

Raster Blaster operates using the Windows NT operating system in unit and symmetrical multi-processor (SMP) configurations.

- You can configure, monitor, and operate Raster Blaster through its menu-driven graphic user interface, using the computer on which it is installed.
- You can remotely monitor the operation of the Raster Blaster and get information about the jobs that Raster Blaster is processing through its browser interface.

# A Quick Tour

This user's guide contains nine chapters, a glossary and an index:

## Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter includes:

- A description of Raster Blaster.
- The contents of this guide.
- An explanation of style conventions used in this guide.
- A list of related documents.

## Chapter 2: Installation

This chapter includes installation instructions for the Raster Blaster software and Raster Blaster output plugins.

## Chapter 3: Removal

This chapter describes how to remove Raster Blaster and any output plugins you may have installed.

## Chapter 4: Devices

This chapter describes how to configure the core of Raster Blaster, its output devices and their associated parameter sets (PSets).

### Chapter 5: Queues

This chapter describes how to configure input queues for sending files to Raster Blaster.

### Chapter 6: Logs

This chapter describes how to configure and manage your system logs.

### Chapter 7: Operations

This chapter describes various operating tasks, including starting, imaging files, resetting and shutting down Raster Blaster.

### Chapter 8: Browser

This chapter describes the monitoring that can be performed through a browser on the host system or a remote computer.

### Chapter 9: Connecting

This chapter describes the process of connecting Raster Blaster to Xitron's Navigator NT RIP.

## Document Style Conventions

This document contains a number of style conventions designed to make it easier to use.

## Notes and Cautions

Notes and Cautions appear within horizontal rules and are used for the following purposes:

---

***Note:*** Notes provide information that is important enough to demand special attention. The information may be relevant to the current discussion but awkward to include without disrupting the flow of information.

---

**CAUTION**

Cautions advise of situations that might cause equipment damage or loss of information or work time.

---

## Style Conventions Used in Text

A change of typeface within the document indicates such things as screen messages and operator entries. The following conventions are used:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Italic* | designates file names, directories, variables, and document references (for example, "the *Hosts* file...") |
| **Bold** | designates text entered by the operator using the keyboard (for example: "Enter **1111** for the directory") |
| ***Bold italic*** | designates entries found on the screen (for example: "click the ***Configure*** button") |

Extended blocks of text found on-screen are placed in separate paragraphs, which use a smaller type size and have special indents (as shown in the following example:

This example represents an extended block of text captured from the screen. The point size is slightly smaller, and the left and right margins have been indented slightly.

# Related Documents

The following documents are available to assist in the use of Raster Blaster:

## Raster Blaster Documentation

A copy of the *Raster Blaster User's Guide* is provided with each[1] Raster Blaster on the CD ROM disk.

## On-Disk Supporting Software Documentation

The following supporting software elements are provided on the Raster Blaster CD-ROM disk:

- Raster Blaster Output Plugins

[1.] A copy of this document in Acrobat pdf form can be found in the *Documentation* folder on the Raster Blaster compact disc.

# Chapter 2: Installation

## Before You Begin

Raster Blaster software is designed to run by itself on a dedicated computer. Do not install other applications or utilities beyond those needed for system operation. Unneeded utilities and applications may interfere with the functioning of the Raster Blaster program and cause it to lose communications with the attached output imager.

- Windows NT 4.0 Service Pack 5 must be installed on your computer before you install the Raster Blaster program. Other versions of Windows NT may create problems with AppleTalk networking. To make sure that all necessary changes to the System software have been correctly applied, it is a good idea to run the Service pack both before and after all installation procedures are completed.
- Before installing Raster Blaster, make sure you have the desired network services installed.
- If you want to run the browser interface on your local machine, you must install Microsoft Internet Explorer (revision 4.0 or later) on your local machine.

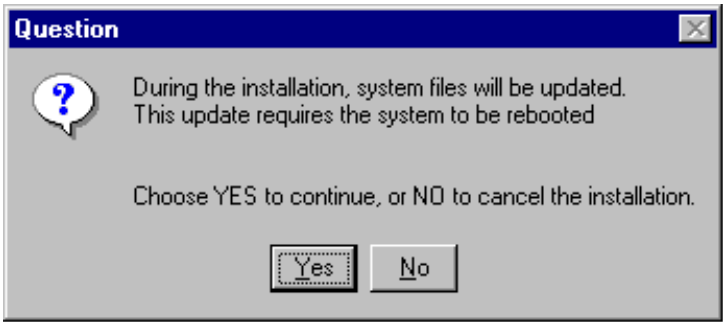
- If you want to run the browser interface on your local machine, and you are running Raster Blaster on a platform with Windows NT Workstation installed, you must install Microsoft Peer Web Services on the computer where Raster Blaster resides.
- If you want to run the browser interface on your local machine, and you are running on a platform with Windows NT Server installed, you must install the Internet Information Server (IIS) on the computer where Raster Blaster resides.

# Getting Started

1. Log in to Windows NT as a user with administrator privileges**.**
2. Insert the Raster Blaster compact disk in the CD drive of the computer you want to use as your Raster Blaster platform.
3. The installation program checks to see if all the necessary system files are in place on your computer. If all the system files are there, the next screen you see is the Raster Blaster splash screen. In this case, skip ahead to step 9 on page 2-4.

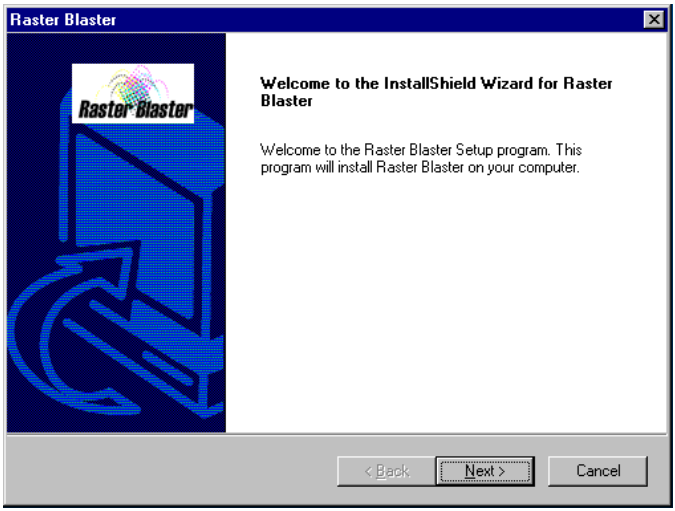
   If you don't see the Raster Blaster splash screen at this point, continue with step 4 below.

4. If the installation program finds some important system files missing, it will display the following dialog box:



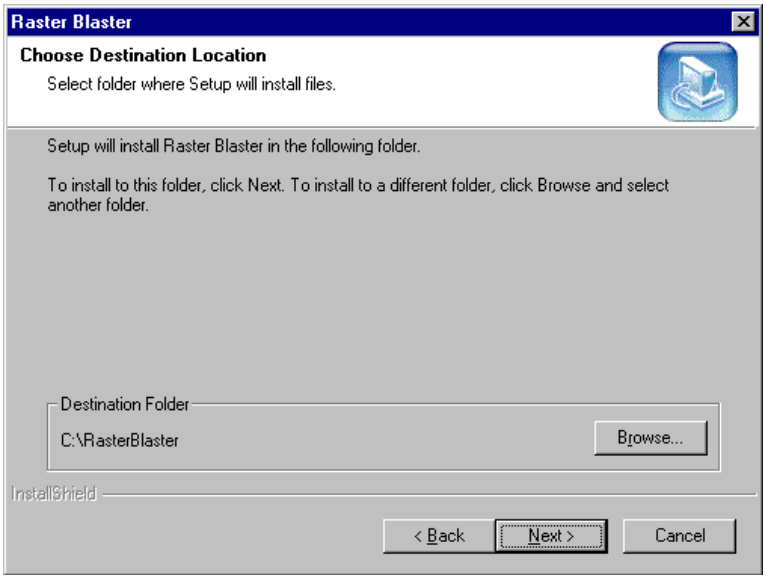

5. If you see this message box, click ***Yes*** to automatically reboot your computer and continue with the installation.
6. When you click ***Yes***, the installation program installs the missing files and reboots your computer to make the new system files available.
7. Now start the installation procedure over again by removing the Raster Blaster compact disk from the CD drive and reinserting it, or Auto-start your CD drive by double clicking the appropriate drive icon in the My Computer window.
8. When you Auto-start the installation CD, the Raster Blaster splash screen appears.

9. To start installing Raster Blaster, click ***Install RIP***. A progress bar appears to indicate that the InstallShield Wizard is being initiated. After the progress bar is filled, the ***Welcome*** screen appears.



10. Click ***Next*** on the ***Welcome*** screen to continue.

The ***Choose Destination Location*** wizard screen appears, asking you to define the name and location of the folder in which the Raster Blaster software will be installed.




***Choose Destination Location*** wizard screen

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***Note:*** The suggested ***Destination Folder*** will be located on the NTFS formatted partition of your hard drive.

---

11. To accept the suggested ***Destination Folder***, click ***Next*** to continue. To change the location for your Raster Blaster software, perform the following lettered steps:

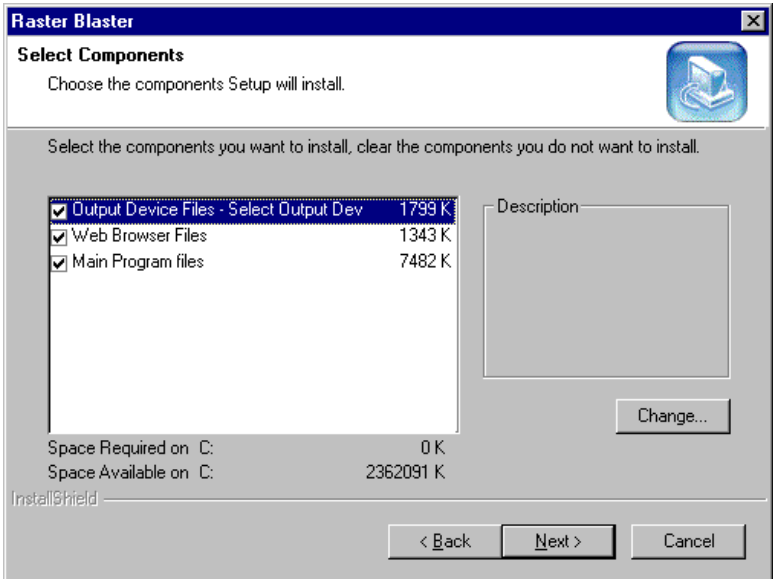
    a. Click ***Browse***.

    b. Using standard Windows techniques, select the desired location in the ***Directory Browser*** that appears.

    c. Click ***OK***. The ***Directory Browser*** closes and the ***Choose Destination Location*** wizard screen returns with the location you selected displayed as the ***Destination Folder.***

    d. Click ***Next*** to continue.

The ***Select Components*** wizard screen appears.



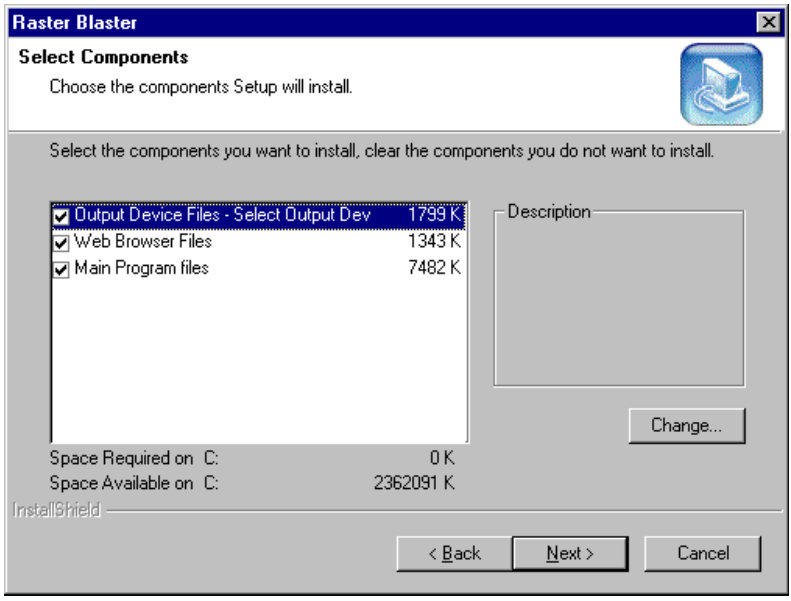

***Select Components*** wizard screen

At this point, you may complete your installation without installing Output Plugins by clicking ***Next*** and skipping ahead to "The Select Program Folder Wizard Screen" on page 2-11.

To load Output Plugins now, continue with the next section.

# Installing Output Plugins

Raster Blaster Output Plugins allow users of Raster Blaster to send output to Xitron supported imagers. Output Plugins provide imager-specific data to the Device Setup dialog box. To load the appropriate Output PlugIn for your imager, follow these steps:



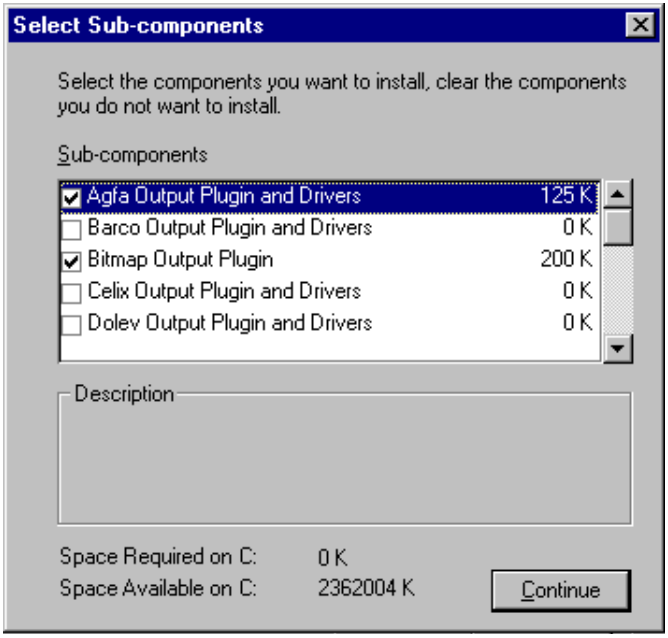

***Select Components*** wizard screen

1. On the ***Select Components*** screen, highlight the line that says:

   ***Output Device Files - Select Output Device***

2. Click ***Change***.

The ***Select Sub-components*** dialog box appears, containing a menu of Output Plugins.




***Select Sub-components*** wizard screen

3. Scroll through the list, choose the appropriate PlugIn and select it by clicking in the box to the left of the plugin name. Be sure not to deselect the item called ***Diag + Utilities***. Click the ***Continue*** button to go back to the ***Select Components*** screen. Click ***Next*** to continue with the installation.

   The next screen to appear depends on which output plugins you selected from the list on the ***Select Sub-components*** screen.

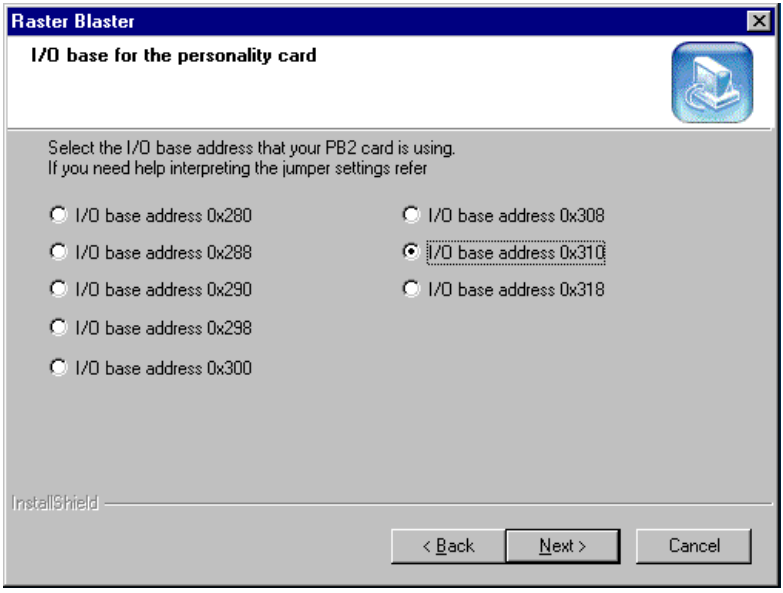
You will see the ***Select Program Folder*** wizard screen if you selected one of the following:

- ***Barco Output Plugin and Drivers***
- ***Bitmap Output Plugin***
- ***Celix Output Plugin and Drivers***
- ***Screen FTR Output Plugin and Drivers***

If you selected one of these plugins, skip ahead to "The Select Program Folder Wizard Screen" on page 2-11.

If you selected any other device plugin, the next screen to appear is the ***I/O base for the personality card*** wizard screen. This screen asks you to select the I/O base address for the PB2 card you are using.

***Note:*** Note, with our new single board PCI cards you will not see this screen for any of our plugins. The single board PCI card is just coming into production as of this writing, and is not being widely shipped yet.



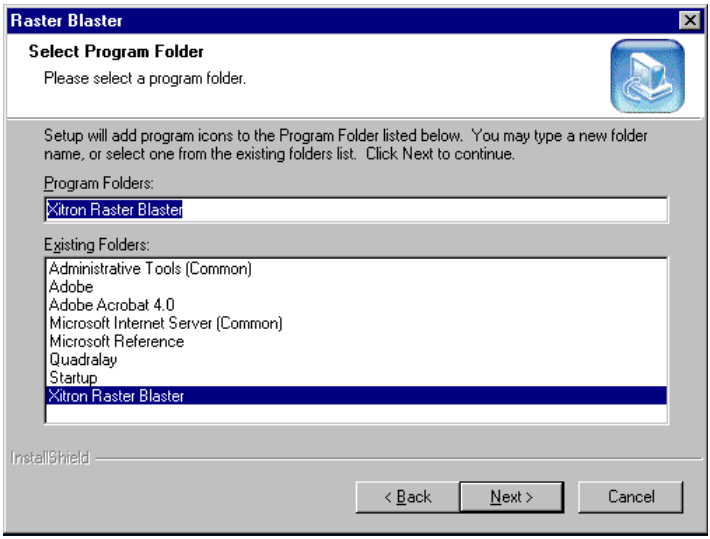

***I/O base for the personality card*** wizard screen

4. Make your selection for I/O base address, and click ***Next***.

   The next screen is the ***Select Program Folder*** wizard screen.

## The *Select Program Folder* Wizard Screen

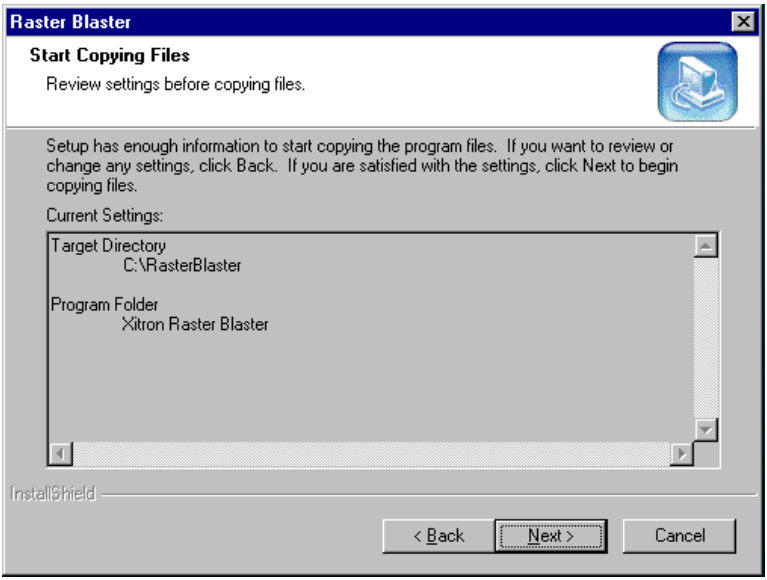
The ***Select Program Folder*** wizard screen asks you to choose a name for the program folder in which the icons for elements of the Raster Blaster system software will be installed.




***Select Program Folder*** wizard screen

1. Select the appropriate folder name and click ***Next***.

The ***Start Copying Files*** wizard screen appears.




***Start Copying Files*** wizard screen

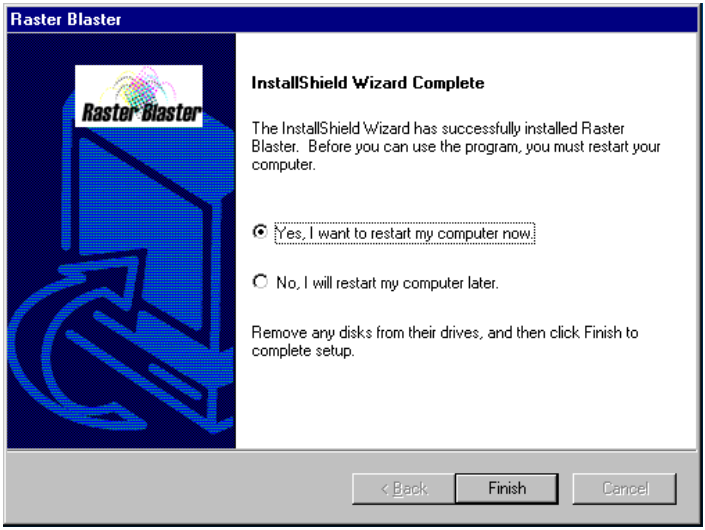
2. Click ***Next*** to begin copying files.

Files are copied into your computer, as indicated by the appearance of a title window and progress bar showing the percent of the installation that has been completed:

Title window and progress bar

When the progress bar reaches 100%, the next screen appears, indicating successful installation.

Next, the ***InstallShield Wizard Complete*** screen appears.

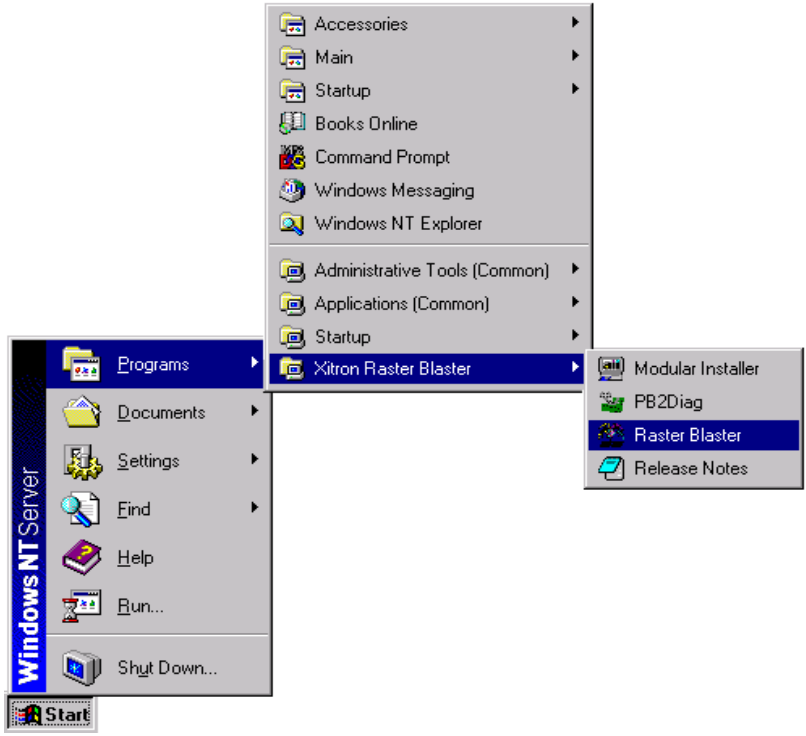



***InstallShield Wizard Complete*** screen

3. Select the ***Yes*** button, and click ***Finish*** to complete your Raster Blaster system installation.

   Your Raster Blaster computer shuts down and restarts.

After installation, ***Raster Blaster*** and ***Modular Installer*** appear as ***Start*** menu commands.




Start Menu Commands for Raster Blaster

Also, the ***Raster Blaster*** icon appears on your desktop:

If you didn't install Output PlugIns, you may do it now (refer to "Installing Output Plugins" on page 2-7).

# Security Key Installation

Raster Blaster is equipped with a security key that must be installed to enable the software.

**CAUTION**

Remove power from your Raster Blaster computer whenever you install, remove, or replace the security key (dongle). Otherwise, you may damage your computer.

The security key (also known as the dongle) plugs into the parallel port of the computer where Raster Blaster resides. The dongle must be installed for Raster Blaster to work. The security key is a feed-through device. If you need to connect a cable to your parallel port, you can connect it to the installed security key, just as if it were the parallel connector. You are now ready to start using Raster Blaster.

# Chapter 3: Removal

You do not need any compact disk or floppy disk to perform any of the procedures in this chapter.

## Remove Your Raster Blaster System Software

All software removal procedures involve the use of the UninstallShield utility, activated through the ***Add/Remove Programs*** icon in the ***Control Panel*** window.

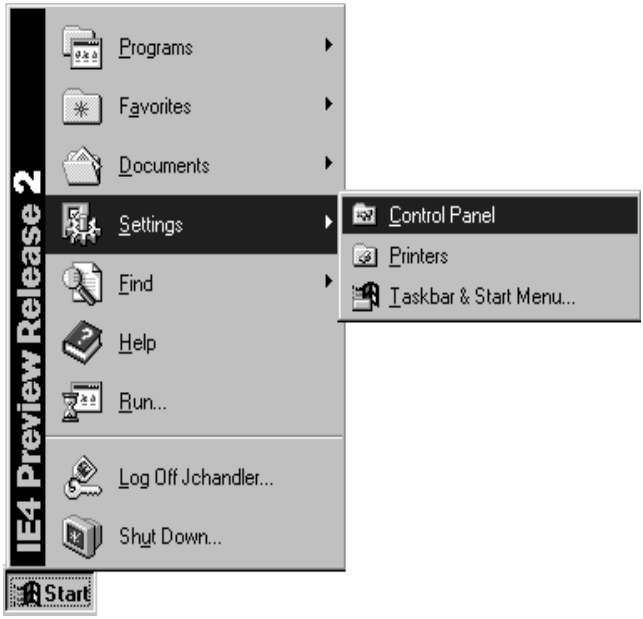
---

***Note:*** The Raster Blaster removal procedure does not delete definitions for devices or PSets. These definitions remain in the Registry.

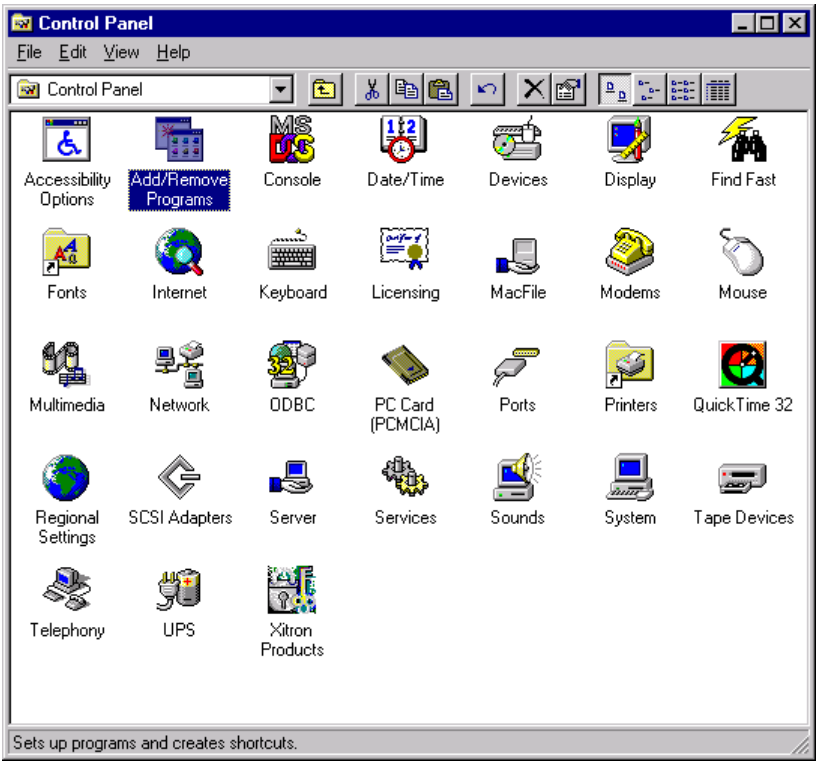
---

1. Make sure that your Raster Blaster system is not running.

2. From the ***Start*** menu, point to ***Settings*** and click ***Control Panel***.

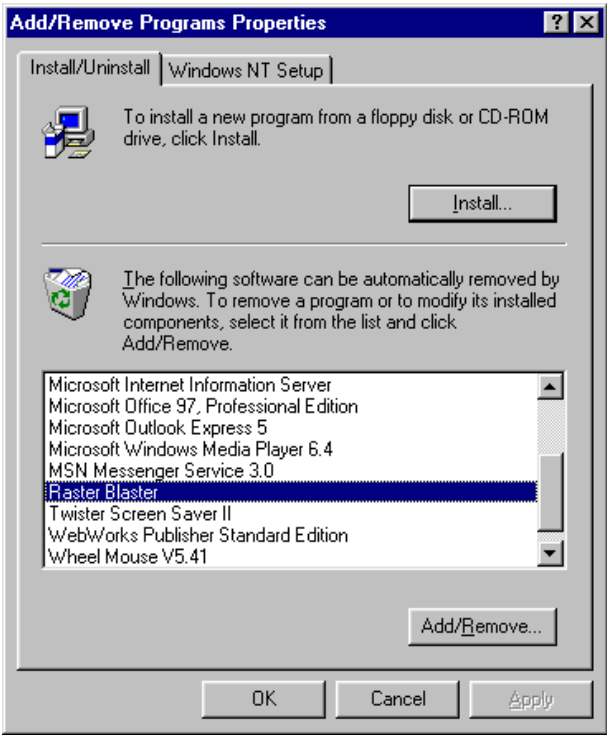


3. In the ***Control Panel*** window, double-click the ***Add/Remove Programs*** icon.




***Control Panel*** window

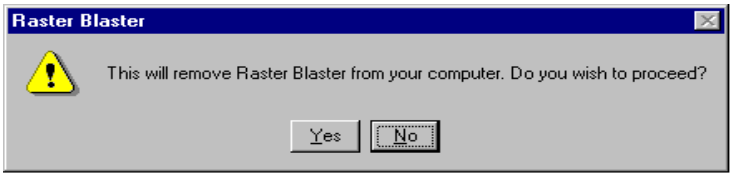
4. If not already selected, select the ***Install/Uninstall*** tab in the ***Add/Remove Programs Properties*** dialog box that appears.




***Add/Remove Programs Properties*** dialog box

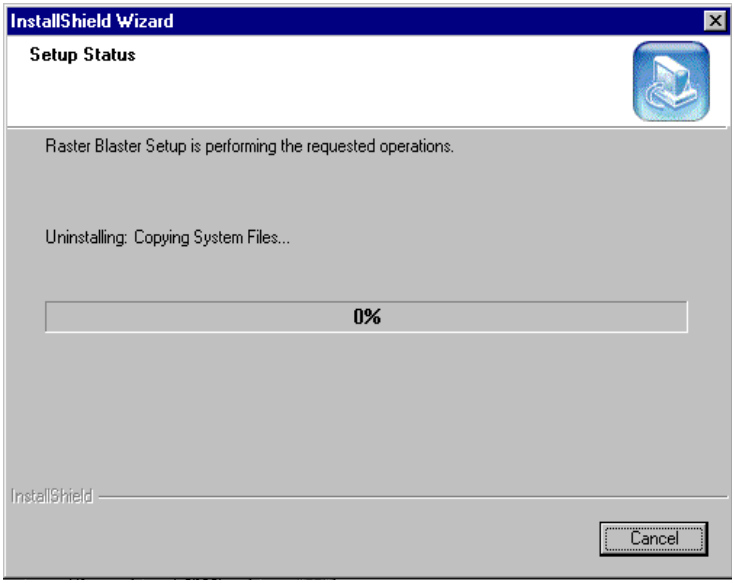
5. To remove the Raster Blaster system, select it from the list in the ***Add/Remove Programs Properties*** dialog box and click ***Add/Remove***.

6. Click ***Yes*** in the ***Confirmation*** dialog box to confirm your intention to remove your Raster Blaster system software.




***Confirmation*** dialog box

7. The UninstallShield utility begins, as shown by the ***Setup Status*** wizard screen.




***Setup Status*** wizard screen

8. When the UninstallShield utility finishes, as indicated by the completed progress bar, the following information box appears:

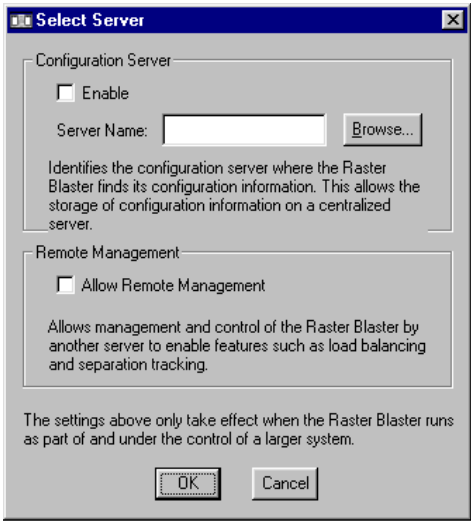
Information box

9. Click ***OK*** to close the box.
10. Shut down and restart your computer.
11. You have finished removing your Raster Blaster system software.

# Chapter 4: Devices

## Configure Raster Blaster

The menu selection ***File > Configure Raster Blaster*** displays a screen for setting advanced features of Raster Blaster not available in this release.



# Device Configuration Overview

This is the first of two configuration chapters. The ***Device Configuration*** dialog box is the main focus of our configuration efforts in this chapter. In the next chapter we will focus on configuring queues for inputting files into Raster Blaster.

The devices you configure determine which imagers you can use for output. For each device, you can also define parameter sets (PSets) which determine how the selected imager will process the output. By selecting an output device and one of that device's PSets, you determine which imager receives the output and how it processes that output.

This section is divided into two main parts:

- First, we cover the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box and how to create or delete new devices and PSets).
- Next, we cover the configuration of each of the tabs in the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box (refer to "Configuring Device Configuration Tabs" on page 4-11).

---

***Note:*** To help put these configuration efforts in context, the discussion includes an example configuration for an Agfa Avantra 44 (refer to "Avantra 44 Example Configuration" on page 4-28).

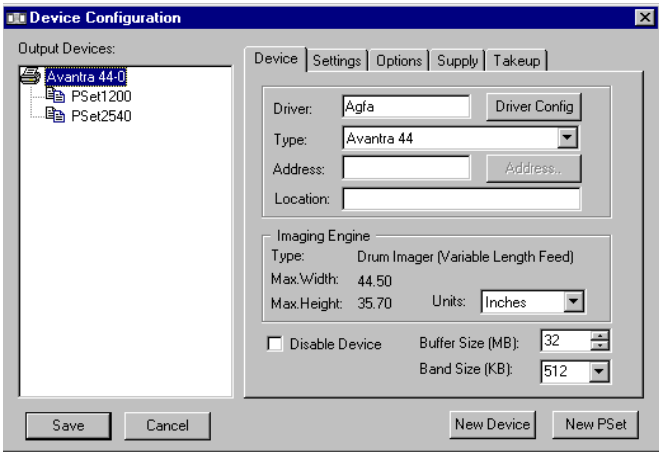
---

## Creating New Devices

To create a new device, follow the steps below:

1. Open the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box by pulling the ***File*** menu down to ***Configure Devices.***

   The ***Device Configuration*** dialog box has up to five tabs that allow you to configure devices and parameter sets (PSets). A different subset of tabs is involved in these two configuration tasks. When you highlight a device, five tabs appear as shown here:




***Device Configuration*** dialog box

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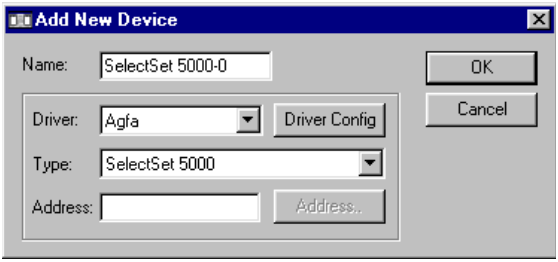
***Note:*** If the PSets for a device are displayed in the ***Output Devices*** list, you can hide them by double-clicking on the device icon. If they are already hidden, double-click the device icon to display them. After you add a new PSet, all PSets for that device are displayed.

---

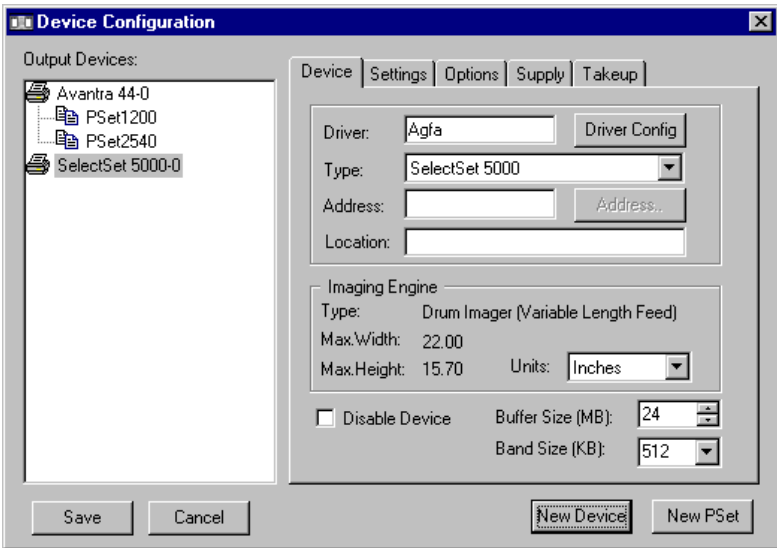
2. To configure a new device, click the ***New Device*** button.
3. The ***Add New Device*** dialog box appears.




***Add New Device*** dialog box.

4. From the ***Driver*** pop-up menu, select the driver for your output device.
5. If you choose a device with more than one type, the ***Type*** pop-up menu will become active. It lists the available device types that apply to the selected ***Driver***.
6. Select the appropriate device from the ***Type*** pop-up menu.
7. Your system labels the device you are creating in the ***Name*** text box. The label used consists of a shorthand reference to the selected device, followed by a dash and a number. For example, Raster Blaster labels an Avantra 44 device being created as ***Avantra 44-0***. The number increases as you create additional devices (***Avantra 44-1***, ***Avantra 44-2***, and so forth).
8. Most devices will have additional options that are configured using the ***Driver Config*** button. See the plugin manual for instructions on these additional configuration settings.
9. The ***Address*** text box and button are not used in this version of Raster Blaster.

10. Click ***OK.*** The ***Add New Device*** dialog box closes. The device you created appears in the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box. Also, the configuration choices you have made so far appear under the ***Device*** parameter tab. Click the ***Save*** button on the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box to save the new device.




***Device Configuration*** dialog box

---

***Note:*** By configuring a device, you have also configured the default PSet for that device.

---

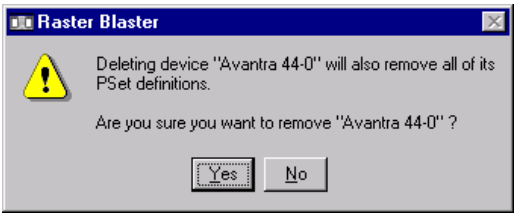
11. To configure the parameter tabs for the device you just added, refer to "Configuring Device Configuration Tabs" on page 4-11.

12. To delete devices, refer to "Deleting Devices" on page 4-6 .

## Deleting Devices

To delete a device and all of its PSets:

1. Highlight the device icon in the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box.
2. On your keyboard, press the *Delete* key.
3. When asked to confirm your intention to delete the selected device and all of its PSets, click ***Yes***.




Confirmation message box

## Creating New PSets

---

***Note:*** Each new PSet will inherit the default PSet configuration of its device. Refer to "Configuring Device Configuration Tabs" on page 4-11 for device and PSet configuration information.

---

To create a new parameter set (PSet):

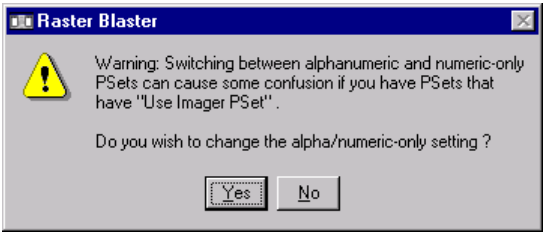
1. In the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box, highlight the device for which you want to create a PSet.

2. In the lower right corner of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box, click ***New PSet***. The ***Add New Setup*** dialog box appears.
3. Select a ***Setup Name***.
   a. If you want to use a numeric name for your PSet, perform the following substeps. If, instead, you want to use a non-numeric name for your PSet, skip ahead to step b.
      (1) Deselect the ***Allow non-numeric setup names*** box to give the P-Set a numeric setup name. The ***Add New Setup*** dialog box is displayed as shown below.

***Add New Setup*** dialog box

      (2) Enter a number in the ***PSet*** window. The default value is **1**. The default value automatically increases for subsequent PSets for the same device.
      (3) To accept your configuration entries, click ***OK***.

***Note:*** If you deselected the ***Allow non-numeric setup names*** box and clicked ***OK***, your system must change from alpha PSet naming to numeric. To accept the change in PSet naming, click ***Yes*** in the following message box.

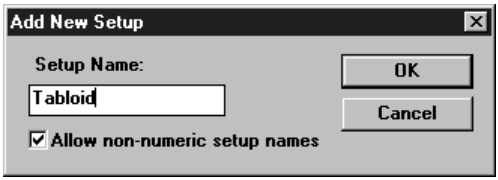



Confirmation message box

(4) Skip ahead to step 4 on page 4-9.

b. To give your PSet a non-numeric name, perform the following substeps:

(1) Select ***Allow non-numeric setup names*** by clicking in the box next to it.



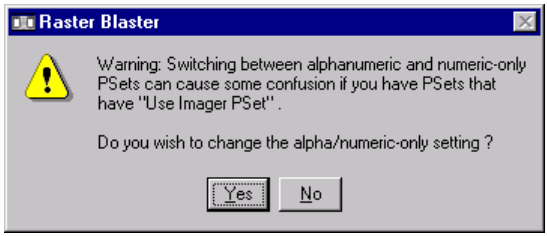

***Add New Setup*** dialog box

(2) Enter a name in the ***Setup Name*** text box. The default name is ***PSet*** *n* (where *n* is the next default PSet number).

***Note:*** In the default non-numeric default PSet name, two spaces are placed between the word ***PSet*** and a single digit number.

(3) To accept your configuration entries, click ***OK***.

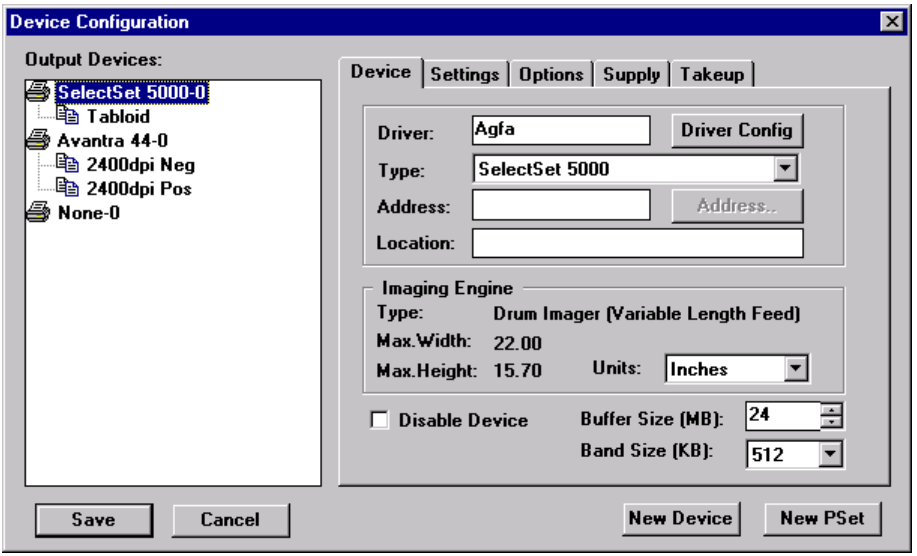
***Note:*** If you selected ***Allow non-numeric setup names*** and clicked ***OK***, your system must change from numeric PSet naming to alpha. To accept the change in PSet naming, click ***Yes*** in the following message box.




Confirmation message box

4. When you click ***Yes*** to close the message box, the ***Add New Setup*** dialog box closes.

5. The PSet you created appears in the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box.




***Device Configuration*** dialog box

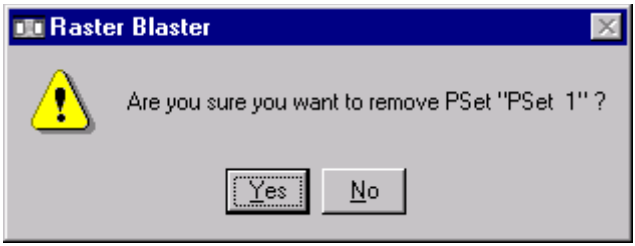
6. To configure the PSet you just added, refer to "Configuring Device Configuration Tabs" on page 4-11.
7. To delete PSets, refer to "Deleting Setups" below.

## Deleting Setups

To delete a PSet:

1. Highlight the PSet icon in the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box.
2. On your keyboard, press the *Delete* key.

3. When asked to confirm your intention to delete the selected PSet, click ***Yes***.

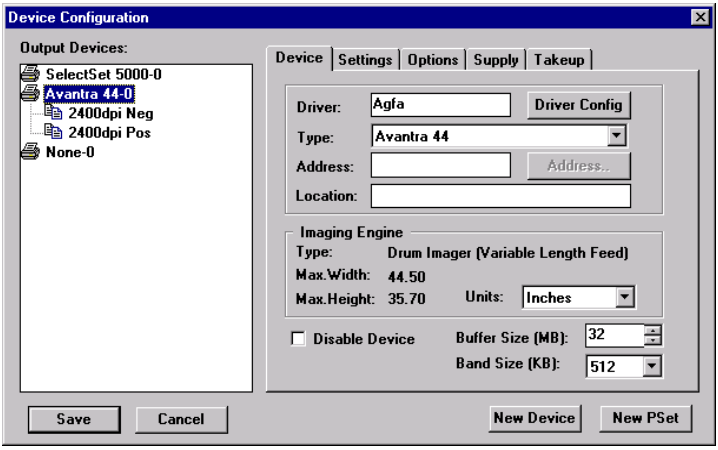



Confirmation message box

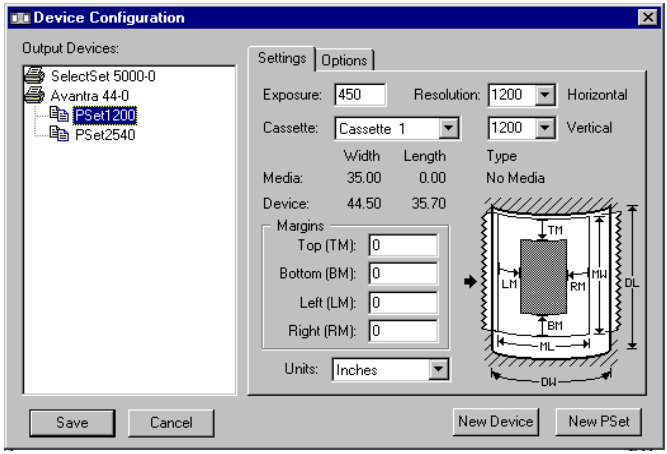
# Configuring Device Configuration Tabs

The ***Device Configuration*** dialog box choices are divided into a series of up to five parameter tabs. If a device name is highlighted in the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box, up to five tabs are displayed. If a PSet name is highlighted instead, two tabs are displayed.

An example of the dialog box in both forms is shown on page 4-12.




***Device Configuration*** dialog box, Device name highlighted




***Device Configuration*** dialog box, PSet name highlighted

***Device Configuration*** dialog box parameter tabs are described in the following topics:


- "Default PSet Configurations" on page 4-13.
- "Device Tab" on page 4-14.
- "Settings Tab" on page 4-16.
- "Options Tab" on page 4-20.
- "Supply Tab" on page 4-23.
- "Takeup Tab" on page 4-36.


## Default PSet Configurations

If you do not create any PSets for a device, the device configuration for the ***Settings*** and ***Options*** parameter tabs collectively become the default PSet configuration.

Further, when you create a new PSet, you begin with the default PSet configuration. You can then tailor the new PSet to your specific requirements by changing the configuration of the parameter tabs that appear.

You can also reconfigure an existing PSet by highlighting its name and changing the configuration of the parameter tabs that appear.

---

***Note:*** In order to ensure that all of the TIFF files are imaged at the correct resolution, you must create a PSet for each resolution required.

---

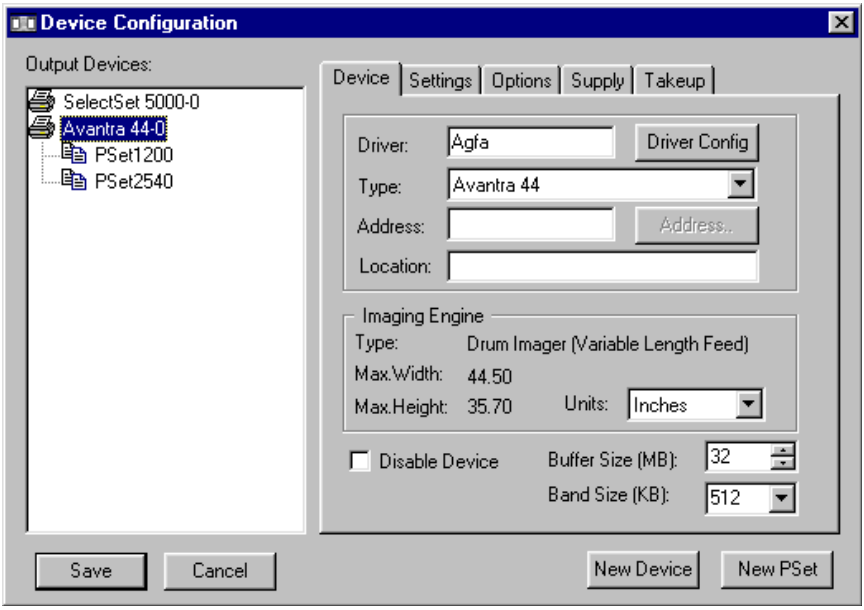
## Device Tab

---

***Note:*** When configuring devices or PSets for the first time, configure the tabs in order from left to right starting with the ***Device*** tab. Remember that the ***Device*** Tab is one of the tabs that does not appear when you configure PSets.

---

The ***Device*** tab displays information about the device you have highlighted in the ***Output Devices*** window. As shown below by the sample ***Device*** tab for an Avantra 44 device, the ***Device*** tab contains information about the device that you configured when the device was first created. The ***Location*** text box is new, however. It allows you to record your own descriptive comment about the selected device.




***Device Configuration*** dialog box, ***Device*** Tab

## Imaging Engine group box

The ***Imaging Engine*** group box displays information about the selected device.

- ***Type*** displays the generic category of the selected imager (***Capstan, Cut-Sheet, Drum, Plate Setter***, or none).
- ***Max. Width*** refers to the fast scan direction of the imager.
- ***Max. Height*** refers to the slow scan direction, if any.
- ***Units*** This menu sets the units for the ***Max. Width*** and ***Max. Height*** entries (menu choices are ***Inches, Picas, Millimeters*** or ***Points***).

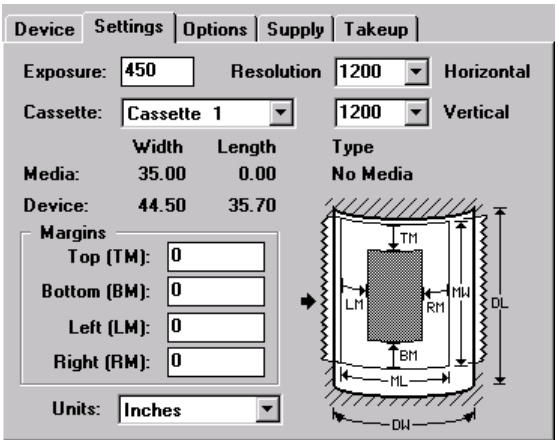
### Disable Device check box

Select ***Disable Device*** only if you want to prevent jobs from being processed by the selected device. Otherwise, clear it.

### Buffer Size and Band Size spinners

The displayed values are defaults chosen by your Raster Blaster system. Change them only on advice from Xitron technical support.

## Settings Tab




***Settings*** Tab

---

***Note:*** When a device name is highlighted in the ***Output Devices*** window, the settings in the ***Settings*** tab along with the settings in the ***Options*** tab determine the default configuration for any new PSets. On the other hand, when a PSet name is highlighted, these settings determine the specific configuration for the highlighted PSet.

---

Click on the ***Settings*** tab:

The ***Settings*** tab contains the following parameters:

### Exposure Text Box

---

***Note:*** For imagers that do not allow Raster Blaster to control laser intensity, ***Exposure*** is unavailable.

---

For imagers that allow Raster Blaster to control laser intensity, enter the desired intensity in ***Exposure***.

### Cassette Menu

---

***Note:*** If you have unchecked ***Disable Cassette Tracking*** in the ***Supply*** tab and you do not select one of the cassettes assigned to the selected device and PSet, your Raster Blaster system will post an error message.

---

Select one of 16 cassettes. Refer to “Supply Tab” on page 4-23 for instructions on configuring or assigning cassettes. If the cassette you select is assigned to a station or tray, the job will be imaged to that station or tray.

### Resolution Menus

The entries on the ***Vertical*** and ***Horizontal*** menus represent the allowable resolution settings for the selected device.

For most devices, you must select the same ***Vertical*** and ***Horizontal*** entries. If you select a value in the ***Vertical*** menu, the corresponding value automatically appears in the ***Horizontal*** menu and vice versa.

However, for some imagers, you can select different values for the ***Vertical*** menu and the ***Horizontal*** menu.

If you select a value in the ***Horizontal*** menu, the corresponding value automatically appears in the ***Vertical*** menu.

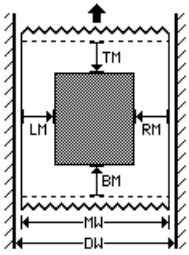
However, if you select a value in the ***Vertical*** menu, the ***Horizontal*** menu retains its original value.

### Bottom Portion of Settings Tab

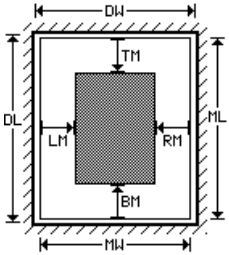
The remaining items include:

- The ***Width***, ***Length***, and ***Type*** entries for ***Media*** are determined by the selected ***Cassette***.
- The ***Width*** and ***Length*** entries for ***Device*** are determined by the highlighted device in the ***Output Device*** list.
- The ***Margins*** box specifies measurements that are graphically illustrated in the diagram to its right. This diagram changes depending on the type of device that is highlighted, as shown in the three separate illustrations on page 4-19.

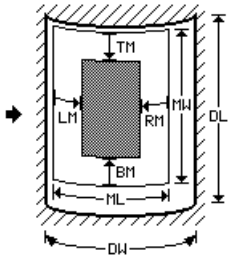
- The ***Units*** menu specifies the units of measurement for the ***Width*** and ***Length*** items and the entries in the ***Margins*** box, Choices are ***Inches***, ***MilliMeters***, ***Picas***, and ***Points***.




***Settings*** Diagram for Capstan Imagers




***Settings*** Diagram for Cut Sheet Imagers




***Settings*** Diagram for Drum Imagers

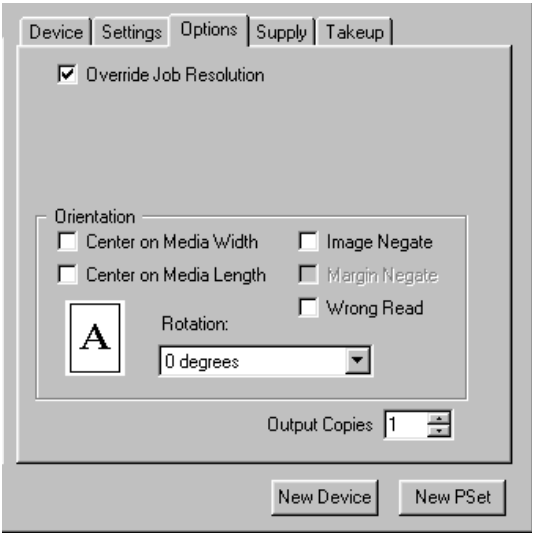
## Options Tab

---

***Note:*** When a device name is highlighted in the ***Output Devices*** window, the settings in the ***Options*** tab along with the settings in the ***Settings*** tab determine the default configuration for new PSets. On the other hand, when a PSet icon is highlighted instead, the settings apply to the highlighted PSet.

---

The ***Options*** tab includes an ***Override*** option, the ***Orientation*** group box, and the ***Output Copies*** spinner.




***Options*** Tab

## Override Option

Check the ***Override Job Resolution*** box if you want your ***Vertical*** and ***Horizontal Resolution*** entries configured in the ***Settings Tab to*** override the resolution settings contained in the job.

Clear the ***Override Job Resolution*** box if you want the resolution settings contained in the job to apply.

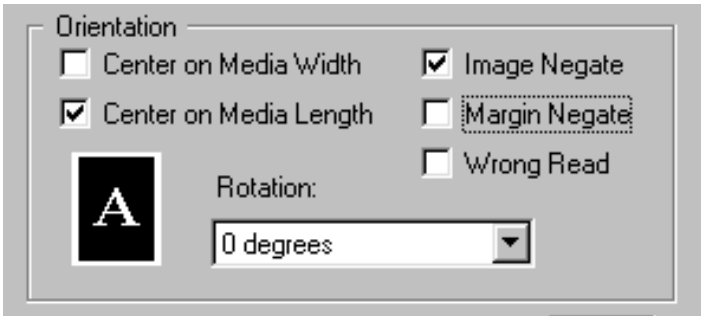
## Orientation Box

1. Check the ***Center on Media Width*** box if you want to center the image along the width of the output media.
2. Check the ***Center on Media Length*** box if you want to center the image along the length of the output media.

---

***Note:*** The results of the remaining items in the ***Orientation*** box are illustrated through the icon containing the capital "A". For example, the illustration below shows how the output would change if you selected ***Image Negate***, and cleared ***Margin Negate***.

---



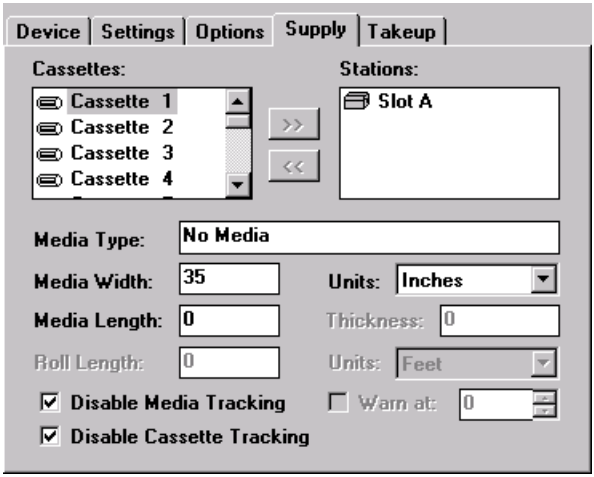

***Orientation*** box in ***Options*** Tab

3. Select ***Image Negate*** if you want to create a negative image of the job being processed. When you do, the ***Margin Negate*** check box becomes available and selected.
4. Clear ***Image Negate*** for a positive image and to make the ***Margin Negate*** check box unavailable.
5. Clear ***Margin Negate*** if you want to create a negative image of only the image, not the margins.
6. Select ***Wrong Read*** if you want the image to appear backwards, as if viewed in a mirror.

### Output Copies spinner

Select the number of copies you want to output with the ***Output Copies*** spinner.

## Supply Tab




***Supply*** Tab

***Supply*** tab configuration is divided into the following topics:

- "Configuring Cassettes" on page 4-24.
- "Media Tracking" on page 4-24.
- "Assigning Cassettes" on page 4-26.
- "Enabling Cassette Tracking" on page 4-27.
- "Avantra 44 Example Configuration" on page 4-28.

---

***Note:*** "Avantra 44 Example Configuration" provides an example procedure in which cassettes are configured and assigned.

---

## Configuring Cassettes

---

***Note:*** Each device has its own complement of 16 cassettes. You must configure the cassettes for each device separately.

---

To configure a cassette:

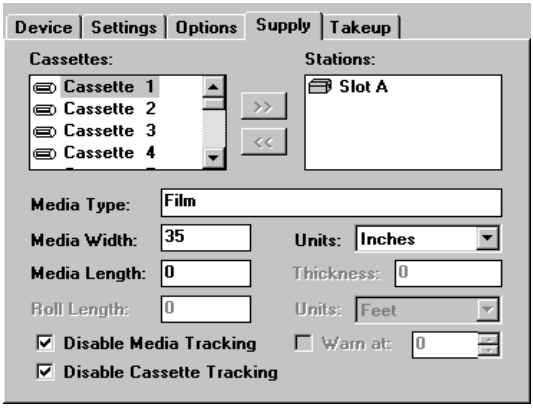
1. Highlight one of the 16 cassettes in the ***Cassettes*** window.
2. In the ***Media Type*** text box, enter a descriptive comment about the media stored in the selected cassette, such as "Film", "paper", or the part number of the type of film being used.
3. Enter the ***Media Width*** value.
4. For cut sheet or plate imagers, enter the ***Media Height*** value.
5. Select the units of measurement for the ***Media Width***, ***Media Height***, and ***Thickness*** entries from the ***Units*** menu. Choices are ***Inches***, ***Millimeters***, and ***Centimeters***.
6. For plate imagers, enter the ***Thickness*** value for the plate media. For non-plate imagers, ***Thickness*** is unavailable.

### Media Tracking

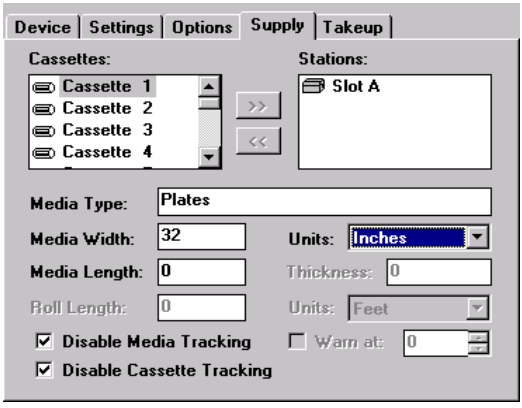
To enable media tracking, allowing your Raster Blaster system to keep track of the media available in the cassettes you configure:

1. Deselect ***Disable Media Tracking box***.
2. For roll-fed media, the remaining media tracking controls include:
   a. ***Roll Length*** text box.
   b. ***Units*** menu to the immediate right of ***Roll Length***. Menu choices for ***Units*** are ***Feet*** or ***Meters***. The unit you select applies to the ***Roll Length*** text box and ***Warn at*** window.

c. ***Warn at*** check box and window




3. For plate media, the ***Roll Length*** text box changes to ***Plate Count,*** the ***Units*** menu becomes unavailable, and the ***Warn at*** window value is expressed in plates.



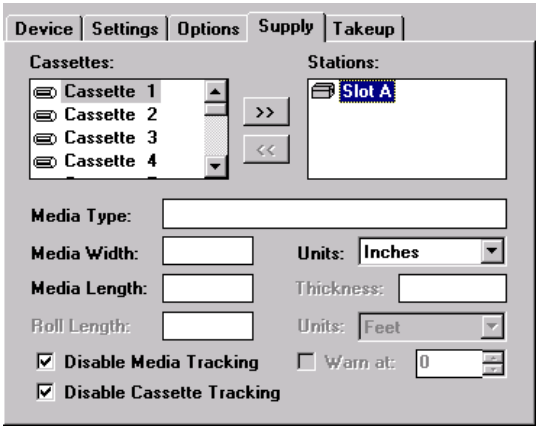

***Supply*** Tab

4. For cut sheet media, the ***Roll Length*** text box changes to ***Sheet Count,*** the ***Units*** menu becomes unavailable, and the ***Warn at*** window value is expressed in sheets.

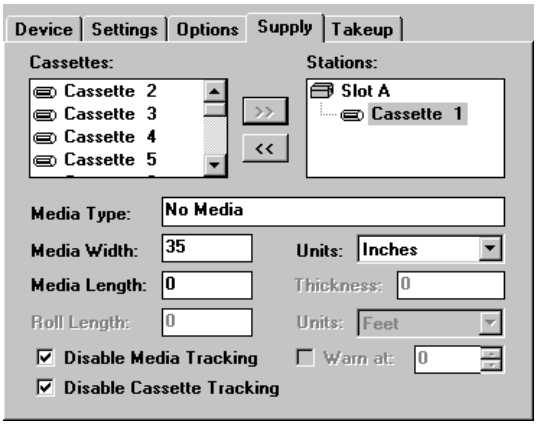
## Assigning Cassettes

To assign cassettes to imager stations:

1. From the ***Stations*** window, highlight the ***Slot*** to which you wish to assign a cassette.
2. From the ***Cassettes*** window, highlight the desired cassette.



3. Click **»** to assign the highlighted cassette to the highlighted station. The selected ***Cassette*** no longer appears in the ***Cassettes*** window but instead now appears in the ***Stations*** window under the selected ***Slot***.




***Supply*** Tab

4. Repeat until you have assigned cassettes to all the imager stations.
5. To unassign a cassette:
   a. Highlight the assigned cassette in the ***Stations*** window.
   b. Click **«** to return the highlighted cassette to the ***Cassettes*** window, removing it from the ***Stations*** window.

## Enabling Cassette Tracking

Deselect the ***Disable Cassette Tracking*** box to enable cassette tracking**.** Refer to "Cassette Menu" on page 4-17, under the description of the ***Settings*** parameter tab, for more information.

## Avantra 44 Example Configuration

This procedure demonstrates how to configure selected aspects of an Avantra 44 printer. It is intended to serve as an example of the various controls involved in cassette and tray configuration.

Although it involves many different controls and dialog boxes, this procedure is located here, in the heart of the ***Supply*** parameter tab description, because of the unusual way cassettes are configured and assigned to stations in the ***Supply*** parameter tab.

The procedure is divided into the following tasks:

- "Create a new device for the Avantra 44." Refer to step 1 on page 4-28.
- "Configure the Supply parameter tab for the Avantra 44." Refer to step 2 on page 4-30.
- "Create new PSets for your Avantra 44. This example will demonstrate creating two Psets. One will be 2400dpi negative and the other will be 2400dpi positive." Refer to step 3 on page 4-31.
- "Configure the Settings tab for the new PSets associated with your new Avantra 44." Refer to step 4 on page 4-32.
- "Configure the Options parameter tab for each of the PSets associated with your Avantra 44." Refer to step 5 on page 4-34.

---

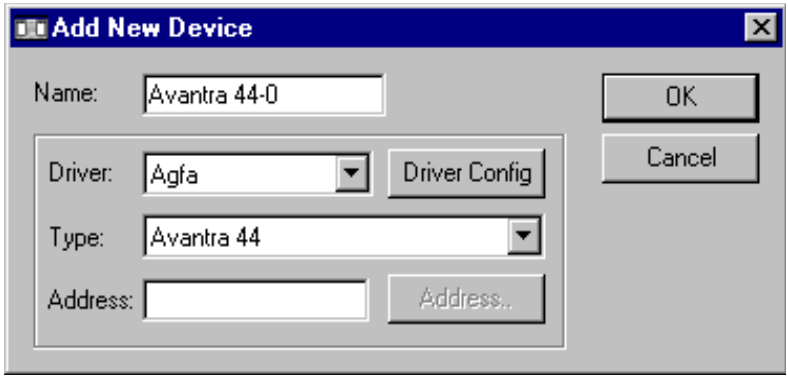
***Note:*** The following procedure does not represent a complete configuration of an Avantra 44. Instead, it concentrates on those steps related to cassette configuration and assignment.

---

1. Create a new device for the Avantra 44.

a. If the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box is not already present, start by selecting ***Configure Raster Blaster*** from the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window. The ***Device Configuration*** dialog box appears.

b. Click ***New Device***. The ***Add New Device*** dialog box appears.



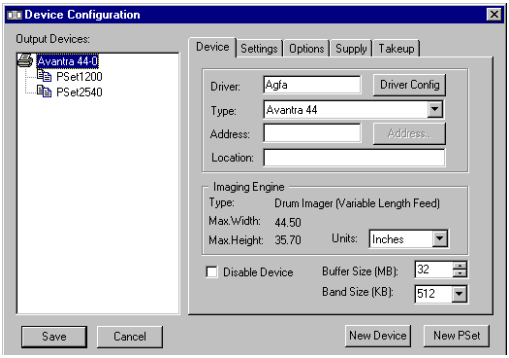

***Add New Device*** dialog box

c. If it is not already selected, select ***Agfa*** from the ***Driver*** menu.

d. Select ***Avantra 44*** from the ***Type*** menu.

e. Click ***OK***. The ***Add New Device*** dialog box closes.

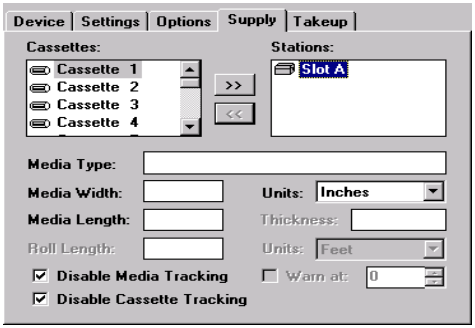
f. The Device name you created appears in the ***Output Devices*** window of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box.




***Device Configuration*** dialog box

2. Configure the ***Supply*** parameter tab for the Avantra 44.

   a. With ***Avantra 44-0*** still selected in the ***Output Devices*** window, click the ***Supply*** parameter tab. The ***Supply*** tab is displayed.



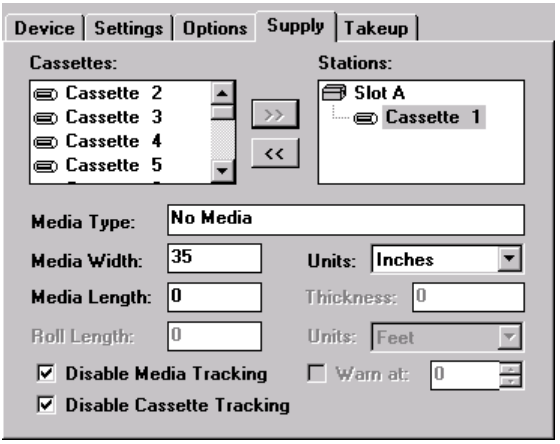

***Supply*** Tab

   b. If not already highlighted, click the ***Cassette 1*** icon in the ***Cassettes*** window to highlight it.

   c. Click the ***Slot A*** icon in the ***Stations*** window to highlight it.

d. Click **»** to move the ***Cassette 1*** icon under the ***Slot A*** icon in the ***Stations*** window.

e. With ***Cassette 1*** under ***Slot A*** in the ***Stations*** window and still highlighted, configure the media for the upper tray.

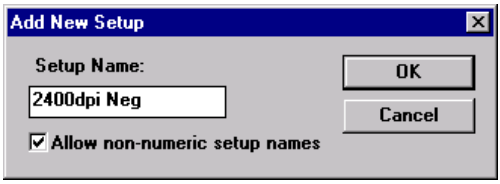



***Supply*** Tab

(1) Update the value in the ***Media Width*** text box if it differs from the material in the cassette.

3. Create new PSets for your Avantra 44. This example will demonstrate creating two Psets. One will be 2400dpi negative and the other will be 2400dpi positive.

a. With the ***Avantra 44-0*** icon still selected, click ***New PSet***. The ***Add New Setup*** dialog box appears.




***Add New Setup*** dialog box

(1) Select ***Allow non-numeric setup names***, if necessary.

(2) Enter **2400dpi Neg** in the ***Setup Name*** text box.

(3) Click ***OK***. The ***Add New Setup*** dialog box closes. The ***2400dpi Neg*** PSet icon appears under ***Avantra 44-0*** in the ***Output Devices*** window.

b. Click ***New PSet*** again. The ***Add New Setup*** dialog box appears.

(1) Enter **2400dpi Pos** in the ***Setup Name*** text box.

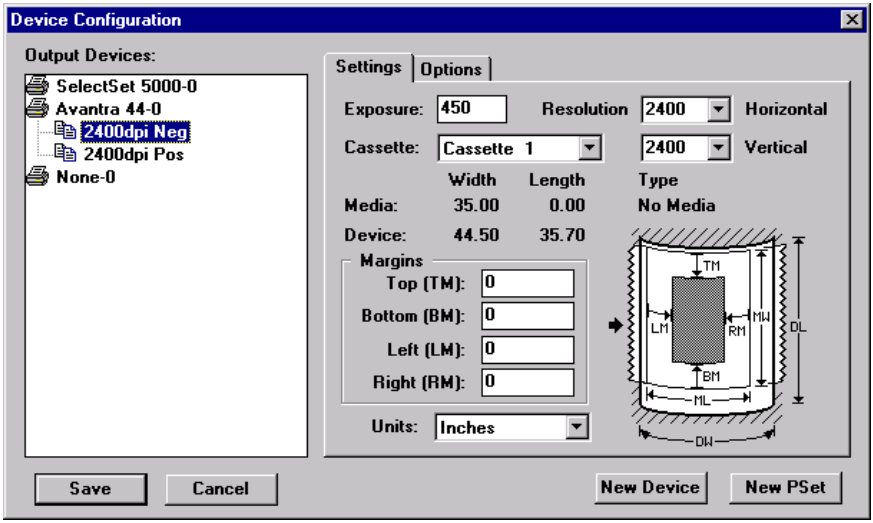
(2) Click ***OK***. The ***Add New Setup*** dialog box closes.The ***2400dpi Pos*** PSet name appears under ***Avantra 44-0***.

4. Configure the ***Settings*** tab for the new PSets associated with your new Avantra 44.

a. Highlight the ***2400dpi Neg*** PSet icon under ***Avantra 44-0*** in the ***Output Devices*** window.

(1) Click the ***Settings*** parameter tab.

(2) Set the resolution to **2400**.

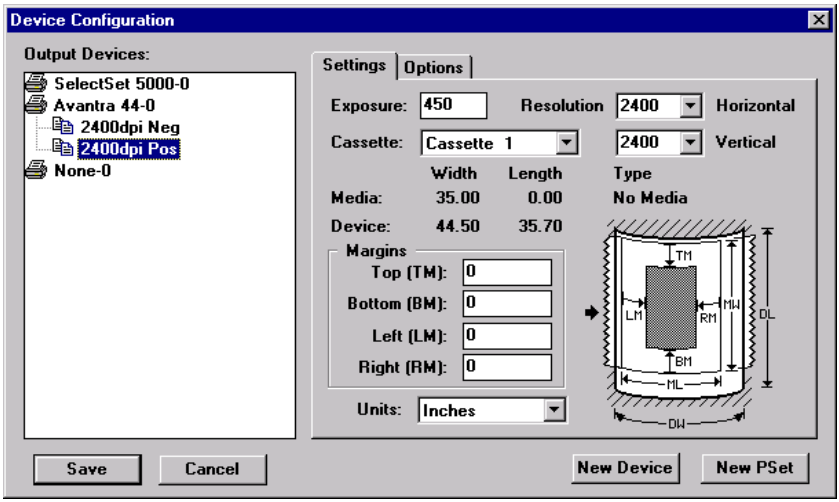



***Settings*** Tab

(3) Configure the remaining entries in the ***Settings*** parameter tab as desired.

b. Highlight the ***2400dpi Pos*** PSet icon under ***Avantra 44-0***.

(1) Set the resolution to **2400**.



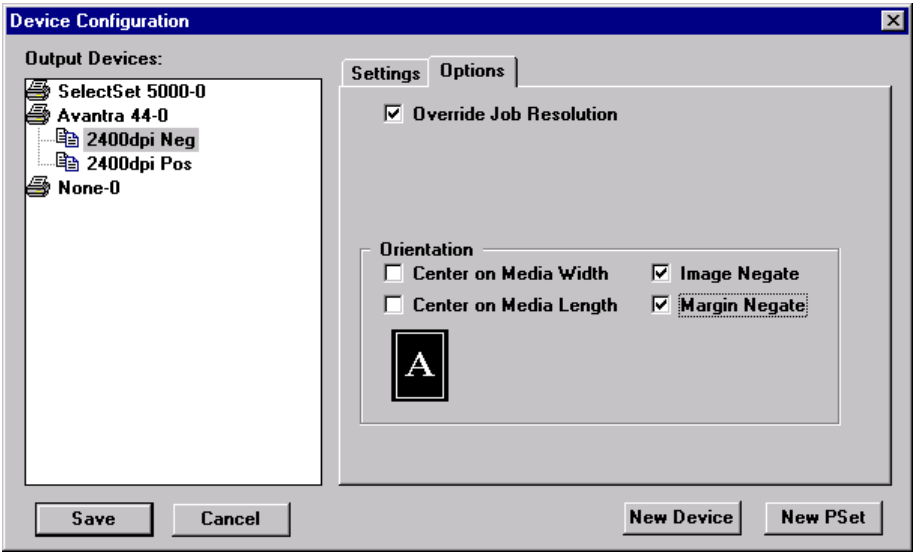

***Settings*** Tab

(2) Configure the remaining entries in the ***Settings*** parameter tab as desired.

5. Configure the ***Options*** parameter tab for each of the PSets associated with your Avantra 44.

   a. Click the ***Options*** parameter tab in the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box.

   b. Highlight the ***2400dpi Neg*** PSet under ***Avantra 44-0*** in the ***Output Devices*** window.




***Options*** Tab

(1) In the ***Orientation*** box, check the ***Image Negate*** box.

(2) Configure the remaining entries in the ***Options*** tab.

c. Highlight the ***2400dpi Pos*** PSet in the ***Output Devices*** window.

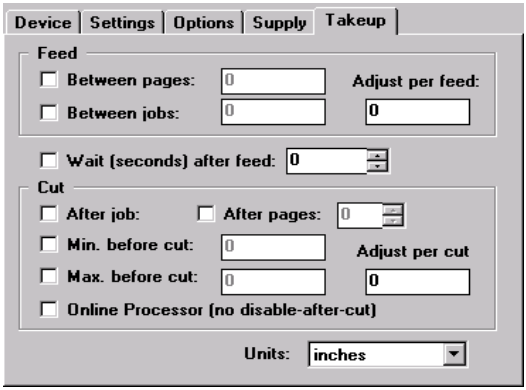
(1) In the ***Orientation*** box, deselect the Image ***Negate box***, if necessary.

(2) Configure the remaining entries in the ***Options*** tab.

To move on to the next section, select a device name from the ***Output Devices*** window at the left side of the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box. This makes the ***Takeup*** Tab available.

# Takeup Tab

For roll-fed devices, the ***Takeup*** tab allows you to control the amount of media the imager feeds between pages and between jobs, the time you wait after each feed, and a variety of cut controls.




***Takeup*** Tab

## Feed Box

- Select the ***Between pages*** check box to make its text box available. Enter the desired amount of media to be fed between pages in its text box.

> ***Note:*** The ***Between pages*** and ***Between jobs*** configuration controls operate independently of each other.

- Select the ***Between jobs*** check box to make its text box available. Enter the desired amount of media to be fed between jobs in its text box.

---

***Note: Adjust per feed*** does not exercise any control over the imager but serves instead to keep a record of the media movement. This field allows your system to keep track of media usage more accurately. You must have cleared ***Disable Media Tracking*** in the ***Supply*** tab. Refer to "Media Tracking" on page 4-24.

---

- Enter the fixed amount that the imager moves the media after each feed in the ***Adjust per feed*** text box.

### Wait (Seconds) After Feed Controls

Select ***Wait (seconds) after feed*** to make its text box available. Enter the number of seconds you want your imager to wait after a feed before it becomes available for the next job.

### Cut Box

---

***Note:*** The ***Cut*** box applies only to imagers with an online processor (OLP) or darkroom adapter (DRA).The ***Units*** menu at the bottom of the ***Takeup*** tab dialog box specifies the units of measurement for all of the ***Cut*** box text boxes.

---

- Select ***After job*** to enable cuts after each job.

---

***Note:*** The ***After job*** and ***After pages*** check boxes operate independently of each other.

---

- Select ***After pages*** to make its spinner available. Enter the number of pages you want to process before each cut.

- Select ***Min. before cut*** to make available its text box. Enter the minimum amount of media you want exposed before each cut.
- Select ***Max. before cut*** to make available its text box. Enter the maximum amount of media you want exposed before each cut.

---

***Note: Adjust per cut*** does not exercise any control over the imager but serves instead as a record of the entered value. This field allows your Raster Blaster system to keep track of media usage more accurately. You must have cleared ***Disable Media Tracking*** in the ***Supply*** tab. Refer to "Media Tracking" on page 4-24.

---

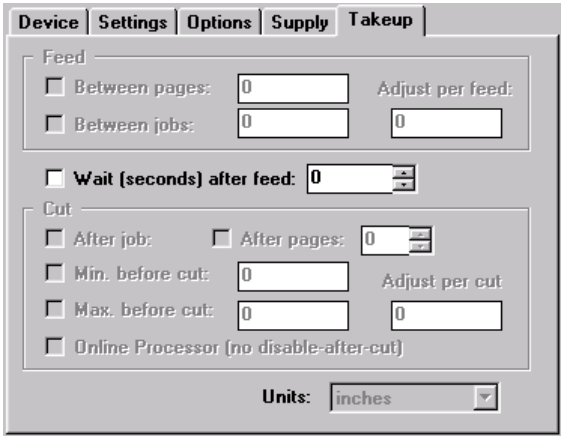
- Enter the fixed amount that the imager moves the media for each cut in the ***Adjust per cut*** text box.

### Units Menu

Select the units of measurement for the ***Feed*** and ***Cut*** text boxes from the ***Units*** menu. Menu choices are ***inches***, ***feet***, and ***meters***.

## Cut Sheet and Plate Imagers

As shown below, only the ***Wait (seconds) after feed*** controls are available for cut sheet and plate imagers.




***Takeup*** Tab

# Chapter 5: Queues

## Configuring Queues

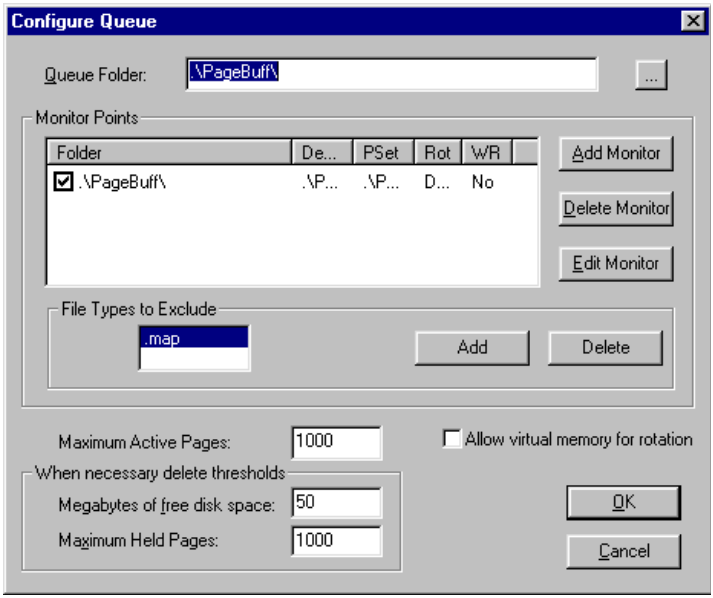
To ensure that the TIFF files coming into Raster Blaster are imaged at the correct resolution, you need to configure a unique queue for each resolution value supported by the output device attached to Raster Blaster's interface. This chapter gives instructions for configuring these queues. The chapter is divided into the following parts:


- "Configuring New Queues" on page 5-2.
- "Editing & Changing Existing Queues" on page 5-11.
- "Deleting Queues" on page 5-13.
- "Sharing a Queue with Macintosh Workstations" on page 5-15.

## Configuring New Queues

It is a good idea to have all your Raster Blaster input queues folders setup within one directory. This keeps your queue records more organized than having queue folders in various places in your computer. This also makes it easier to connect to your queues across the network from your RIP. Refer to "Creating a Shared Directory" on page 9-2.

1. To configure new queues, select ***Configure Queue*** from the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window. The ***Configure Queue*** dialog box appears.




***Configure Queue*** dialog box

When this dialog box opens for the first time, a queue directory called '\PAGEBUFF\' appears in the ***Queue Folder*** pop-up menu. Leave

this entry in the ***Queue Folder*** text box -- do not delete it. The PAGEBUFF directory is the folder where jobs enter Raster Blaster and where sub-folders are created for storing jobs either waiting to output or already output.

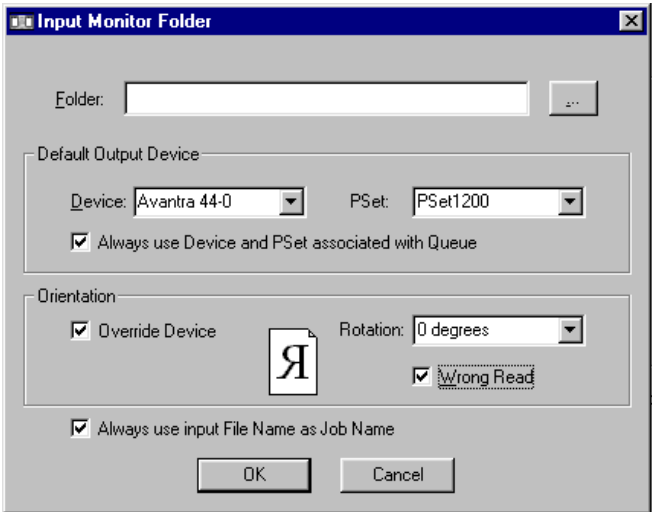
## Monitor Points

Monitor Points are the queue folders that you configure to control the handling of jobs input to Raster Blaster. Each folder refers to a specific input queue. The check box next to each folder name allows you to make that queue active when Raster Blaster is running. The focus of your efforts in configuring new queues and changing or deleting existing queues is the section of the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box labeled ***Monitor Points***. This section contains a list of the existing monitor folders and their parameters. It also contains buttons for Adding, Deleting and Editing monitor folders**.**

2. To configure a new queue folder, click the ***Add Monitor*** button. The ***Input Monitor Folder*** dialog box appears.

## Input Monitor Folder

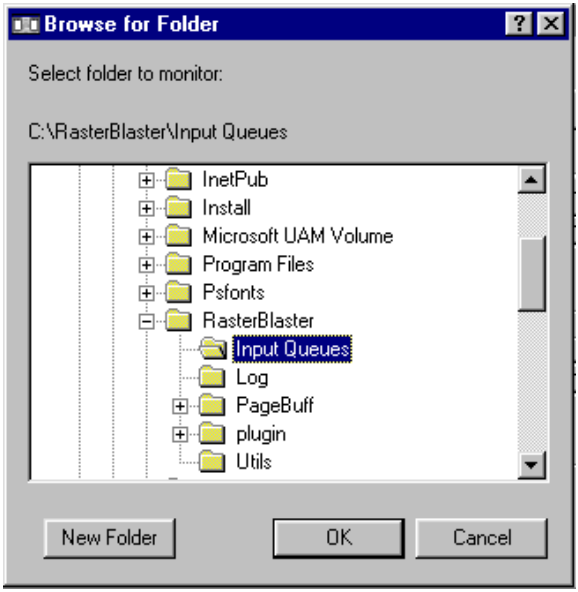
The ***Input Monitor Folder*** dialog box allows you to name a queue folder and specify how to handle files that arrive as input to Raster Blaster in that specific queue folder.




3. Do one of the following:

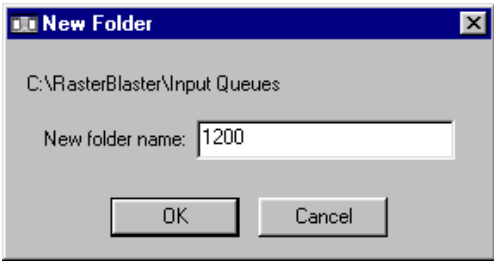
   a. If you know the directory for this queue folder, type that directory name into the ***Folder*** text box. If the directory you type in does not exist, Raster Blaster will create the directory for you. Skip ahead to step 4 on page 5-7 to complete the dialog box.

   b. If you want to browse for a directory name, click on the square button with three dots **'...'** to the right of the ***Folder*** text box. This opens the ***Browse for Folder*** dialog box.



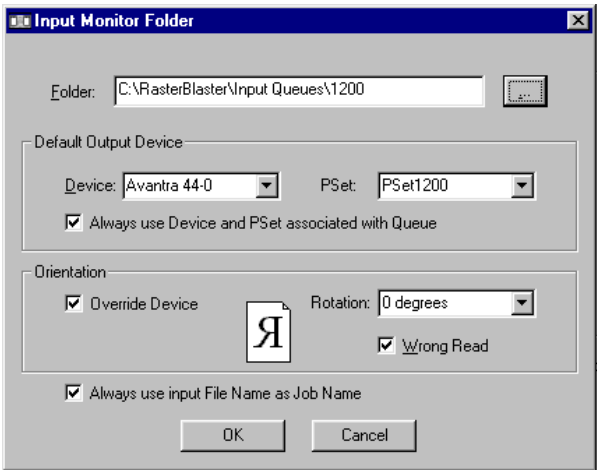

***Browse for Folder*** dialog box

Use this dialog box to locate and select the directory you wish to specify. When you have the correct directory displayed in this window, click the ***New Folder*** button. This opens the ***New Folder*** dialog box.




(1) Type the name of the new queue folder in the ***New Folder Name*** text box, and click ***OK*** to return to the ***Browse for Folder*** dialog box. Your new folder name appears in the directory you selected.

(2) Click ***OK*** to close the ***Browse for Folder*** dialog box. Your new folder name appears in the ***Folder*** text box of the ***Input Monitor Folder*** dialog box.



4. Follow the steps below to complete the parameters on the ***Input Monitor Folder*** dialog box:
5. Under ***Default Output Device***, select your ***Device*** and ***Pset***.
6. Put a check mark in the ***Always use Device and PSet associated with Queue*** check box if the ***Device*** and ***PSet*** selected here should be used even when the incoming file contains device and PSet information.

---

***Note:*** If a job is not associated with a device, it will appear in the ***Active*** queue, but it will not be processed.

---

7. Checking ***Override Device*** under ***Orientation*** allows you to override the orientation setting configured for the Device/PSet. When you check ***Override Device***, the ***Rotation*** text box and ***Wrong Read*** check box become available.

   ***Rotation*** for the queue may be set to ***0, 90, 180, or 270*** degrees, or select ***To Fit (+90)*** or ***To Fit (-90)***.

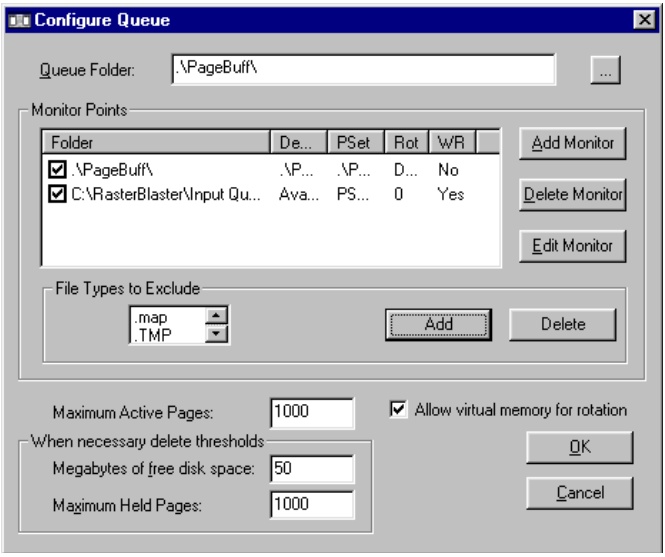
   Checking ***Wrong Read*** flips the incoming file to Wrong Read mode before output.

---

***Note:*** Any rotation and wrong read changes are made to the file from a Monitor Point before the file is moved to the Queue Folder. A progress dialog will appear to indicate rotation and wrong read modifications. Imaging takes precedence over rotation. If both occur simultaneously, rotation may slow to maintain imaging speed.

---

8. Check ***Always use input File Name as Job Name*** to display the filename rather than any embedded jobname. This function is useful when processing files produced by outside sources.
9. Click ***OK*** to return to the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box. The new queue folder you created now appears in the ***Folder*** list under ***Monitor Points***.




## File Types to Exclude

10. The ***File Types to Exclude*** pop-up menu allows you to configure Raster Blaster to skip queued files with designated extensions. By default, filenames with the extension ".map" are excluded.
    a. To exclude additional file types (such as extensions used while a job is being written to Raster Blaster), click the adjacent ***Add*** button.

When the edit box opens, enter the filename extension and click ***Add to List***.

b. You may delete a file type from the exclude list by highlighting it and clicking the ***Delete*** button.

c. If the file extensions '.tmp' and '.TMP' are not listed, add them to the list of ***File Types to Exclude***. This procedure should only be required once, unless these entries are manually deleted.

## Maximum Active Pages

The remaining parameters on the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box allow you to set controls that regulate the use of available memory by Raster Blaster. These settings apply to all the input queues and need only be set once:

11. ***Maximum Active Pages*** limits the number of jobs Raster Blaster can read (imaging jobs plus active jobs). You may wish to change the default value of 1000. For example, set it to much smaller number if you want to have multiple Raster Blasters monitoring the same queue. Setting the field to **1** ensures that no rotation or wrong read conversion takes place during imaging.

12. Put a check the ***Allow virtual memory for rotation*** check box if you want rotation to take place even when there is insufficient memory to perform rotation. When the box is unchecked, (the default), Raster Blaster will only rotate an image if there is enough memory.

---

***Note:*** Checking the box ***Allow virtual memory for rotation*** severely taxes memory and is not recommended where the amount of RAM may be limited. Rotating the bitmap at this point can be demanding and time consuming process. If possible, try to perform any rotations of the job at the RIP.

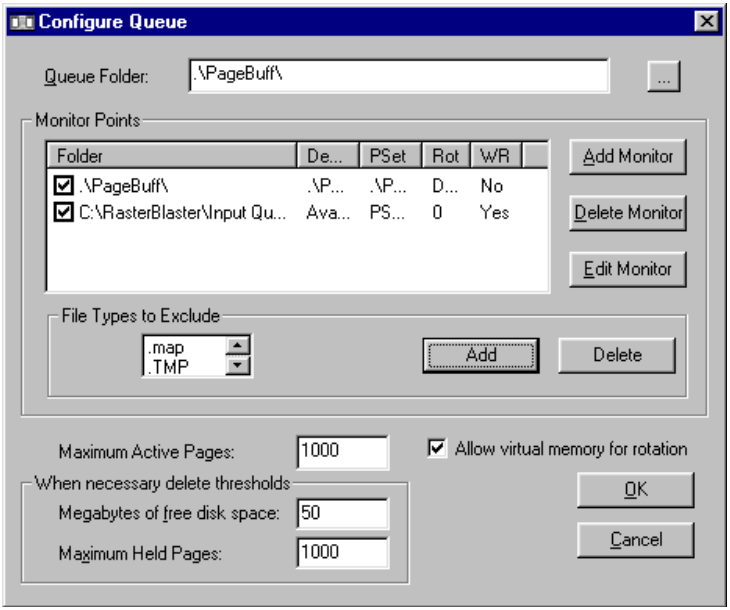
---

**CAUTION**

If the box ***Allow virtual memory for rotation*** is not checked, and there is not enough RAM memory available to contain the entire file, rotation will fail and the file will be moved to an error folder.

## Configuring Thresholds

At the bottom of the ***Configure Queues*** dialog box is a section called ***When necessary delete thresholds***. The fields in this section allow you to configure two thresholds that control the treatment of jobs as they leave the ***Active*** queue and enter the ***Completed*** queue on the ***Output Monitor.***



These thresholds allow you to specify how large the ***Completed*** queue can become before the ***Output Monitor*** begins deleting jobs from it as they are completed.

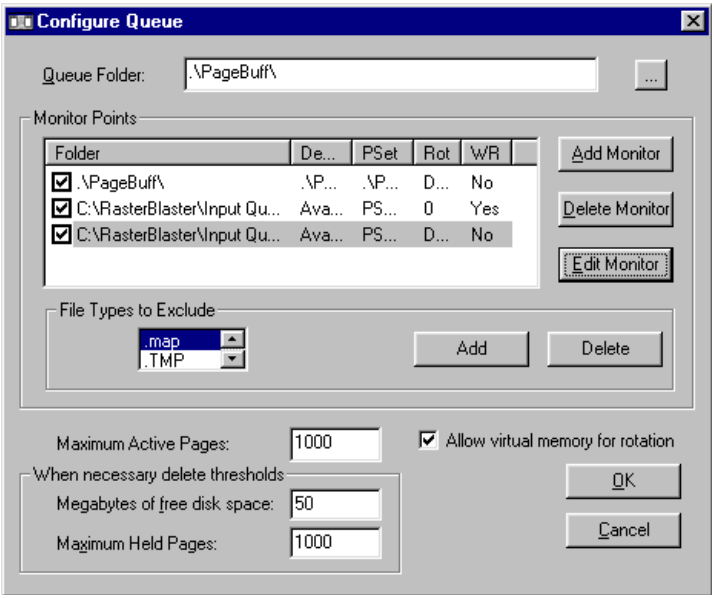
The thresholds in this box become operative *only* when you set the ***Delete*** pop-up menu in the ***Output Monitor*** window to ***When Necessary.*** Refer to "Delete Menu" on page 7-14.

The following two thresholds control the treatment of files in the ***Completed*** queue:

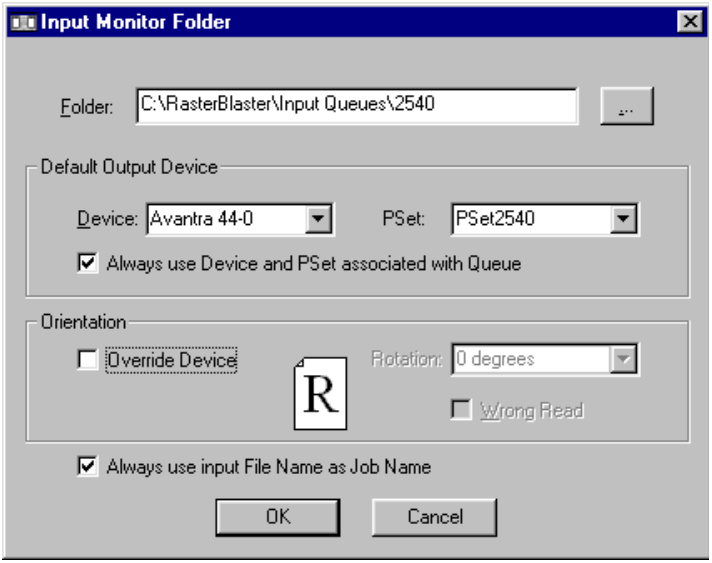
13. ***Megabytes of free disk space.*** Enter the amount of free disk space you want to reserve. When the ***Completed*** queue becomes too large to maintain this amount of free space, jobs are deleted from it to maintain this requirement.
14. ***Maximum Held Pages.*** Enter the maximum size of the ***Completed*** queue in pages. If the ***Completed*** queue exceeds this number of pages, jobs are deleted from it to maintain this requirement.
15. Click ***OK*** to save your configuration and close the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box.
16. Configure a new queue for each resolution value of your output device by repeating the procedure starting with Step 2 on page 5-3.
17. When you are finished configuring new queues, click ***OK*** to close the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box.

## Editing & Changing Existing Queues

This section contains instructions for changing parameters associated with existing queues. Begin any queue changes by selecting ***Configure Queues*** from the ***File*** menu. This opens the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box.



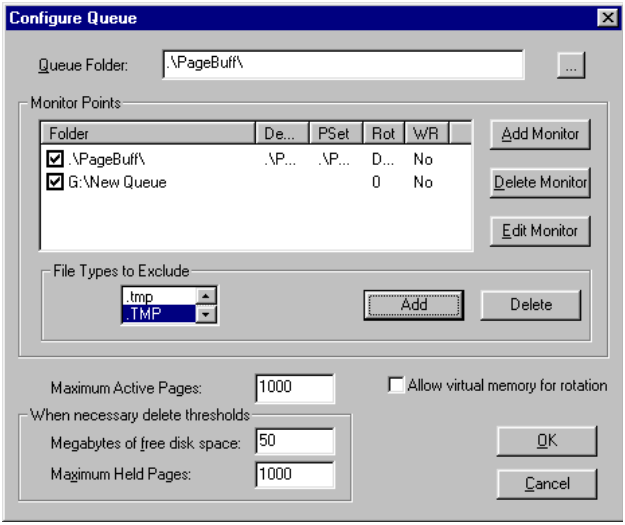

To modify an existing queue folder, highlight that folder on the ***Folder*** list under ***Monitor Points***, and click ***Edit Monitor***. The ***Input Monitor Folder*** dialog box appears.




1. Under ***Default Output Device***, choose the correct ***Device*** and ***PSet***.
2. Complete the remaining parameters on this dialog box as described in Configuring New Queues, starting with step 4 on page 5-7.
3. Click ***OK*** to save your changes and return to the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box.

## Deleting Queues

To delete a queue, select ***Configure Queues*** from the ***File*** menu. This opens the ***Configure Queue*** dialog box.

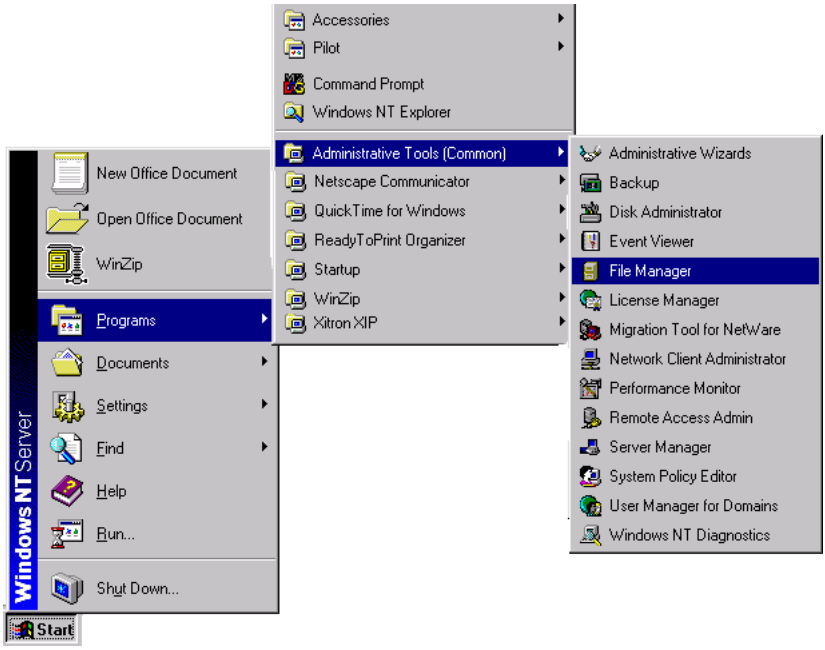



***Configure Queue*** dialog box

Highlight the folder for the queue you want to delete under ***Monitor Points***, and click ***Delete Monitor***. The highlighted entry is deleted from the ***Folder*** list.

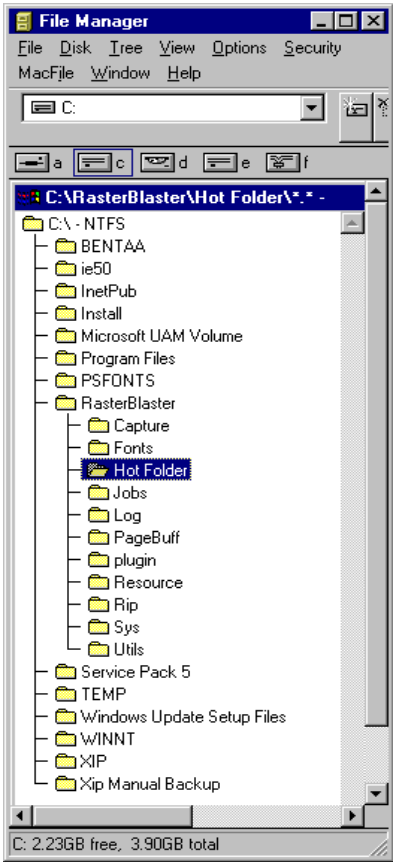
## Sharing a Queue with Macintosh Workstations

1. To share an input folder with Macintosh workstations connected to your Raster Blaster computer, open the ***File Manager***, from the ***Start*** menu, as shown below:



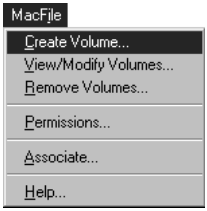

***Note:*** This works only if your operating system is Windows NT Server 4.0, and you have installed "Services for Macintosh" as part of your operating system. Windows NT Workstation 4.0 is not able to share directories to Macintosh computers.

2. Highlight the input folder to be shared with Macintosh workstations (***HotFolder*** in this example).




***File Manager*** window

3. From the ***MacFile*** menu, click ***Create Volume***.



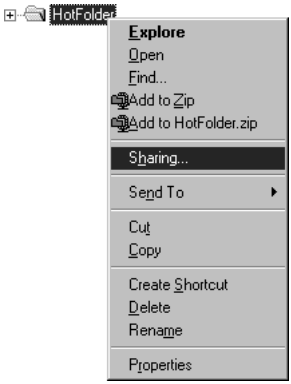

---

***Note:*** If you don't have a ***MacFile*** menu on your ***File Manager*** window, check to see that you have installed "Services for Macintosh" as part of your Windows NT Server operating system.

---

4. In the ***Create Macintosh-Accessible Volume*** dialog box that appears, click ***OK***.
5. Close the ***File Manager***. If you want to share the input folder you have just created with other PCs, open Windows NT Explorer.
6. Highlight the input folder (***HotFolder*** in this example).

7. Click your right mouse button. In the menu that appears, select the ***Sharing*** command.




8. In the ***Properties*** dialog box that appears, click ***Shared As***.
9. Click ***OK*** to close the ***Properties*** dialog box.

If you have not already done so, configure a unique input queue for each resolution value supported by the output device attached to your Raster Blaster. Refer to the heading "Configuring New Queues" on page 5-2 for instructions.

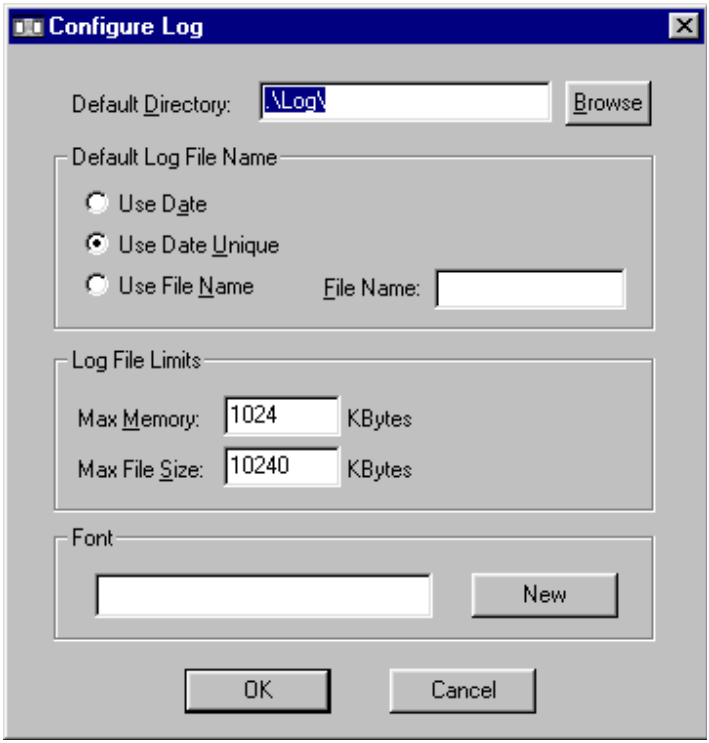
# Chapter 6: Logs

Logs form a record of system actions and events. Logs are created or expanded every time you start your system, and stored every time you shut it down. You can also create a log to keep a record of a special event, such as a failed file. This chapter describes configuration and management of logs. To configure your logs, refer to “Configure Logs” below. To manage logs, refer to “Log Management” on page 6-6.

## Configure Logs

To configure your Raster Blaster logs:

1. From the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window, select ***Configure Log***. The ***Configure Log*** dialog box appears.




***Configure Log*** dialog box

2. The ***Default Directory*** text box displays the location where Raster Blaster stores its log files. If no location appears, no log file is created.
3. Do one of the following:

a. If you know the directory where you want the logs to reside, type the directory name into the ***Default Directory*** text box. If the directory you type in does not exist, Raster Blaster will create the directory for you. Skip ahead to step 4 below.

b. If you want to browse for a directory name, click on the ***Browse*** button. This opens the ***Directory Browser*** dialog box.

***Directory Browser*** window

c. Use this window to browse for the location of the directory you wish to use. When you have the correct directory displayed in this window, click the ***OK*** button to return to the ***Configure Log*** dialog box. The directory you selected is now entered in the ***Default Directory*** text box.

4. The ***Default Log File Name*** box offers three mutually exclusive options for log file naming.

a. ***Use Date***

Select this option to have each log named using the date in YYMMDD format, such as *971112.log*. If your Raster Blaster

system is started more than once on a given date, the file is expanded to include all Raster Blaster sessions for that day.

b. ***Use Date Unique***

Select this option to have each log named with the date plus a letter, such as *971111a.log*. A separate log file is created for each Raster Blaster session, regardless of how often the system is shut down and restarted.

c. ***Use File Name***

Select this option to make the ***File Name*** text box available. Enter the desired file name in ***File Name***. The name you enter is not incremented.

5. The ***Log File Limits*** box contains two text boxes.

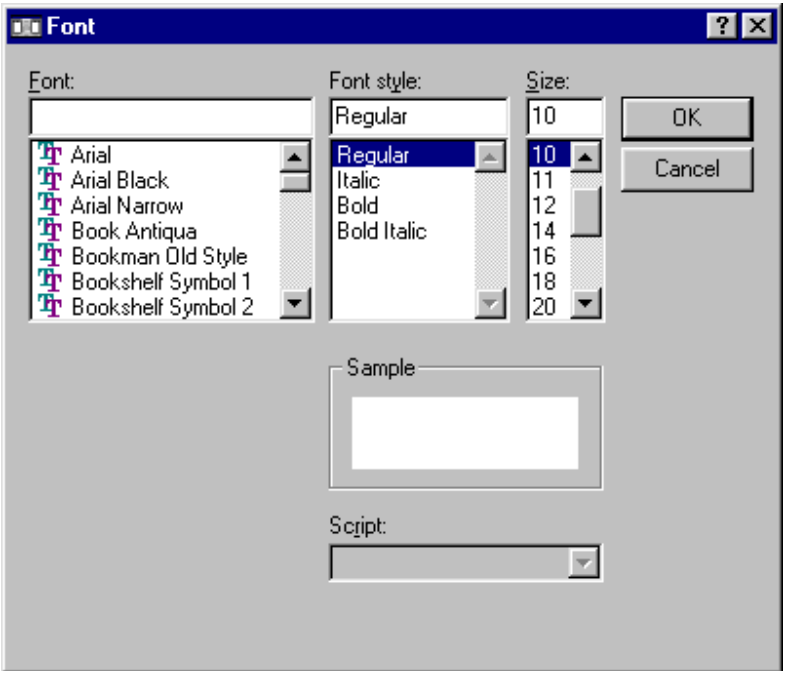
a. ***Max Memory***

This box specifies the maximum amount of RAM in KB that will be made available to display the log window. If a log window exceeds this amount, the earliest entries will be thrown away to meet this requirement.

b. ***Max File Size***

This box specifies the maximum size in KB that a log file can become. If a log file exceeds this amount, the earliest entries will be thrown away to meet this requirement.

6. You can change the appearance of text in the log window by clicking on ***New*** in the ***Fonts*** group box. The following dialog box appears:




7. Select a ***Font, Font style*** and ***Size*** from the menus displayed, preview the results in the ***Sample*** text box, and click ***OK*** to close the dialog box when you have made your selection.

8. To accept your ***Configure Log*** entries, click ***OK***. The ***Configure Log*** dialog box closes.

# Log Management

The management of logs involves three main tasks:

- ***Creating a New Log***. Refer to "Creating a New Log" on page 6-6.
- ***Opening Logs***. Refer to "Opening Logs" on page 6-6.
- ***Saving Logs***. Refer to "Saving Logs As..." on page 6-7.

## Creating a New Log

---

***Note:*** Selecting ***New Log*** from the ***File*** menu closes the current active Raster Blaster log and creates a new one.

---

To create a new Raster Blaster log:

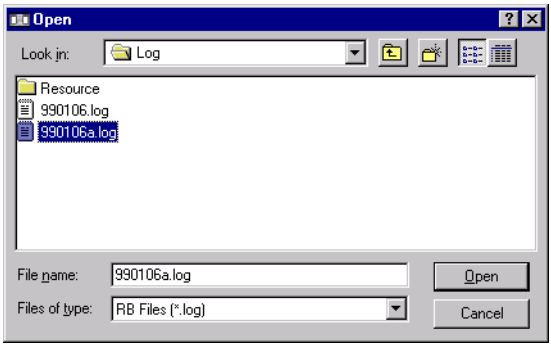
1. From the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window, select ***New Log***.
2. A new blank ***Raster Blaster*** log window appears. This becomes your active log.
3. You may now save this log under a date or file name for future reference. Refer to "Saving Logs As..." on page 6-7.

## Opening Logs

To open existing, saved, and stored Raster Blaster logs:

1. From the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window, select ***Open Log***.

2. The ***Open*** dialog box appears.




***Open*** dialog box

3. Select the log file you wish to open.
4. Click ***Open***.

   The selected log file is displayed in your ***Raster Blaster*** log window.

## Saving Logs As...

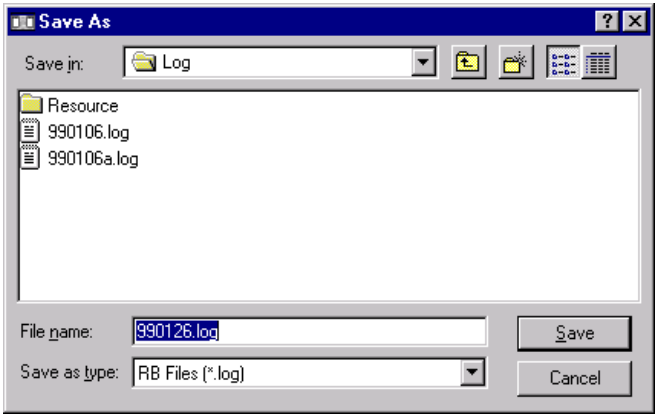
To save the current ***Raster Blaster*** log window:

---

***Note:*** The ***Save Log As*** command gives you a convenient way to name and store logs of special interest, such as logs that contain messages relating to a file failure.

---

1. From the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window, select ***Save Log As***.
2. The ***Save As*** dialog box appears.




***Save As*** dialog box

3. In the ***Save in:*** pop-up menu, locate and select the folder into which you wish to save your log file.
4. Enter the desired log file name in the ***File name*** text box.
5. Click ***Save*** to save the log file. The ***Save As*** dialog box closes.

# Chapter 7: Operations

This section covers a variety of operating tasks:


- “Starting Your Raster Blaster” on page 7-1.
- “Imaging a File” on page 7-4.
- “Using the Output Monitor” on page 7-6.
- “Resetting your Raster Blaster” on page 7-14.
- “Shutting Down Your Raster Blaster” on page 7-14.

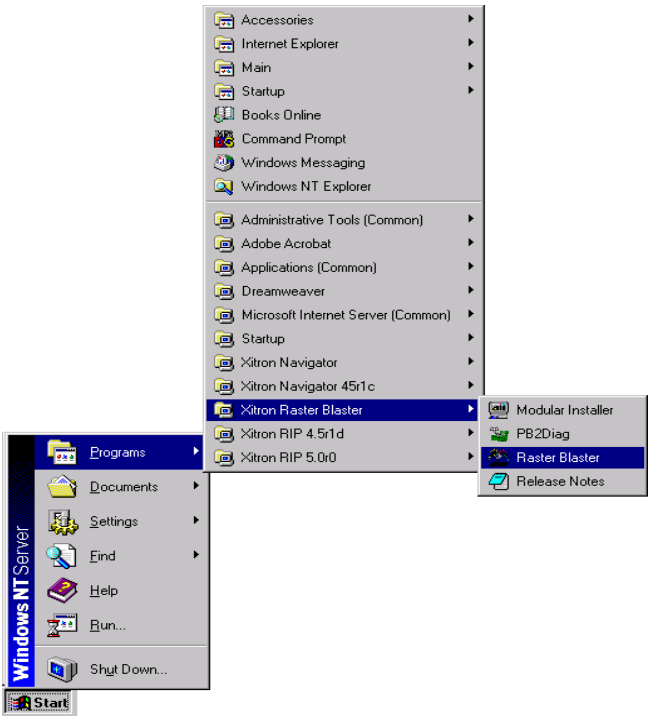

## Starting Your Raster Blaster

To start your Raster Blaster system, do one of the following:

1. Double-click the Raster Blaster icon on your desktop.

Raster Blaster Desktop Icon

2. Select ***Programs>Xitron Raster Blaster>Raster Blaster*** from the ***Start*** menu, as illustrated below:



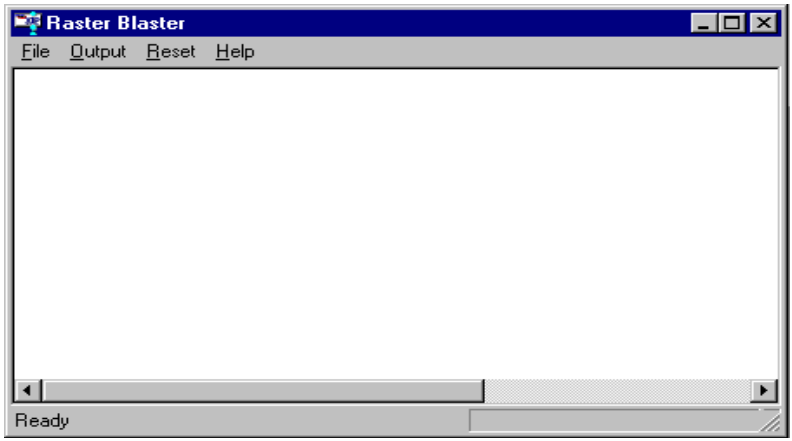

Start Menu Sequence for Raster Blaster

3. When the Raster Blaster system starts, the ***Raster Blaster*** and ***Rip Broker*** buttons appear in the taskbar.

Raster Blaster and Rip Broker Task Bar Buttons

The Rip Broker is an internal task monitor that facilitates the operation of the Raster Blaster Web Browser Interface. It has no user functions.

4. The ***Raster Blaster*** log window appears. Its menu bar allows you to access controls for operating Raster Blaster. Messages regarding job status and errors during operation will appear in the window.

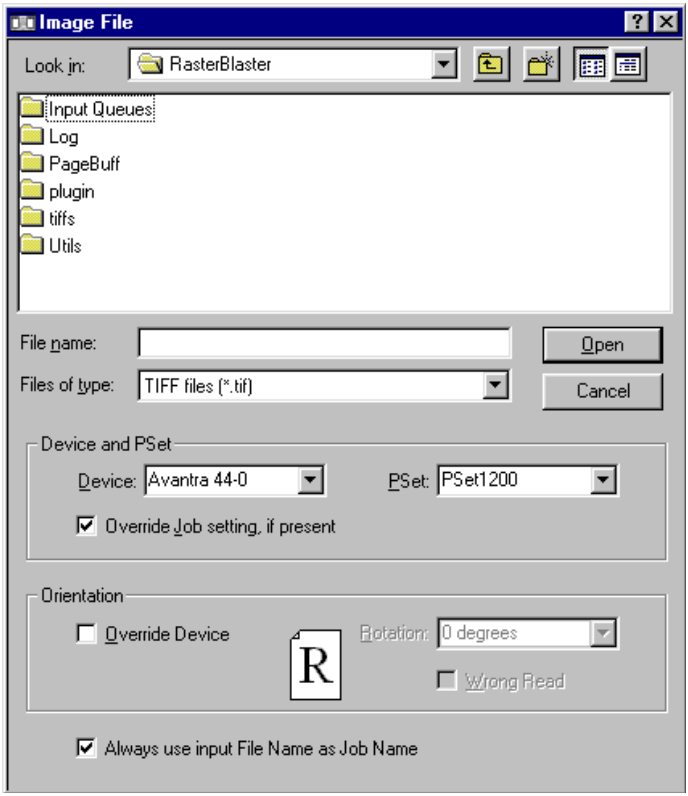



Raster Blaster Log Window

# Imaging a File

To image a bitmap file from your Raster Blaster computer:

1. From the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window, select ***Image File...***
2. The ***Image File*** dialog box appears:




3. Set the parameters on this dialog box as follows:

a. Select the file name extension (e.g., ***TIFF files***) under ***Files of type***:

b. Use the ***Look In:*** pop-up menu and its associated toolbar to locate and select the file you want to print.

c. Be sure the ***Device*** field is set for the correct imager.

d. To use a special set of imager parameters for the selected device, select it from the ***PSet*** pop-up menu.

e. If you want the selected ***Device*** and ***PSet*** to override any specified settings in the job, click on ***Override Job Settings...*** (If you leave this box unchecked, the selected imager and PSet are used only if they are not specified in the job.)

f. To cause the imager to rotate the page in wrong read mode (regardless of the imager's own settings), check the ***Override Device*** box under ***Orientation***. Both the ***Rotation*** text box and ***Wrong Read*** check box become available. A page icon with the letter R reflects the settings.

g. To retain the original (input) name, click the box ***Always use Input File Name as Job Name***. If this box is left unchecked, the software uses the Page Name tag from inside the file as the job name. If there is no Page Name tag, the input file name is used as the job name.

h. Click ***Open***. The selected file is processed and imaged, and the dialog box closes.

# Using the Output Monitor

The ***Output Monitor*** dialog box is displayed by default when you start Raster Blaster. To hide or display it, select ***Output Monitor*** (a toggle command) from the ***Output*** menu.

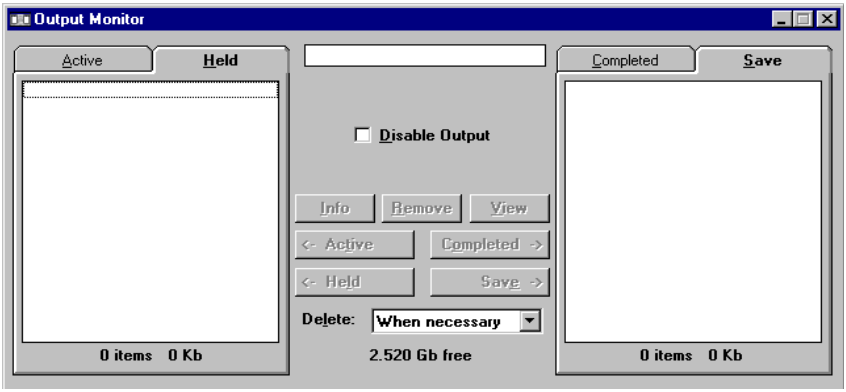
---

***Note:*** If you hide the ***Output Monitor***, the ***Active Queue*** and ***Completed Queue*** subwindows are not displayed in the browser monitor.

---

To monitor the output of Raster Blaster:

1. Open the ***Output Monitor*** dialog box. This dialog box provides controls that let you manage the flow of jobs.




***Output Monitor*** dialog box

## Job Queue Tabs

The ***Output Monitor*** dialog box is organized into four tabs, corresponding to four job queues:

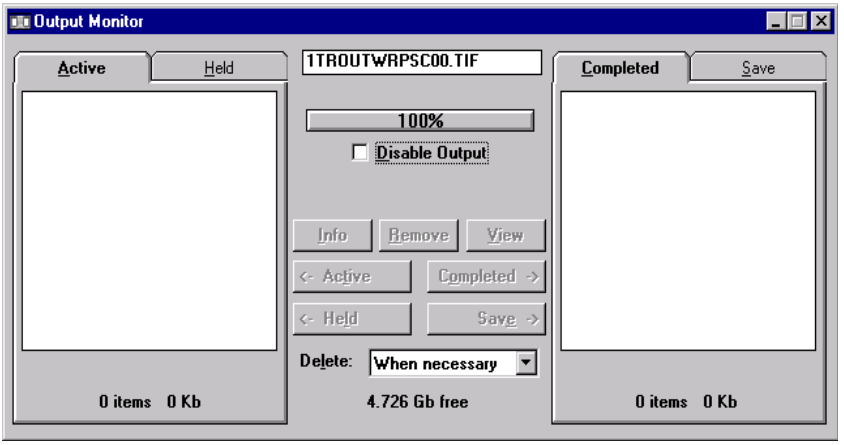
- ***Active***
- ***Held***
- ***Completed***
- ***Save***

Jobs enter the ***Active*** queue first, are processed, and are transferred to the ***Completed*** queue. Jobs are deleted from the ***Completed*** queue based on the command selected from the ***Delete*** menu. Refer to "Delete Menu" on page 7-14. You can defer processing by moving jobs to the ***Held*** queue. When you are ready to process jobs in the ***Held*** queue, move them back to the ***Active*** queue. You can save jobs by moving them to the ***Save*** queue. The ***Delete*** menu does not apply to jobs in the ***Save*** queue.

To move a selected job from one queue to another, use the job-action buttons (refer to "Job Action Buttons" on page 7-9).

## Progress Bar

The long rectangle between the ***Held*** Tab and the ***Completed*** Tab is the progress bar. When jobs are in the ***Active*** queue and output is enabled, the progress bar shows the percent of completion for the current job as it is being processed.



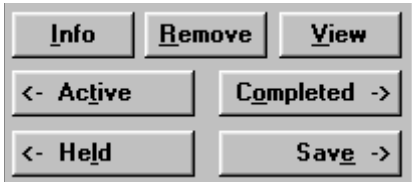

***Output Monitor***, showing progress bar

## Disable Output Check Box

Select the ***Disable Output*** check box to stop your system from sending output to an imager. Clear the box to enable output. When ***Disable Output*** is selected, the word 'Disabled' appears at the bottom of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window. When the box is cleared, the word 'Ready' appears at the bottom of the log window.

## Job Action Buttons

Use the buttons ***Active***, ***Held***, ***Completed***, and ***Save*** to send a highlighted job or jobs to the indicated queue. First highlight the job, then click the appropriate button.




---

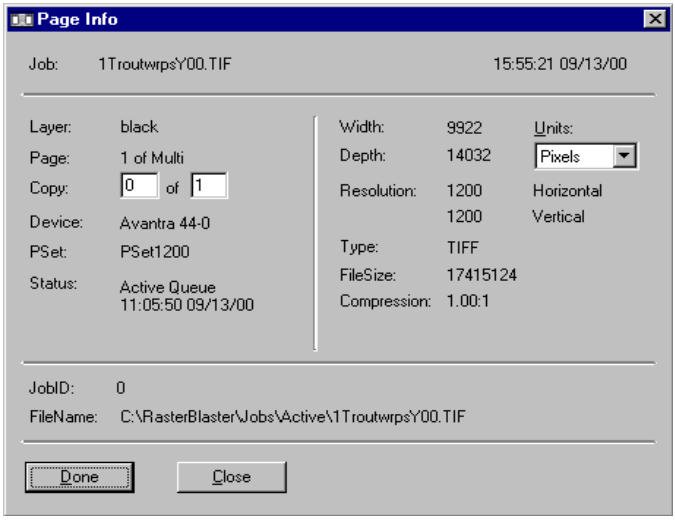
***Note:*** The ***Info***, ***Remove***, ***View***, ***Active***, ***Held***, ***Completed***, and ***Save*** buttons are unavailable until you highlight one or more jobs in one of the queue tabs.

---

### Info Button

To use the ***Info*** button, follow these steps:

1. Highlight the file for which you want information in one of the queue tabs on the ***Output Monitor*** dialog box. This activates the ***Info***, ***Remove***, ***View***, ***Active***, ***Held***, ***Completed***, and ***Save*** buttons.
2. Press the ***Info*** button to open the ***Page Info*** window, containing information about the highlighted job. The highlighted job may be in any queue.




***Page Info*** window

a. The ***Units*** pop-up menu allows you to select the measurement units for ***Width*** and ***Depth*** measurements. Choices are ***Pixels***, ***Inches***, ***Millimeters***, ***Points***, and ***Picas***.

b. ***Status*** identifies the queue, time and date of the highlighted file.

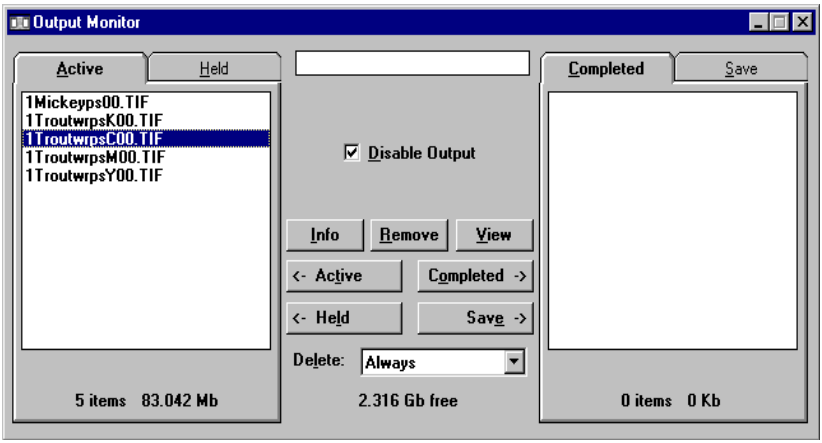
## Remove Button

***Remove*** deletes the highlighted job or jobs from any queue.

## View Button

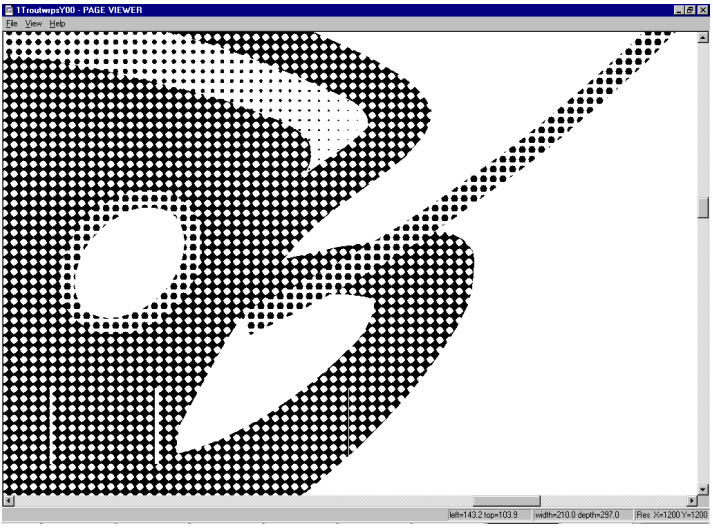
To use the ***View*** button, follow these steps:

1. Highlight the file you want to view in one of the queue tabs on the ***Output Monitor*** dialog box, as shown below. This activates the ***Info***, ***Remove***, ***View***, ***Active***, ***Held***, ***Completed***, and ***Save*** buttons.



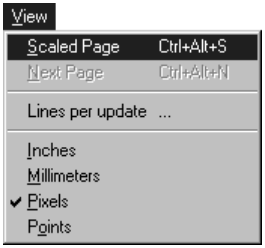

***Output Monitor*** dialog box

2. Press the ***View*** button to open the ***PAGEVIEWER*** window.
3. The ***PAGE VIEWER*** window displays the file at the resolution of your computer monitor. It can only view a single layer or color. The image appears magnified. For example, if the image were created at 1016 dpi but displayed at 75 dpi, the apparent magnification would be about 14 times (1016/75 ≈ 13.5).
4. Use the vertical and horizontal scroll bars to view the image. The illustration below shows a test file image of a trout.




***PAGEVIEWER*** Display of Test File.

5. To see a reduced version of the image, click ***Scaled Page*** in the ***View*** menu of the ***PAGE VIEWER*** window.




This opens a smaller window, superimposed on the ***PAGEVIEWER*** window, showing a reduced version of the image.

Below, the ***Scaled Page*** window displays the same test file image of a trout, reduced to 1/24 of the original size..

***Scaled Page*** Display of Test File.

---

***Note:*** If you click a specific location of the reduced view, the enlarged view in the ***PAGE VIEWER*** window will change. It will be centered around the location at which you clicked.

---

6. Select the unit of measurement for the ***PAGE VIEWER*** display from the bottom half of the ***View*** menu. The choices are ***Inches***, ***Millimeters***, ***Pixels***, and ***Points***.

---

***Note:*** To improve the quality of the display, try experimenting with different settings for the ***Lines per update*** command in the ***View*** menu of the ***PAGE VIEWER*** window. This command determines how many lines are interpreted before being displayed. The default setting is 1.

---

## Delete Menu

The ***Delete*** pop-up menu on the Output Monitor allows you to make settings that control the treatment of jobs in the ***Completed*** queue.

- ***Never*** — jobs are never deleted from the ***Completed*** queue.
- ***When necessary*** — jobs are deleted when one of two configured thresholds is reached. The thresholds are configured in the ***Configure Queues*** dialog box. Refer to "Configuring Thresholds" on page 5-10 for instructions on configuring the thresholds.
- ***Always*** — jobs are deleted as soon as they reach the ***Completed*** queue.

# Resetting your Raster Blaster

To interrupt imaging, you can select ***Reset*** >***Imager*** from the ***Raster Blaster*** log window. The job will be aborted and your system will be reset. Use ***Reset*** >***Imager*** to abort a job during processing, or if a job causes your computer to fail.

# Shutting Down Your Raster Blaster

To shut down your Raster Blaster:

1. From the ***File*** menu of the ***Raster Blaster*** log window, click ***Exit***.
2. On the taskbar, click the ***RIPBroker*** button.
3. From the ***File*** menu of the ***RIPBroker*** window, click ***Exit***.

   Your system closes. To restore communication with the RIP, restart Raster Blaster.

# Chapter 8: Browser

You can use your browser interface to monitor Raster Blaster activity. You can also use your browser to get information on jobs that appear in the ***Active*** and ***Completed*** queues of the Raster Blaster ***Output Monitor***.

## Accessing Raster Blaster with a Browser

To access Raster Blaster through your browser interface:

1. Make sure that the Raster Blaster you wish to monitor has been started.
2. Start your browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 4.0 or later).

---

***Note:*** Browser connection by way of IP address is not recommended because it significantly increases the time required to establish a connection.

---

3. Sign on to the desired Raster Blaster site:

**http://***(Raster Blaster computer name)***/cpsihome.html**

---

***Note:*** The browser will not connect if the computer name exceeds 15 characters. Also, the domain name table must be up to date for this sign-on to work.

---

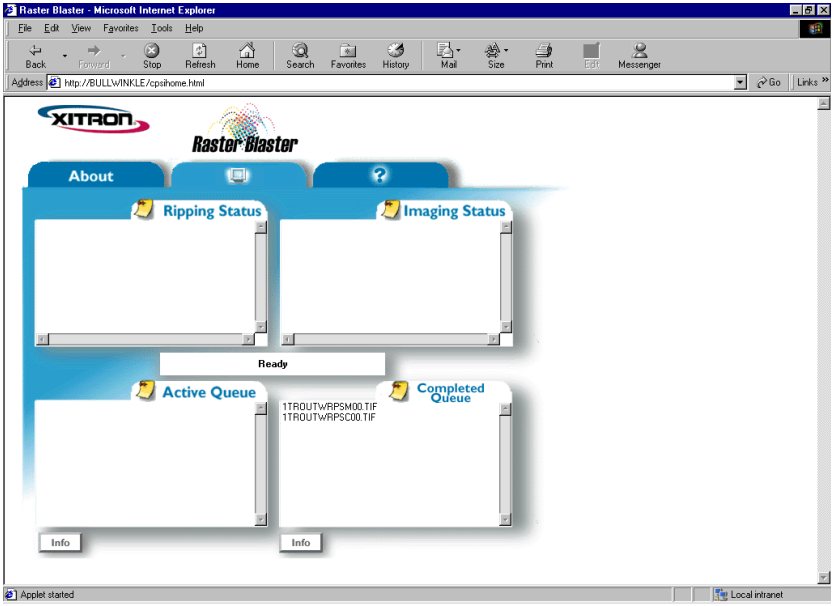
4. Once signed on, bookmark the location so that you can easily return to it.
5. When you first sign on, the Raster Blaster splash screen appears.

***Raster Blaster*** Splash Screen

6. When the splash screen disappears, you can select any of the three tabs. Select one of the following:
   a. The "***About***" tab, to show the splash screen graphic.
   b. The "***Activity Monitor***" tab, to monitor Raster Blaster.
   c. The "***Help***" tab is currently under construction.

# Activity Monitor Tab

When you select the ***Activity Monitor*** tab, a screen with four subwindows appears:




Raster Blaster Activity Monitor

## Activity Monitor Subwindows

The ***Activity Monitor*** tab shows four detachable subwindows:

1. The ***Ripping Status*** subwindow contains comments relating to the rendering of files. These comments match those that originally appear on the host Raster Blaster in the log window.
2. The ***Imaging Status*** subwindow contains comments relating to the imaging of files. Again, these comments match those that originally appear on the host Raster Blaster in the log window.

---

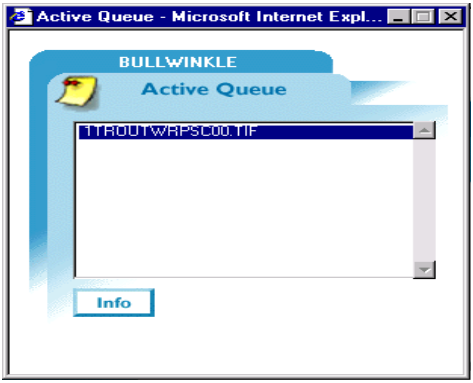
***Note:*** To prevent new entries from appearing in the window, click on the tab of the ***Ripping Status*** or ***Imaging Status*** subwindows (the name on the tab turns to gray). Existing entries will be temporarily blocked from scrolling up out of view. Click on the tab again to resume scrolling (the name on the tab returns to blue).

---

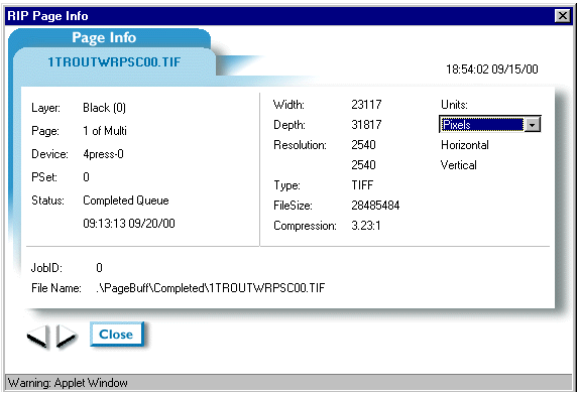
3. The ***Active Queue*** subwindow lists jobs that are waiting to be processed. This lists matches the list displayed in the ***Active*** queue tab in the host Raster Blaster in the ***Output Monitor*** window.
4. The ***Completed Queue*** subwindow lists jobs that have been processed. This lists matches the list displayed in the ***Completed*** queue tab in the host Raster Blaster ***Output Monitor***.

## Job Information

To get information about a specific job, highlight the job in the ***Active Queue*** or ***Completed Queue*** subwindow, as shown on the screen below:




Then click on the ***Info*** button beneath the subwindow. Information about the selected job appears in a ***Page Info*** window:



This is similar to the information that appears when you highlight a job and click ***Info*** in the ***Output Monitor*** dialog box in the host Raster Blaster (refer to "Info Button" on page 7-9)

You can highlight more than one job and then click the ***Info*** button to display information about all the highlighted jobs.

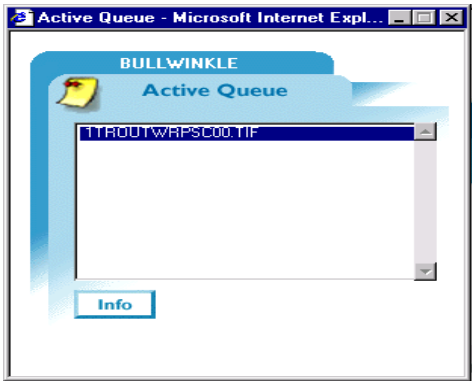
When you click ***Info*** with multiple jobs highlighted, use the left- and right-pointing arrowheads next to the ***Close*** button on the ***Page Info*** window to scroll back and forth between jobs. Click ***Close*** when you are finished.

## Detachable Copies of the Four SubWindows

A copy of any of the four subwindows in the ***Activity Monitor*** can be detached and displayed. To detach and display a copy of a subwindow:

1. Click on the yellow pushpin icon at the top of the subwindow.

   A copy of the subwindow is created and resides in its own window:




***Active Queue*** Subwindow

The detached copy of the window behaves just like the window from which it was copied.The window you created is updated based on the activity on the host Raster Blaster. Once created, the window continues to be updated even if you close down the browser you used to create it. Using this facility, you can monitor the activity of different Raster Blasters side by side.

## Progress Bar

The long rectangular bar in the middle of the ***Activity Monitor*** displays the progress of the current job in the host Raster Blaster. This display matches the progress bar found in the ***Output Monitor*** dialog box.

# Chapter 9: Connecting

This chapter expands on the information in Chapter 5 concerning configuring your input Queues, but covers moving files specifically from your Xitron RIP (or other RIP) to your Raster Blaster. **For RIPs from other manufacturers please see the addendum documentation provided with your Raster Blaster.** Raster Blaster only works with revision 4.5r1d of the Harlequin engine or higher. This chapter is set apart from Chapter 5 because the settings discussed in this chapter will be adjusted and set in the RIP rather than Raster Blaster.

## Preparing Raster Blaster for TIFF Output

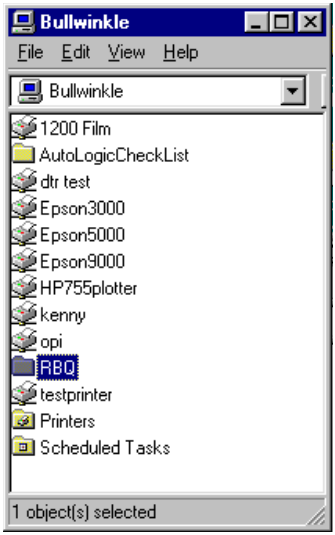
Before you get started setting up your RIP to output files to your Raster Blaster, there is some setup you need to do in the Raster Blaster itself.

As mentioned in Chapter 5, it is a good idea to have all your input queues setup within the same folder on your Raster Blaster. This keeps your directories and files more organized than having queue directories in various places in your computer. This also makes it easier to connect to your queues across the network from your RIP.

## Creating a Shared Directory

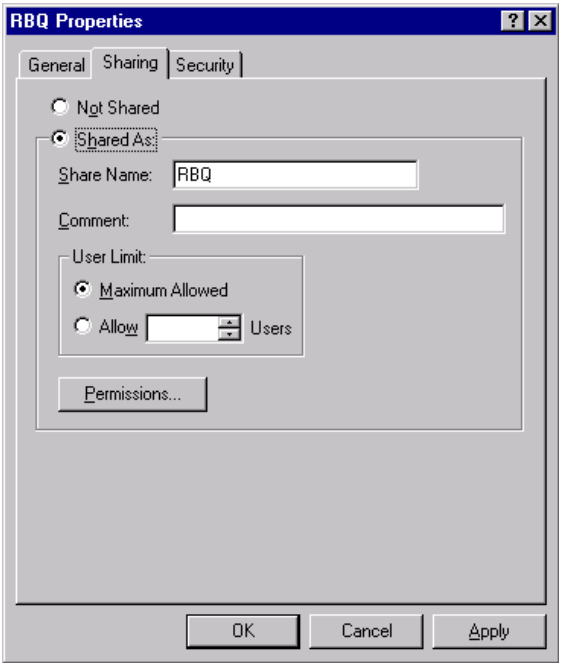
To share your queue directories over the network, follow these steps:

1. Log on as a user with administrator privileges.
2. Browse to the location of your Raster Blaster input queue or the directory containing your input queues. For instructions on setting up queue directories, refer to "Configuring New Queues" on page 5-2.




3. With the folder selected, go to the ***File*** menu and select ***Sharing...***.

This opens the ***File Properties*** dialog box for the selected folder:




***File Properties*** dialog box for folder called ***RBQ***

4. Click on the ***Shared As*** button.
5. If you wish to use a share name different than the directory name, type in the name you wish to use in the ***Share Name*** text box.
6. If you need to set up security on the share, click on ***Permissions*** and apply any appropriate settings for your network.
7. Click on ***Apply*** to save your changes, and click ***OK*** to close the dialog box.

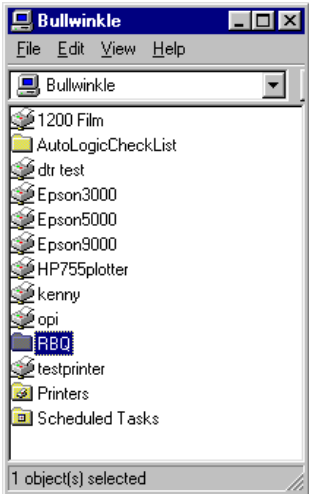
You can now access your input queues across the network for access by your RIP. The rest of this process will take place on your RIP.

# Preparing the RIP

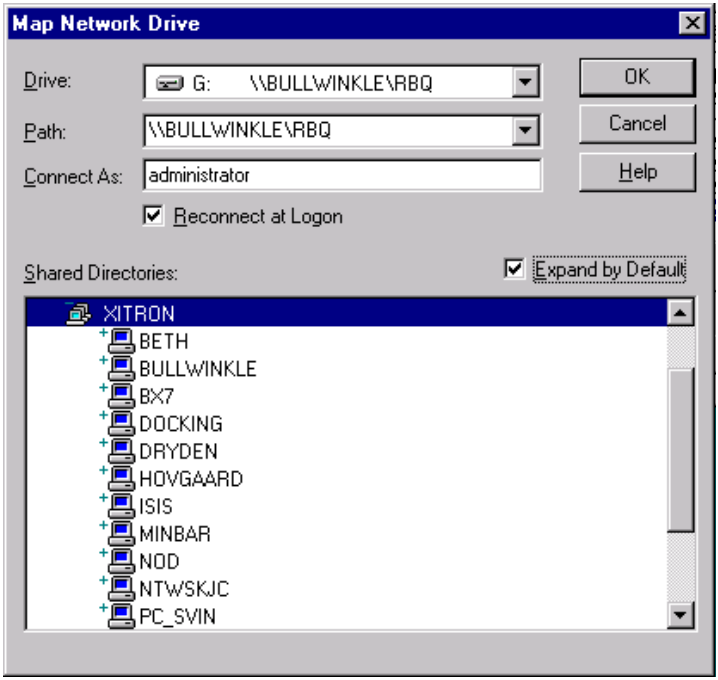
## Mapping a Raster Blaster drive to the Xitron RIP

To prepare your Xitron RIP to run with Raster Blaster you need to map the directory on the Raster Blaster computer that contains its input queues to a hard drive on your Xitron RIP computer. Follow these steps:

1. From the desktop of your Xitron RIP computer, double-click ***Network Neighborhood***. Browse to the location of your Raster Blaster input queue or the directory containing your input queues.



2. Select the directory you wish to map to your Xitron RIP computer. This is the folder you just set up for sharing. Click on the ***File*** menu, and select ***Map Network Drive*** to open the following dialog box:

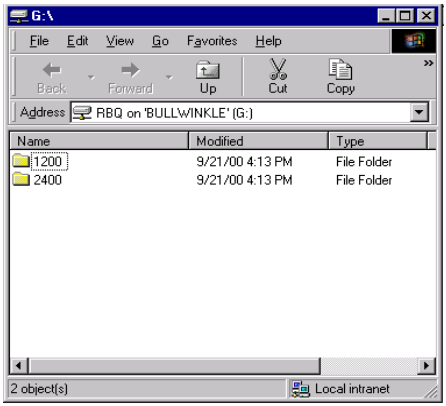



The ***Map Network Drive*** dialog box asks you to define a letter for the mapped hard drive. In the example above the drive letter is ***G***, which will appear in the following screens as the mapped drive.

3. Select the appropriate drive letter.
4. In the ***Connect As:*** text box, enter ***Administrator*** or a user name with Administrator privileges.
5. Put a check in the ***Reconnect at Logon*** check box.

6. Click ***OK*** to close the ***Map Network Drive*** dialog box.

   The next window shows you the shared folder mapped to the drive of your choice, and its contents:

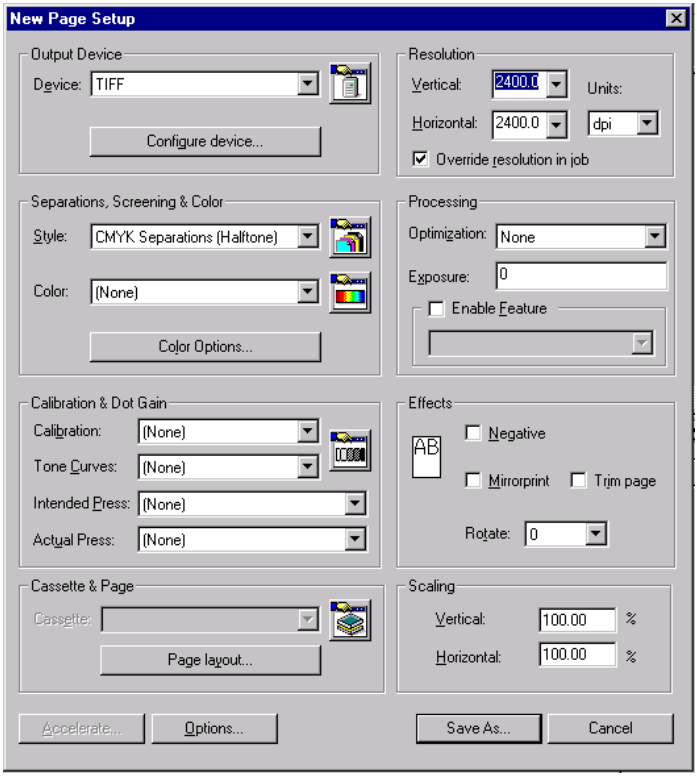



Now you are ready to start your RIP and configure a new ***Page Setup*** that represents the shared input queue folder for Raster Blaster.

# Configuring the RIP for TIFF Output

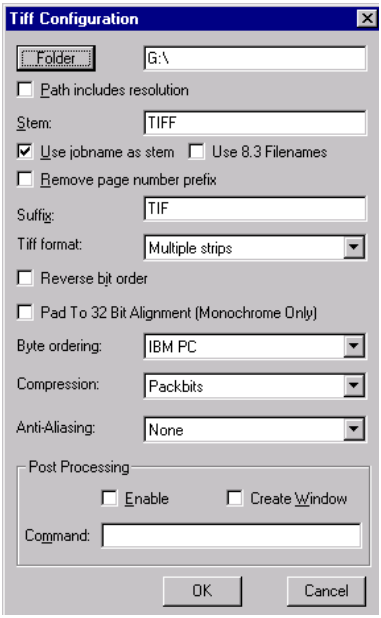
1. To configure your Xitron RIP for TIFF output to Raster Blaster, make sure the RIP application is started.

2. Select ***PageSetup Manager*** from the ***Xitron RIP*** menu. Click on ***New.*** This will open the ***New Page Setup*** dialog box.




3. Select ***TIFF*** as your ***Output Device***, and click on ***Configure Device***.

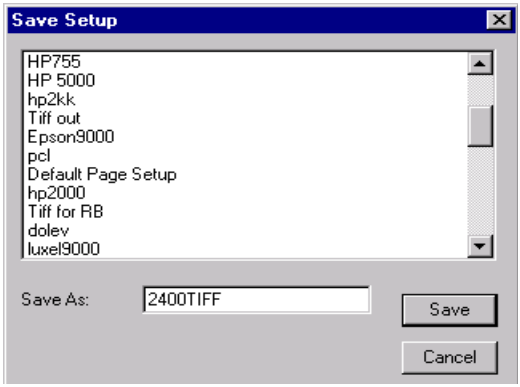
4. The ***Device Configuration*** dialog box for ***TIFF*** opens.




***Device Configuration*** dialog box for output device called ***TIFF***

5. Click on the ***Folder*** button and select the mapped drive that you just set up on your Xitron RIP computer. Refer to Step 3 "Select the appropriate drive letter." on page 9-5.
6. Make the other parameters on this dialog box appropriate for the TIFF files associated with the Pset and input queue you configured in Raster Blaster.
7. Clear the check box for ***Enable Post Processing***.
8. Clear the ***Command*** text box.

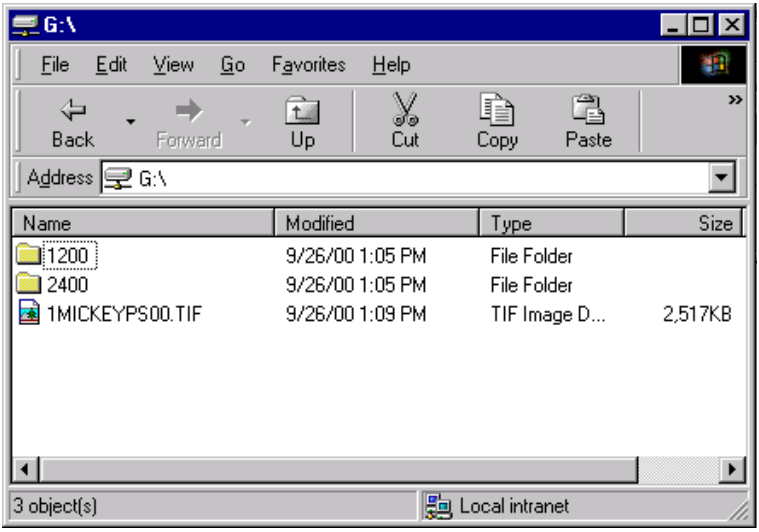
9. Click ***OK*** to close the ***Device Configuration*** dialog box and return to the ***New Page Setup*** dialog box.
10. Click ***Save As*** on the ***New Page Setup*** dialog box to save your ***Page Setup***. The ***Save Setup*** dialog box opens.




11. Change the ***Page Setup*** name if necessary, and click ***Save*** on the ***Save Setup*** dialog box to save the new ***Page Setup*** for your Xitron RIP.

    Now, when you print a job through your RIP with the ***Page Setup*** you just configured, the job shows up in the shared folder for the Raster Blaster input queue corresponding to that PSet.

    To verify this, use the Explore function in Windows NT to display the contents of the queue folder. The screen below is an example.




Explore window showing TIFF file in ***RBQ*** input queue folder.

If all your input queues for Raster Blaster reside in the same folder, this completes the process of setting up your RIP to output files to Raster Blaster. If you have input queues set up in more than one folder on your Raster Blaster computer, you need to go through the procedure (starting with "Creating a Shared Directory" on page 9-2) for each folder containing input queues.

# GLOSSARY

### Aspect Ratio

The height-to-width ratio of a page.

### Banding

A printing problem in which white bands are produced when data is sent to an imagesetter too slowly. The media continues to feed through, but no image is available to print, leading to white bands in the output.

### Bitmap

A rectangular grid of small squares known as pixels, which represent a graphic image.

### CCITT Group3, Group4, Huffman

Compression methods used to reduce the size of computer graphic files.

### Calibration

The process of setting a device to known conditions. Commonly done with devices that change color frequently such as monitors, proofers, imagers, and other printing devices that can change output when colorant or paper stock is changed.

### Color Separation

A monochrome image that represents a component of a color image. In CMYK color printing, images are depicted by four separated pages (cyan, magenta, yellow and black) for each full-color page.

### Color Space

A scheme for representing color images as combinations of a few basic colors, such as CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow and black) or RGB (red, green, and blue). Some schemes use other parameters (for example, HSB uses hue, saturation and brightness) to represent color.

### Compression

The process of reducing the size of a computer file by eliminating redundant characters or by changing the way in which characters are represented.

### Continuous Tone

A term applied to artwork such as photographs, drawings or paintings, that consist of shades of gray or color that blend smoothly over a range of color tones.

### Dot Gain

A printing problem caused by the tendency of halftoned dots to increase in size during the course of image reproduction. Dot gain can be caused by overexposure in the burning of the plate, resulting in denser dots, or it can be caused by pores in the paper soaking up ink, causing the dots to swell.

### Gamut

The subset of colors in the visible spectrum that a printing device is capable of reproducing.

### Halftone Screening

The process of breaking down a continuous-tone graphic image into solid spots of differing sizes to create the illusion of transitioning grays or colors in a printed image.

### ICC

The International Color Consortium. Established in 1993 by eight industry vendors for the purpose of creating, promoting, and encouraging the standardization and evolution of an open, vendor neutral, cross-platform color management system architecture.

### ICC Profile

A file that describes how a particular device (e.g., monitor, scanner, printer, proofer, imagesetter) reproduces color.

### Imagesetter

A computerized printing device that uses a marking engine to apply pixels of colorant to paper or film.

### Imposition

The process of arranging the pages of a publication on sheets so that when the sheets are printed and folded, the pages appear in the proper sequence.

### LZW

A compression method used to reduce the size of computer graphic files.

### Misregistration

A printing problem in which different color inks are not exactly aligned with each other, causing gaps to occur between color objects.

### Offset Printing

A form of printing in which the ink is not transferred directly from the plate to the paper. The offset is supplied by the use of a blanket, or large rubber roller. The plate applies the ink to the blanket, and the blanket transfers the ink to the paper.

### Output Device

A computer peripheral capable of producing printed copy of images, such as an imagesetter or digital proofer.

### Output Plugin

A device driver which controls an output device connected to a RIP.

### Packbits

A compression method used to reduce the size of computer graphic files.

### Pixel

A small square or dot in a rectangular grid of similar dots, that together represent a graphic image. The smallest distinct unit in a bitmap.

### Platesetter

A printing device that produces an image on metal plates by burning dots in the metal surface.

### Proofer

A printing device used to create images as proofs in order to match the final output of an offset press. Traditional proofers create prints from separation negatives. Digital proofers create ink-jet prints or dye-sublimation prints.

### Rasterizing

The process of translating a graphic image into a computer file by representing the image as an array of dots or pixels.

### Resolution

A measure of visual precision in a graphic image. Resolution is commonly expressed as the pixel count or dot count per unit of measure in the image.

### RIP

Raster Image Processor. A computer program that translates a graphic image into a set of computer language symbols that describe the image as an array of dots or pixels.

### Screen Ruling

The number of lines of halftoned dots on a screen or image measured in lines per inch. The higher the screen ruling, the finer the dots and the sharper the image.

### TIFF

Tagged Image File Format, a type of computer graphic file. This is the only file format that can be used as input to Raster Blaster.

### Trapping

A technique in which adjacent colors are slightly overprinted along common edges to minimize the effects of misregistration.

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