

I-IMAGE ART FILE TIP

I came across one answer to an occasional issue where a photoshop separation job just won't rip and most other options won't work.

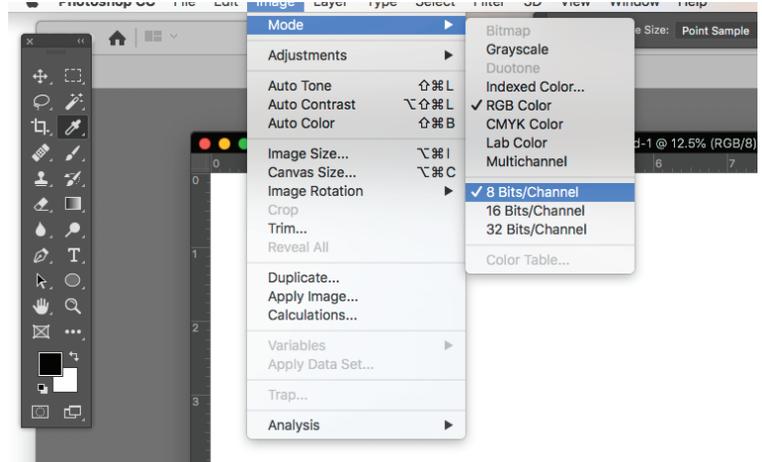
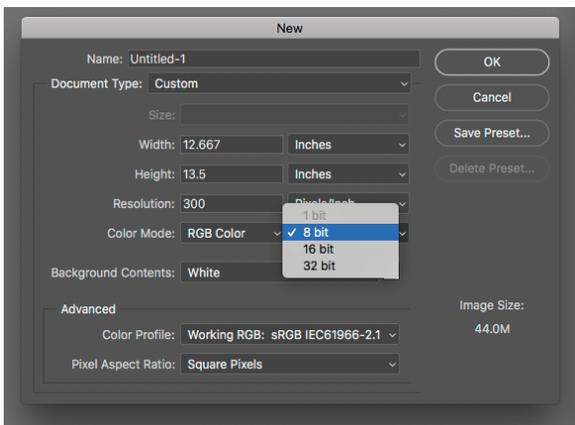
ISSUE:

Some of your print customers submit original photoshop files to you printers (who uses I-Image) and their art files were originally set up as 16 bit color mode...rather than 8 bit. The tricky and deceiving part is that some files submitted can be in either 1 bit, 8 bit or 16 bit color depth mode. You want 8 bit for greyscale images. A 16 bit still allows the file to be only spot color channel seps in 16 bit color mode, but won't rip in Color Print. The channel sets remain in a 16 bit mode when you delete the RGB or CMYK Channels, but this is where the 16 bit color resided. A channel, can only be 8 bit or 1 bit, but deleting the RGB or CMYK does not convert it down to 8 bit for some reason. It still leaves the 16 bit (mode) there. This causes problems with ripping a file.

The Color Print rip sees 1 bit (b/W) like indexing or diffusion dither, as well as 8 bit greyscale, but nothing else. Here are some examples of the color bit depth levels.

- 1 bit- black and white like indexing or diffusion dither,
- 8 bit - 256 shades of greyscale - (You want them to always use 8 bit).
- 16 bit - millions of colors.
- 32 bit - (intended for Photoshop RAW images) for Photographers.

TWO METHODS TO CHANGING THE BIT DEPTH



A tell tale sign without opening the file is the file size. Typically a multi channel sep file even at 12 colors, full size, might be 10-50mb max. 16 bit files will be near 200-400mb. Another tell tale sign is that while a separation file is in 16 bit color mode, it will also not allow you to convert to DCS2.

RESOLVE:

Create 3 new channels, move them up to the top, activate or (click on) those three channels, then convert to RGB. The RGB mode allows you to switch bit modes. Otherwise, (if not in RGB or CMYK), the options are grayed out.

ISSUE:

Another "vector issue" I've seen is when a vector file was originally .ai, but then saved as a pdf file. Then opened again, and saved back as .ai, this re-conversion somehow causes issues with the Color Print and will not rip. The vector data is no longer usable or as far as the COLOR PRINT RIP is concerned, the psd data is corrupted (specifically in Color Print). I don't know about other RIPs.

RESOLVE:

I open in Photoshop, and re-save the file as a Photoshop greyscale multi-channel file or DCS file.