



Creating Window Perf with Flexi Complete

CREATING! Not printing but designing window perf right inside of Flexi for any image!

No more bumps that laminate wont fill, no more fogging in the rain, just window perf the way it should be all the time!

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This is a white paper written for the purpose of helping users of Flexi Complete print window perf. Some options or processes may vary with the printer being used. This is for educational purposes only.

Why PRINT Window Perf?

Window perf is a printable vinyl film with a grid of perforations. These holes allow light to pass through while displaying a solid image on the printed side. The unprinted adhesive side remains see-through from inside the window.

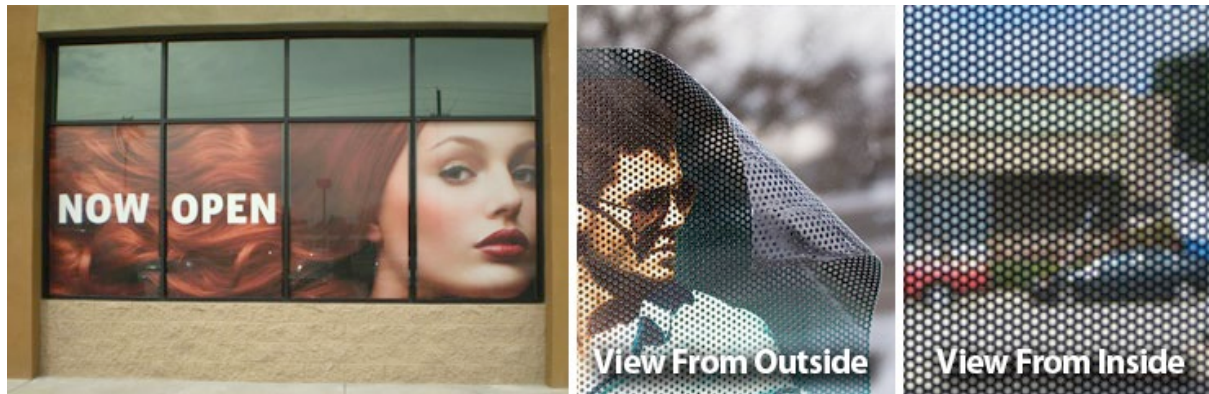


Figure 1 Example of Window perf

The size of the holes and patterns can vary.

- **Definition:** A vinyl film with micro-perforations (typically 1.5mm holes) that allow light and vision through one direction
- **Perforation ratios:** Available in 50/50, 60/40, 65/35, 70/30, and 80/20 patterns (percentage of vinyl vs. holes)
- **Primary benefits:** One-way visibility, privacy, advertising space, UV protection, heat reduction
- **Common applications:** Storefronts, vehicle windows, office partitions, building wraps

Perforated window films work through a clever optical illusion. From outside, the printed vinyl surface dominates what you see. From inside, your eyes focus through the tiny holes, allowing clear outward visibility while maintaining privacy. The film also blocks up to 75% of solar heat gain, helping to lower air conditioning costs in commercial spaces.

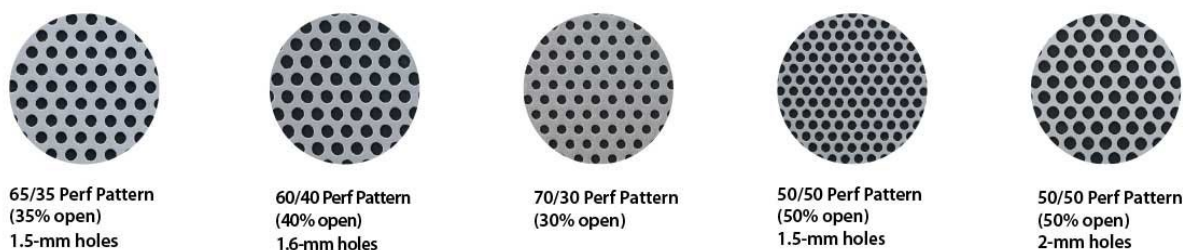


Figure 2 Typical Window Perf Patterns

After printing the window perf, it is laminated for scratch resistance and durability, however, since the film itself has a slight texture with raised ink and depressed holes, the laminate can form pockets of air over the holes. This is not an issue until there is moisture in the air that can then cause a “fog” in those holes limiting visibility.



Figure 3 Example of Window Perf Fogging



In the image above, the bus window to the left does not have window perf but the one on the right does and you can see how it can fog or show condensation.

For this reason, some might choose to simply print the pattern on a wide format printer avoiding the texture and allowing the laminate to cover the entire printed area. This will eliminate the fogging issue.

But how can you “print” the window perf pattern?

Let’s take a look at some patterns and how you can set up a printer that has CMYK+white inks to create your own window perf on clear adhesive film.

Printer and Software Requirements for Designing & Printing Window Perf Patterns

The design and printing of window perf requires a set of circumstances for both printer and software. Let’s see what those are and give you a way to do this on your own.

Printer Requirements

For printing window perf, you’ll need a self-adhesive film that can be printed with CMYK inks and white ink. A layer of black will be printed, covered by a layer of white and then the image above that, so three layers. Each of those will be set with a pattern of holes the correct size and offset, in tis whitepaper, a 50/50 pattern with 1.5 mm holes.

Software Requirements

Okay, we are writing this paper, so Flexi Complete!

Flexi can manage the three layers of black, white and CMYK, separate those layers and then send them to the printer of choice. Final settings will depend on your printer options. Your final project should look like this illustration.

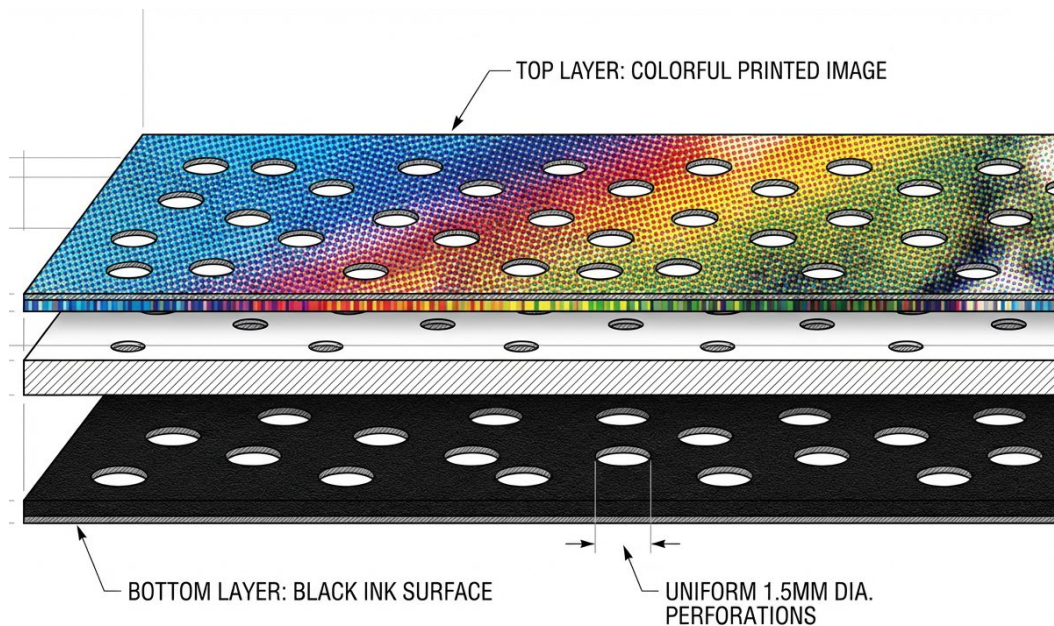


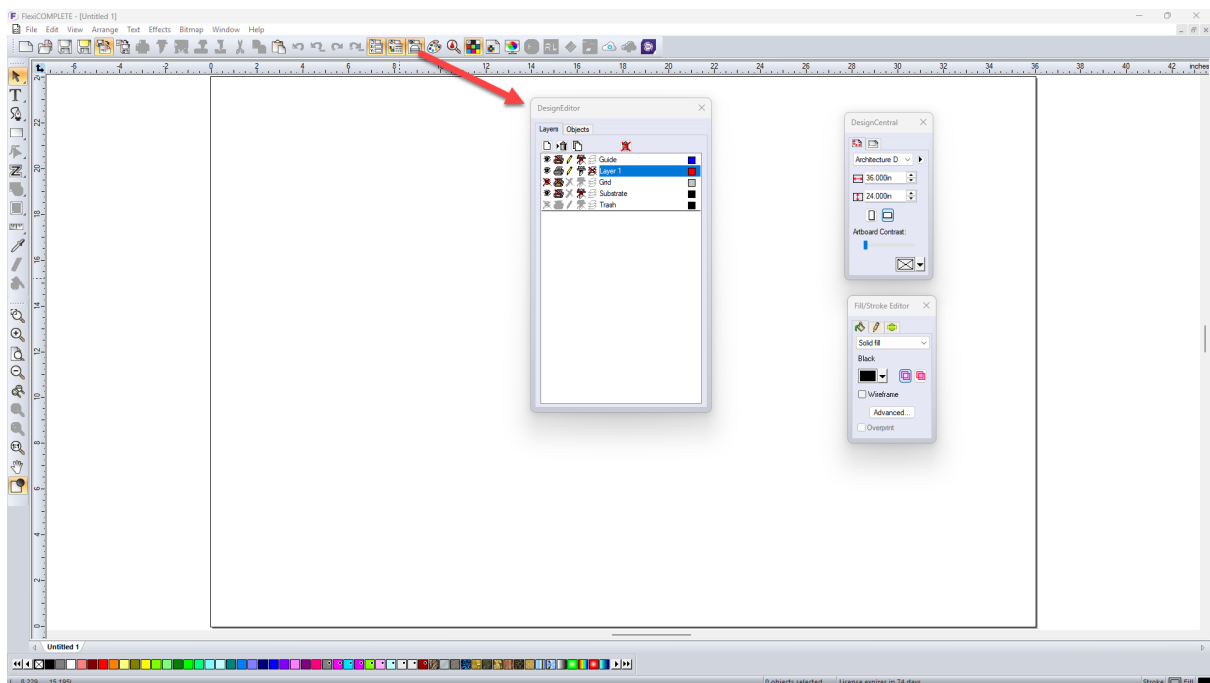
Figure 4 Illustration of Printed Window Perf

Steps to Creating the Layers in Flexi Complete

Okay, the first step is to understand how to setup the layers for your job in Flexi.

Open Flexi Complete and start a new file.

Click the Design Editor. This is the dialog box that allows you to manage the layers.

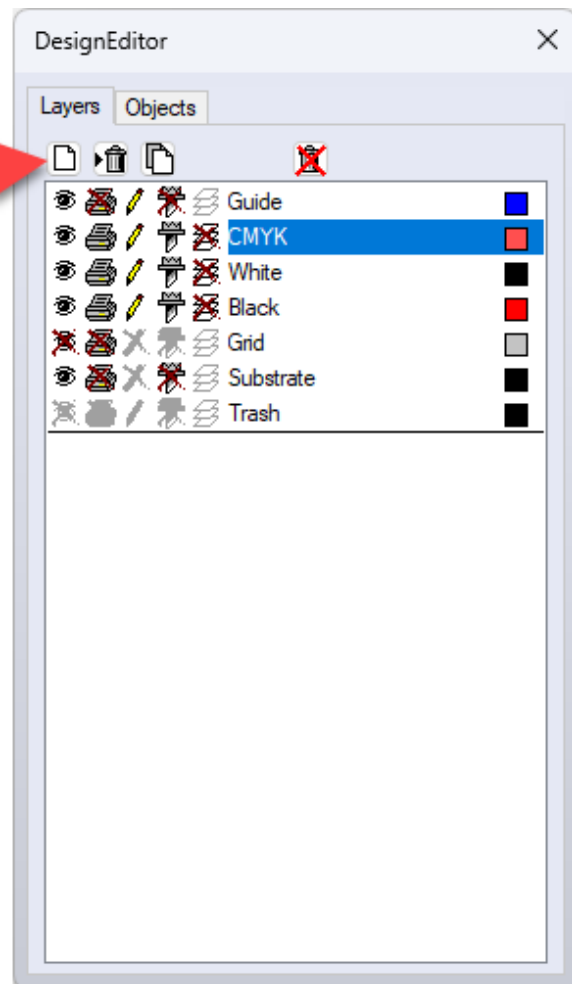


Now, you can create THREE layers and name them Black, White and Image or CMYK.

**Create three layers,
Name them Black
(bottom) White
(Middle) and CMYK
(top).**

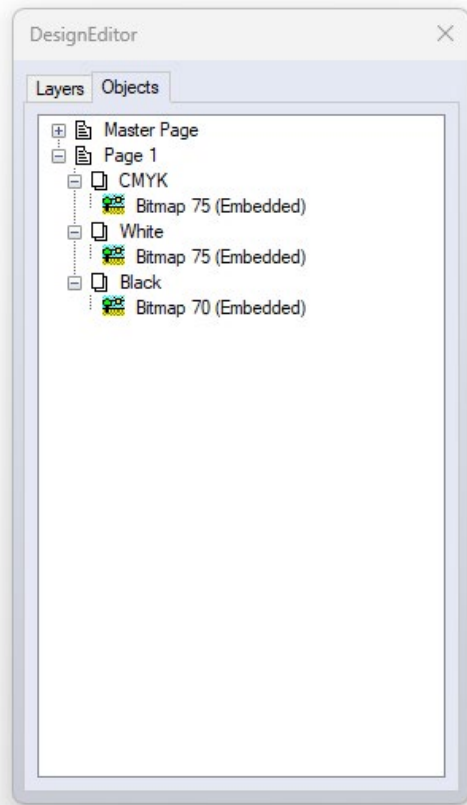
**Just double click
each layer to
rename.**

**Choose the top
(CMYK) layer,**

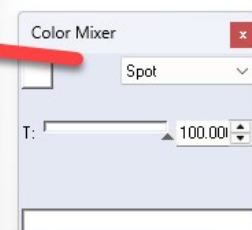
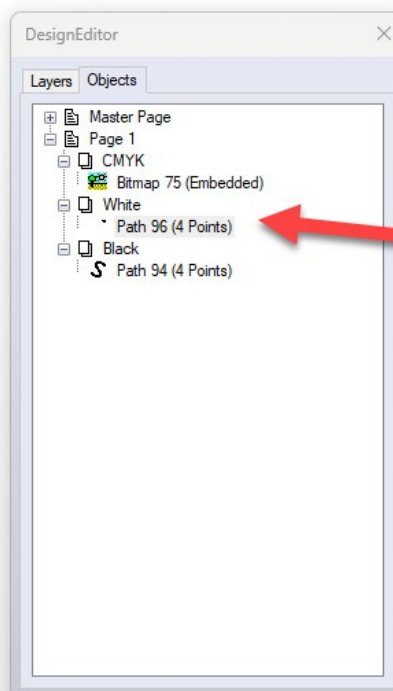


In the CMYK layer, add your image. Now with the chosen image, right-click the image and choose copy, then paste over, do this twice. This will create TWO copies of the image on top of the original image.

In the Design Editor, move one copy of the image to each of the layers.



Choose the bottom layer in DesignEditor, go to the Arrange Menu and choose convert shape to rectangle. Once that is done choose the Arrange menu and choose convert to outline, then use the swatch table and click black to make the bottom layer black.



You now have three layers; the bottom is black, the middle is spot white and the top is your image.



Next select everything in the job (all three layers) and send them to the RIP & Print menu.

Make sure the color mode is set to use your white ink channel.

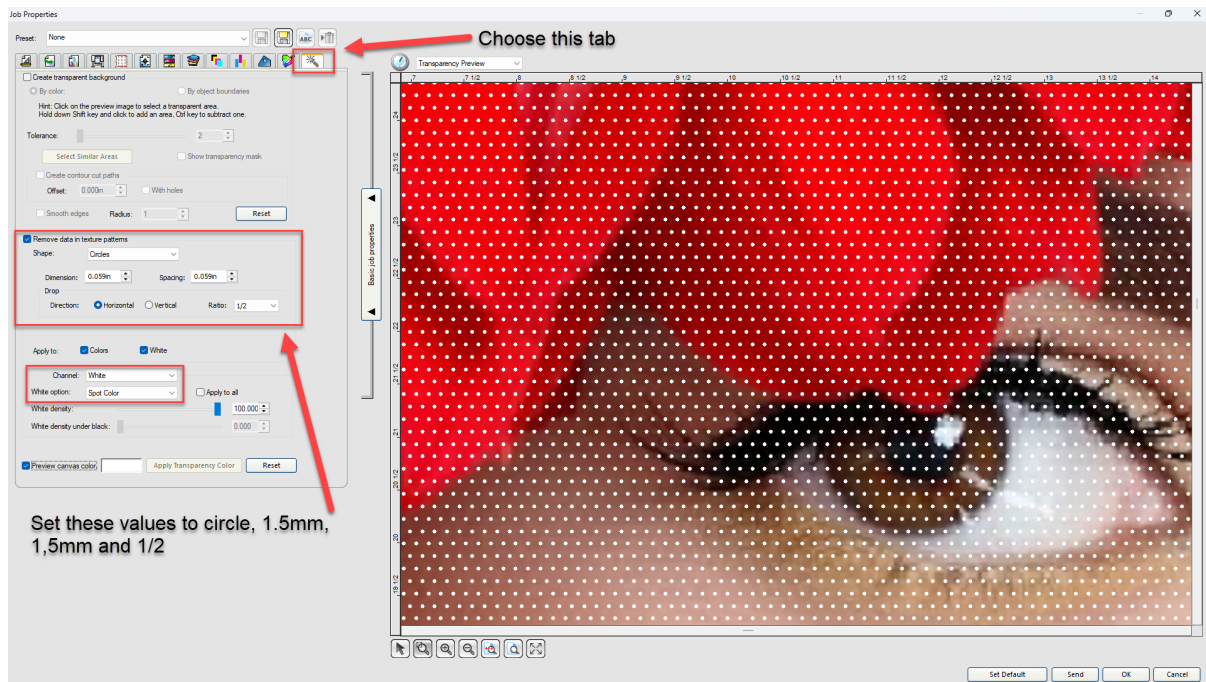
Click the Color Mapping button and map your white to your white ink channel.

Send the file on hold to Production Manager

After sending the file to the Production Manager you are almost finished!

Production Manager Settings

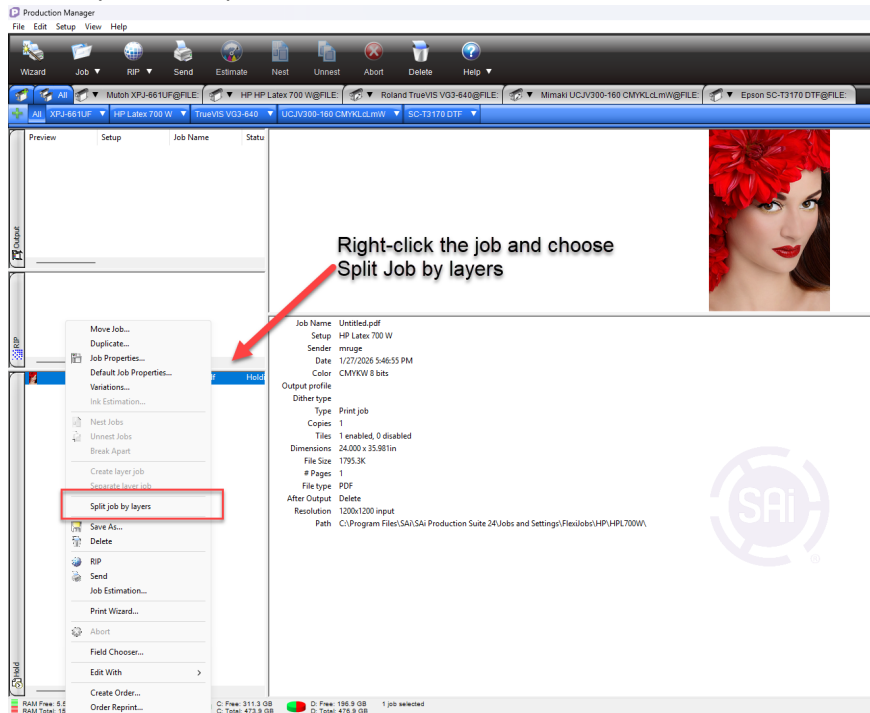
After the job appears in the Production Manager hold queue, double click the job name and set these values:



This adds the right size holes and the right pattern for the window perf.

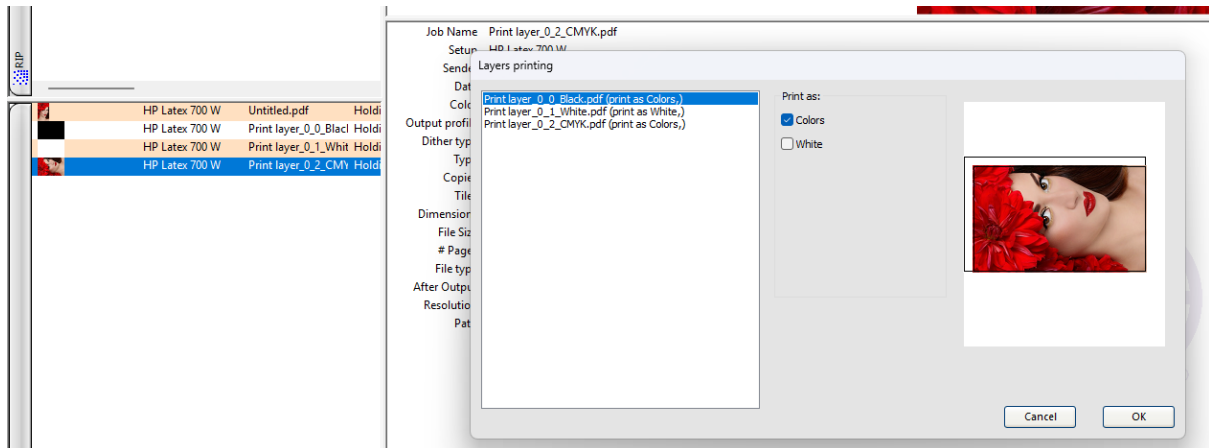
Printing the Window Perf

Now printing the window perf will depend on your specific printer options, however the idea is to print the black, print the white on top of that and then the image on top of the white. Here is just one way to accomplish that task.

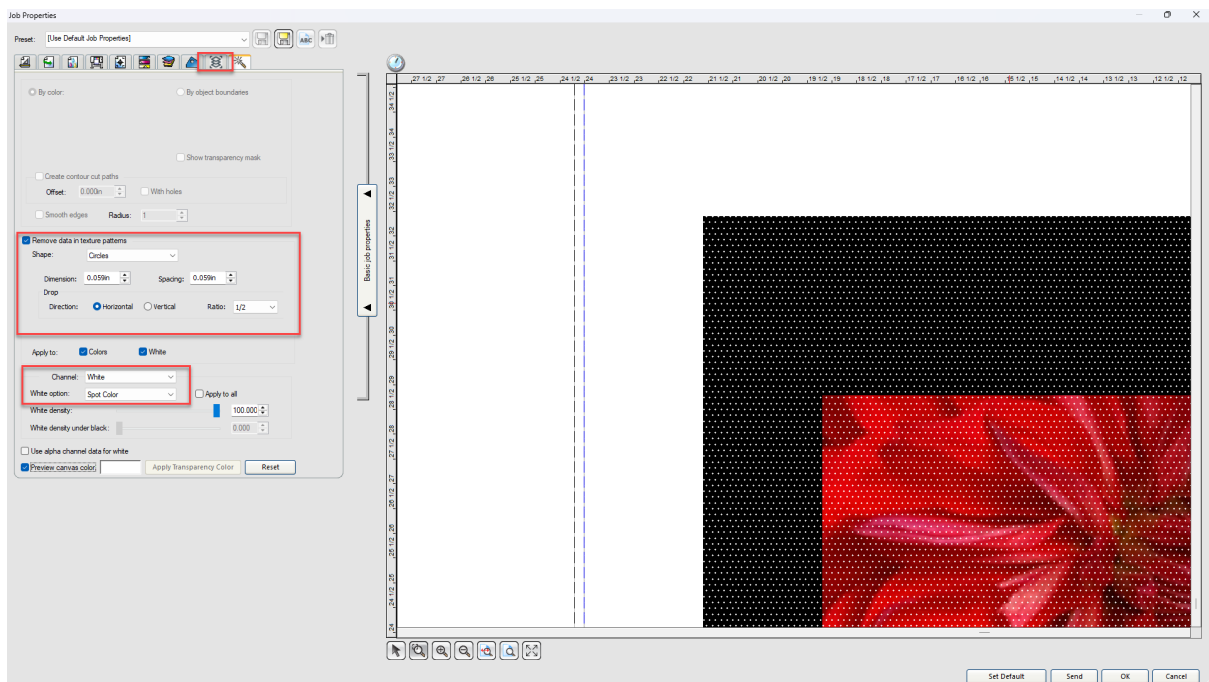


This will take the three layers and create three separate jobs to print.

Once you do this, you will be able to set the print options for each layer. Make sure the black and CMYK layers are set to color and the white layer to white.



Now double click the new job and make sure tht the data texture and white print settings are set:



After this you should be able to print the job, with black going down first, then white on top and then the image.

The final print will be your window perf!

Need more help?

Set up a live consultation with www.adendo.com

