



# NAVIGATOR

## PLUG-IN MANUAL

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# AGFA

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VERSION 7.2.0.0  
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## OVERVIEW

Xitron's Navigator PostScript RIP and Raster Blaster TIFF Catcher rely on software modules called plug-ins to communicate with imaging systems. In many cases they work in tandem with an interface card, while in others it is simply a conversion to a bitmap file in a compatible format.

When interface cards are involved, these plug-ins act as device drivers and control most actions of the output devices. Some of these actions include checking device status, device setup, and advancing and cutting material. In addition, the plug-in relays all the physical characteristics of an engine such as supported resolutions and imageable area.

During the launch sequence, both Navigator and Raster Blaster scan a specific directory for plug-ins. The software loads each plug-in it finds, and then queries them for a description of the capabilities of the supported devices. In this manner the plug-in configures the RIP to output a bitmap to these devices.

Each plug-in controls a particular family of recorders and is able to understand most messages and errors communicated by the output device. Plug-ins for use with Windows-based platforms consist of three software modules. The first module is the core plug-in written specifically for a particular device. This DLL is 32-bit code and runs under Windows NT, Windows 2000 Server, Windows 2000 Professional, Windows 2003 Server and Windows XP. The second module is a kernel mode device driver. This module communicates with the

Xitron interface boards and moves the bitmap data from the PC to the output device's interface. The third module is a “helper” DLL that translates calls from the plug-in to the Windows device driver.

When a page is sent to an output device for imaging, the Xitron software loads the correct plug-in and begins a series of steps prior to output. The plug-in first initializes the engine and checks that it is ready. After receiving the proper signal, the plug-in will begin reading bitmap data from the platform's hard drive into a “printer buffer.” Once the printer buffer is full, the plug-in will start communicating the data to the output device. As the output device consumes the data, the plug-in relays this information to the software, which then refills the buffer. This continues until all of the data has been communicated to the output device. The plug-in tells the software the job is complete and waits for an indicator that the recorder has finished. This process is repeated for each page being output.

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## RASTER BLASTER



Plug-ins used by Xitron's Raster Blaster have the same functionality as those for the Navigator RIP and the same options are available for configuration. Therefore, unless otherwise specified, the information in this manual will apply to both products. See the Raster Blaster Reference Manual for specific configuration information.

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## CONFIGURING DEVICES

Xitron distributes a separate plug-in for each recorder family. This plug-in, in conjunction with firmware on specific Xitron interface cards (PCI & PCI-X), has the capability to drive most of the devices in each recorder family. Users may install more than one plug-in within a single RIP. In addition, it is possible to configure more than one engine type within a single plug-in.

Xitron pre-configures most plug-ins to display all output devices currently supported. To view these devices, click the Device Manager icon shown in Figure 1.

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FIGURE 1: DEVICE MANAGER ICON



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The Device Manager dialog box shown in Figure 2 will display. If the dialog displays the user's output device in the scrollable list, no further editing is necessary. The names of the available output devices will appear in the Output Device pull-down menu of the Page Set-up dialog box. However, in the rare circumstance that another device name is necessary; the user has the option of customizing the name field.

With the Device manager dialog window open, click *New* or select an existing device and click *Edit*.

FIGURE 2: DEVICE MANAGER DIALOG

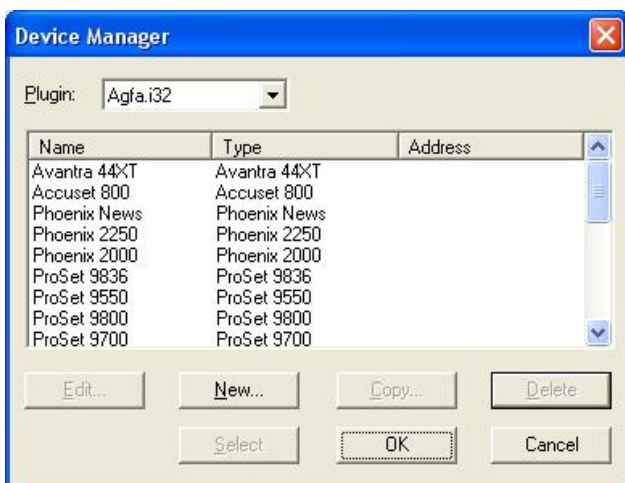
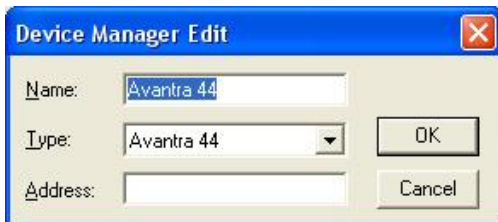


FIGURE 3: DEVICE MANAGER EDIT

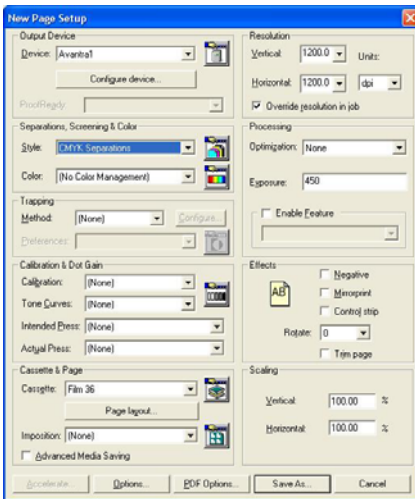


A dialog box similar to the one shown in Figure 3 will display. Enter a name for the device. This name will display in the

Device pull-down menu as a selection in the Page Setup dialog. For example, if two Avantra imagesetters are being driven by the same plug-in and differentiation between the two is important, edit this field to reflect Avantra1 and Avantra2.

The name can be any string of up to 32 characters. Select the specific recorder from the pull-down menu labeled, “*Type.*” Ignore the address field, as it is not used. After making the selections, click “**OK**” to make the device available in the Page Setup menu as seen in Figure 4.

FIGURE 4: PAGE SETUP



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## AGFA SPECIFIC SETTINGS

Xitron's Agfa plug-in supports the following recorders:

Avantra 20, 25, 25E, 25S, 25XT, 30, 36, 44, 44XT

AccuSet 800, 1000, 1200, 1400, 1500

SelectSet 5000, 7000

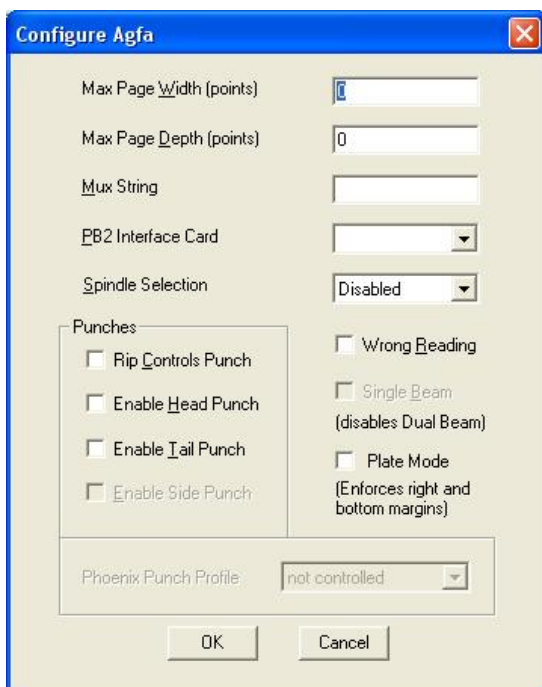
ProSet 9550, 9700, 9800

Based on the device selected in the pull-down menu of the Page Setup, various capabilities regarding resolution, density settings, page orientations and film dimensions will automatically populate the available menu options. For example, choosing Avantra 44 provides only four resolution options, which match the programming of the recorder. Selecting Avantra 44 XT yields three additional resolutions to match the capability of the XT model.

Choose the appropriate resolution, exposure, and page orientation from the main window of Page Setup as shown in Figure 4. Click the button labeled, "*Configure device...*" to change settings that are more specific to the output device such as punch positioning.

Some configuration options will be grayed out and non-editable. This occurs when the device chosen does not offer that particular functionality. An example can be seen in Figure 5, which shows the Configure Device window as it pertains to the Avantra. In this example most all the options are selectable.

FIGURE 5: AVANTRA CONFIGURE DEVICE



Again, depending on the device's capabilities, the following options may be configurable from this dialog box:

- **Max Page Width:** This value is used to override the built-in width-clipping feature of the plug-in. When this value is set to 0, the plug-in will always clip images at the maximum width built into the plug-in. Non-zero values will cause the plug-in to allow images of the set value. Enter values in points.

- **Max Page Depth:** Use this value to set the maximum length of an imaged job. This feature is helpful if a film device is imaging plate material and the plate must be a consistent length. Setting this value to 0 disables the feature. If this value is set to 0 on a drum or cut sheet type imager, images will be clipped at the maximum length allowed by the plug-in. Non-zero values will cause the plug-in to allow images of the set value. Enter values in points.
- **Mux String:** This is used in an environment with a multiplexer, which can scan for a connection to one or more output devices.
- **PB2 Interface Card:** If more than one interface (ArborSB) card is in the PC, select the appropriate interface here. The default for this box is blank, signifying that the first configured card will be used.
- **Spindle Selection:** This feature controls the film spindle selection on an Avantra series recorder. The choices are “Disabled,” “Page Setup,” “Flip-flop,” “Spindle A,” and “Spindle B.” This setting is unavailable if the selected recorder is not an Avantra. Selecting “Disabled” will disable this feature. Spindle selection must be disabled if the system does not use an on-line processor. “Page Setup” mode will set up an inference between the selected cassette and the supply spindle on the Avantra. In this mode, if cassette 1 is selected within Page Setup, supply spindle 1 will be loaded on the recorder. Likewise, if cassette 2 is selected on the Page Setup, supply spindle 2 will be loaded on the recorder. Any other cassette selection causes no change in the selected

spindle within this mode. “Flip-flop” allows the user to load identical media in both supply cassettes of the Avantra and switch automatically when one runs out. In the current version of the plug-in, the actual spindle names are listed.

- **Wrong Reading:** Check this box for wrong reading output. This has the same effect as the Wrong Reading selection in Page Setup. Choosing both will cause one action to cancel the other.
- **Single Beam:** For the ProSet9800 series of imagers, this check box controls the Single Beam/Dual Beam setting on the imager.
- **Enable Head/Tail Punch:** Checking these boxes enables the appropriate punches on the recorder.
- **Plate Mode:** This feature automatically sets the plate size based on the settings for width and depth.