
Harlequin RIP[™]

ProofReady Plugin for Epson
Variable Size Droplet Printers

Release Notes

Version 1.2r1

July 2004





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Release Notes

Global Graphics Software is pleased to announce the release of version 1.2r1 of the ProofReady Plugin for Epson Variable Size Droplet (VSD) printers, in conjunction with the new Harlequin 1-bit Error Diffusion Screening (HEDS1) and Harlequin 2-bit Error Diffusion Screening (HEDS2) plugins. If you have any queries or comments regarding the plugin, please email:

`harlequin-support@globalgraphics.com`

1 Introduction

This particular release of the plugin (1.2r1) is supported on:

- Windows NT4/2000/Server 2003/XP.
- Mac OS 9.x, and Mac OS X.
- Linux platforms with Red Hat 9.0 (new).

Refer to the User Manual for details of system requirements and installation procedure for the Epson VSD and screening plugins. Section 5 on page 7 describes all supplied documentation.

2 Plugin functionality

This section announces new functionality of the plugin, and features that are not intended for end-users but which may be of interest to OEMs.

2.1 Plugin now supported on Linux platforms

The Epson VSD plugin is now supported on Linux platforms running Red Hat 9.0. See the main manual for further details.

2.2 Post processing supported on Mac OS X and Linux platforms

Change 27634 added support for post processing to Mac OS X and Linux platforms. See the main manual for full details.

2.3 SWOP certification

Global Graphics has created a system that meets the SWOP certification criteria. This system includes:

- Harlequin RIP, Eclipse Release and later versions.
- Epson VSD plugin for the Stylus Pro 4000, versions 1.2r0 and later.
- SetGold Pro to generate the profiles.

In particular, the ProofReady profile `SWOP-cert SemiMatte Proof` supplied with the Epson VSD plugin was used by Global Graphics to achieve SWOP certification. The SWOP application data sheet can be viewed at:

<http://www.swop.org/certification.html#cert>

The SWOP certified profile is available for anyone to use, however OEMs cannot use the SWOP certified logo in their marketing materials, as the certification is not directly transferable.

2.4 Enable resolutions for specialist OEM use

Change 27855 enabled the use of 720 x 720 dpi and 1440 x 720 dpi resolutions when sending output to the Stylus Pro 7600/9600 and the Stylus Pro 4000 1-bit device types (fixed dot size).

Note: These resolutions are for specialist use only by OEMs who are using conventional screening. No profiles are provided for such resolutions and they are not part of the ProofReady solution.

3 Change details

This is a list of the problems fixed and other changes made in this version (1.2r1).

Ref	Description
12183	No longer slow output to port 9100 on Mac OS X.
12304	Include improved CRDs for the Stylus Photo 2200.
26099	All file name generation errors are now prefixed with text identifying the type of problem. See the main manual for details.
27619	Epson Stylus Pro 4000 devices now reject jobs requesting sheet glossy paper from the feed tray.
27634	Support post processing on Mac OS X and Linux platforms.
27855	Enable 720 x 720 dpi and 1440 x 720 dpi resolutions on the Stylus Pro 7600/9600 and the Stylus Pro 4000 1-bit device types (fixed dot size). See Section 2.4 on page 2 for more details.
27863	No longer output anything to %stdout, because this affected the LaserWriter driver
27945	Paper color no longer prints black when using SWOP profile.
27951	Add new glossy paper profiles for the Stylus Pro 7600 and Stylus Pro 9600.
28060	Add <macosx> platform tag.

4 Known issues

Every effort has been made to have all the Epson VSD plugin functionality completed and free of problems by this release. However, we recognize the importance of making software available to an announced schedule, and some functionality is incomplete or has remaining problems. This functionality is discussed below. All exclusions and problems will be addressed in later revisions of the plugin.

4.1 HEDS1 and HEDS2 screening

Unlike the standard Epson plugin, the ProofReady plugin for Epson VSD printers does not perform EDS screening. You must install the new Harlequin 1-bit Error Diffusion Screening (HEDS1) and Harlequin 2-bit Error Diffusion Screening (HEDS2) plugins to use in-RIP EDS screening. The in-RIP EDS screening plugins require version 5.5r1c or later of the Harlequin RIP.

Note that the HEDS2 plugin must be installed and enabled when sending output to some device types, such as those for the Epson Stylus Pro 4000/7600/9600/10600. Otherwise, the RIP may unexpectedly quit or freeze. For this reason, we have supplied an installer for all supported platforms, that can be used to install the Epson VSD plugin, as well as the HEDS1 and HEDS2 plugins. You should use a password file to enable the ProofReady and screening plugins before starting the RIP. You can request a password file from GGS.

Please refer to the User Manual for full details on how to install and enable the plugins. Section 5 on page 7 describes the supplied documentation.

4.2 Limited color gamut of Archival inks

When proofing on certain media using the Epson Archival™ inks available with the Epson Stylus Pro 5500, 10000, and 10600 we have found that the color gamut of some types of commercial printing on high grade paper stock is not covered. Additional testing may be required based on your particular requirements.

4.3 Increased memory requirements

The amount of data that needs to be sent to the Epson VSD printers is significantly larger than for standard Epson printers, because of the use of 2-bit screening and other factors. For example, the Epson Stylus Pro 10000 has 180 nozzles, as opposed to 96 nozzles, and the Epson Stylus Pro 7600/9600 print using seven inks (CMYKcmk). As a result, additional memory may need to be allocated to the RIP. The main manual provides some suggested memory settings that you may want to try initially.

4.4 VM Error

When printing using large paper sizes or high resolutions a VM Error may occur. Some jobs may suppress the VM Error and print using the default page size specified in the Page Layout dialog box, so that the output appears clipped. If this occurs we recommend that you increase the **Band size** in the Configure RIP options dialog box to 1024 KB or greater.

4.5 USB Issues

After testing the capabilities of the plugin with USB connections, the following issues have been found to occur.

4.5.1 SP2200 VSD devices

We do not recommend using 2880 x 1440 dpi for the SP2200 VSD devices when connecting via USB. When using this resolution/connectivity method, the following error will occur just before the job finishes printing:

```
ProofReady - Epson VSD (SP2200 VSD Sheet)
Printer communication failed (Input data lost due to overflow:
4,0)
ProofReady - Epson VSD (SP2200 VSD Sheet)
Job output for "<jobname>" is aborting - Printer will print data
that it has already received.
ProofReady - Epson VSD (SP2200 VSD Sheet)
Job output for "<jobname>" aborted on <day> <date> <time> <year>
```

The job is placed into the Active Queue of the Output Controller, **Disable output** is selected (which stops any more jobs running through the RIP), and the message "Overflow" is displayed in the Output Controller.

4.5.2 Printers with both USB and parallel ports

On printers with both USB and parallel ports, such as the Stylus Photo 2200, users should avoid using both interfaces at the same time. Use of the parallel port may sometimes render the USB port unresponsive until the printer is reset or power-cycled.

4.5.3 USB on Mac OS 9.x systems

When using a USB connection on a Macintosh computer it has been found that some conflicts can occur with the “Internal V90 Modem” Extension. This can cause communication errors and system lockups during printing. Disabling this extension may help to resolve these problems.

On Mac OS X the plugin only lists USB printers that identify themselves as “Epson” printers.

4.6 Recommended Epson network card

Testing has shown that newer Epson Network Print Server interface cards are much faster than older cards, or JetDirect printer servers. In particular, we recommend that you use the Epson 10/100 Base TX Internal Print Server card (C12C823912) or later for improved printing performance. In particular, we recommend the card with part number C12C824052 for the Epson Stylus Pro 4000.

4.7 Biplane device types

The screens for the biplane device types are still subject to change and therefore a message appears indicating their pre-release status, whenever you use a biplane device type.

We do not recommend that you create any profiles using these screens, as they are unlikely to produce good results with future versions of the plugin.

4.8 Bi-directional communication on the Epson Stylus Pro 4000

When using port 9100 on the Epson Stylus Pro 4000 device, there is limited bi-directional communication (that is, no ink levels or status information is reported in the RIP Monitor).

4.9 Additional blank sheets

When using sheet device types for the Epson Stylus Pro 4000, an additional (blank) sheet is ejected after every print.

Request 27558 has been created to fix this issue.

5 Documentation

For this release of the plugin, Global Graphics have supplied PDFs of the User Manual and a Quick Start Guide. Technical Note Hqn 046 *Using in-RIP EDS* screening also describes how to install the Harlequin 1-bit Error Diffusion Screening (HEDS1) and Harlequin 2-bit Error Diffusion Screening (HEDS2) plugins for use with your own output plugins.