

COVERS  
PHOTOSHOP  
3.0

011

# Photoshop Techniques

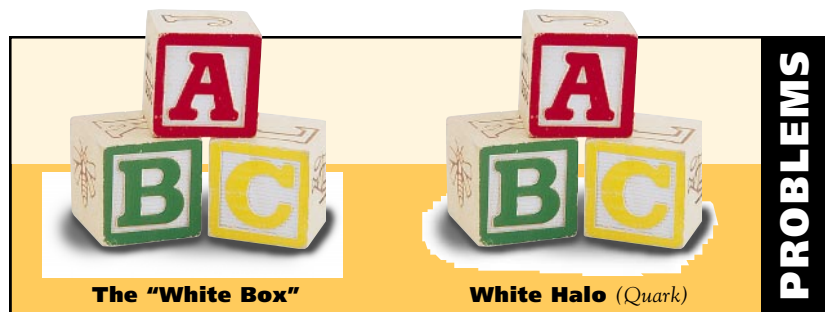
How to

## OVERPRINT A SHADOW.

**Note:** This issue assumes a fairly high level of experience in both commercial printing and desktop color separations.

Few programs sport an easy way to overprint a grayscale TIFF graphic. This is surprising because overprinting is critical for so many types of prepress jobs.

In *Photoshop Techniques* #010, we cover the steps necessary to create several types of common shadows. However, if you place any of these shadows on top of a background color you find yourself again facing the dreaded “white box.” Even worse, in QuarkXPress, you might find a white halo around the shadow.



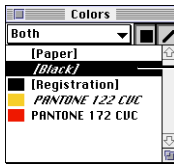
This issue covers a technique for overprinting grayscale TIFFs in Aldus PageMaker or QuarkXPress. There are limitations, and this may not work for every situation. But this may get you past what might otherwise be an insurmountable problem.

Refer to page four for a list of limitations where this technique will not work. There are also possible solutions covered to get around these problems.



## Overprinting a TIFF in PageMaker 5.0

To overprint a TIFF in PageMaker 5.0, you must build a new color that is set to universally overprint. TIFFs that are set to this color will not knock out the background behind them.



### Step 1

#### Build an overprinting color.

##### A: Command-click on Black in the color palette.

You should get a new “Edit color” box.

*Tip: Command-click on Black to quickly define a new color.*

##### B: Name the new color “Shadow OP.”

*Tip: Adding “OP” to the end of your overprinted colors is an easy way to keep track of which colors you have set to overprint.*

##### C: Set the color type to “Tint.”

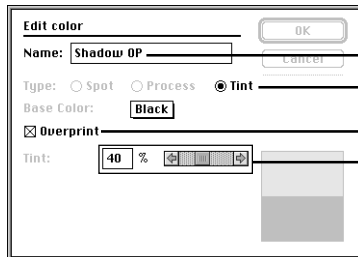
Choose the color you want to create a tint of. In this case choose “Black.”

##### E: Turn on the Overprint checkbox.

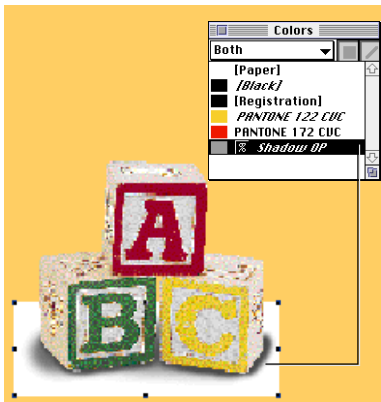
This sets the color to overprint when separations are printed.

##### F: Set the percentage tint of your shadow.

After confirming all the settings, click “OK.”



Step 1B-F



Step 2

### Step 2

#### Assign the TIFF the “Shadow OP” color.

Place and position your shadow TIFF using PageMaker’s standard tools. With the TIFF selected, click on “OP Black” in the Color palette.

*Note: The shadow still has the “white box” around it on the screen. The overprinting option only takes effect when you create color separations for the files. (See limitations on Page 4.)*

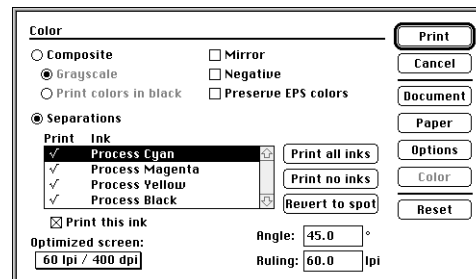
### Step 3

#### Print Separations.

Print separations as you normally do. This technique should work properly whether you are printing directly from PageMaker, or using a separation utility such as Aldus PrePrint—But always inspect your negatives carefully!



Step 3



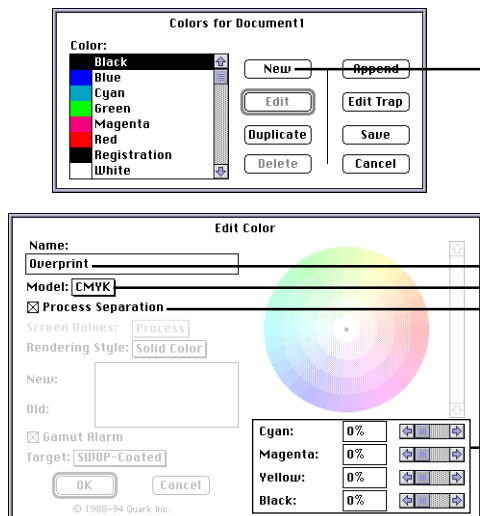
#### Printing Colors

The color section of PageMaker’s Print dialog box lets you control your color separation settings.

## Overprinting a TIFF in QuarkXPress

Quark will only overprint a TIFF if its picture box is set to a fill of “None.” But, because of the way Quark trims TIFFs, this can lead to jagged edges when the shadow is printed.

This technique tricks Quark into overprinting the shadow.



### Step 1

#### Create a new “Overprint” color.

##### A: Choose Colors from the Edit menu.

You will be presented with the Colors dialog box.

##### B: Click the New button.

This will bring up the Edit Color dialog box.

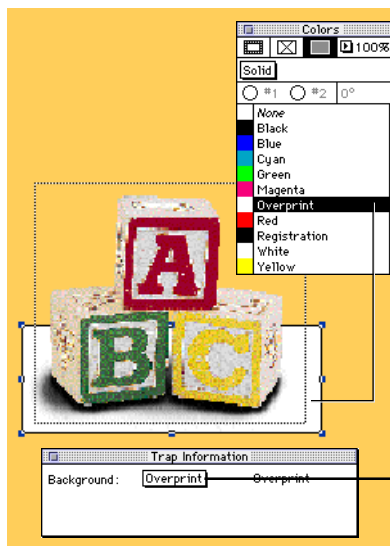
##### C: Name the new color “Overprint”

##### D: Set the model to CMYK.

##### E: Turn on process separations.

##### F: Enter 0% for all CMYK.

Click “OK” to close the Edit Color dialog box. Click “Save” back in the Colors dialog box to save the new color.



### Step 2

#### Overprint the shadow.

In Quark, an imported TIFF has its own picture box. Place and position your object and shadow as needed using Quark’s tools.

##### A: Assign the shadow a gray color.

In the Colors palette, set the shadow to percentage of black.

##### B: Set the picture box’s fill to the “Overprint” color.

Click on the right icon in the color palette and choose Overprint from the color list.

##### C: Overprint the Background in the Trap Info palette.

This is the trick. By setting this 0% color to overprint, Quark will actually overprint the shadow itself. As with PageMaker, the white box will still show on the screen, but it will separate properly.

*Note: If the Trap Information palette is not visible, choose Show Traps from the Layout menu.*

### Step 2



### Step 3

### Step 3

#### Print Separations.

Print separations as you normally do. This technique should work properly whether you are printing directly from QuarkXPress, or using an add-on separation XTension— But, always inspect your negatives carefully!

## Problems and work arounds



**Problem #1:** Composite Proofs

### **Problem #1: Printing composite proofs.**

This technique only works for color separations. If you print to a color printer for proofs, you will still see the “white box.”

**Work arounds:** No easy work around. The best approach is to build your background color into the image in Photoshop. This is cumbersome and time consuming, but it works for most cases.



**Problem #2:** Black in Background

### **Problem #2: Background can't use any Black.**

Due to the way Postscript handles overprinting, your shadow's square will knock out any black in the background. For example Pantone 137 (34M, 91Y) works great. But Pantone 145 (47M, 100Y, 9K) turns a bright orange when the shadow square knocks out the 9% black.

**Work arounds:** Don't use black in your background colors. If you use photographic backgrounds, you can convert them to CMYK in Photoshop with no GCR (This creates a separation without black).

**Note:** GCR (Gray Component Replacement) controls the amount of black used in a CMYK separation.

Digital prepress is a complex business. If you work within the limitations, this technique can save a lot of prepress trouble.



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