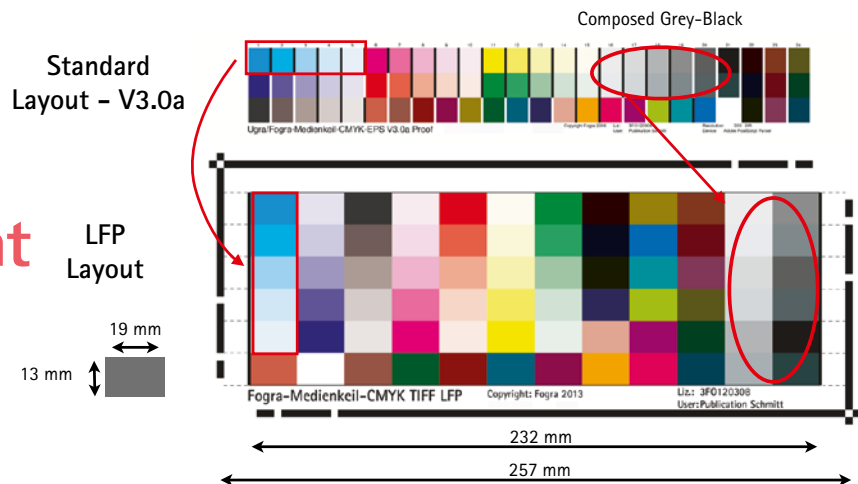


Fogra Media Wedge CMYK for Large Format Printing (LFP)

Since the introduction of the Media Wedge in 1997 the third version of this well known control wedge for evaluating colour accuracy has been established in the printing and publishing industry. The Fogra Media Wedge CMYK V3.0 is available as a standard package comprising three different layouts namely V3.0, V3.0a and V3.0b. They differ by means of the patch size, the presence of a black contrast bar and the format. In addition, there is an extra package called XE (Extra Epson) that contains a special layout for the build-in measurement device called Spectro Proofer. Currently, a similar solution for Canon to be named XC (Extra Canon) is going to be developed.

Why an additional layout?

In large format printing the usage of a coarse screening, i.e. a lower screen frequency, is quite common. The used screens can be compared to conventional screen-printing with screen frequencies from 20/cm to 40/cm. That relates to 60 lpi and 100 lpi respectively. Most of the large format printers are able to print higher resolutions and hence finer screens, but this is not required for application with higher viewing distances such as billboards. In addition, the productivity will be compromised. Using the Fogra Media Wedge for determining the colour accuracy precise and accurate measurements are a must. The fundamental prerequisite to achieve this is to capture many halftone dots by means of large patch sizes or scanning measurements that average many readings, which corresponds to a larger aperture (known as virtual aperture). If the area measured is made too small, the measurements become erratic and depend on the number of half-tone dots that hap-



pen to be measured. That can be easily tested by repeating the measurements hence testing the repeatability. In case when the instrument sampling aperture is not large enough, the readings show high variations. For a single measurement, a rule of thumb says that a minimum instrument (circular) sampling aperture of 6 mm in diameter should be used.

Why not scaling the existing layout?

At first glance a simple solution that results in larger patch sizes might be to enlarge/scale the existing layout. At second glance one can easily see that in this case the rulers to be used for scanning instruments would be too short. In this case a spot measurement would be the only way to measure the Media Wedge. For that reasons a new layout was developed that facilitates both the appropriate patch sizes for large format printing applications and an easy recognition of the wedge as being a member of the Media Wedge family. The new layout (V3.0 LFP) is visualized in the Figure below the standard layout of V3.0a. The basic design covers the 72 patches by means of 6 row and 12 columns by using a patch size of 19 mm x 13 mm. The primary and secondary wedges are oriented vertically instead of the present horizontal way. In addition, the pairs of composed grey and black patches are now arranged in a block of 2 columns on the right end of the wedge. The remaining patches are located at the bottom row as well as in column 8 and 9.

Fig.: Fogra Media Wedge CMYK V3.0. Comparison of the established layout (top) and the additional LFP layout (bottom).

Where do I find measurement files for the new layout?

The development of this additional layout was in cooperation with the manufacturers of the pertinent measurement devices. Though the required reference and measurement files are already available. The established way of handling and evaluating the Fogra Media Wedge will stay the same.

How much is the new Fogra Media Wedge CMYK V3.0 LFP?

Customer of Media Wedge CMYK V3.0 will get the new layout free of charge until end of June 2013 by simply providing the current license information. As of July 1st the Fogra Media Wedge CMYK V3.0 LFP update will be available for 49 € (excl. VAT). It is not planned to provide this layout as a single product. If you use the Media Wedge V3 CMYK as part of your RIP or workflow solution we kindly ask you to contact the vendor for information on how to get the new layout. The layout will be provided in a raster (TIFF) and a vector (PDF) format. ■

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