



**Kodak**

# Preps

Imposition Software

Version 6.0

**Release Notes**

English



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# 1

## Welcome

Welcome to the release notes for the current update to the Kodak® Preps® 6 software.

These release notes highlight the changes and improvements made in this release of the Preps software.

**Note:** A readme document provides a last-minute summary of previously identified problems that are fixed, and it describes new issues that were identified since the last software update.

Check our Web site periodically for the latest software updates, release notes, and documentation. Go to <http://graphics.kodak.com/> or [https://ecentral.kodak.com/ecentral/self\\_support/self\\_support\\_main.asp](https://ecentral.kodak.com/ecentral/self_support/self_support_main.asp).

If you have questions, contact technical support. Call 1.800.472.2727 (North America), +32.2.352 26 16 (Europe), or +1.604.451.2727 (South America).



# 2

## Introducing Preps 6

The Kodak Preps imposition software is a prepress tool that you use to create press-run layouts for bound-work impositions and ganged flat work. You can work “on the fly” in an interactive workspace, use stored templates for frequently repeated layouts, and print the production output to common file formats. Preps also supports varying degrees of workflow automation.

You can impose PDF input files or unpopulated job pages for sheetfed or web press-run layouts, and send the output to any PostScript-compatible device such as a computer-to-plate (CTP) device, imagesetter, on-demand printer, digital printer, wide-format imposition proofer, or laser printer.

The Preps software is used in standalone PDF environments, as well as in all popular workflow solutions, including Kodak Prinergy® systems and third-party (Agfa® ApogeeX, Rampage™, Global Graphics Harlequin®, Artwork Systems Nexus™, and Dainippon Screen TrueFlow® software) systems.

This software runs on the latest Apple® Mac OS® and Microsoft® Windows® operating system software, is compatible with related software such as the Adobe® Acrobat® software, supports the JDF 1.2 and 1.3 standards, and is CIP4® JDF LayCrImp ICS certified (Layout Creation Imposition Interoperability Conformance Specification certificate numbers 0610000201 and 07100000203).



# 3

## Preps 6 features

Features that are highlighted here are described in greater detail in the quick start and user guides.

### License types and feature sets

Production-mode software is activated via dongle-based licensing or, in Prinergy workflows, via floating license. Each license type offers a basic feature set and additional capabilities for specific industry applications.

#### License types

- **Preps Digital** includes the basic feature set, tailored for smaller-scale digital presses with a maximum 2-up sheet size.
- **Preps Plus** is tailored for the commercial printing industry, and it offers the same feature set as Preps Digital, with the addition of support for all available sheet sizes and tiling.
- **Preps Digital Pro** adds JDF workflow support and binding data output, CIP3 cutting data output, and the AutoGang feature (which is semiautomated in stand-alone Preps and fully automated via AutoGang hot folders for Prinergy floating licenses).
- **Preps Pro** meets the needs of both the on-demand and commercial printing industries. It supports all of the above capabilities, and adds publication assembly planning for products—including support for multiple products that can use mixed binding styles in their parts, a dynamic **Assembly** view, and web growth compensation.

#### Basic feature set

The following feature set is provided with all licenses:

- Advanced run-list management in a **Pages** view
- **Press Runs** view that combines job layout manipulation and content previews
- Media, stock, mark, and layout resources for drag-and-drop layout creation
- Custom layout searches of existing templates and fold patterns
- Multiple sections per press sheet
- Manual drag-and-drop ganging
- Fold pattern resources for on-the-fly impositions
- Kodak SmartMarks® and mark groups
- Output to JDF, PJTF, PDF, and PS files
- Multiple-language support

## Feature comparison

The following table compares the additional features that are activated by each license type.

Feature	Preps Pro	Preps Plus	Preps Digital Pro	Preps Digital
Unlimited sheet size, up to maximum supported	yes	yes	Limit is 2-up size	Limit is 2-up size
Mixed binding styles	yes			
Assembly view	yes			
Web growth compensation	yes			
Multiple products and parts	yes			
JDF input	yes		yes	
JDF auto signature matching (ASM)	yes		yes	
JDF auto signature creation (ASC)	yes		yes	
AutoGang for semiautomation	yes		yes	
* AutoGang hot folders for full automation	yes		yes	
JDF binding data output	yes		yes	
CIP3 cutting data export (JDF, PPF, PJTF)	yes		yes	
Automatic and custom tiling	yes	yes		
Fold Pattern resource	yes	yes	yes	yes

## Floating licenses

Preps 6.0 floating licenses can be used with:

- Prinerger Connect™ software, versions 5.0.3.2 and 5.1.2.0 and later
- Prinerger Evo™ software, version 5.1.6.0 and later

**Note:** The Preps 6.0 software is *not* currently installed by the Prinerger 5 Workshop installer—it must be separately purchased and installed.

## User interface features

The harmonized Kodak Gold interface provides a greatly enhanced workspace that combines preview and edit capabilities in a single window.

### Just what you need—when and where you need it

The tools, lists, and settings that you need in each view are always within easy reach, and they can be hidden or exposed on the fly. You can choose how you work in each view with features such as:

- Drag-and-drop functionality for placing and moving items
- Toolbars and keyboard shortcuts for most tasks
- Context (right-click) menus for managing the resources
- Triangle icons for expanding or collapsing the panes
- Adjustable dividers for resizing the panes
- Instant access to properties of items that you select in the workspace
- Dynamic updating in all affected areas when edits are made in any area
- Menus and dialog boxes for less frequently performed tasks
- The **Help** menu for user information and demonstration movies

### Tabbed views for managing pages, press runs, and products

Tab between dynamically updated views as you work on a job's pages, press runs, or product assemblies, with an interactive workspace and supporting list panes in each view.

- In the **Pages** view, set up the product run lists with blank, placeholder, or PDF content pages; preview individual pages and page details; adjust the trim boxes; and reposition, scale, or rotate the PDF content.
- In the **Press Runs** view, create and interactively edit and preview any number of sheetfed and multiweb press runs to accommodate the job's pages. Manage the stock, media, marks, and layout for each sheet or web.
- In the **Assembly** view, provide the product intent for a customer job, which can include multiple products and parts, and mixed binding styles. Interactively plan the binding assembly of each product's parts and sections, and autogenerate the press runs based on your planned details.

### Working with the views

The way that you use the views can be affected by such factors as the job types, product requirements and complexity, the number of people

who work on the jobs, the feature set supported by your software license, and personal preferences.

Here are a few possibilities:

- You might first use the **Pages** view to collect the input files or define file placeholders and set up the run list, and then switch to the **Press Runs** view to build the press-run layouts.
- For ganged jobs or for basic single-product, single-part jobs, you might work entirely in the **Press Runs** view.
- For intelligent setup of ganged press runs, you might use the AutoGang feature in the **Press Runs** view.
- Jobs for complex publications might be done in stages.

For example, a planner, customer service representative, or senior prepress operator might start a job by providing the product intent in the **Assembly** view (license-dependent). The job can then be completed by a prepress operator who creates the layouts and prints the press runs.

- In a JDF-based workflow, you use the **Assembly** view to provide any information that was not received via JDF, and then check the autogenerated press-run layouts in the **Press Runs** view.

## Flexible tools for creating layouts

You might use the same tools for most jobs, or you might switch between several methods to match the variations in jobs. Tools include stock and media resources, layout resources and searches, manual and automated ganging, product intent and assembly planning, and JDF automation.

Press-run creation tool	Useful for:
<b>Stock</b> and <b>Media</b> lists	Manually targeting a specific sheet and device, including for last-minute changes that do not affect the layouts and pages
<b>Layouts Search</b>	Quickly finding suitable layout within a large collection of templates or fold patterns, based on various search criteria, including page count, binding style, and name
<b>Templates</b> list	Repeating the same layouts for multiple products and jobs that require specific page and sheet sizes, binding styles, and page numbering
<b>AutoSelect</b>	Generating press runs for a single-part product's run list whose page count can be efficiently imposed using a standard binding style

<b>Fold Patterns</b> list	Building layouts on the fly for products and product sections that vary in page count, page size, stock, media, and binding style; also for flexibility in orienting a section to match the folds to the stock grain, or for customized content transformations for different bind edges.  Fold patterns quickly create press-run sections with prenumbered page grids. The default or planned sheet and page size are automatically applied, and you can change these properties on the fly, or rotate or flip the grid on the press sheet.
Manual ganging	Placing ganged flat-work pages with full drag-and-drop control; stepping and repeating ganged pages and page groups on press runs
<b>AutoGang</b>	Saving time by allowing the software to gang multiple products in flatwork-only jobs, based on your settings and priorities
<b>AutoGang</b> hot folders	Fully automated ganging in a Prinergy workflow
Create Imposition dialog box	Using a dialog box for creating an imposition section that is based on fixed gutters or on a fold pattern, for use in the current job and/or to save as a template
Product Intent dialog box	Starting a new multipart product by copying all the known requirements into a single dialog box, perhaps by copying from a printed job ticket. If enough detail is provided, you can proceed directly to autogenerating or manually completing the press runs.
<b>Assembly</b> view	Revising, refining, or completing the product intent details for jobs with multiple products, parts, and binding styles before autogenerating or manually completing the press runs
JDF automation	Deriving the product intent from a JDF file, which can support auto signature creation (ASC), auto signature matching (ASM), or both

## Automation support

In addition to features that allow the software to make decisions for you, such as autogeneration of press runs and autoselection of templates, you can fully automate the creation of imposition and ganged press-run layouts.

### JDF imposition jobs

- The open-standard job definition format (JDF) is used by JDF-compliant systems to communicate data and automatically trigger specific job tasks.
- The currently loaded profile determines the type of automation that is applied when a JDF file is opened, based on the **JDF** tab settings in the Preferences dialog box.

- Incoming JDF files can contain enough product intent to autogenerate the **Press Runs List** via template-signature matching or creation, and you can add or edit details as needed.
- After opening a JDF file, you can check the autogenerated layouts, compare the current settings alongside the source JDF values, and make any necessary adjustments before you print the output.

### AutoGang jobs

- The AutoGang feature makes intelligent decisions to determine which PDF pages constitute a complete flat-work product. It chooses the best positions for pages on the press sheets, based on the settings and priorities that you assign. You can review and adjust the results as needed.
- The AutoGang feature includes a hot folder capability to fully automate job ganging for a Kodak Prinergy workflow system.
- Enhancements in this release include:
  - Microsoft Windows support
  - Option to allow page rotation on the layout
  - Cut efficiency priority and step direction

### Mark rules

- Mark rules define the criteria that determine which SmartMarks are added when press-run layouts are generated by AutoGang and JDF automation.
- Use the Mark Rules Editor tool to configure the criteria for each rule that you create, and select the marks and mark groups that are added by that rule.

## Feature enhancements

Several existing features have been improved.

### Layout dimensions

- When you use a fold pattern to create a press-run section, you can configure the gutter and margin spaces with separate values that are designated as head trim, foot trim, face trim, front or back lip (overfold), and spine. This information can also be received and output via JDF.
- When you create an imposition without using a fold pattern, the unused space is evenly distributed among the gutters between pages and the outside page margins, and you can individually edit these dimensions directly in the workspace.
- When editing gutters or trims, you can use the Tab key to move between text boxes.

## Advanced run list management

- Define and store folio and color names as common resources, and use them to describe individual planned or run-list pages.
- As you set up a product run list, you can add information about each page to help ensure that all the pages are correctly placed in the run list and on a press run.
- You can also sort a multipart product's run list by parts and part pages.
- Click toolbar icons to quickly increment the folios or to duplicate the folios, planned colors, and notes down the current list.
- Use toolbar icons to insert single or multiple blank and placeholder pages as needed.

## Multiple sections available with all license types

A section is a container for an imposition grid of pages that will be in the correct sequence when folded and bound. Use sections to control the placement and flow of pages through the press runs in a job:

- Print two or more impositions on a single press run on a multiple web press or on standard size presses.
- Use more than one kind of fold pattern or imposition on one press run.
- Avoid problems with media that is difficult to fold, or when more folds are required than can be accommodated by the paper or folding equipment.
- Run the color pages in one press run, and run the black-and-white pages in another.
- Print partial jobs if some of the input files are not yet available.

## Comprehensive preference settings

- Use the Preferences dialog box to set default and preferred values, organized into **General**, **Folders**, **JDF**, **Output**, **Marks**, and **AutoGang** tabs.
- Store collections of preference settings in custom profiles, and edit or switch profiles for specific purposes in a job or between jobs.

## Output enhancements

- When the media choice will be made in a downstream system, you can print to a virtual **Press Sheet Size** media that is equal to the stock size. You can optionally add margins for marks that must print off the sheet.
- Print layout mockups and press-run summaries in a report, which you can use for your own reference or provide to another operator.

## Marks

- All marks that you can create and add to press runs are based on the Kodak SmartMarks software technology. Each mark is dynamically placed and sized, based on the positioning rules that you configure and store in its SMK file.
- When you must reopen older jobs or templates in this newer software version, any existing legacy static marks will be either autoconverted to SmartMarks, retained, or deleted, depending on various factors.
- You can assign a line style and color to fold and crop marks, and select individual marks for editing or deleting (Option/Alt or Shift +Option/Alt + click).
- Marks are output as PDF, and you can also select an option to output Adobe PostScript® mark flats.
- A SmartMark can be temporarily unlocked and dragged to a new position. The repositioned mark is automatically locked in its new position.

## Dialog box for managing licenses

To activate a dongle-based license, you provide the password in the Licensing Control dialog box that appears when you first start the new software. If the installation is licensed by a workflow server, you can set the default floating-license type, and view who is currently using each license. When the software is running, you can also access this dialog box from the **Preps** (Mac OS) or **Edit** (Windows) menu.

## Adobe software components

The Preps software uses the Adobe PDF Library for previewing PDF content pages and printing PDF output files, including PDF mark files.  
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## New in Preps 6.0.1

The Preps 6.0.1 software update includes the following feature enhancements.

For information about fixed and known problems, see the *Preps 6.0.1 Readme*.

- Supported operating systems now include Microsoft Windows 7 and Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard).
- You can now either type or paste your dongle license key into the Licensing Control dialog box. When you copy and paste the entire license key into the first **Password** box, the characters flow into the remaining boxes.
- The Preps Digital license types now support sheet sizes up to 36.83 cm × 58.42 cm (14.5 in. × 23 in.).
- You can save and close a job with product intent only, and then later reopen the job to complete the layouts.
- Use the **Layouts Search** tool to find templates that use a specific media resource (also known as a device or media configuration).
- You can select and apply common values to multiple sections in the **Properties** pane, without affecting any settings that you do not edit. Use the Shift+click shortcut to select the sections in the **Products** list or the workspace.
- To quickly select all pages, all odd or even pages, or a range of pages in the **Pages List**, right-click a product or part, and select an option.
- A folio text-mark variable is now available. When used in page-anchored text marks, \$folio prints the folio that you assigned to each page in the job's **Pages List**.
- Marks can be previewed in Preps in Windows as well as on the Mac OS.
- JDF matching has been enhanced with the following new or improved options in the JDF Preferences dialog box:
  - **Match finishing properties to fold pattern templates**—If the source JDF specifies finishing property values such as trims, matches only to a template signature that uses a fold pattern, and ignores any gutter-based impositions
  - **Check head and foot trim**—Available only if **Match finishing properties to fold pattern templates** is selected. Matches only to a template signature that uses the same head and foot trim values as specified in the source JDF.
  - **Check fold pattern**—Matches only to a template signature that uses the same fold pattern as specified in the source JDF
  - **Check fold orientation**—Available only if **Check fold orientation** is selected. Matches only to a template signature that uses the

same fold pattern with the same rotate and flip coordinates as specified in the source JDF.

- JDF output can now include run lengths. Any **Run Length** values that you specify in a job's **Press Runs List** are included in the JDF output, in the `Layout/Signature/@SSi:RunLength` attribute.



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