



Application Notes

Cutting with Fotoba Cutters



Cutting with Fotoba Cutters

ErgoSoft AG
Moosgrabenstr. 13
CH-8595 Altnau, Switzerland

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Introduction

The Fotoba cutters that are supported in the **ErgoSoft RIP** are not designed to be used for contour cutting but for cutting images from a job using just horizontal and vertical cut lines. This type of cutting needs some special preparation and configuration that are quite different from the preparation and configuration needed for contour cutting.

The **Fotoba Cut Marks** function of the **ErgoSoft RIP** supports three different types of cut mark configuration:

- Horizontal and vertical double lines around images needed e.g. for Fotoba Digitrim cutters.
- Double lines above and below the images needed e.g. for Fotoba Rollcut cutters.
- Double lines above and below the images as well as one line along the job needed e.g. for Fotoba XL... cutters.

Configuring for Fotoba Digitrim Cutters

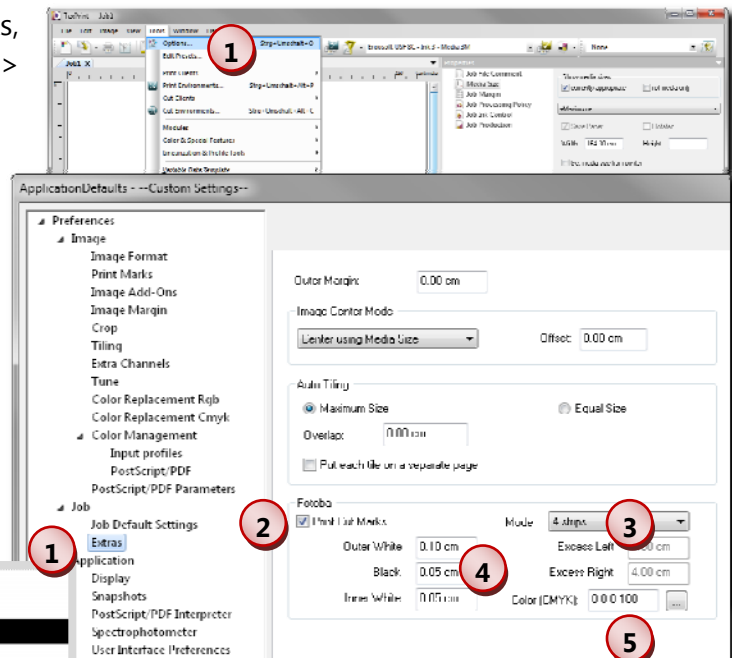
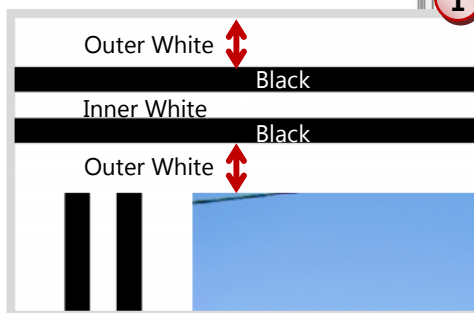
In order to activate the Fotoba cut marks in the job, the activation and configuration of the marks must be done before the images are imported into the **ErgoSoft RIP**. Please note that the setting cannot be changed for already imported images.

1 To configure Fotoba cut marks, select menu *Tools > Options > Preferences > Job > Extras*.

2 In the section **Fotoba**, check **Print Cut Marks** to activate automatic printing of Fotoba cut marks.

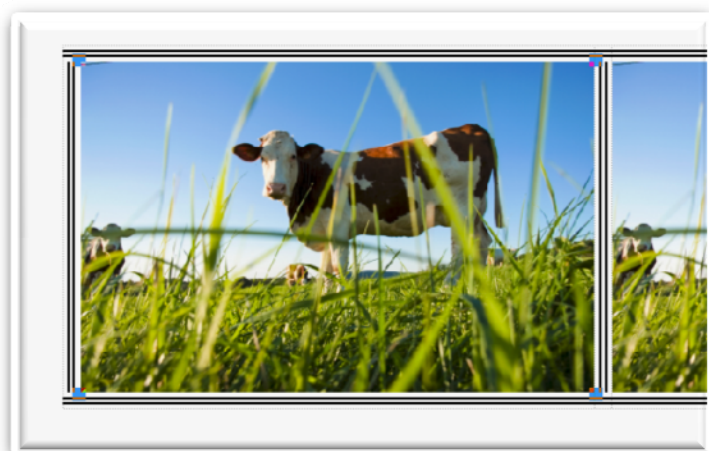
3 In the list **Mode**, select **4 strips**.

4 Specify the thickness of the different strip parts:



5 Specify the CMYK values for printing the black color of the "black" strips by clicking the "...." button. By default, the black is mixed using black ink only. If needed, you can add colored ink to get a darker, brighter black.

6 Import the image(s). The needed strips are automatically added to the images. Please note that the Fotoba cut marks cannot be used together with print marks; print marks are automatically deactivated when Fotoba cut marks are activated.



Configuring for Fotoba Rollcut Cutters

In order to activate the Fotoba cut marks, the activation and configuration of the marks must be done before the images are imported into the **ErgoSoft RIP**. Please note that the setting cannot be changed for already imported images.

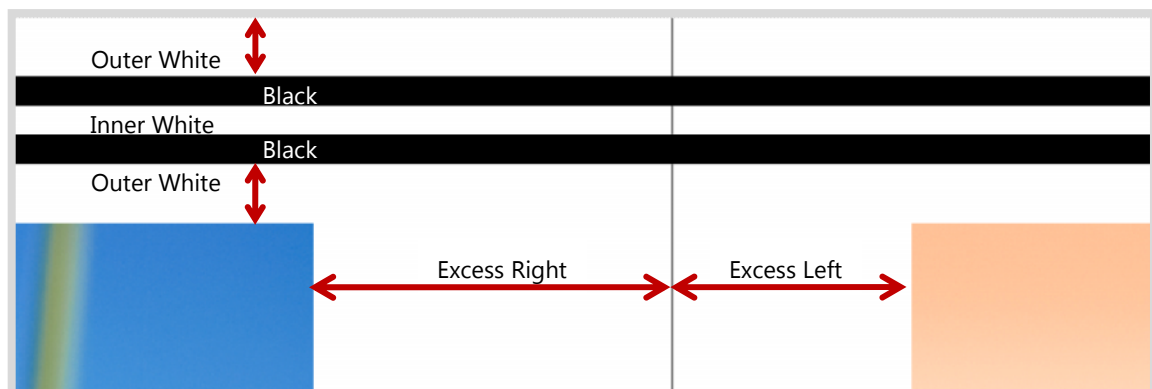
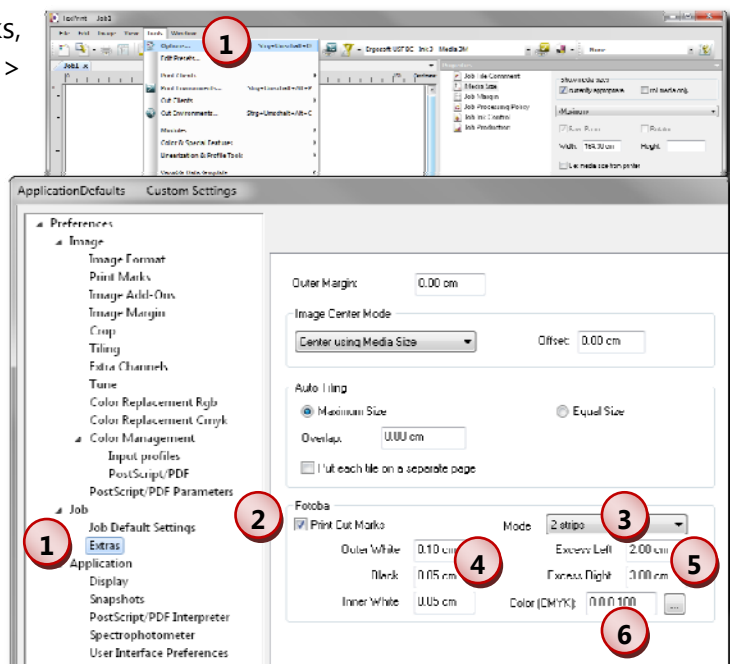
Basic settings

1 To configure Fotoba cut marks, select menu *Tools > Options > Preferences > Job > Extras*.

2 In the section **Fotoba**, check **Print Cut Marks** to activate automatic printing of Fotoba cut marks.

3 In the list **Mode**, select **1 strip** or **2 strips** depending on your printing workflow. The different workflows are explained below.

4 Specify the thickness of the different strip parts:



5 Use values **Excess Left** and **Excess Right** according to the figure above to configure an automatic left and right margin to the image in order to consider the position of the knives cutting vertically (in the direction of media movement).

6 Specify the CMYK values for printing the black color of the "black" strips by clicking the "..." button. By default, the black is mixed using black ink only. If needed, you can add colored ink to get a darker, brighter black.

- 7 Import the image(s). The needed strips are automatically added to the images. Please note that the Fotoba cut marks cannot be used together with print marks; print marks are automatically deactivated when Fotoba cut marks are activated.



Printing one Copy of a Job or Copies with Gap between the Copies

When one copy of a job or several copies of a job with a gap between the copies are printed, each job must end with a Fotoba cut mark. Thus, you have to select **2 strips** for **Mode** in the configuration of the Fotoba cut marks (see point 3 in the chapter about basic settings).

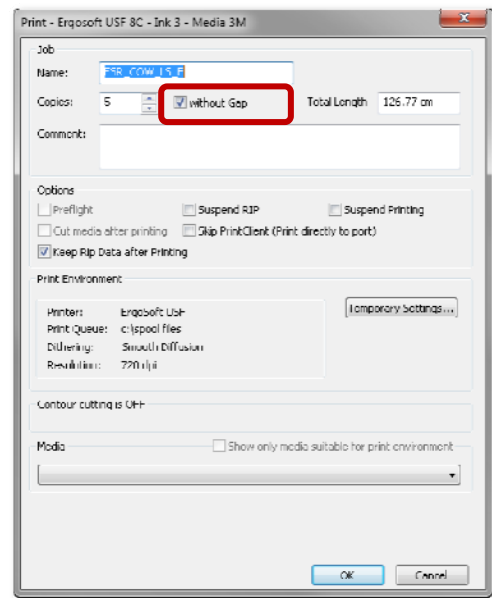
Printing several Copies of a Job without Gap

When selecting the **without Gap** function in the **Print** dialog for printing more than one copy of a job, the copies of the jobs are printed one below the other without feeding the media at the end of a job.

This printing method requires that the Fotoba cut mark at the end of the job is not printed; otherwise there will be 2 Fotoba cut marks between two jobs. Thus, you have to select **1 strip** for **Mode** in the configuration of the Fotoba cut marks (see point 3 in the chapter about basic settings).

To automatically add the missing Fotoba cut mark at the end of the printout we recommend using the **Maintenance Job** function of the **Print Client** as described in the next chapters. Please note that this method requires that there is no media feed at the end of the job.

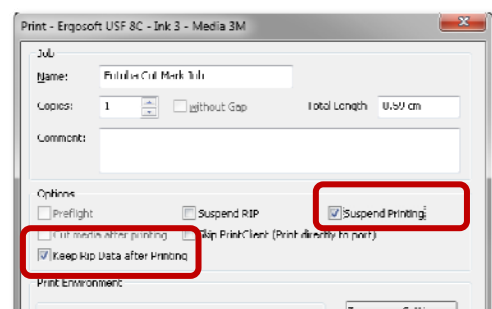
Please note that the availability of the **without Gap** function may depend on your licensed package of the **ErgoSoft RIP**.



Creating the Maintenance Job

The maintenance job needs to add the missing Fotoba cut mark at the end of the "copies without gap" printout. Thus, the job used for this purpose must hold the missing Fotoba cut mark over complete media width.

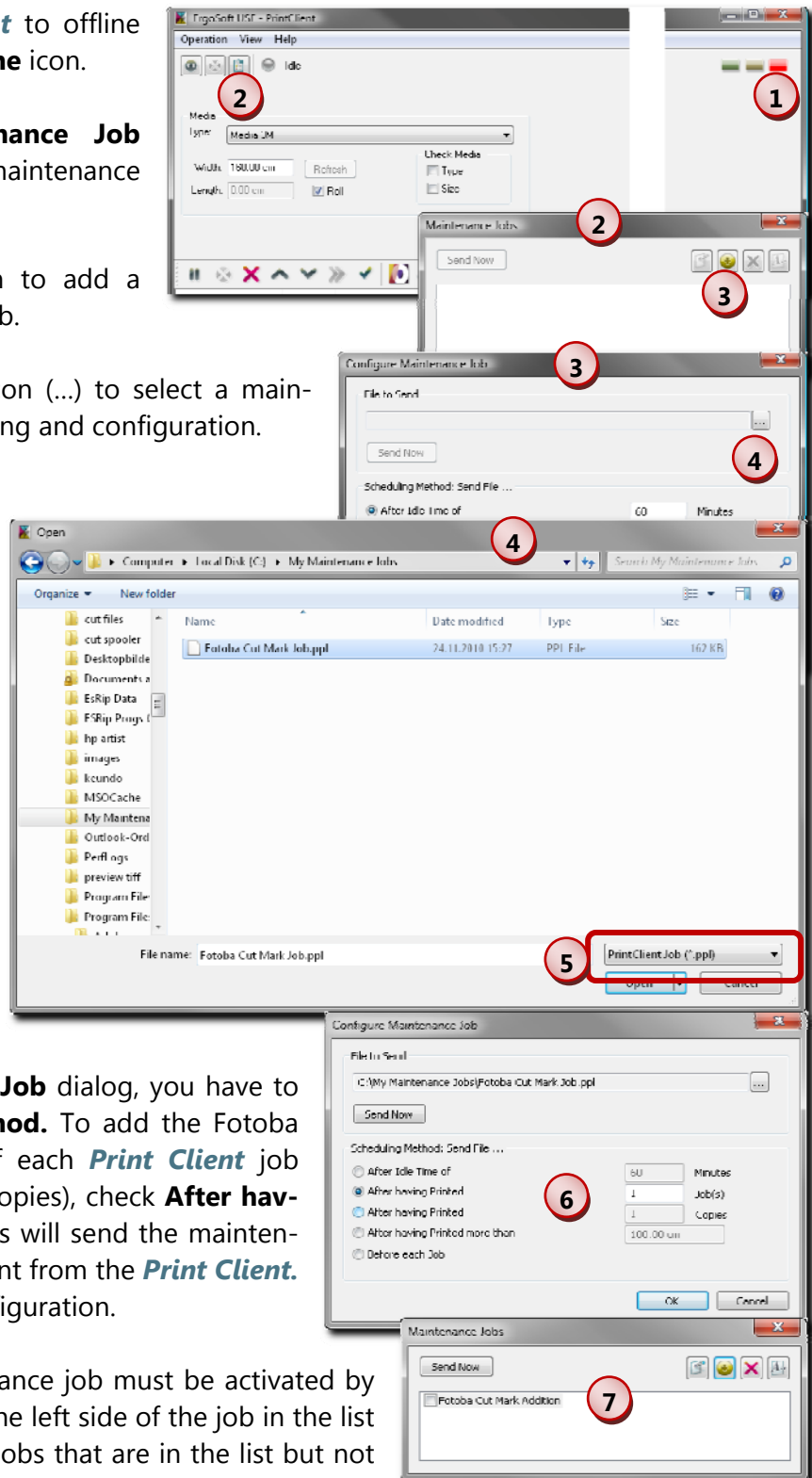
- 1 Create a new job with the same settings for the Fotoba cut mark as for the "copies without gap" job (1 strip for Mode) being selected.
- 2 Add a wide but low rectangle of any color (e.g. white). This rectangle can be created in any image processing software and scaled (without keeping the proportions) to the needed size. Or you can use the **Add Job Element** function and select **Gradient Rectangle** to create this rectangle directly in the job.
- 3 Print this job to the **Print Client** with options **Keep Rip Data after Printing** and **Suspend Printing** being checked in the **Print** dialog.
- 4 Before manually starting the print process, copy the spool file of this job (*.ppl) from the spool folder of the used **Print Client** to another folder so that it will not be removed when the job is sent to the printer.



Using the Maintenance Job

The usage of the Maintenance Job must be set up in the **Print Client** in which it should be used.

- 1 Set the **Print Client** to offline by clicking the **offline** icon.
- 2 Click the **Maintenance Job** icon to launch the maintenance jobs configuration dialog.
- 3 Click the **Add** icon to add a new maintenance job.
- 4 Click the **Browse** icon (...) to select a maintenance job for adding and configuration.
- 5 To use a job that has been printed to the **Print Client** as maintenance job, select file type **Print Client Job (*.ppl)** from the list, open the folder in which you saved the job and select the job. Click **Open** to load the job into the dialog for maintenance job configuration.
- 6 When the job is loaded into the **Configure Maintenance Job** dialog, you have to set the **Scheduling Method**. To add the Fotoba cut marks at the end of each **Print Client** job (which can have several copies), check **After having Printed 1 Job(s)**. This will send the maintenance job after each job sent from the **Print Client**. Click **OK** to finish the configuration.
- 7 At last, the maintenance job must be activated by clicking the box at the left side of the job in the list to check it. Maintenance jobs that are in the list but not checked, are not activated and will not be automatically sent to the printer.



Close the maintenance jobs list by clicking the "x" in the upper right corner of the dialog frame.

Hint: When you do not want to automatically print Fotoba cut marks after each job you may add the maintenance job to the list but do not activate it. Just, when needed, open the maintenance jobs list, select the job and click the **Send Now** button.

Please note that this method requires that there is no media feed at the end of the job.

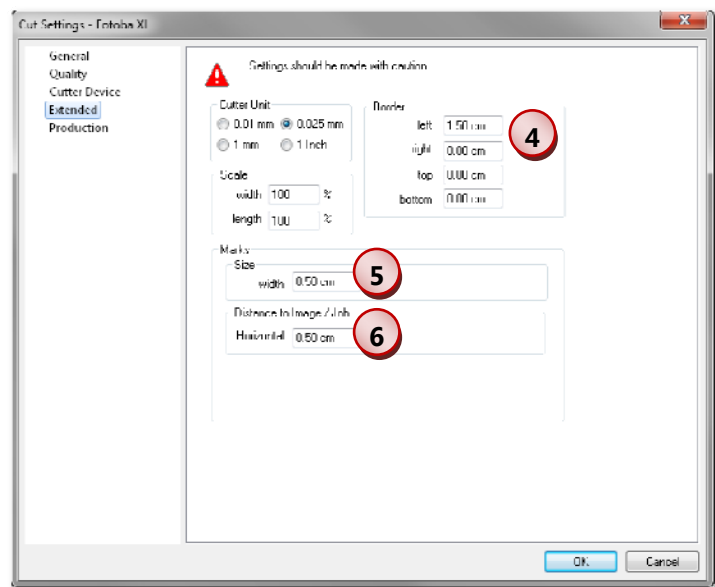
Configuring for Fotoba XL... Cutters

Basically, Fotoba XL... cutters work as already described for Fotoba Rollcut cutters. All configurations and workflows that are described above for configuring Fotoba Rollcut cutters are also valid for Fotoba XL... cutters and must be done.

In addition to Fotoba Rollcut cutters, Fotoba XL... cutters need a certain line being printed along the job. This can be done automatically by activating contour cutting using a certain driver.

Configuring the Cut Environment

- 1 Activate the **Cut Environments** toolbar by selecting command *View > Tools > Cut Environments*.
- 2 Add a cut environment based on drivers **"*Fotoba XL"** (available in newer versions of the **ErgoSoft RIP**) or **"*Fabricut"**.
- 3 Since the cut environment is only needed to automatically create the cut line along the job side and not for contour cutting, you do not need to configure it for output. Just the configuration for the cut line must be done on the **Extended** tab.
- 4 Set the border needed around the job. Please note, that normally, you do not need to modify the default settings.
- 5 Set the **width** of the cut line that is printed along the left side of the job.
- 6 Set the distance between the job and the cut line.



Sample Printout

A printout for Fotoba XL... cutters should look like the following sample:

