

Esko Plato for Step and Repeat



Esko Plato™ is a powerful tool for the creation of print-ready layouts for the packaging and label industries. It is the production gateway between the prepress department and the press-room.

Plato: a turnkey step-and-repeat solution

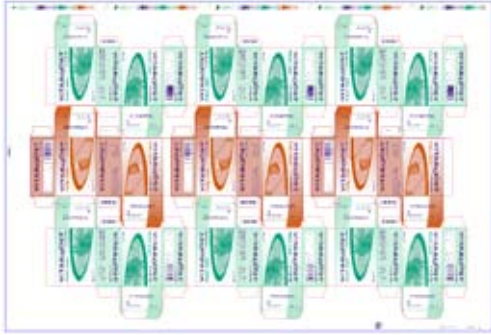
- Plato provides a robust set of automatic and interactive tools to create even the most complex step-and-repeat arrangements.
- Plato comes with Adobe's PostScript and PDF libraries to import jobs from any source.
- An on-board trapping module adds flexibility and independency to your plate-room production.
- The export to PostScript and PDF functionality guarantees flawless export to any film or CtP output device in the market.



Users who benefit most include narrow web label printers, flexible packaging converters and folding carton offset printers. In each of these production environments, Plato adds control and reduces cost by bringing optimum plate layout in-house. For packaging trade shops that supply final plates or film as their core competencies, Plato brings extreme flexibility and quality to the workflow.

Plato: input from any source, output to any device

With the Adobe PostScript and PDF libraries on board, Plato imports data coming from any design application and exports to any CtF, CtP or proofing system in your configuration. Plato works directly with PDF 1.6 files, including support for layers, transparency, spot colors and Open Type fonts. Plato also features an improved user interface, and seamlessly interchanges **Adobe® XMP** job metadata with Adobe Creative Suite applications. Production critical job data can be extracted from XMP data, without the need to open the PDF file. Layer support provides immediate feedback about die-cuts, the trapping layers, SmartMarks, barcodes and inks and their properties.

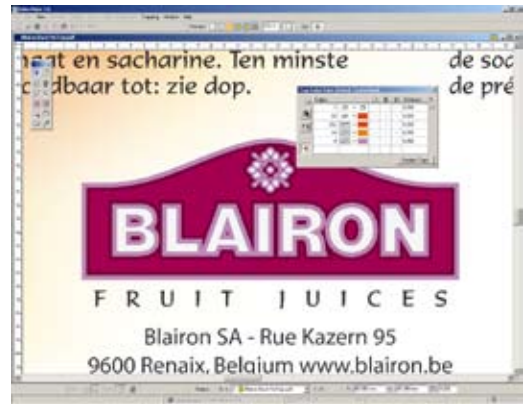


Import structural designs

Flawless automated plate layout is ensured with Plato's clever CAD import. Plato reads CFF, DDES, and ArtiosCAD design and manufacturing file formats. All information is accepted, including step-and repeat parameters, sheet and board sizes and varnish areas.

Trapping

Plato offers unsurpassed trapping for jobs that come straight from the design department. This optional trapping module offers accuracy and speed. The Ticket approach eliminates all post-trapping repair and exception editing, further reduced by unique functions such as Gap Detection. Advanced rule sets can be built, saved and re-used. All traps are added on a separate editable layer.



Die-based masking for graphics

To define non-printing areas and to mask out unwanted areas of the graphic design, Plato's automatic masking tools allow the user to exclude specific panels from a mask and to create a mask from a 1-up die outline. It looks like a Rubylith on screen.

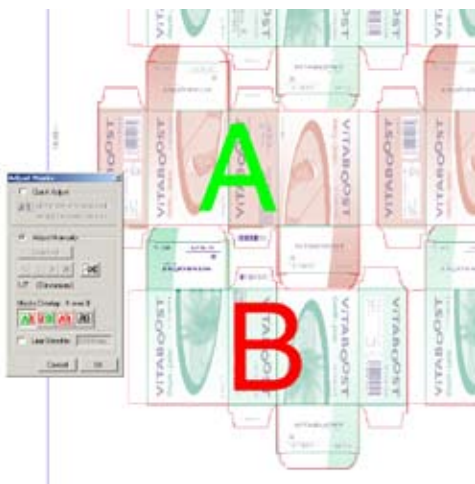


Plate-based mask adjustment

SmartFlaps™ allow you to adjust overlapping graphic masks intelligently on the plate. It suggests the best masking, which the user can fine-tune. Once a decision is made, it is applied to all similar mask occurrences over the entire plate.

Back layout creation

A growing number of packages and labels are printed both outside and inside and only Plato SmartFlips creates the layout of the back, with precise back to front alignment.

Automatic creation of print production controls

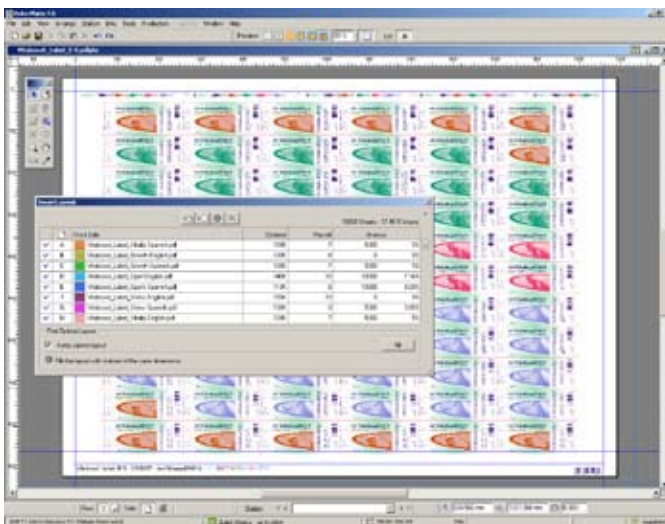
SmartMarks automatically create print production controls such as color bars, sheet corner marks, and trim marks. SmartMarks continue to demonstrate their production value with added functionality, allowing TextMarks to use for example XMP data. They are dynamic and adapt automatically to changes in your job. Specific content can be grabbed by using SQL queries accessing any database. SmartID creates a unique ID for every version of a job.

Varnish blanket creation

With Plato's import tools for CAD files, the creation of Varnish Blanket separations becomes a highly automated task: no need to tediously redraw the varnish areas on the plate.

Station numbering

Plato inserts a placeholder for the Station Number – the position on the sheet. The placeholder specifies attributes such as position, font, size and the ink(s) in which the number is to be printed. Choose from 16 predefined numeral schemes, or interactively specify the order. Not only can each station be numbered, also the different pieces of board waste after diecutting can be uniquely identified to maximize efficiency of your post-print quality check.



Label layouts designed at minimal cost

SmartLayout is an optional module that designs label layouts that fill job orders at a minimum cost. The sheet layout will be the "best" layout; one that minimizes waste and overruns on a particular sheet.

Dynamic feedback about suggested layouts

The SheetInspector provides feedback about suggested layouts and operator inputs such as the desired run length of a given label, the maximum waste on the total sheet and the maximum allowed overrun per label.

Export to JDF

Support for JDF export out of Plato improves the connection of your plate-room operation to your business process, based on industry standard workflow automation concepts.



QuickStep compatibility

For QuickStep users, Plato 7 is an easy and logical next step in the upgrade path as it is fully compatible with GRQ files. The repetition formulae from QuickStep can be further edited with Plato's Grid Based tools.

Plato is a member of Esko Software Suite 7, Esko's advanced workflow environment integrating a number of software products for packaging service providers and commercial printers. The Esko Software Suite covers a wide range of functions, from job management, through graphic and structural design and pre-production operations, to platemaking for printing and toolmaking for converting.