



XF STB-2

Trapping Width Tip

Trapping Width Tip 19/11/2008

A frequently asked question is, 'What is the correct trapping width to set?'

Prepress operators should know this but for some reason they often don't, they ask the engineer.

Many factors can affect how the trap width should be set; printing process, substrate, lpi, etc.

The correct value should be arrived at by trial and error in conjunction with the press department; however, there is a rule of thumb to calculate the value. Use the line count of the halftone screen and

Divide by two.

For example: For a 133 lpi screen. Divide 133 into 1 inch to get the diameter of the dot. In this case $1 \div 133 = .0075"$. Divide that by 2 to get the suggested trap diameter. In this case it would be $.004"$. While an 85 lpi screen would end up with: $1 \div 85 = 0.012$ divided by 2 = $0.006"$ and so on.