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Correspondence regarding this publication should be forwarded to:
Software BVBA
Kortrijksesteenweg 1095
B – 9051 Gent
info.eur@esko.com
2. Introduction

The CT/LP plug-in is a file format plug-in for Adobe Photoshop, for reading and writing Esko CT files and LP files in Photoshop.

The EskoArtwork CT/LP plug-in runs on Photoshop 12 (CS5), 12.1 (CS5.1) and 13 (CS6). Please see the Release Notes for the complete system requirements.

Note:

As of version 7.0, the CT/LP plug-in is no longer supported in Illustrator (but you can still place Esko CT and LP files in Illustrator files).

In Illustrator, the CT/LP plug-in is replaced by the DeskPack imageX plug-in. Please see the Esko website for more information on imageX.
3. Installation

3.1 Installing the Plug-in on Mac

Once you have downloaded the plug-in onto your computer:

1. Shut down Photoshop.
2. Double-click the file you downloaded (ctlp_mac_12_0.dmg).
   This opens a window containing the package installer (CT-LP.mpkg), the plug-in manual, a note on 32 and 64 bit modes and the release notes (which list the system requirements, new features and known limitations of the plug-in).
3. Double-click the package installer and follow the instructions on screen.
   The plug-in is installed in the Esko folder which is inside Photoshop’s Plug-Ins folder.
4. Restart Photoshop.

Note: The CT/LP plug-in (version 7.0 or higher) is only installed in Photoshop, not in Illustrator. In Illustrator, it is replaced by the DeskPack imageX plug-in.

3.2 Installing the Plug-in on Windows

Once you have downloaded the plug-in onto your computer:

1. Shut down Photoshop.
2. Unzip the file you downloaded (ctlp_win_12_0.zip).
   This creates a folder (CTLP_Win_12_0) containing an Installer, the plug-in manual, a note on 32 and 64 bit modes and the release notes (which list the system requirements, new features and known limitations of the plug-in).
3. Double-click setup.exe and follow the instructions on screen.
   The plug-in is installed in the Esko folder which is inside Photoshop’s Plug-Ins folder.
4. Restart Photoshop.

Note: The CT/LP plug-in (version 7.0 or higher) is only installed in Photoshop, not in Illustrator. In Illustrator, it is replaced by the DeskPack imageX plug-in.
4. About the CT/LP Plug-in

The About screen shows the plug-in’s version and some copyright information.

- To show the About screen, select Esko CT/LP Format... from the About Plug-In submenu. This submenu is either located in the Help menu, the Photoshop menu or the Apple menu depending on your operating system.
- Press Esc to close the About screen.
5. Saving CT or LP Files in Photoshop

You can save any image file as an Esko CT or LP file if it is in one of the following modes:

- Grayscale
- RGB
- CMYK
- Multichannel
- Bitmap

1. Choose Save As... from Photoshop’s File menu.
2. In the Save As... dialog, choose Esko CT/LP Format in the Format list.
3. Enter a file name and use either .ct or .lp as an extension.
   The default extension is .ct. For all image modes except Bitmap you should keep .ct as the extension. If the image mode is Bitmap you should change it to .lp.
4. Click Save.
   This opens the CT/LP Format Save dialog.

5. If the Photoshop document contains transparency, you can select Include Transparency if you want to save it in the CT file.
   Then click OK.
   If the Photoshop document does not contain transparency (if the bottom layer is called Background), you can just click OK.
Note:

- As of version 5.0 of the plug-in, a thumbnail and preview image are included in the CT file for ease of use in other Esko applications.
- CT files cannot contain multiple layers. When the Photoshop document has multiple layers, the CT file will contain the visible layers merged into a single layer.
- The alpha-channels are not included in the CT file.
- Spot-channels are not included unless you are in multichannel mode. So to write a CMYK file with an extra spot channel, convert it to multichannel mode before saving it as CT.
6. Opening CT or LP Files in Photoshop

To open an Esko CT or LP file in Photoshop, do the following:

1. Choose Open... from Photoshop's File menu.
2. Choose Esko CT/LP Format in the Format list.
3. Browse to the CT or LP file you want to open and click Open.
4. A dialog with extra options pops up:

   ![CT/LP Format Open Dialog]

   - If the CT file contains transparency, you can choose to load the transparency information by selecting Keep Transparency.
     This option is disabled if the CT file does not contain transparency, or if the CT file is a multichannel file (Photoshop does not support transparency in multichannel mode).
   - If the CT file contains a built-in gradation curve, you can choose to apply that curve by selecting Keep Gradations. Otherwise the gradation curve is discarded.
   - If the CT file is a multichannel file, you can choose the Ink Solidity by typing in an appropriate value.
     The Ink Solidity value determines how the overprint of two spot inks will appear on screen. See the Photoshop manual for more details.
     If the CT file was written by Photoshop, this value will be ignored.
   - In certain cases, the Processing Info area shows extra information about opening the CT file.
5. Click OK to open the file.

Note:

- Photoshop does not support transparency in multichannel mode. When opening a multichannel CT with transparency, the transparency will be ignored.
- The plug-in won't read the masks in a CT file. The line work in a CT file will be read as a clipping path.