

PLATEPREP 12.1



USER MANUAL

28.03.2013

ESKO*

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1 System Requirements

The following minimum requirements must be met:

- Intel Dual Core 2 processor
- 2 GB RAM
- Network board
- screen resolution of 1280 x 1024 pixels
- CD-ROM drive
- 32-bit operating system
- Microsoft Windows XP
- disabled firewall
- disabled UAC (User Account Control)
- FTP server installed and activated
(Only in combination with Grapholas version 11 and below.)
- Grapholas 7.5 on the CDI
- Grapholas 12.1 on the CDI for Full HD Flexo or Pixel+

The following configuration is recommended:

- Intel 7 processor
- 8 GB RAM
- Hard drives: 512 GB SSD
- 1 GB network board
- Microsoft Windows 7 – 64 bit
- disabled firewall and user account control (UAC)
- Grapholas 12.0 on the CDI

The index and file names may not include special characters, umlauts or spaces. An underscore "_" is the only permitted special character and can be used as a substitute for a space.

2 Digital Flexo Suite Service

After the user login, the service for the *"Digital Flexo Suite"* is started automatically:

The following programs must be enabled:

- **gravurd**
- **cmotsim**

The status of the *"DFS Service"* is shown in the Windows taskbar. Only in exceptional cases is the service disabled or faulty:



service started



service stopped



service faulty

In addition, an http server is installed on port 5580 as a service as of version 12.

3 First Start-up of the Software

LEN and TIF files are prepared for exposure on a CDI using the "Merger". It positions the images on the printing plate, and can also rotate, mirror, crop and invert the images as required.

Several CDIs can be controlled via the network simultaneously.

The "Viewer" is used to display and measure the LEN/TIF files. The angle and the rasterization can also be measured.

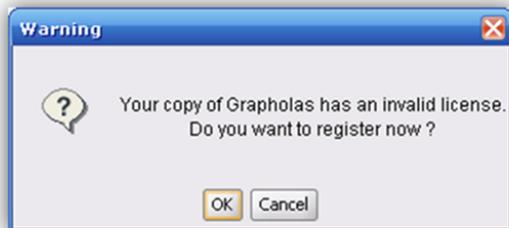
"iMask" (option) adds an adjustable frame to the output data and creates an additional LEN or TIF file.

"Lenticular" (option) adjusts the width of the job to adapt the data to the lens system for creating 3D images.

All important settings are copied over during an update. When the software is being installed for the first time, the output devices must be set up and the network settings must be set.

3.1 Entering the License Key

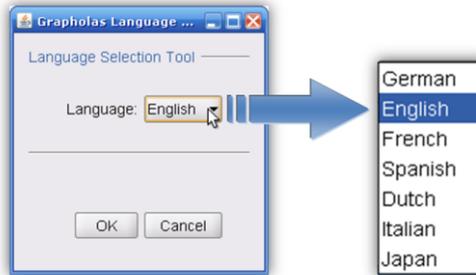
During initial installation or when updating from an older version, the license key must be entered to start the "Merger":



The ESKO-Service provides a serial number for this "ProductID" which needs to be entered in the "Serial Number" field and confirmed by ENTER. The license can be subsequently changed with the "New License" program in the Windows Start Menu under "Esko - Digital Flexo Suite - System".

3.2 Setting the Language

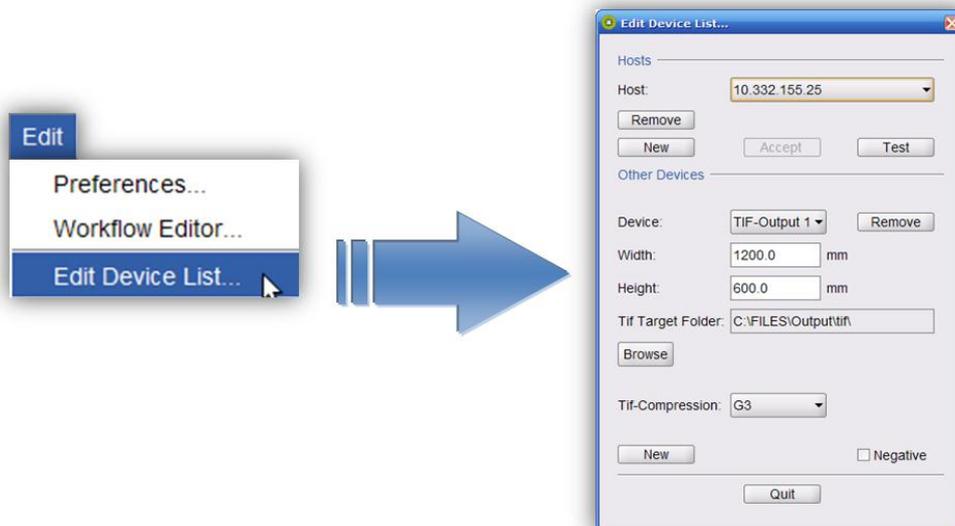
In the "Merger", the language can be changed under *"Edit – Change language"*:



3.3 Setting the Output Devices

If no output device such as, e. g., a CDI has been set up yet, the "Edit Device List" window in which you can define various output devices is displayed when the "Merger" is started for the first time.

"Edit – Edit Device List" opens the dialog window to subsequently add new output devices:



A TIF license is required in order to create TIF output devices!

"New" in section "Hosts" opens a new dialog box in which you can enter the IP address or the computer name of the CDI. Press "OK" to search for the CDI on the network.

"Accept" accepts the new CDI.

"Test" checks the connection to the CDI.

"New" in section "Other Devices" opens a new dialog box in which you can enter the name of the TIF output device. Width and height can be set in the fields "Width" and "Height". "Negative" inverts the background colour for the output on film. The output directory is defined in field "TIF Target Folder".

"Remove" deletes the selected entry.

If an old CDI SUN computer is to be connected, you must enter the IP address "127.0.0.1". In addition, service needs to adapt the LEN output format for the SUN.

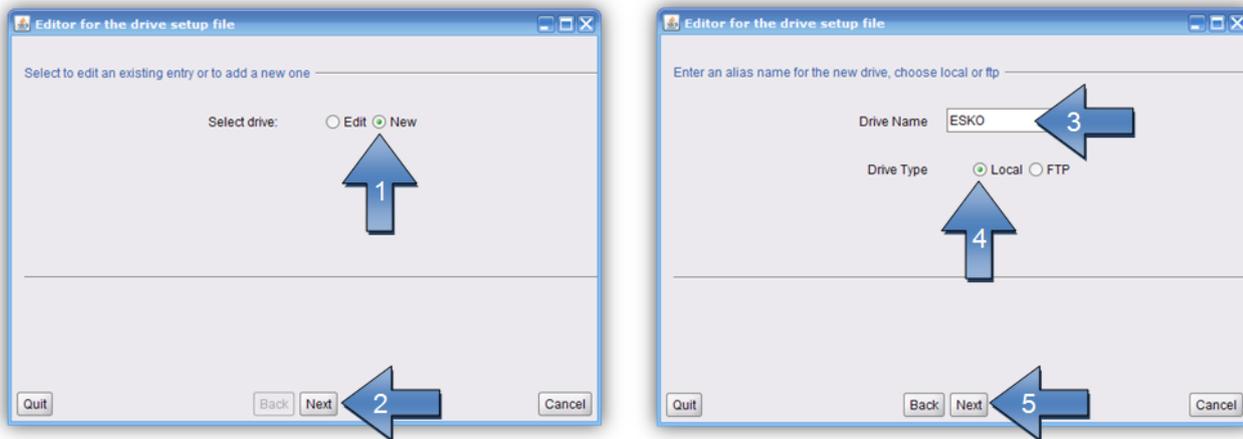
4 Managing Data Sources

The image data can be loaded from the local hard drive, over a network release, or via FTP. With regard to data security, transmission via FTP protocol is to be preferred over network release.

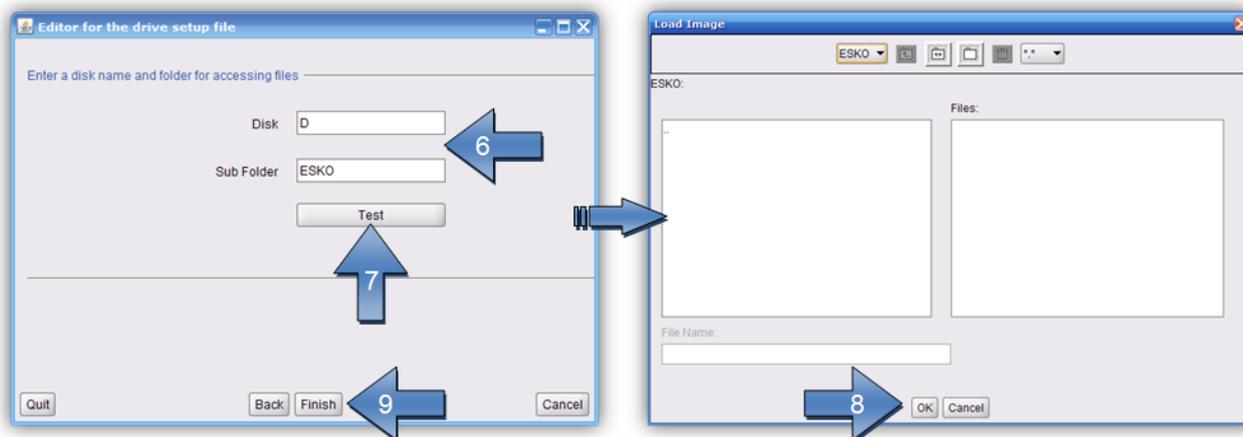
The "User Data" path entered during installation is already released as a network drive. Additional data sources can be set up under "Edit – Data Source".

4.1 Adding a Local Data Source

Local data sources can be located on the hard drive of the computer or accessible in the network via "share" function.



The name of the data source "Drive Name" (3) will be shown later in the "Load" dialogue.

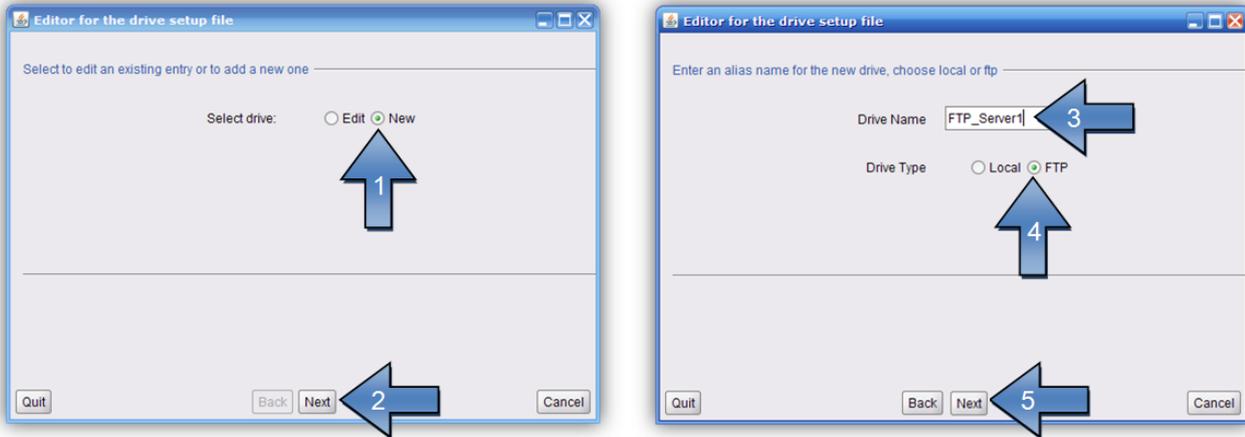


"Disk" and "Sub Folder" (6) designate the drive letter and the directory containing the data.

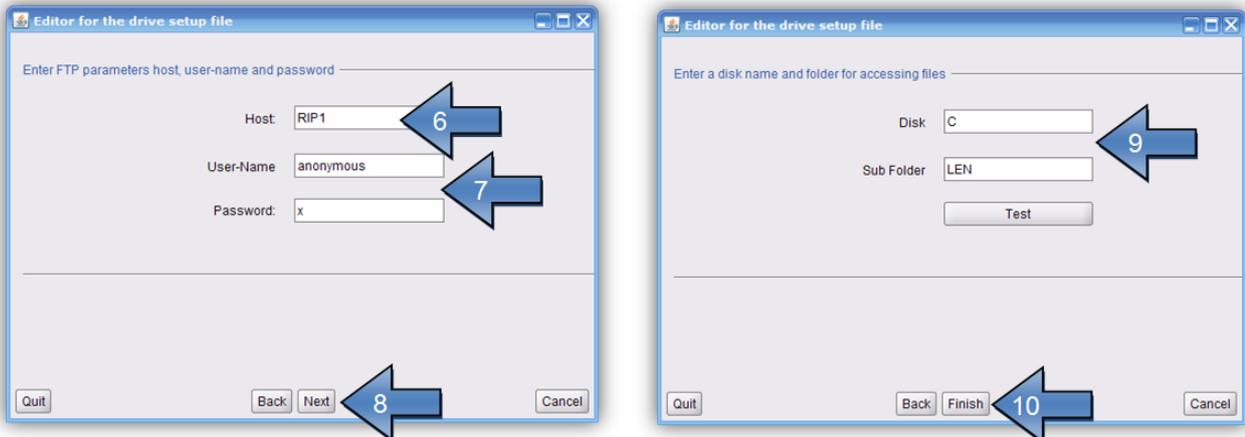
Clicking "Test" (7) opens a new window with the data source set up. "Finish" (9) completes the process. You can always switch to the previous page by pressing "Back".

4.2 Adding an FTP Data Source

The FTP server of the data source requires a virtual directory. For a detailed installation manual, refer to *"Digital Flexo Suite 101 Installation"*.



The name of the data source *"Drive Name"* (3) will be shown later in the *"Load"* dialogue.



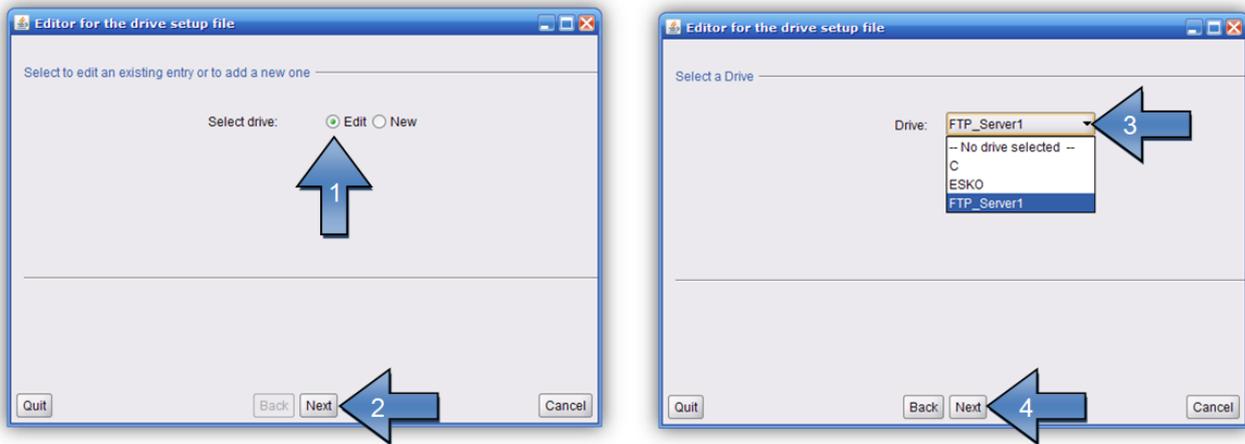
Enter the IP address or the network name in the *"Host"* field (6). Enter the *"User Name"* (7) and the *"Password"* (7) as shown in the illustration if the FTP server was installed as specified.

"Disk" and *"Sub Folder"* (9) designate the virtual drive and the directory containing the data. Should no virtual directory be available, leave the *"Disk"* field empty.

Clicking *"Test"* opens a new window with the data source set up. *"Finish"* completes the process. You can always switch to the previous page by pressing *"Back"*.

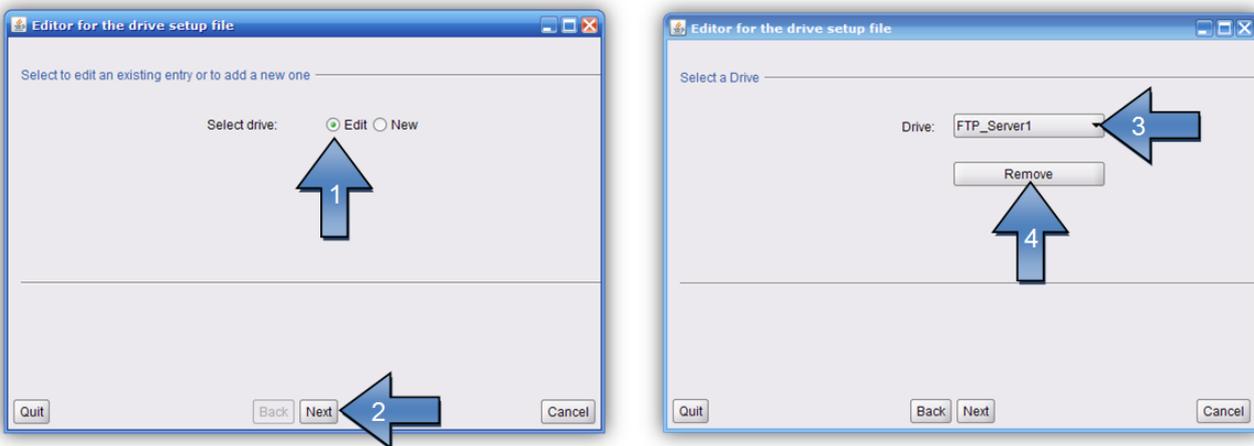
4.3 Changing an Entry

The settings of the data source can be subsequently changed.



After selecting the "Drive" (3), you can change the following settings.

4.4 Deleting an Entry



After selecting the "Drive" (3), you can remove it by pressing "Remove" (4).

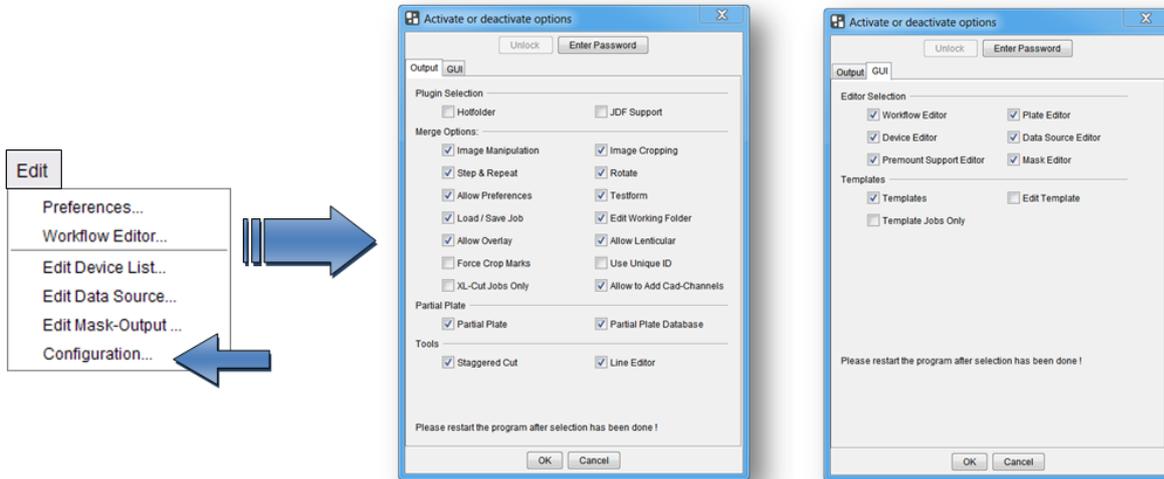
4.5 Saving Settings

Exiting via "Quit" opens a new window prompting whether you want to overwrite the current settings.

Pressing "OK" saves the current settings.

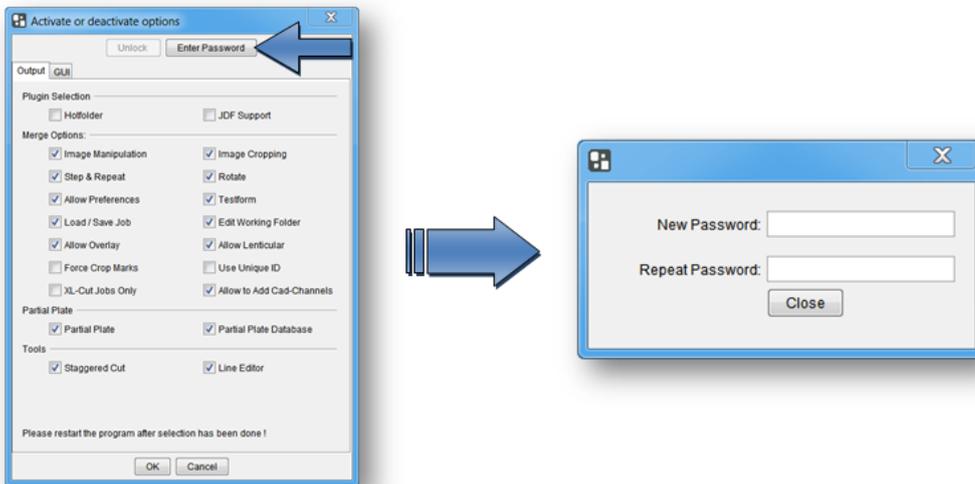
5 Adjusting the "Merger" User Interface

The user interface and some of the functions of the "Merger" can be customised and protected with a password ("*Edit – Configuration*"):



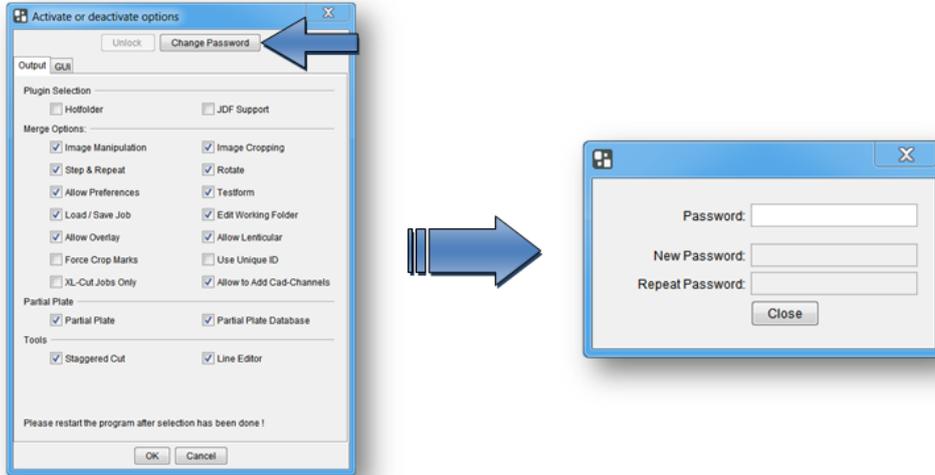
5.1 Password-Protecting Functions

Left-clicking on "*Enter Password*" opens a new window in which the password is entered twice and confirmed with "*Close*":



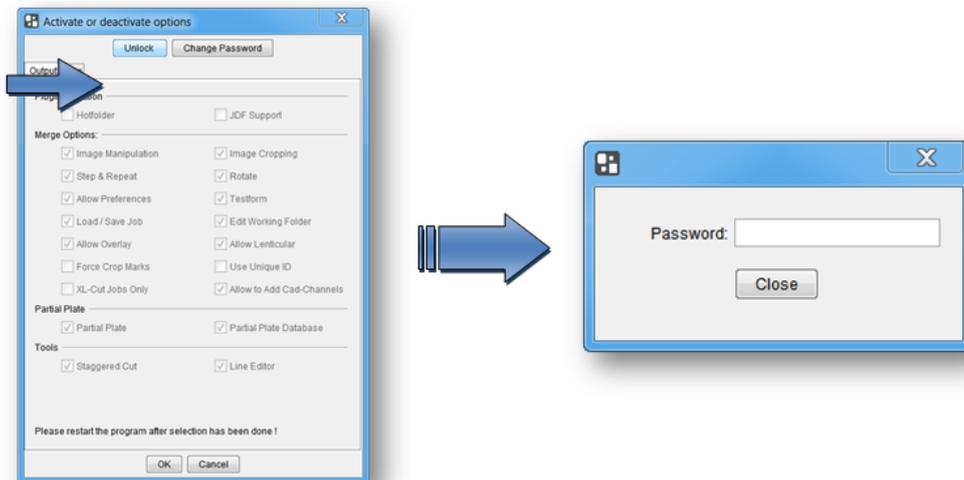
5.2 Changing the Password

Left-clicking on "Change Password" opens a new window in which the current password is entered once and the new password is entered twice. "Close" confirms the input:



5.3 Entering a Password to Change Settings

Left-clicking on "Unlock" opens a new window in which the current password is entered. "Close" confirms the input and enables the input mask:

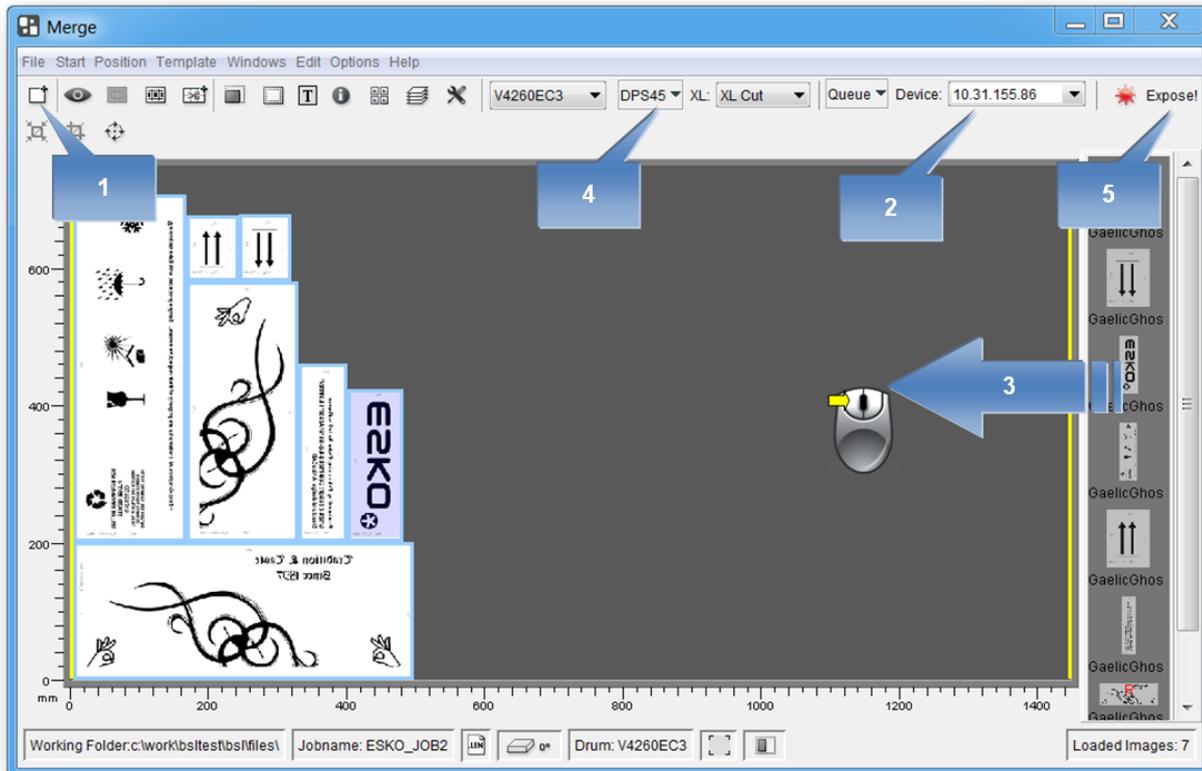


6 Merger

The "Merger" is used to load the image data from the local hard drive or from the network and to send it to the preselected CDI.

In addition, simple tools such as "mirror", "crop" and "rotate" are available.

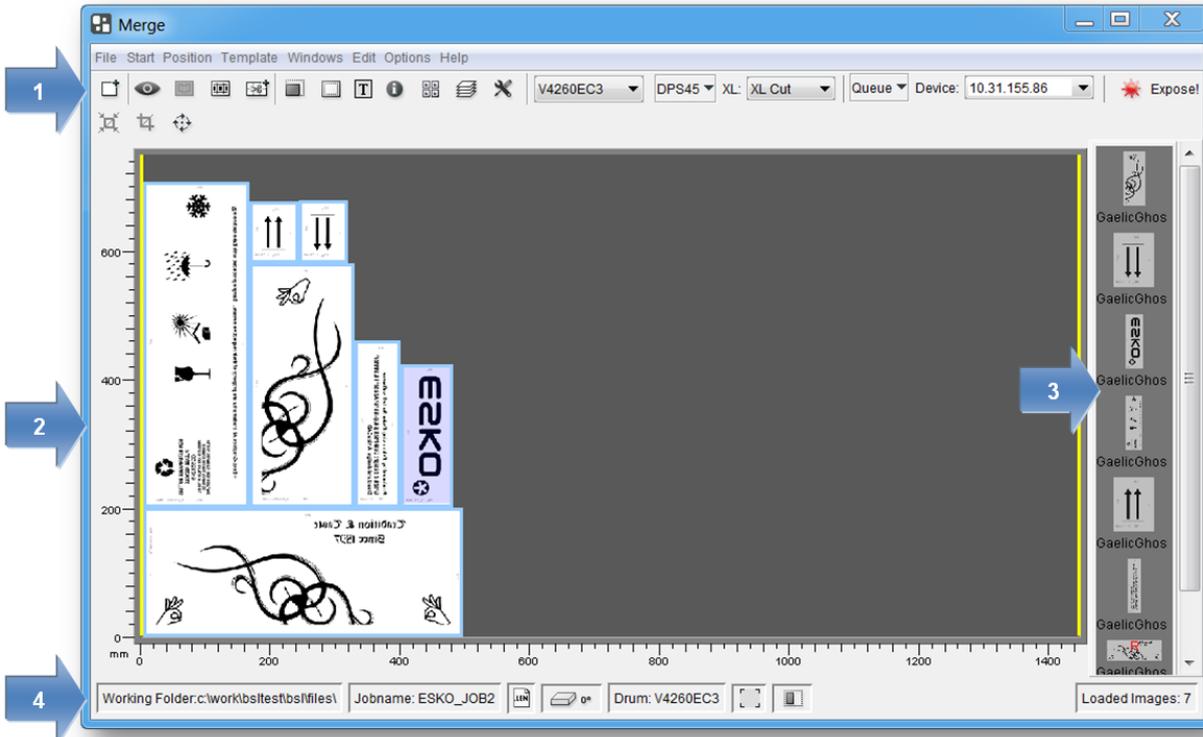
6.1 Quick Start



- 1 Start the "Merger" and load the required images. They are displayed in the image gallery (on the right).
- 2 If necessary, select the CDI or the TIF output device. All important parameters are updated in the "Merger".
- 3 Position the images on the working surface. Right-click on the images or the working surface to display additional information.
- 4 Select the required plate. Right-click on the plate to display additional information.
- 5 Send the job to the CDI or the TIF output device.

6.2 The User Interface

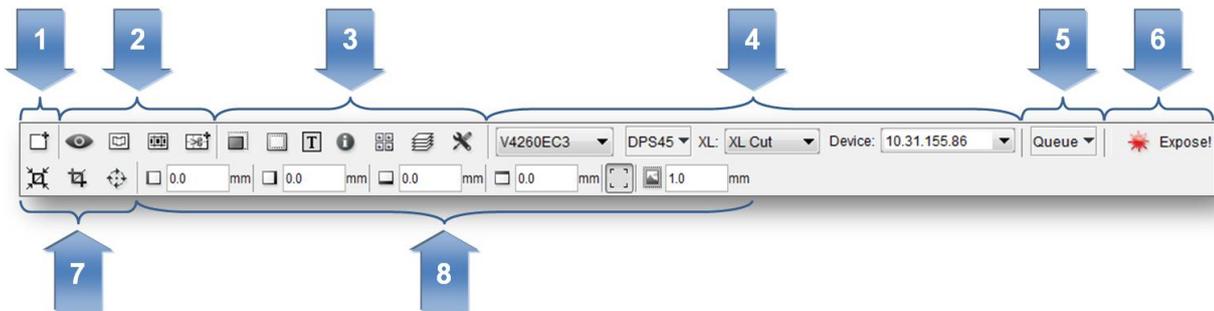
The "Merger" can be divided into four areas:



- Area 1:** menu bar / toolbar with icons for the most important options
- Area 2:** working surface on which the images are positioned
- Area 3:** display of loaded image data
- Area 4:** status bar - display of the most important settings

6.3 Toolbar

All important functions are listed in this area. The toolbar is subdivided into eight areas:



- 1 Opens a dialog box to load the image files.
- 2 Opens additional functions such as "Bitmap Viewer".
- 3 Activates additional functions in area 7 to adapt the output.
- 4 Allows to set the data output, for example, the drum, the plate and the CDI.
- 5 Opens an overview of the jobs lined up on the selected CDI.
- 6 Opens a dialog box to send the job to the CDI or to the TIF output device.
- 7 Allows to modify the image data, for example, rotating and cutting.
- 8 Area for the various functions selected in area 3.

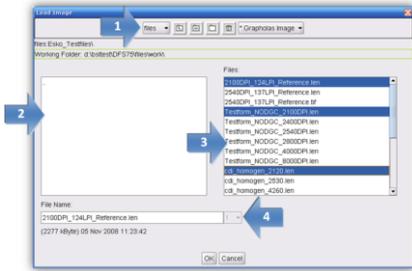
If some required functions are not displayed, they can be activated in the "Merger" configuration settings.

6.3.1 Loading Images



Ctrl + E

calls up a file dialog box in which the LEN or TIF files can be selected.



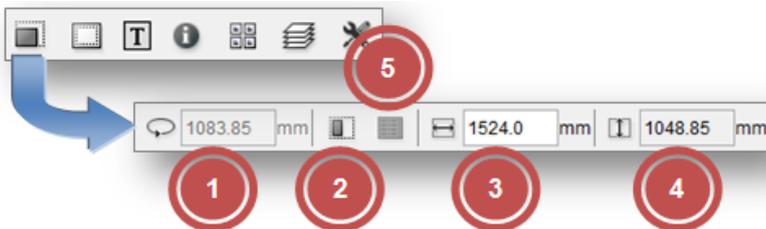
- 1 Selection of network shares.
- 2 Display of directories.
- 3 Display of files. By pressing the "Control" or the CAPS button together with the left mouse button, several files can be marked simultaneously; they can then be loaded by pressing "OK". Single files can directly be loaded by double-clicking them.
- 4 Multiple loading of the files.

6.3.2 Displaying Image Data

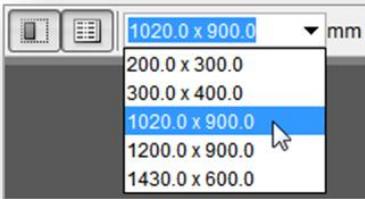


Opens the "Bitmap Viewer".

6.3.3 Plate Size and Partial Plate

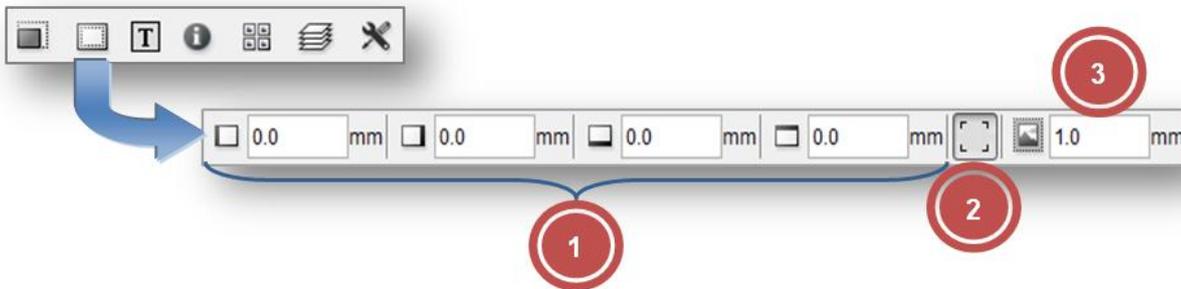


- 1 Display of the drum circumference – This value can be changed for sleeves.
- 2 Switchover to partial plate – In this mode, the vacuum on the CDI is not analysed and is reduced to a lower, safer speed.
- 3 Allows to set the plate width in partial plate mode.
- 4 Allows to set the plate height in partial plate mode.
- 5 Display of the list of partial plates – Plate width and plate height are selected from a list:



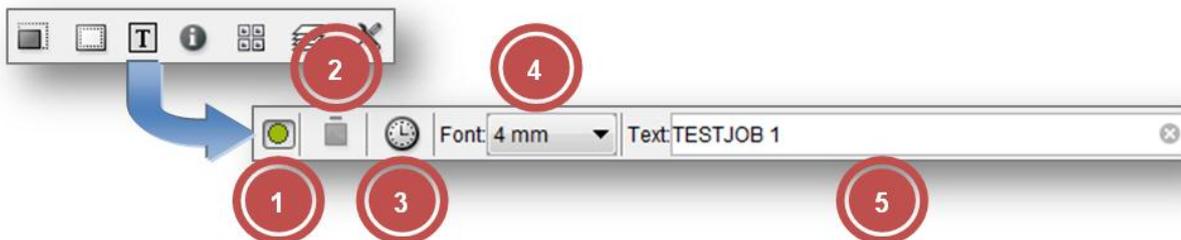
The data is entered in the format 'width x height'. New values can be entered in this format and can be added to the list. To delete an entry, select said value and press the "Delete" key.

6.3.4 Frames and Cutting Lines



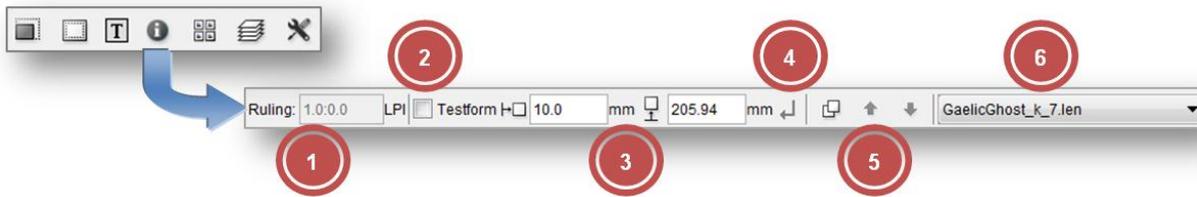
- 1 Allows to enter a frame area which is not available for the imaging process. The area is marked red.
- 2 If activated, cut marks are added in the corners of each image.
- 3 Distance between cut marks and image.

6.3.5 Adding Text



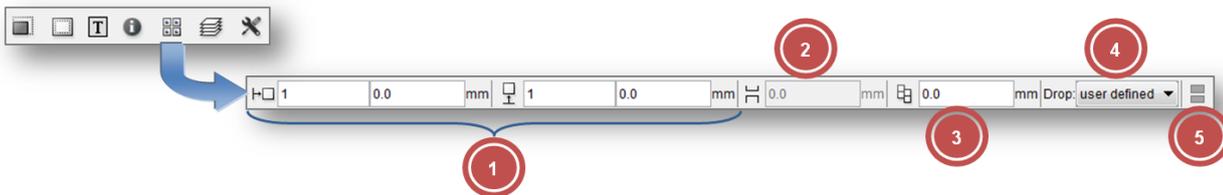
- 1 Allows to activate the text function for the selected image. A frame is automatically added to all images.
- 2 Allows to switch the position (top or left).
- 3 Allows to add an image name together with a date and time stamp.
- 4 Selection of the text size.
- 5 Input field for the text. The text should not be longer than the image width or height. The position and width of the text is marked in yellow on the working surface. The text can be deleted by clicking on the "X" at the end of the input field.

6.3.6 Information on Grids and Image Position



- 1 Allows to enter the raster count and the angle if they have not yet been included in the image. Images without this information are marked in red on the working surface.
- 2 Allows to mark an image as a test wedge. For this image, the output optimisation function is deactivated to increase productivity. If these two fields are highlighted in grey, then they are irrelevant for the selected CDI.
- 3 Allows to display and change the current image position.
- 4 Confirmation of the changed image position. The image is not positioned until the changed image position is confirmed.
- 5 Allows to activate the overlaying option. The images can be positioned on top of each other. Using the arrows, the selected image can be positioned above or below another image.
- 6 Allows to display and change the image to make further changes.

6.3.7 "Step & Repeat" and Seamless Option for Sleeves



- 1 Allows to enter the number of repetitions in horizontal and vertical direction. It is possible to set a gap between the images.
- 2 Displacement of the image above the zero point of the sleeve (5 activated).
- 3 Offset of the images to each other when horizontal repetition is selected (5 activated).
- 4 Predefined offset of the images to each other (5 activated).
- 5 Activates the seamless option. If the image is smaller than the circumference, a gap will be automatically added and repeated in vertical direction if possible.

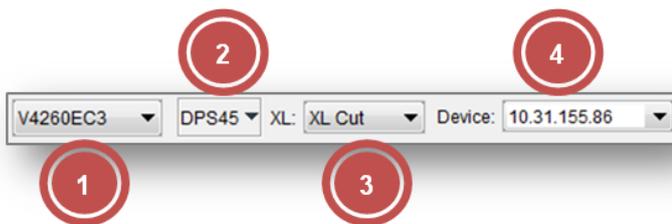
6.3.8 Mirroring, Inverting, Lenticular, iMask



If this icon is not displayed, it can be displayed by selecting "Image Manipulation" under "Options - Configuration".

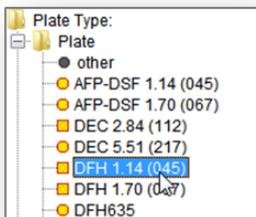
- 1 Allows to mirror (horizontally or vertically) and invert the selected image. "ymir", "xmir" or "inv" is added to the new files.
- 2 "Lenticular" output settings. For more information, refer to chapter "Lenticular".
- 3 "iMask" output. For more information, refer to chapter "iMask" Output.

6.3.9 Output Options



- 1 Selection of the drum on the CDI. This option is only shown if more than one drum or the drum and the sleeve have been set up on the CDI.
- 2 Selection of the plate. To ensure an optimum imaging result, the right plate needs to be selected. Additional information such as "UV Inline" and "Full HD Flexo" is stored on the plate.

Normal plates are marked with a circle and Inline UV plates are marked with a square.



| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| DFH 1.14 (045) | |
| Thickness: | 1.14 mm |
| Job Type: | PLATE |
| Energy | 3.2 J/sqcm |
| UV Main Exposure: | 360 sec |
| UV Main Energy: | 22 mW/sqcm |

Right-clicking the plate entry displays information on the plate properties.

Only the plate types which fit the selected drum are displayed.

For more information, refer to chapter "Managing the Plate List".

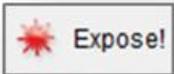
- 3 Selection of the required Kongsberg settings. If activated, a yellow bar is visible on the left or on the bottom in the "Merger".

The cutting file for the Kongsberg is stored in the directory which was selected for this setting.

For more information, refer to chapter "Kongsberg Output (XL CUT)".

- 4 Selection of the output device. CDIs and TIF output devices are listed separately.

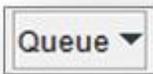
6.3.10 Sending a Job to CDI or Creating a TIF File



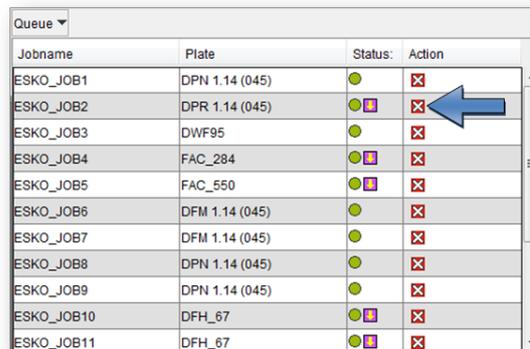
Ctrl + E

opens a dialog window in which the job name can be entered. By pressing "OK", the job is sent to the CDI or a TIF file is created in the output directory.

6.3.11 Displaying the Job List of the CDI

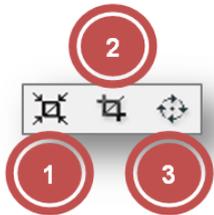


displays the job list of the connected CDI. In the "Action" column, the job can be deleted by clicking on the cross. The job status is displayed in the "Status" column. An explanation of the icons can be found in the "Grapholas" user manual.

A screenshot of a software window titled "Queue" with a dropdown arrow. It contains a table with columns for Jobname, Plate, Status, and Action. The table lists 11 jobs (ESKO_JOB1 to ESKO_JOB11) with their respective plate names and status icons (green circles and squares). A blue arrow points to the 'Action' column of ESKO_JOB2, which contains a red 'X' icon.

| Jobname | Plate | Status | Action |
|------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| ESKO_JOB1 | DPN 1.14 (045) | ● | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB2 | DPR 1.14 (045) | ● □ | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB3 | DWF95 | ● | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB4 | FAC_284 | ● □ | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB5 | FAC_550 | ● □ | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB6 | DFM 1.14 (045) | ● | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB7 | DFM 1.14 (045) | ● | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB8 | DPN 1.14 (045) | ● | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB9 | DPN 1.14 (045) | ● | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB10 | DFH_67 | ● □ | ✘ |
| ESKO_JOB11 | DFH_67 | ● □ | ✘ |

6.3.12 Cropping and Rotating Images



- 1 Automatic cropping of the selected images. Unused frame areas are removed.

Right-click the icon to undo the changes.

The distance to the "Bleed" pixels can be set in the "Merger" properties. If the image contains "Staggered Cut" information, the image is cut on the cutting line.

- 2 Opens a new window in which the image can be cut. For more information, refer to chapter *"Manual Cropping"*.
- 3 Rotates the selected images by 90°. The rotated files are generated when sending the data to the output device. Depending on the resolution, this may take some time.

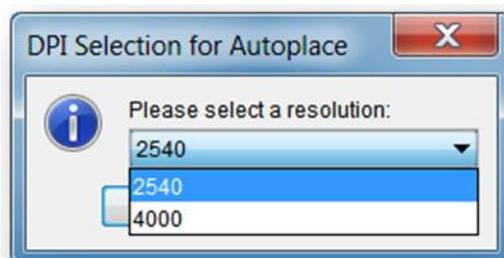
6.3.13 Automatic Positioning of the Images

The images loaded in the "Merger" can be positioned automatically.

Press **Ctrl + a** to automatically reposition all images. Already positioned images are removed from the working surface.

Press **Ctrl + h** to automatically position all images which have not yet been positioned. Already positioned images are **not** removed in this case.

As soon as more than one image has been marked (**Ctrl + left mouse button**), only these images will be used for automatic positioning.



Images with different resolutions cannot be sent to the CDI on a plate. If more than one resolution is available for automatic positioning, a selection is displayed.

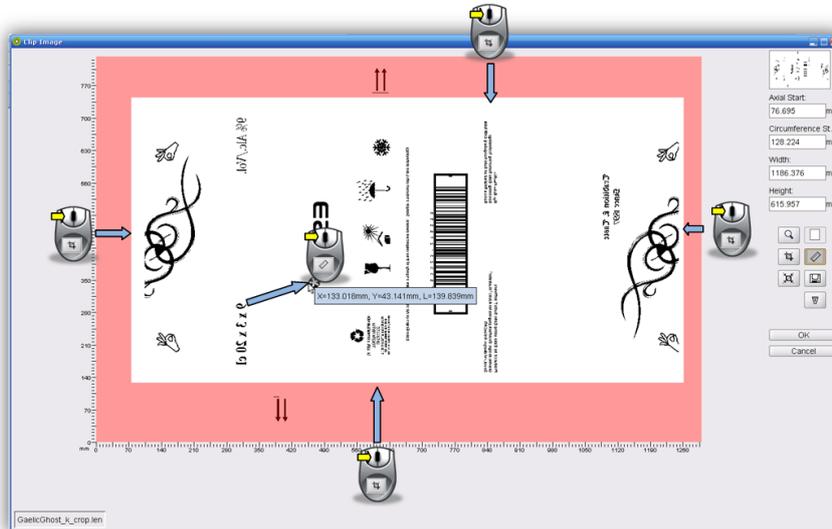
Only the images with the selected resolution are positioned.

The way how the images are positioned can be determined in the basic settings of the "Merger". If the images must be cut manually afterwards, "Cut-Optimised Positioning" can be used.

6.3.14 Manual Cropping



opens a new window in which the image can be cropped:



Starting from the frame area, a lasso can be pulled open by pressing and holding down the left mouse button and pulling the mouse across the working surface; or the exact lasso size can be entered in the four input fields on the right-hand side (1).



The distance between two positions in the image can be measured by pressing and holding the left mouse button down.



Individual sections of the image can be enlarged with a square magnifier by pressing and holding down the left mouse button and pulling the mouse across the section of interest. Using the arrow keys on the keyboard, the image section can be moved in the desired direction.



displays the entire image.



performs the automatic cropping.



sets back all cutting edges.



saves the current image section as a new LEN file.

Manual cropping is not available for LEN files of the "PlatePatcher" and the "Staggered Cut".

6.4 Menu Bar

Only the additional functions which are not listed in the toolbar are described. The menu bar is located above the toolbar.

6.4.1 Unloading Images

"File - Unload Image" (Ctrl + u) removes the selected image from the "Merger". The file is not deleted from the hard drive.

6.4.2 Unloading Positioned Images

"File - Remove All Positioned Images" (Ctrl + d) removes all images from the "Merger" which are positioned on the working surface. The files are not deleted from the hard drive. This is useful when the job was sent and several images are still in the queue.

6.4.3 Selecting the Working Directory

"File - Select Working Folder" (Ctrl + w) changes the working directory in which all images are copied or moved during the loading process. This option is not available if images are loaded.

6.4.4 Saving the Image Arrangement

"File - Save Plate" (Ctrl + s) saves the compiled images and the exposure parameters as plate. When the compiled images are sent to the CDI, the plate is automatically saved under the entered name.

"File - Save Plate as" saves the compilation under another name.

6.4.5 Loading the Image Arrangement

"File - Load Plate" (Ctrl + L) loads a previously saved or sent compilation with all parameters. All currently loaded images are removed.

6.4.6 Deleting the Image Arrangement

"File - New Plate" (Ctrl + n) removes all images from the "Merger" and resets the parameters.

6.4.7 Automatic Positioning of the Images

"Position - Auto Arrange Images" (Ctrl + a) automatically positions as many loaded images as possible on the working surface. Beforehand, images which were already positioned on the working surface are removed. The type of positioning can be selected in the "Merger" properties.

6.4.8 Automatic Positioning of New Images

"**Position - Auto Arrange New Images**" (**Ctrl + h**) automatically adds the loaded images to the compilation on the working surface. Already positioned images are not removed.

6.4.9 Removing Images from the Working Surface

"**Position - Unplace all**" (**Ctrl + u**) removes all images from the working surface. The images are not unloaded.

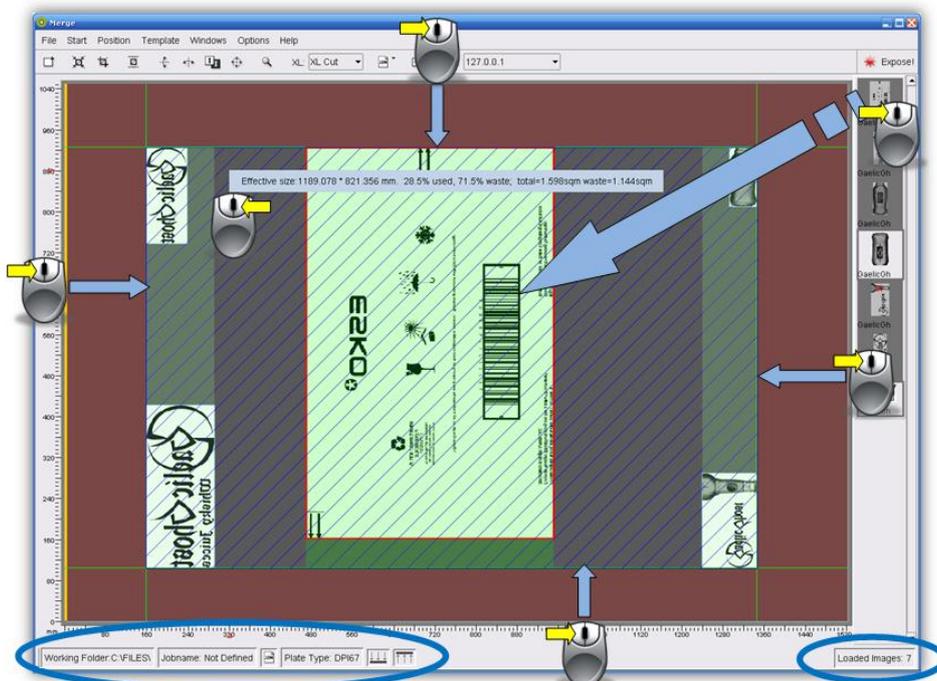
6.4.10 Displaying File Names

"**Windows - Display Names**" shows the file names in the images positioned on the working surface.

6.5 Working Surface and Status Bar

The working surface shows the available area on the plate. It is not necessary to enter the upper and lower borders as the entire working area is shown.

The loaded images are pulled from the right queue on the working surface by holding down the left mouse button.



In addition, guides can be pulled from the grey frame area by holding down the left mouse button. The images cannot be positioned in the red area. The guide can be removed again by right-clicking on the grey frame area.

Right-clicking the image file displays information on the image.

The status bar shows the current settings and the number of loaded images.

6.6 Displaying Plate Use

Right-clicking on the working surface displays information on the plate size and the use of the plate.

| | Width: [mm] | Height: [mm] | Used [%] | Waste [%] | Used [sqm] | Waste [sqm] |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Partial Plate | 947.744 | 277.462 | 49.4 | 50.6 | 0.263 | 0.133 |
| Full Plate | 1000.0 | 800.0 | 16.2 | 83.8 | 0.8 | 0.67 |

The "Partial Plate" line shows the values for the marked area. The "Full Plate" line refers to the entire work area.

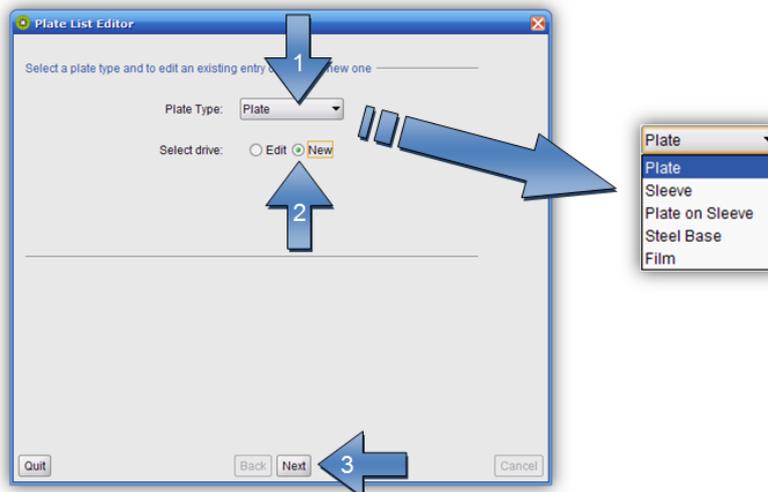
6.7 Managing Plate List

"Edit – Edit Plate List" opens a new window where you can delete, change and create new plates.

"Cancel" aborts the process – no data is changed. By pressing **"Quit"**, the window is closed. **"Next"** shows the next window.

6.7.1 Creating a New Plate

First select the desired medium **"Plate Type"** (1), then check **"New"** (2) and press **"Next"** (3) to go to the next menu:

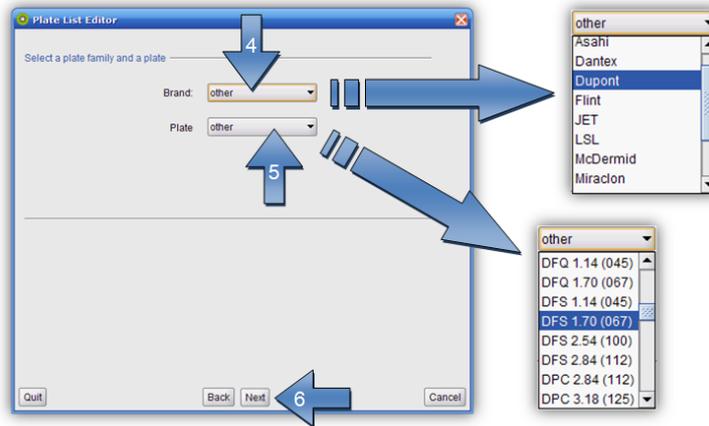


- "Plate" – Flexo plates
- "Sleeve" – print sleeve of DuPont and Flint
- "Plate on Sleeve" – Flexo plates mounted on a print sleeve
- "Steel Base" – metal backing plate for magnetic drum

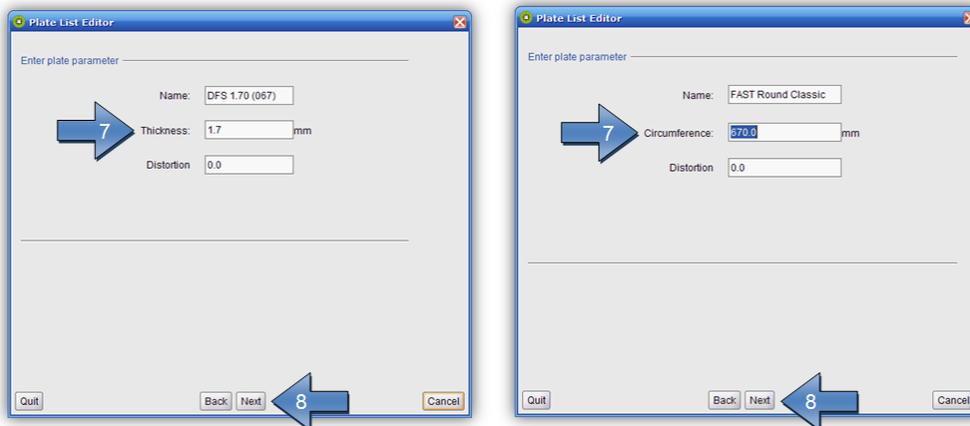
PlatePrep 12.1

- "Film" – film

If Grapholas 10.1 or higher is installed on the CDI, a plate database is shown. When the desired plate manufacturer "**Brand**" (4) or the plate type "**Plate**" (5) are not available, the option "**other**" can be selected:

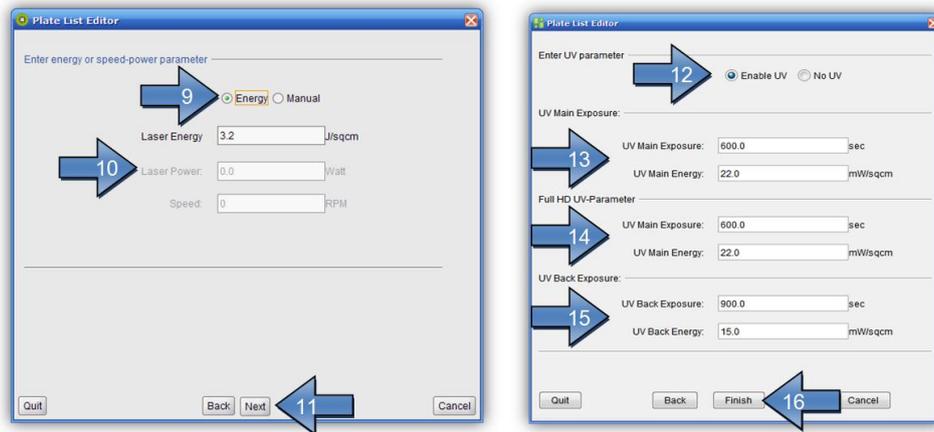


"**Name**" (7) determines the display name in the plate list and "**Thickness**" (7) the plate thickness. For sleeves, the circumference is entered in the "**Circumference**" field (7):



Additionally, the output in the "**Distortion**" field (7) can be distorted in circumference direction. The input is made as a percentage. If you enter "5.0", the output is enlarged by 5 percent in circumference direction. Entering "-5.0" would downsize the output accordingly.

Under "**Manual**" (9), enter the values for "**Speed**" (10) and "**Laser Power**" (10). The setting "**Energy**" (9) sets the "**Laser Energy**" (10), and speed and performance are selected automatically according to the resolution:



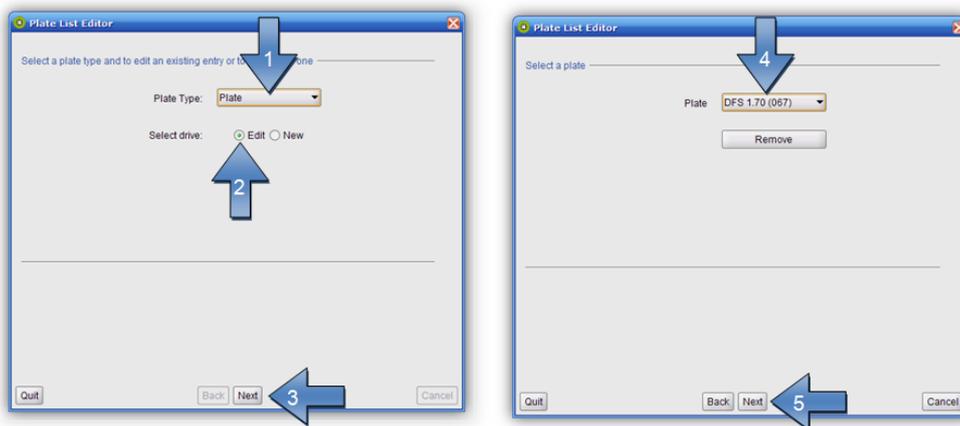
With Inline UV, enter for the front exposure the values **"UV Main Exposure"** (13) and **"UV Main Energy"** (13) and with automatons, enter for the back exposure the values **"UV Back Exposure"** (14) and **"UV Back Energy"** (14). You can disable the UV exposure by checking **"No UV"** (12).

UV2 exposure parameters are specified in section **"Full HD UV Parameters"** (14) when the CDI has been prepared for Full-HD Flexo.

"Finish" (16) saves the plate.

6.7.2 Changing the Plate

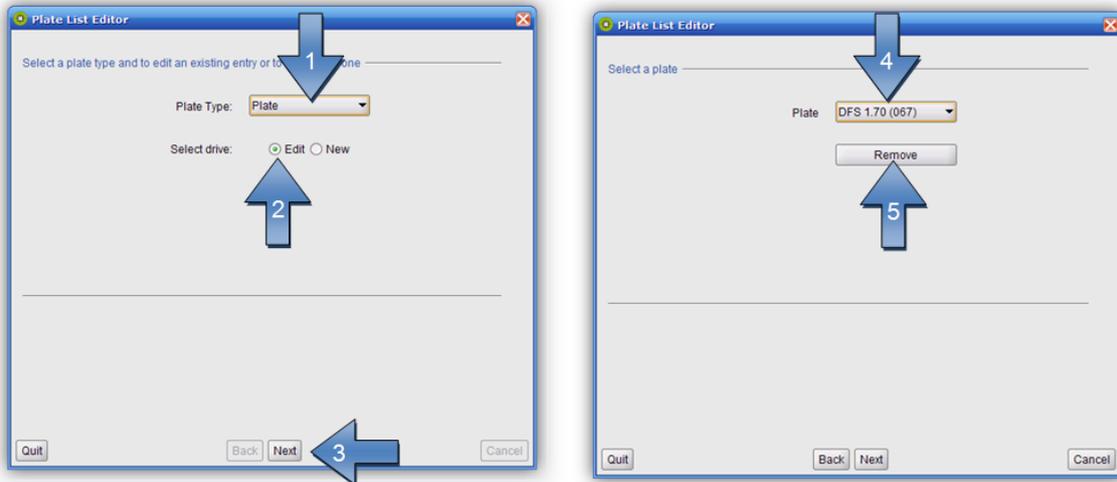
First select the desired medium **"Plate Type"** (1), then check **"Edit"** (2) and press **"Next"** (3) to go to the next menu:



After setting the desired **"Plate"** (4), you can change all parameters except for the plate name. **"Next"** opens the next menu.

6.7.3 Deleting the Plate

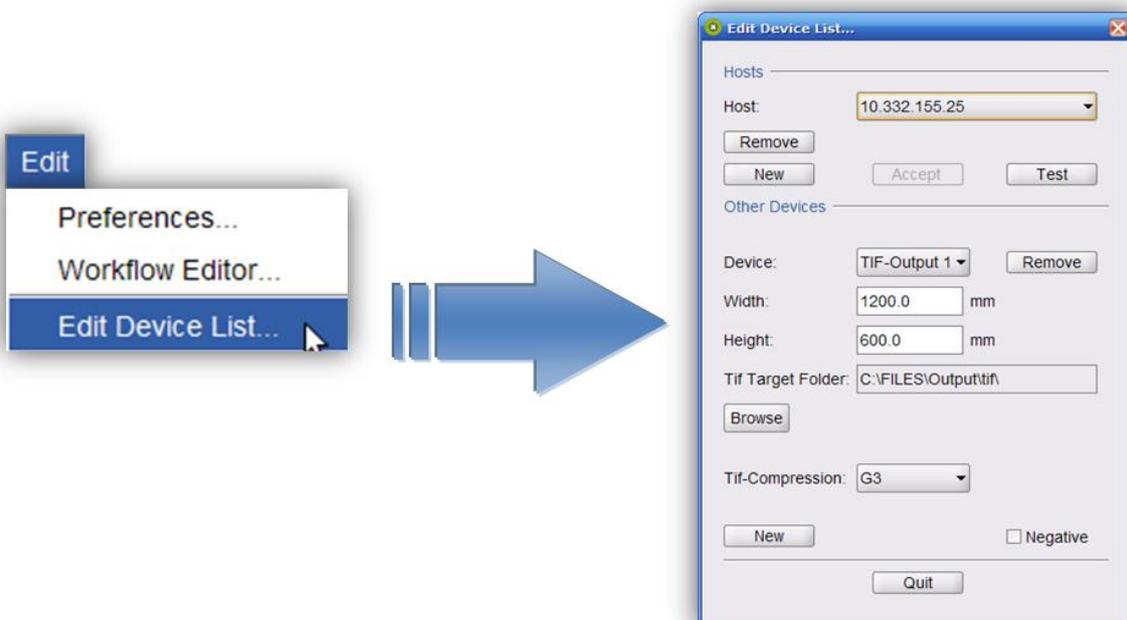
First select the desired medium **"Plate Type"** (1), then check **"Edit"** (2) and press **"Next"** (3) to go to the next menu:



The desired plate **"Plate"** (4) is set and removed by pressing **"Remove"** (5).

6.8 TIF Output

"Edit – Edit Device List" opens the dialog window to subsequently add new TIF output devices (special license required):



"New" in section "Other Devices" opens a new dialog box in which you can enter the name of the TIF output device.

Width and height can be set in the fields "*Width*" and "*Height*".

"*Negative*" inverts the background colour for the output on film. The output directory is defined in field "*TIF Target Folder*".

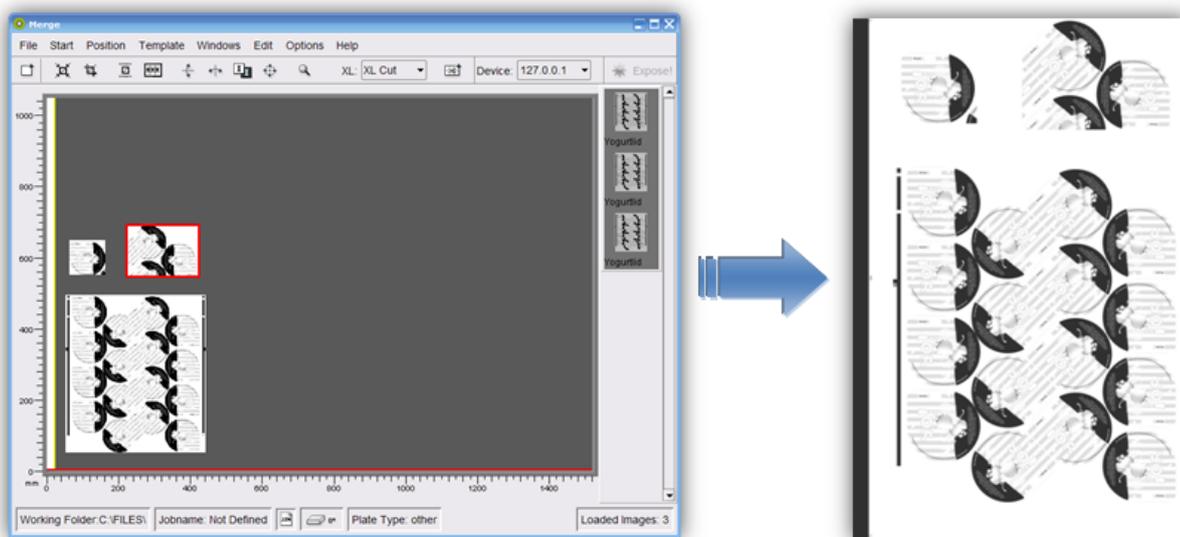
"*Remove*" deletes the selected entry.

"*Expose*" creates the TIF file.

6.9 Exposing Plate Borders

The "*Expose frames*" option can be activated in the basic settings of the "Merger" under "*Edit – Preferences...*", giving the plate more stability in the washer.

The left and the right border can be set in the "*Drum Window*" and is now shown in white. When the TIF output is negative, the border is displayed in black.



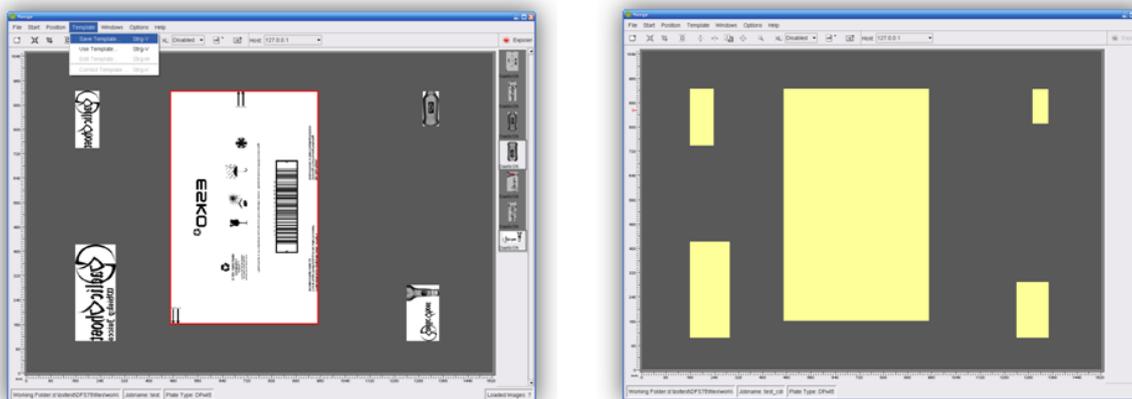
6.10 Templates

If these functions are not displayed, they can be activated in the basic settings.

The positions, image sizes, image resolution and plate parameters are stored in the template in order to position images quickly at a later time. This working mode is interesting for register pinwheels such as, e. g., for Letterpress.

6.10.1 Creating a Template

To create a template, you first position the required images onto the working surface and then select the plate type. This compilation is then saved by pressing *"Template - Save Template"*.



6.10.2 Loading a Template

"Template - Use Template" loads the template. This is only possible when no other images are loaded in the "Merger".

The stored positions and sizes are shown as yellow fields. After loading the images, they can be positioned in the yellow fields.

The images must be within a certain size tolerance in order to be assigned to a field.

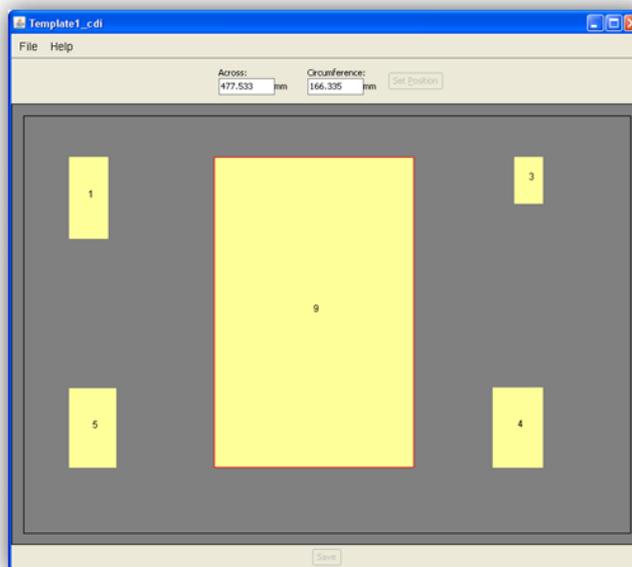
6.10.3 Modifying a Template

After loading the template and positioning all the images, the mask can be opened using *"Template - Edit Template"*. Now you can change all parameters as required and save them using *"Template - Save Template"*.

The modified template can now be loaded using *"Template - Use Template"*.

6.10.4 Moving a Template

"Template - Correct Template" opens a new program in which the template can be loaded using *"File - Load Plate"*.



The position of single images or of several images can be changed horizontally by "Across" and vertically by "Circumference". The value is entered absolute or relative to the current position, ENTER is then pressed and the value is set by "Set Position".

Several images are marked by pulling a square around the required images with the left mouse button pressed.

The template is saved by clicking the "Save" button.

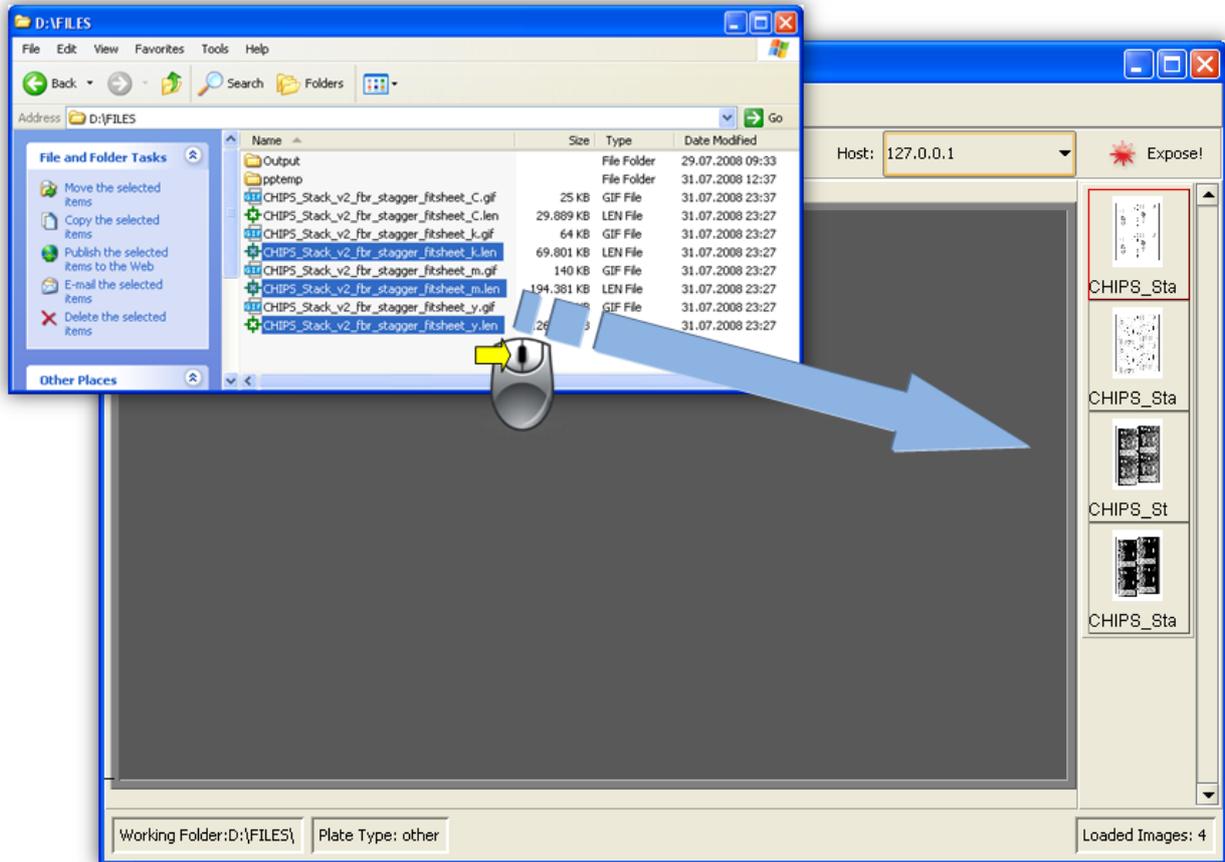
6.11 Job Information

An HTML or XML file with the respective job name is created in the "HTM Target Folder" output directory for each sent job.

All important information concerning the job is stored in that directory. The output directory "d:\files\output\html" is preset.

6.12 Loading Images via "Drag & Drop"

Image files (LEN and TIF) can directly be dragged into the right image bar of the "Merger" from the Windows Explorer. First, the data is copied into the working directory, then it is loaded. If the "Ctrl" key is pressed at the same time, the files are always copied.



6.13 "Unique ID"

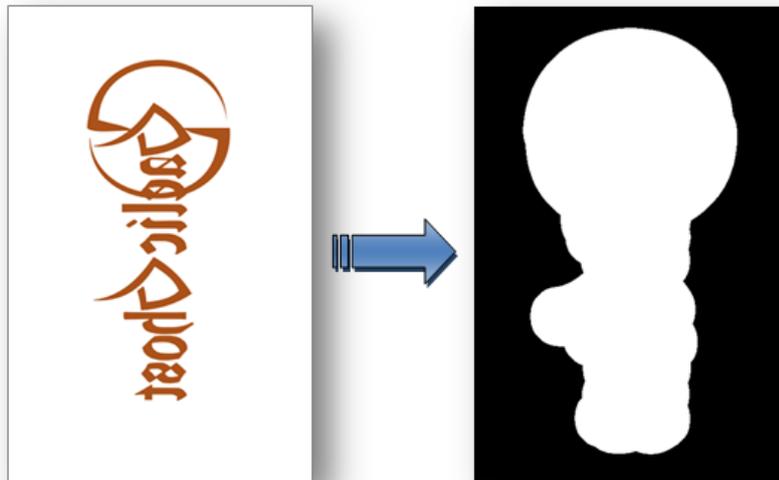
All LEN and/or TIF files from an AE12 system contain a unique code which can be read by the "Merger".

As soon as the "Unique ID" option is activated under "Options – Configuration", this code is added to all images.

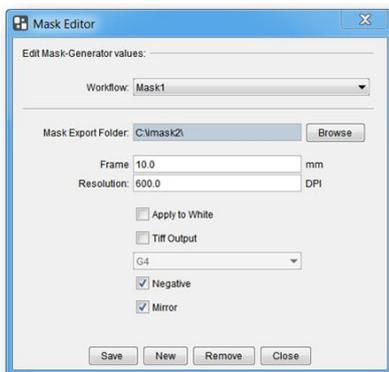
Depending on the output, the code is either inserted at the top or in the left frame area as normal text or, for XL CUT, it is output as front text or back text.

6.14 "iMask" Output (Option)

As soon as "iMask" output is activated, a LEN or TIF file with the mask is generated in addition to the job. An appropriate license is required to output TIFs. Depending on the settings, a frame is added to the contour compiling the various elements.



The output directory and the parameters can be changed under *"Edit – Edit Mask Output"*:



"Workflow": Displays the name of the parameter set.

"Mask Export Folder": Output directory.

"Frame": Size of the extension frame.

"Resolution": Output resolution.

"Apply to White": White pixels are expanded.

"Tiff Output": Activates the TIF output.

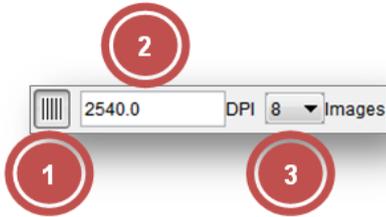
"Negative": Allows to invert the output.

"Mirror": Allows to mirror the output.

Changes are saved by pressing *"Save"*. *"New"* creates a new parameter set. *"Remove"* removes the currently selected parameter set. *"Close"* closes the setup window.

6.15 "Lenticular" Output (Option)

As soon as the "Lenticular" function is activated, the output is converted into the required resolution and then sent to the CDI. To achieve an optimum printing result, the output is reprocessed on the CDI.



- 1 Activates the "Lenticular" function.
- 2 Allows to enter a new resolution. This value may differ from the original resolution of the positioned images by a maximum of 50 DPI.
- 3 Allows to set the number of lenses used for printing.

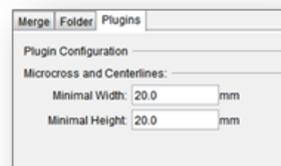
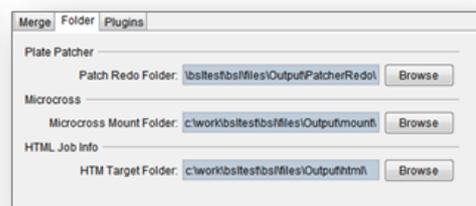
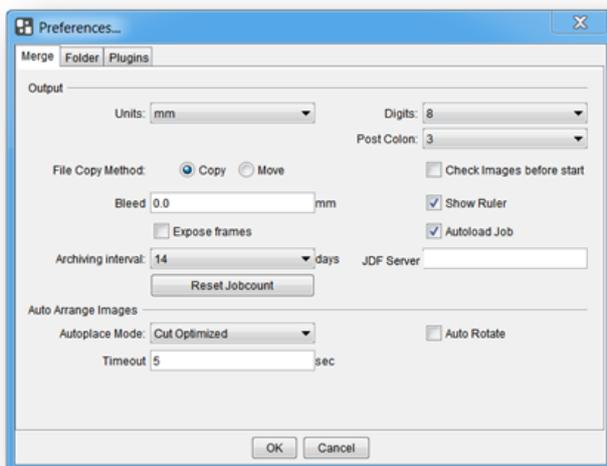
To ensure an optimum printing result, the correct number of lenses needs to be set.

The resolution results from the test print and the resulting change in the size of the image which is set via the new resolution.

The "Lenticular" output must not be used for normal jobs.

6.16 Basic Merger Settings

The basic settings of the "Merger" can be changed via the menu item "Options – Preferences...":



"Units" switches between "mm" and "inch".

"Digits" and "Post colon" set the amount of numbers and/or decimal points.

"Check Images before start" checks the images of all outgoing jobs.

"File copy method" sets the behavior while loading images. With the setting "Copy", the files are always copied; if "Move" is selected, they are deleted from the source directory.

"*Bleed*" sets the border during automatic cropping.

"*Expose left frame*": When activated, the left border is exposed to provide more stability for the washer.

"Show Ruler" activates or deactivates the ruler.

When restarting the "Merger", "*Autoload Job*" actuates automatic loading of the last job.

"*Archiving Interval*:" determines the number of days after which the HTML overview files and the files of the "Mergelog" directory are archived in a ZIP file.

"*JDF Server*": Enter IP number or computer name of JDF server.

"*Autoplace mode*:" sets the method (mode) of how the images are automatically arranged on the working surface. The methods to be selected are fast, space-optimised and cut-optimised positioning.

In most cases, the fast positioning method is sufficient. The space-optimised positioning method tries to position the images until the maximum time "Timeout" is reached. The cut-optimised positioning method positions the images so that the plates can be better cut manually afterwards.

"*Auto Rotate*" activates rotating during automatic positioning to save more space.

In the "*Folder*" window, the preset output directories can be changed.

The job information is saved in the "*HTM Target Folder*" directory.

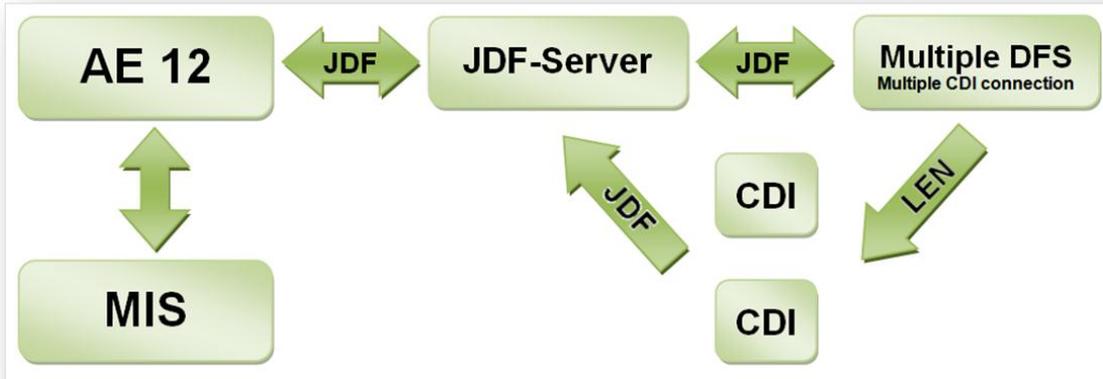
Under "*Plugins*", the minimum size for "*Microcross*" and "*Centerline*" images can be entered. The images are automatically enlarged to this size.

The "Merger" must be restarted after any change.

7 JDF

JDF Server 12 and Automation Engine 12 must be installed to use JDF. The JDF server can be located on the same computer as AE 12.

The status of the JDF jobs is displayed in the AE 12 Pilot. It is possible to integrate important data such as plate consumption in an existing MIS system.



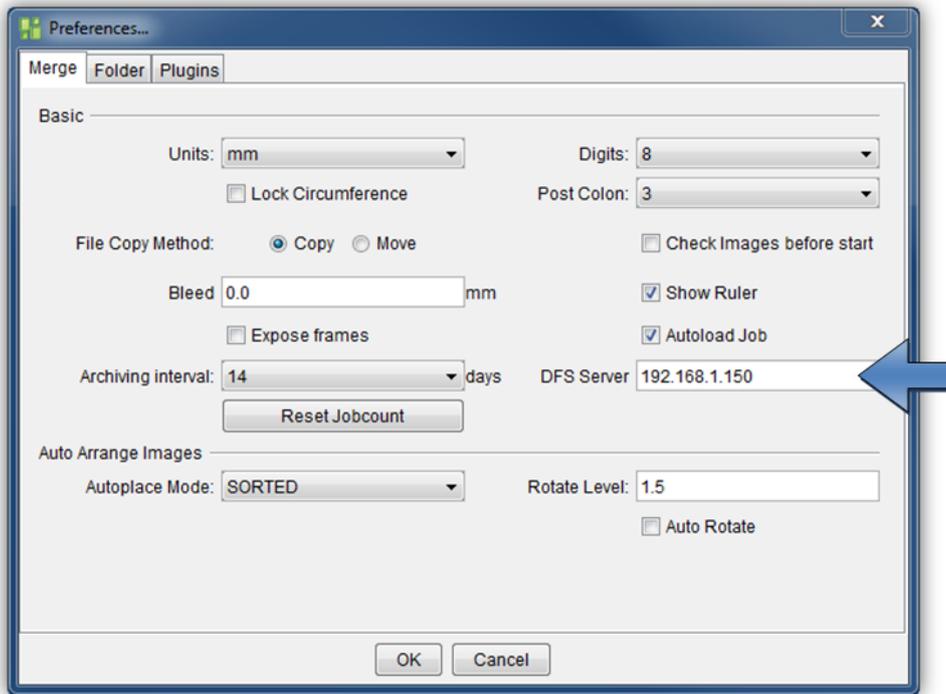
The AE12 Pilot shows the status and the parameter of the job:

| | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----|---|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | C | 21.04.11 08:38 | Canceled | 1020_JDF_C_c003.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | Y | 21.04.11 08:38 | Canceled | 1020_JDF_Y_c003.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | M | 21.04.11 08:38 | Canceled | 1020_JDF_M_c003.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | K | 21.04.11 08:38 | Canceled | 1020_JDF_K_c003.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | C | 21.04.11 07:28 | CDI State:NEW | 1020_JDF_C_c002.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | Y | 21.04.11 07:28 | CDI State:NEW | 1020_JDF_Y_c002.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | M | 21.04.11 07:28 | CDI State:NEW | 1020_JDF_M_c002.len |
| DUPONT | DPS45 | 0.7 | K | 21.04.11 07:27 | CDI State:NEW | 1020_JDF_K_c002.len |

7.1 Setting up the JDF Connection

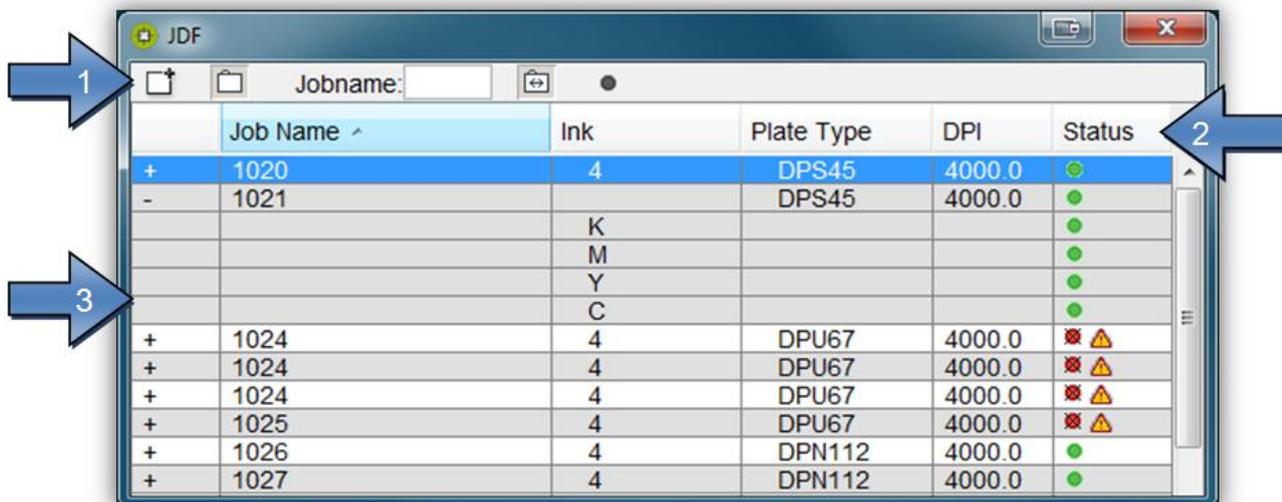
7.1.1 Connecting to the DFS Server

The computer name or the IP address of the DFS server is entered in the "Merger" options "Edit – Preferences" in the "JDF Server" field.



7.2 JDF Window

When the "Merger" is connected to the DFS server, an additional window opens and shows the JDF files:



Area 1 contains the load and filter functions:



Loads the marked job.



Loads all jobs that have same resolution and plate type as the marked job.

Jobname:

Filters the job list according to entered text.



Resets all filters.



Shows only jobs which correspond to the selected plate type in the "Merger" (display is green).

In **Area 2**, the job list can be sorted by "**Job Name**", "**Plate Type**" or resolution "**DPI**".

Area 3 shows the job with the according "**Status**":



The job can be loaded. The plate type complies with the plate type that is currently set.



The plate type of the job does not comply with the plate type currently set.



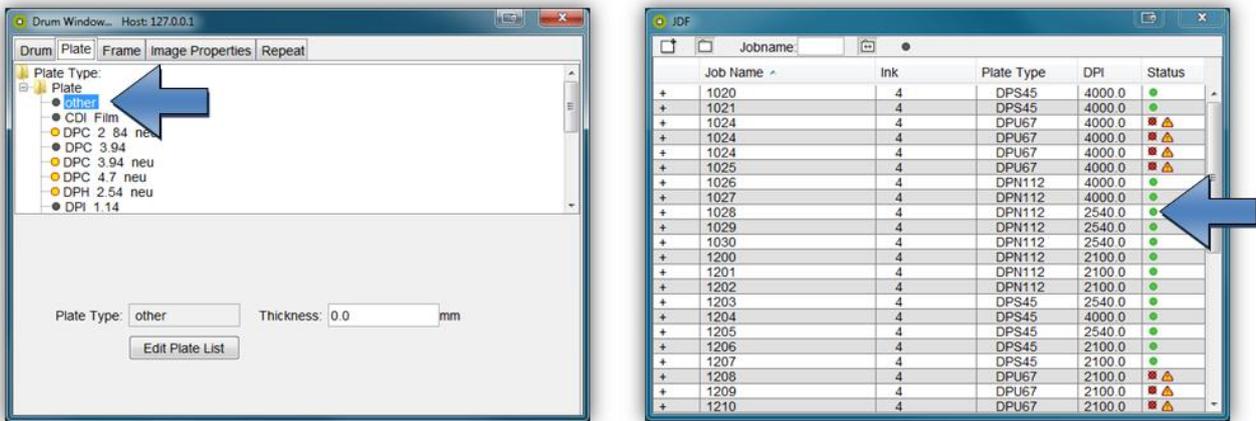
The plate type of the job cannot be found in the plate list.

The icon "+" in front of each job shows all colours/statuses of the respective job. The icon "-" removes the colour display.

7.3 Loading JDF Files

To load a file, double-click the according job or colour. You can mark and load several files by using the "Ctrl" button together with the left mouse button.

If the plate type is set to "other", all JDF images are available. Otherwise, only those JDF images are available which correspond to the plate that is currently set:



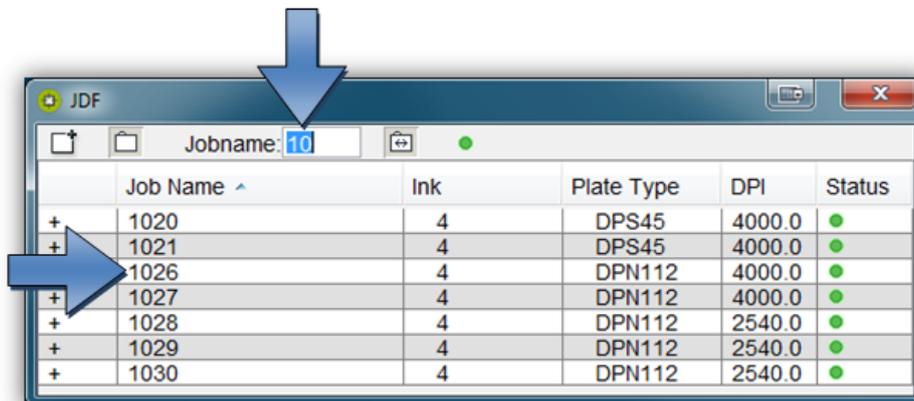
As soon as the files have been loaded to the "Merger", they are removed from the JDF overview and the according plate type is set automatically. Now you can no longer change the plate type.

When the JDF files have been removed from the "Merger", they are shown again in the JDF overview.

7.4 Sorting and Searching of Jobs

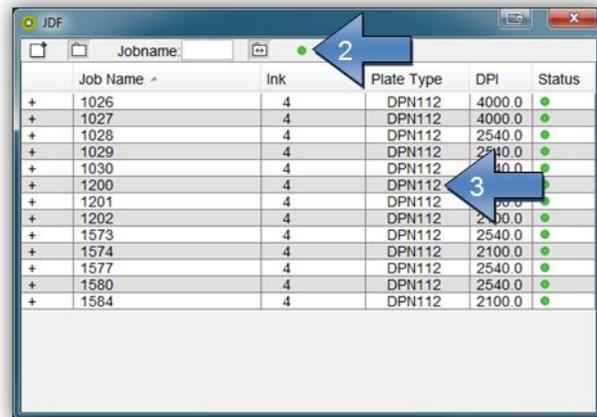
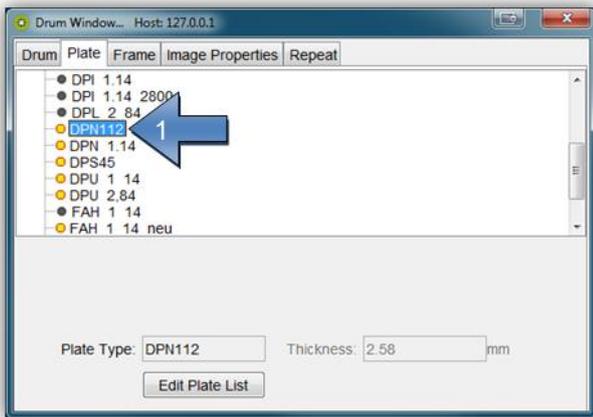
7.4.1 Searching for a Job

It is possible to filter the overview by entering text in the "**Jobname**" field. Only jobs which start with the first letters of the entered text are displayed:



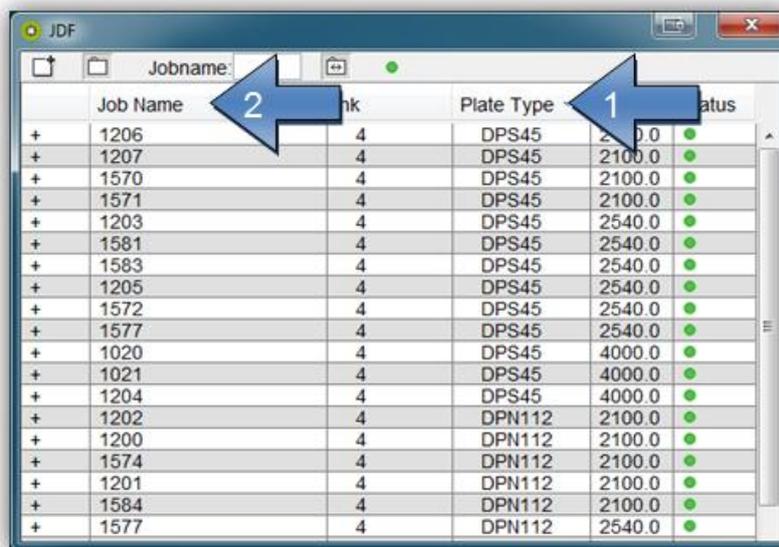
7.4.2 Sorting According to Availability

When a plate type (1) has already been selected and the plate is to be filled with more images, the overview can be sorted in that way (2) that it only shows jobs for the plate type currently set (3):



7.4.3 Sorting According to Plate Type

By left-clicking on the column header **"Plate Type"** (1), the list is sorted by plate type:



By left-clicking on the column header **"Job Name"** (2), the list is sorted by job name.

7.5 Sending JDF Files

After sending a job, all positioned JDF images are removed from the "Merger". This ensures that the images will not be sent again.

If the "Merger" contains images which are not positioned yet, the plate type cannot be changed.

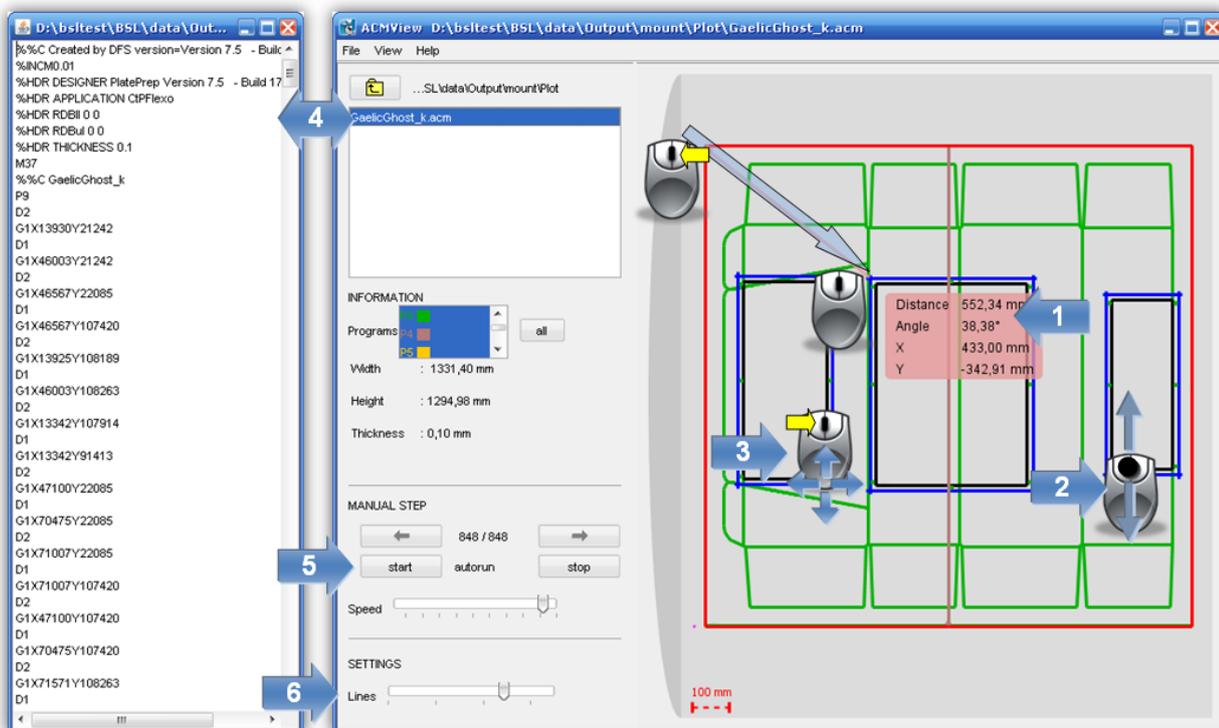
8 Additional Programs

With Digital Flexo Suite, two additional programs are installed which can be found under **"Esko – Digital Flexo Suite – System"**:

8.1 ACM Viewer

This program is used to display and control the ACM files which were created by using the Digital Flexo Suite.

After the Digital Flexo Suite installation, all ACM files are automatically linked to the **"ACM Viewer"**.



The distance between two points can be measured by using the right mouse button (hold pressed) **(1)**. The image content can be enlarged by using the mouse wheel **(2)** and moved by using the left mouse button (hold pressed and pull) **(3)**.

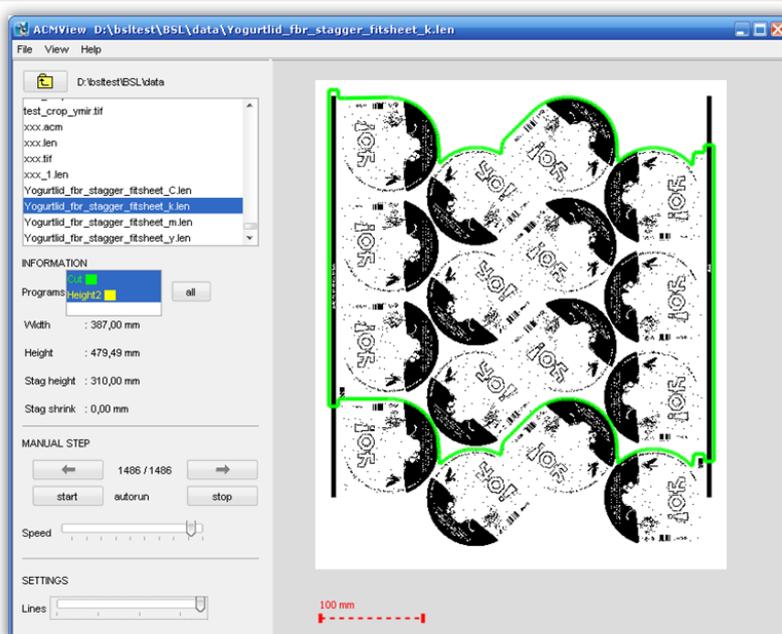
Double-clicking an ACM file opens an additional window **(4)**. **"Start"** in the **"Manual Step"** area **(5)** starts a simulation of the cutting and drawing process. In the **"Settings"** area **(6)**, the line thickness can be changed.

Additional information can be displayed in the **"View"** menu.

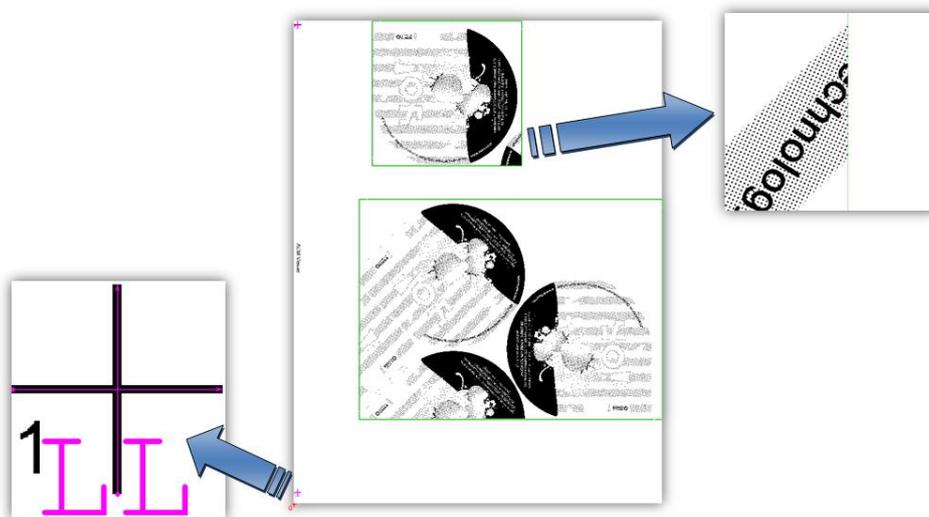
If the ACM Viewer of the Digital Flexo Suite is used, LEN files can also be displayed.

Cutting information of **"Staggered Cut"** and CAD information of Flexrip are displayed in addition.

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Using the function "File – Overlay File", it is possible to place the according LEN or TIF file over the ACM file. Holding the "Ctrl" button, you can move the contour of the ACM with the left mouse button until both register marks are above each other.

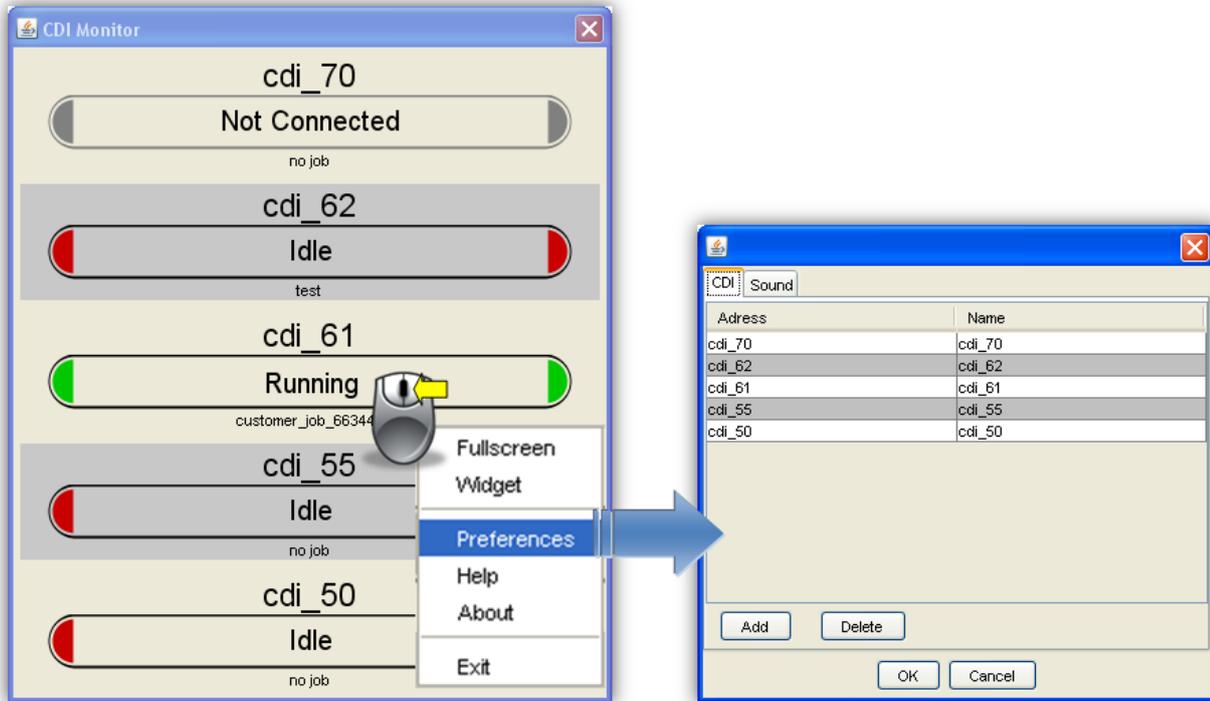


Then you can check the cut.

Several LEN files are created when the output is performed on a CDI with ABS. A revision of the images is no longer possible!

8.2 CDI Monitor

The CDI monitor displays the current job, the status and the remaining time for the current imaging processes of the CDIs in the network:



The CDI status is displayed with the following colours:

- Grey: CDI or service is not activated
- Red: CDI is activated and waits for jobs
- Green: CDI exposes a plate – The remaining time is displayed.

The CDI list of the Digital Flexo Suite is used automatically. Right-click on the CDI monitor to change the CDI list under "Preferences".

"Fullscreen" displays the monitor as full screen. "Widget" removes borders and the monitor will always be displayed in the foreground.

9 Support Europe

To contact ESKO, please visit www.esko.com.