



NAVIGATOR

PLUG-IN MANUAL

SCREEN FT-R & KATANA (SCSI)

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OVERVIEW

Xitron's Navigator PostScript RIP and Raster Blaster TIFF Catcher rely on software modules called plug-ins to communicate with imaging systems. In many cases they work in tandem with an interface card, while in others it is simply a conversion to a bitmap file in a compatible format.

When interface cards are involved, these plug-ins act as device drivers and control most actions of the output devices. Some of these actions include checking device status, device setup, and advancing and cutting material. In addition, the plug-in relays all the physical characteristics of an engine such as supported resolutions and imageable area.

During the launch sequence, both Navigator and Raster Blaster scan a specific directory for plug-ins. The software loads each plug-in it finds, and then queries them for a description of the capabilities of the supported devices. In this manner the plug-in configures the RIP to output a bitmap to these devices.

Each plug-in controls a particular family of recorders and is able to understand most messages and errors communicated by the output device. Plug-ins for use with Windows-based platforms consist of three software modules. The first module is the core plug-in written specifically for a particular device. This DLL is 32-bit code and runs under Windows NT, Windows 2000 Server, Windows 2000 Professional, Windows 2003 Server and Windows XP. The second module is a kernel mode device driver. This module communicates with the

Xitron interface boards and moves the bitmap data from the PC to the output device's interface. The third module is a "helper" DLL that translates calls from the plug-in to the Windows device driver.

When a page is sent to an output device for imaging, the Xitron software loads the correct plug-in and begins a series of steps prior to output. The plug-in first initializes the engine and checks that it is ready. After receiving the proper signal, the plug-in will begin reading bitmap data from the platform's hard drive into a "printer buffer." Once the printer buffer is full, the plug-in will start communicating the data to the output device. As the output device consumes the data, the plug-in relays this information to the software, which then refills the buffer. This continues until all of the data has been communicated to the output device. The plug-in tells the software the job is complete and waits for an indicator that the recorder has finished. This process is repeated for each page being output.

RASTER BLASTER



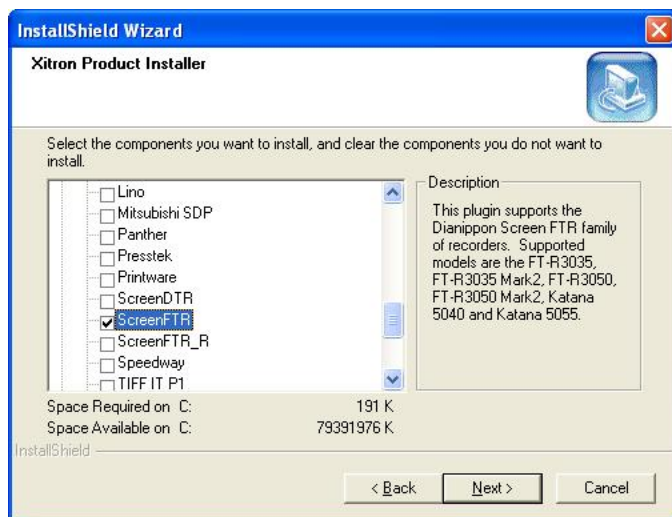
Plug-ins used by Xitron's Raster Blaster have the same functionality as those for the Navigator RIP and the same options are available for configuration. Therefore, unless otherwise specified, the information in this manual will apply to both products. See the Raster Blaster Reference Manual for specific configuration information.

CONFIGURING DEVICES

Xitron offers two versions of the Screen FT-R/Katana plug-in. The one described here was designed to work with older devices that communicate through a SCSI interface card. The other plug-in works through a proprietary Xitron interface (also referred to as PIF) that will be covered in a separate manual.

To install the SCSI version of the FT-R & Katana Plug-in, select it from the plug-in installer as shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: INSTALL SCSI PLUG-IN



Note the ScreenFTR_R plug-in installer right below the SCSI installer. ***Do not attempt to install the ScreenFTR_R plug-in if your system is equipped with a SCSI interface card.***

Click **Next** and the system will install the plug-in to the RIP directory you select. Upon completion, the installer will ask for the FT-R password that was furnished with your RIP. Enter the password before clicking **Next**. The system will complete the installation process and ask you to re-start the computer.

This plug-in has the capability to drive most of the devices in the FT-R recorder family. Users may install more than one plug-in within a single RIP, but in the case of the FT-R, any additional device plug-ins must use Xitron proprietary interfaces. This is because two SCSI devices will not work in the same RIP.

Xitron pre-configures most plug-ins to display all output devices currently supported. To view these devices, click the Device Manager icon shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2: DEVICE MANAGER ICON

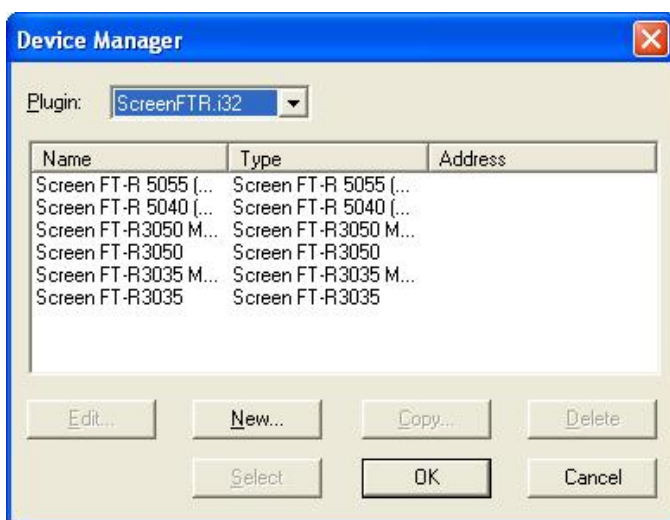


The Device Manager dialog box shown in Figure 3 will display. If the dialog displays the user's output device in the scrollable

list, no further editing is necessary. The names of the available output devices will appear in the Output Device pull-down menu of the Page Set-up dialog box. However, in the rare circumstance that another device name is necessary; the user has the option of customizing the name field.

With the Device manager dialog window open, click **New** or select an existing device and click **Edit**.

FIGURE 3: DEVICE MANAGER DIALOG



Another dialog box will appear. Enter a name for the device. This name will display in the Device pull-down menu as a selection in the Page Setup dialog. To leave the names as they

appear in Device Manager, simply skip this step. To create a Page Setup, click the Page Setup icon shown in Figure 4.

FIGURE 4: PAGE SETUP MANAGER



When the Page Setup Manager window appears, click **New**. A Page Set-up dialog box similar to the one shown in Figure 5 will appear.

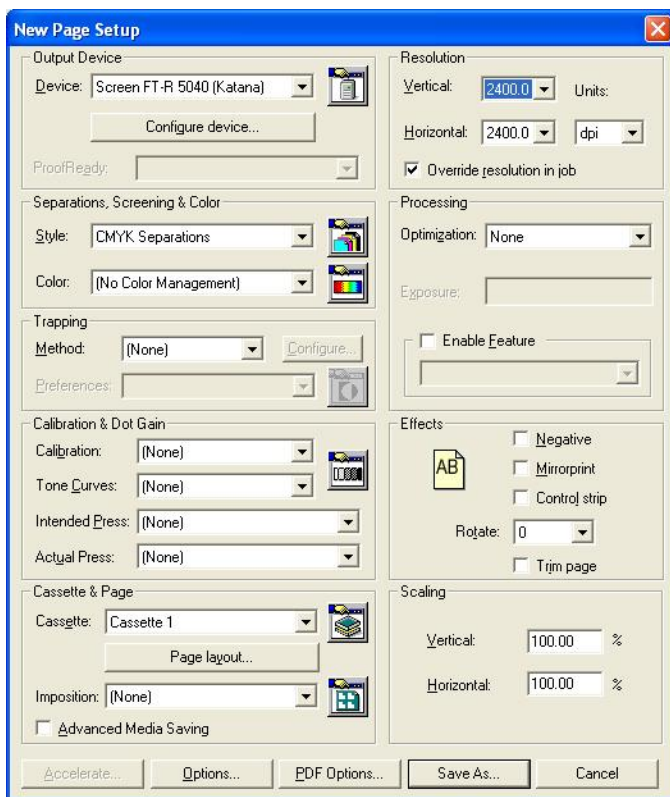
In the Output Device section, select the proper device from the drop-down menu. If you chose to customize the name from within the Device Manager dialog box, it will appear here.

SCREEN FT-R SPECIFIC SETTINGS

Xitron's Screen FT-R plug-in supports the following recorders:

FT-R 3035	FT-R 3035 Mark 2	FT-R 5040
FT-R 3050	FT-R 3050 Mark 2	FT-R 5055

FIGURE 5: PAGE SETUP

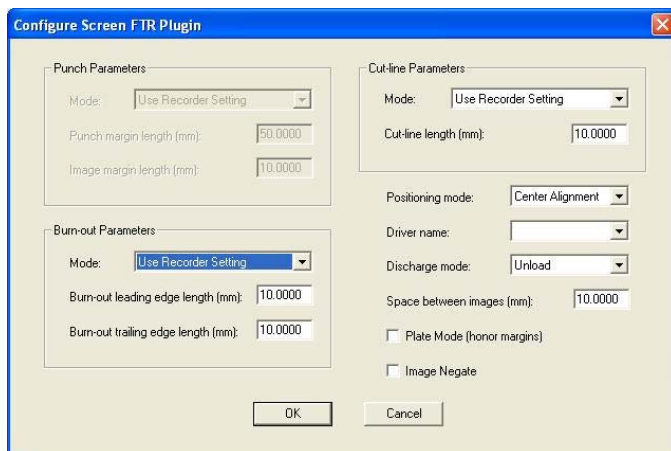


Based on the device selected in the pull-down menu of the Page Setup, various capabilities regarding resolution, density settings, page orientations and film dimensions will automatically populate the available menu options. Among the models described earlier, the only real difference in configuration is in media width.

Choose the appropriate resolution, density, and page orientation from the main window of Page Setup as shown in Figure 5. Click the button labeled, *Configure device...* to change settings that are more specific to the output device such as punch positioning.

Some configuration options will be grayed out and non-editable. This occurs when the device chosen does not offer that particular functionality. An example is shown in Figure 6.

FIGURE 6: CONFIGURE DEVICE



From this dialog box you can configure the following options:

- **Punch Parameters:** Using this option you may disable or enable punches from the RIP. If

punches are enabled, you may also set the distance from the top of the media to the punch (punch margin) and the distance from the punches to the image (image margin) by using the setting ***Enable with RIP Margins***. If ***Enable with Recorder Margins*** is selected, punches will be enabled, but the recorder's margin values will be used. The range for punch margin is 50 to 999 mm. The range for image margin is 0 to 99.9mm.

- **Burnout Parameters:** This option allows you to control burnout from the RIP. There are two enable modes: ***Enable with Recorder Lengths*** and ***Enable with RIP Lengths*** where the RIP sends down the lengths that you configure. The range for both parameters is 0 to 999mm.
- **Cutline Parameters:** This option allows you to enable and disable the cutline at the end of the page. The Cutline length describes the distance between the end of the image and the cutline. The range is 0 to 99mm.
- **Positioning Mode:** This mode determines the image position on the media.
- **Driver Name:** This option directs the software to the Xitron SCSI driver. With a single SCSI interface card, this should always read ***XitronScsiPrinter0***.
- **Discharge Mode:** This menu controls how and when media is discharged from the recorder. There are three modes:

- **Don't unload:** Pages are not ejected until the system receives a page that will exceed the capacity of the online processor. In this case the system discharges the current media *before* imaging the new page.
- **Unload:** The system discharges pages immediately after imaging.
- **Pre-unload:** After ejecting an image, if the next image is the same size and it will cause a discharge.
- **Space between images:** This allows you to configure the inter-image spacing. The range for this parameter is 10 to 99mm.

The default value for the first three options is Use Recorder Setting, which means that the plug-in will not attempt to control that parameter. The system will honor the value set on the imagesetter.

CONNECTING THE INTERFACE

Ensure both devices (the RIP PC and the FT-R) have been powered down before attempting to connect the two. Connect the supplied cable to the output device, then to the PC. The power-up sequence should always be: FT-R first, RIP PC second. This will allow the PC to identify the FT-R on the SCSI bus and identify it in the BIOS scan.

For some SCSI output devices, Windows 2000 and XP will install a *generic SCSI printer* driver. This happens when the

OS boots for the first time after installation of the SCSI card. The **Found New Hardware Wizard** will display a message that it has found new hardware and will apply the generic SCSI driver it thinks is correct. If this occurs, the Xitron SCSI driver will not be able to see the output device.

The solution is to disable the printer driver installed by the New Hardware Wizard by following these steps:

1. Start the Device Manager and locate the generic SCSI printer
2. Double click the icon to display the properties, and select **Do not use this device** from the drop down menu
3. After re-starting the platform, the system should properly identify the XiSCSIclass driver.

PLUG-IN MESSAGES

From the time a plug-in is loaded for the purpose of setting up and outputting to a device, it begins to send messages to the software's Monitor window. These messages are typically informational but can convey warnings and report errors from the engine. There is a user changeable setting called **debug level** that controls the verbosity of these messages. This can range from 0 (almost no messages) to 4 (very high message traffic). This is described in the Xitron Tech Note *CreatingLogfile.pdf*.

Examples of informational messages are:

- PostScript job name
- Commands being sent to the PCI card to set up the engine
- Output start and stop time

Examples of warning messages are:

- A job being clipped to fit a recorder
- Data being left at the end of the job.
- Certain settings in the .ini file overriding defaults