



NAVIGATOR

PLUG-IN MANUAL

PRIMESETTER

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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.

ABOUT THE PRIMESSETTER

Unlike most Xitron plug-in manuals, this reference discusses operation and setup of a specific output device. This is because the Primesetter operates quite differently from most other imagesetters and specific knowledge about its operation and configuration is essential. Consequently, this manual will cover information regarding the Primesetter only.

Xitron's Navigator RIP and Raster Blaster Tiff Catcher use the Speedway plug-in to communicate with the Primesetter. For specific features and configuration of the Speedway plug-in, please refer to Xitron Speedway Plug-in Manual.

MACHINE DESCRIPTION

The Heidelberg Primesetter is available in two formats: the Primesetter 74 and the Primesetter 102. The difference between the two is the maximum media width, corresponding to roughly (but not exactly) 74 and 102 centimeters. They are internal drum recorders capable of imaging resolutions between 1200 and 3386 dots per inch and are configurable with a take-up cassette or an online processor (although units with a take-up cassette are rare). Primesetters do not have control panels like Quasar and Herkules recorders. Instead, they have a single switch and light for operator interaction at the recorder.

FIGURE 1



Primesetter 74

INTERFACING WITH THE PRIMESETTER

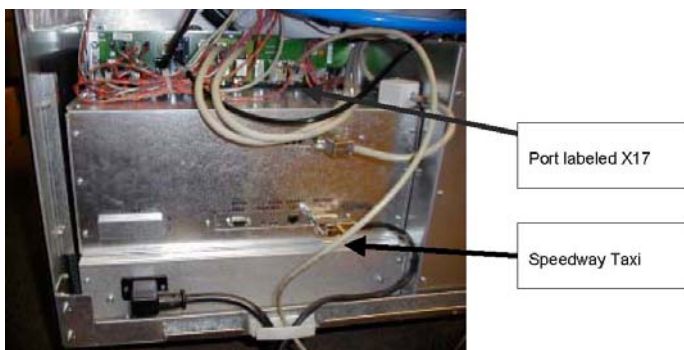
Since the Primesetter has no control panel, users operate the recorder through an application called ConPrime. The ConPrime application is supplied with the Primesetter by Heidelberg; it is not available through Xitron. The ConPrime application communicates with the Primesetter via a serial (RS-232) link with the recorder. It will run under Windows NT or 2000 (and most likely XP), and uses the PC's COM port to communicate with the recorder. This connection requires an interface cable that is usually supplied with the recorder.

When first sold and installed, ConPrime probably ran on the same PC running the original RIP application. If this configuration still exists, it may be preferable to leave ConPrime software running on the old platform, while retiring the Heidelberg RIP application. However, it is also possible to load and run the ConPrime application on the same PC that will be running the Xitron RIP or Raster Blaster.

If it is necessary to install ConPrime, use the defaults for most setup options. When asked to “Select Interface,” choose the Serial Port option instead of LVDS (which Xitron does not support) and choose the COM port to which the cable is attached. No reboot is necessary after installation.

The RS-232 communications link used by ConPrime is a serial cable supplied by Heidelberg - Part No. 2150-8210000. This cable has a male connector on the recorder end and female on the ConPrime PC end. The recorder end of the cable is attached to the port labeled “X17” in the cable connection bay shown in Figure 2. The PC end of the cable is attached to an available serial COM port on the RIP or Raster Blaster PC.

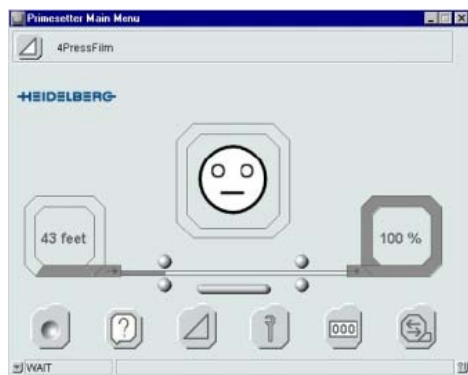
FIGURE 2



Primesetter cable connection bay (left end cap removed)

If a Heidelberg cable is not available, a simple (3-wire) null modem serial cable will work. The pin-out should be: 2 to 3, 3 to 2, and 5 to 5. All other pins in the DB-9 connector should be open (not connected). After starting ConPrime, the window shown in Figure 3 appears.

FIGURE 3



ConPrime Main Menu

On new recorders, it will be necessary to set the parameters of the loaded media in order for several features like media tracking, auto-focus, film save mode, and punch centering to work correctly. From the main menu displayed in Figure 3, select the button in the upper left hand corner of the dialog, which opens the material parameter menu shown in Figure 4.

FIGURE 4



The image shows a software dialog box titled "Material Parameter". It contains several input fields and buttons. The fields are: "Name" with a dropdown menu showing "4PressFilm"; "Type" with a dropdown menu showing "Film"; "Width" with a text box containing "406" and a unit "mm"; "Polarity" with a dropdown menu showing "Negative"; "Thickness" with a text box containing "102" and a unit "µm"; "Material Rest Counter" with a dropdown menu showing "Manual"; "Length" with a text box containing "13" and a unit "m"; "OLP Program No." with a text box containing "0"; and "Dependencies" with a text box containing "0" and a button with two arrows. At the bottom, there are five icons: a film strip, a question mark, a floppy disk, a floppy disk with an exclamation mark, and a trash can. Below the icons is a "WAIT" button and a progress bar.

Material Parameter Menu

The name field is editable to help the operator easily identify the various supply cassettes. The film width and thickness must be entered correctly for proper exposure and positioning of the image.

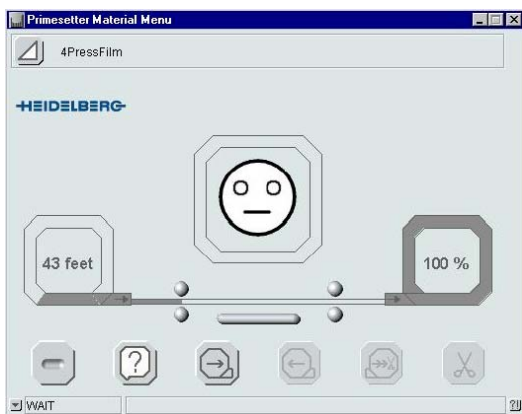
NOTE: IF MATERIAL IS LOADED ON THE DRUM AND ANY MEDIA PARAMETERS ARE CHANGED, THE FILM MUST BE UNLOADED AND RELOADED FOR THE NEW VALUES TO BE ACTIVATED.

If the media width is not set correctly, a number of supported recorder features will not function as expected, including, but not limited to: Film Save Mode (collect mode), punch centering, and exposure of maximum imageable area. The media thickness is also important for the auto-focus mechanism to function correctly – the Primesetter uses this value to assure that the laser spot is correctly focused on the media.

Once all values are set correctly, click the button with the floppy disk icon and the '!'. This will save the parameters to disk while storing them in the running recorder setup.

During power-up, the Primesetter always rewinds the media off the drum and into the supply cassette. This means that whenever the Primesetter is restarted, the media must be loaded back onto the drum before the imagesetter will accept an image from the RIP. To load the media, go to the ConPrime Main Menu (see Figure 3), and use the right-most icon (cassette outline with 2 opposing arrows) to access the Material Action menu. The dialog shown in Figure 5 will appear.

FIGURE 5



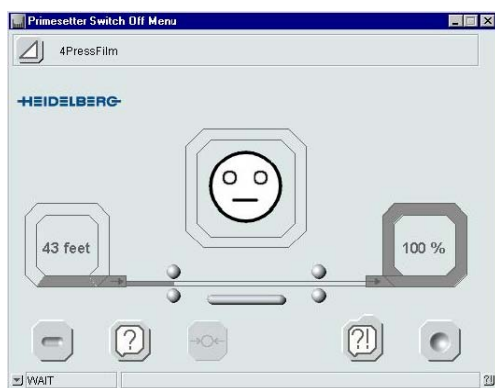
Material Action Menu

In the Material Action Menu, click the icon with the arrow pointing to the right to load media onto the drum of the recorder. Once the material loads, the "Straight-Face" icon in

the center of the window will be replaced by a “Happy-Face,” meaning the recorder is ready to accept an image from the RIP. To unload the media from the drum, use the icon with an arrow pointing to the left (this icon is grayed out in figure 5 because no material is loaded).

To shut down the Primesetter, press the power switch on top of the recorder and hold it down for approximately 5 seconds or until it beeps. After the recorder beeps, release the switch and briefly press it a second time. This will start a shutdown sequence on the recorder and it should power off in a few moments. Alternatively, you can use the Switch Off menu from within ConPrime’s Main Menu. As shown in Figure 3, click the icon on the far left to access the Switch Off menu. The dialog shown in Figure 6 will appear.

FIGURE 6



Switch Off Menu

From the Switch Off menu, use the right-most icon to start the shutdown sequence. A confirmation dialog will appear allowing the operator to verify the request. Once confirmed the recorder will shutdown.

ERROR MESSAGES

From the Switch Off menu, messages on the recorder can be displayed using the Recorder Messages button (icon with “?!” on it). This can be a useful source of information when Navigator or Raster Blaster fail to output and the cause is unclear. In addition, the operator can issue a soft reset to clear any errors and put the unit back in a running state after a failure. The soft reset button is the third button from the left, which displays 2 inward pointing arrows and a small circle (shown “grayed out” in Figure 6).

LASER INTENSITY CONTROL

The Primesetter uses three parameters to affect laser intensity: Focus, Light value, and Fine Light value. Within Xitron’s plug-in, these values are represented as the Focus (Configure Device Dialog), Exposure (Page Setup Dialog) and Bias (Configure Device Dialog) respectively.

The Exposure value on the Page Setup dialog is used to supply the recorder with its Light value. This value, in the range of 1000 to 20,000, is used to make the exposure lighter and darker. Set this to get the appropriate DMAX for the film

being used. The Bias value in the Configure Device dialog supplies the recorder with a fine light value but this value should always be set to 0. See the Speedway plug-in manual and the Navigator RIP user's manual as well as various Xitron Tech Notes for more information about calculating exposure values.

FOCUS CONTROL

Many Speedway imagesetters require a focus setting. Laser focus determines just how sharp and accurate the image will be. The Navigator allows for "automatic" generation of images that will test various focus settings. This is an important step when initially setting up the imagesetter and whenever a different film type is to be used. It may also be necessary if there is a noticeable deterioration or change in quality.

To determine if your imagesetter requires a focus setting choose the proper device in the Page Setup dialog box, then click the Configure Device button. A dialog box like that found in Figure 7 will appear.

FIGURE 7

Configure Speedway Plugin

Max Page Width (points)

Max Page Depth (points)

Mux String

PB2 Interface Card

Film Saving Mode

☐ Enable Additional margins below (in mm)

Slow scan Fast scan

Punch Control

☐ Control the punch from the Rip

☐ 1st Side Punch ☐ Foot Punch

☐ 2nd Side Punch ☐ Head Punch

☐ 3rd Side Punch ☐ Center image to punch

Minimum Film Feed (millimeters)

Fast Scan Punch Position (micro-m)

Slow Scan Punch Position (micro-m)

Herkules Exposure Control

Filter (0-5)

Focus (0-700)

Bias (Fine light)

NOTE: Values not used unless "exposure" is non-zero

OK Cancel

Xitron Navigator Configure Device window, accessed by clicking the Configure Device button in the RIP Page Setup window or the Driver Config button in Raster Blaster's Device Configuration window.

Each Speedway device will have different options available in the Configure Speedway Plug-in window. If your device has the Focus value grayed out (un-editable) in this window, then you need not worry about focus settings or focus sweeps. If, however, the Focus setting is active (as shown above) then you must proceed with focus sweeps to set this value properly.

RUNNING FOCUS SWEEPS WITH THE NAVIGATOR RIP

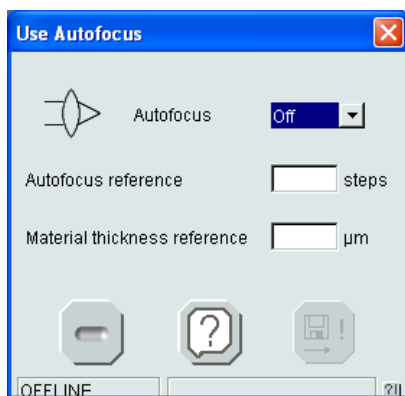
To run focus sweeps with the RIP, first determine a suitable exposure value. The process of determining the proper exposure value is covered in a number of Xitron documents and will not be reexamined here. The goal should be to image film with a density (Dmax) that is within tolerance of the media manufacturer's recommendations while maintaining an un-calibrated 50% dot that falls within + or - 8% of 50%.

Once a proper exposure has been determined, create a Page Setup for the device, set the exposure in the page setup and run the job named "PrimesetterFocusSweep" found in the RIP's \Samples folder.

NOTE: WHILE THE FILE IS NAMED
"PRIMESETTERFOCUSWEEP" IT WILL WORK FOR ALL
SPEEDWAY DEVICES THAT REQUIRE A FOCUS SETTING.

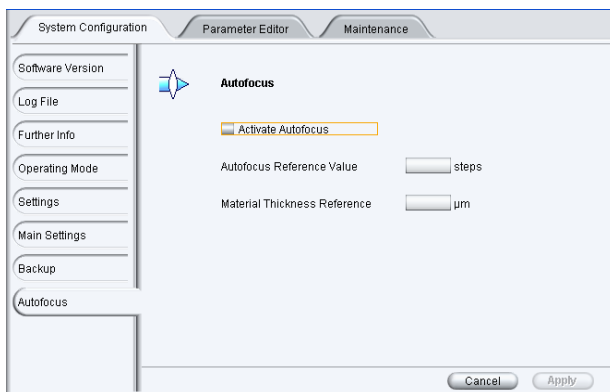
If you are installing a device like the Primesetter, which has Autofocus capability, you must disable the Autofocus during focus sweep tests as illustrated in Figures 8 and 9.

FIGURE 8



Autofocus Window from the older ConPrime interface.

FIGURE 9



Autofocus Window from the newer ConPrime Interface.

The initial run of the “PrimesetterFocusSweep” will generate nine images, each with different Focus values from 100 to 500 in steps of 50.

If the imagesetter has been operating with an older RIP, determine the focus setting used and run a compacted range sweep with the previous setting in the middle of that range. See below for instructions for changing the focus sweep range and step values.

With a densitometer, measure the density (Dmax, NOT DOT percentage) of the screened area for each focus sweep imaged. As you measure from one extreme of the focus values to the other, the density values will decrease and then increase again. The goal is to find the lowest density reading. The focus value associated with the lowest density reading is the best focus value.

If you do not have access to any previous settings, image each of the files generated by the “PrimesetterFocusSweep.” Measure the density for each image as mentioned above. You may determine that a more targeted sweep is necessary; for instance between 200 and 250 in steps of 10 or steps of 5.

If the density does not decrease and then increase it will be necessary to change the range of focus values being imaged. Change the range of the focus sweep in the direction of the focus value that produced the lowest density when reading the screened area of the focus sweep images.

To change the values in the “PrimesetterFocusSweep” use the following procedure:

Open the file in a text editor such as WordPad. Avoid using Microsoft Word or other word processing software, as it must be saved in ASCII Text format for the RIP to recognize it.

The “PrimesetterFocusSweep” file will look like this:

```
%!PS-Adobe-1.0
%%Title: Primesetter Exposure Sweep
Generator
%%Creator: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
%%EndComments

/BoxDict 4 dict def
BoxDict begin

% Change these to modify sweep
generation
/firstFocus 100 def
/lastFocus 500 def
/focusStep 50 def

% Change these to modify box size
/YSize 72 1.5 mul def
/XSize 72 6 mul def

. . .
```

While there is more to the file, the rest is not configurable. To change the sweep parameters, change the values shown below:

```
% Change these to modify sweep
generation
/firstFocus 100 def
```

```
/lastFocus 500 def  
/focusStep 50 def
```

Changing the value for `/firstFocus` will set the starting point of the sweep.

Changing the value for `/lastFocus` will set the ending point of the sweep.

Changing the value for `/focusStep` will set the steps within the sweep.

For instance, the following settings:

```
/firstFocus 300 def  
/lastFocus 350 def  
/focusStep 10 def
```

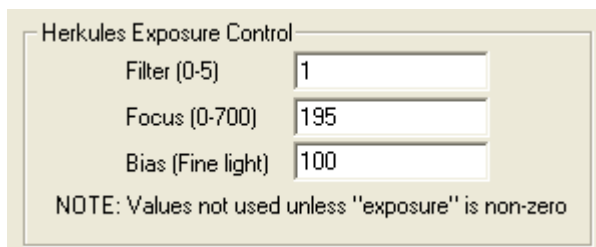
Will create a focus sweep where the first image has a focus of 300 and images will be created with focus values of 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, and 350.

After you have made the changes to your file, save it in TEXT (ASCII) format and RIP the file again to produce a new set of focus sweep images.

NOTE THAT THE VALUES PRESENTED HERE ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. ACTUAL VALUES WILL HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY RUNNING FOCUS SWEEPS ON AN INDIVIDUAL IMAGESETTER BASIS FOR EACH INSTALLATION.

Once the correct focus value is determined it must be entered in the appropriate configuration window. For imagesetters that do not have Autofocus capability, the number should be entered in the Configure Device window found under the Page Setup dialog box. For instance, on a Herkules device the focus setting is entered in the center Focus dialog box in the Exposure Control section of the Device Manager window as shown in Figure 10.

FIGURE 10



Herkules Exposure Control

Filter (0-5)	1
Focus (0-700)	195
Bias (Fine light)	100

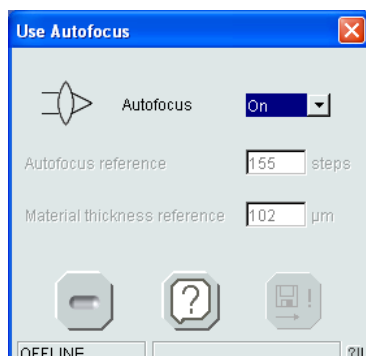
NOTE: Values not used unless "exposure" is non-zero

Exposure Control settings from the Configure Device Window.

For imagesetters that do support Autofocus, the value determined by running focus sweeps should be entered in the Autofocus dialog of the device management software. For example, with the Primesetter the information should be entered in the ConPrime application supplied with the imagesetter from Heidelberg.

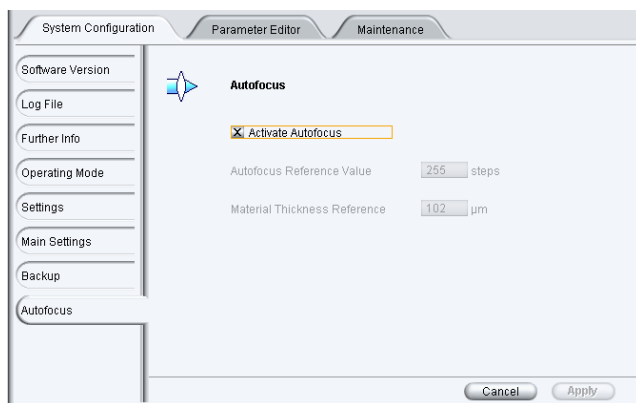
The dialog window in ConPrime will look like one of the examples in Figures 11 and 12.

FIGURE 1 1



Autofocus dialog window with values entered and Autofocus turned on in older ConPrime application.

FIGURE 1 2



Autofocus dialog window with values entered and Autofocus turned on in newer ConPrime application.

NOTE: BE SURE TO ENTER THE PROPER MATERIAL THICKNESS FOR THE MEDIA USED WHILE DETERMINING THE FOCUS. IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO SET THE AUTOFOCUS REFERENCE AND MATERIAL THICKNESS FOR ONE MEDIA TYPE. XITRON RECOMMENDS THE MOST COMMONLY USED MEDIA BE SELECTED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF ANOTHER MEDIA TYPE IS USED THE AUTOFOCUS FEATURE WILL COMPENSATE FOR THE DIFFERENT MEDIA THICKNESS.

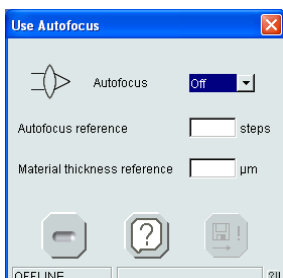
RUNNING FOCUS SWEEPS WITH THE RASTER BLASTER

It is not possible to run the “PrimesetterFocusSweep” using the Raster Blaster software because this is a special PostScript file that is only applicable to the Navigator RIP. However, it is possible to mimic the behavior of the PrimesetterFocusSweep file with some manual steps on the Raster Blaster.

To run focus tests with the Raster Blaster, first determine a suitable exposure value as discussed earlier. Once a proper exposure has been determined you will have to create a file to be sent to the Raster Blaster. This file should contain a box no smaller than 4 inches by 4 inches and containing a 98% screen. It will be necessary to send this file through the RIP creating TIFF files for imaging through Raster Blaster.

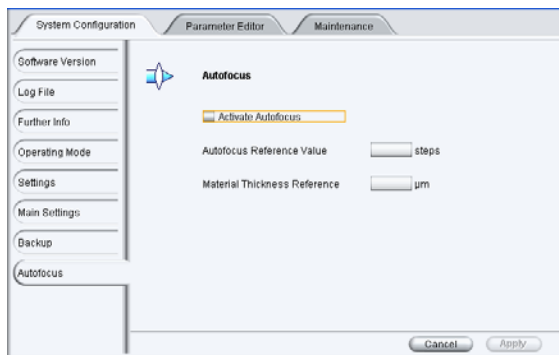
If you are installing a device like the Primesetter, which has Autofocus capability, the Autofocus MUST be disabled while focus tests are being imaged, as illustrated in Figure 13.

FIGURE 13



Autofocus Window from the older ConPrime Interface.

FIGURE 14



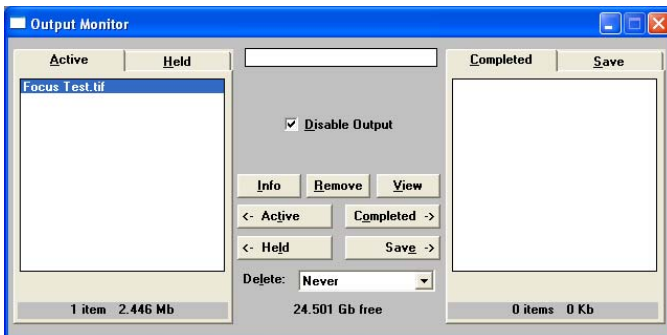
Autofocus Window from the newer ConPrime Interface.

If the imagesetter has been operating with an older RIP that is being replaced, determine the previous focus setting from the

old system before proceeding with these focus tests. Write this focus setting down for future reference.

First, configure the proper inputs and device parameters for Raster Blaster. Instructions for completing these preliminary tasks are covered in the Raster Blaster Users Manual. Once the test file described above has been RIPPed and appears in the Active Queue of the Raster Blaster software (as shown in figure 15), highlight the file and click the button labeled Info.

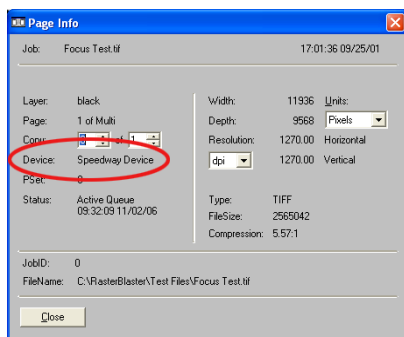
FIGURE 15



Example of single test file in the Raster Blaster Active Queue.

From the info window (shown below in Figure 14) determine the device configuration being used for file output. In this example it is the Speedway Device.

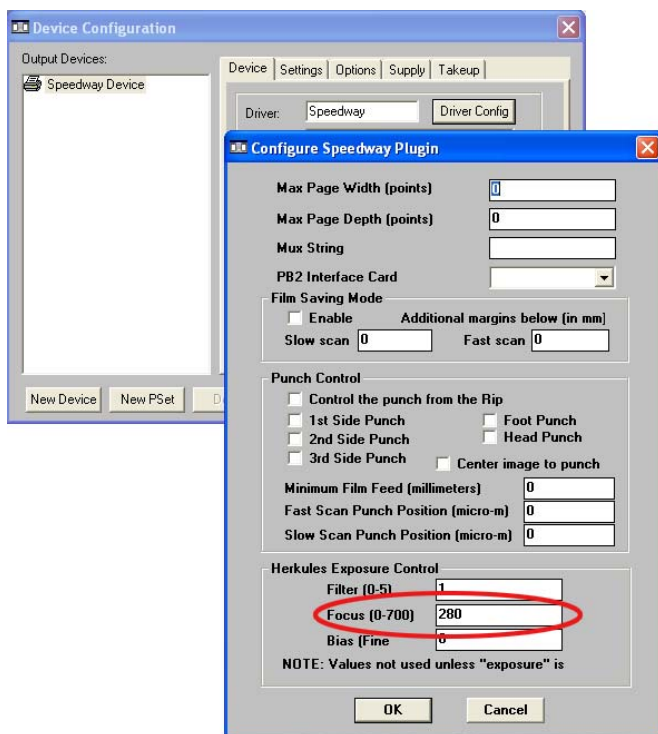
FIGURE 16



Raster Blaster Page Info dialog with device configuration highlighted.

After determining the configuration, close the Page Info window and proceed to the Device Configuration settings. Highlight the appropriate device in the Output Devices list (there may be only one) and click the Driver Config button. The windows will look like those shown in Figure 17.

FIGURE 17



Raster Blaster Device Configuration windows with Focus setting highlighted.

Since there is no ability to auto-generate focus values in the Raster Blaster, it will be necessary to determine the values best suited for your focus sweep test. For example, if the focus in the previous RIP was set to 350, you may wish to send focus tests at values of 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 378 and 380. It will

be necessary to enter each value one-at-a-time in the Focus field following the procedure outlined below:

1. Note the focus values you intend to image in the order you intend to image them.
2. Enter the first value on your list in the Focus field shown in Figure 17.
3. Click OK out of the configuration windows and allow the focus test file to image completely. (The file will move to the completed queue).
4. Disable output in the Raster Blaster Output Monitor (shown in Figure 15).
5. Drag the focus test file back into the Active Queue.
6. Enter the next value on your list in the Focus field shown in Figure 17.
7. Repeat steps 3 through 7 until an image is made using each focus value.

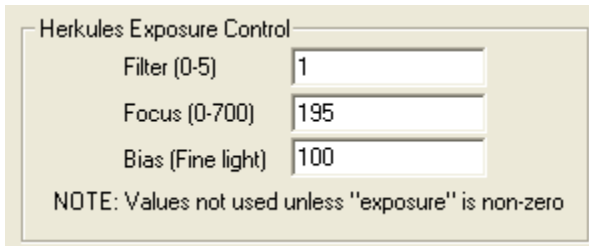
With a densitometer, measure the density (Dmax, NOT DOT percentage) of the screened area for each focus sweep imaged. As you measure from one extreme of the focus values to the other, the density values will decrease and then increase again. The goal is to find the lowest density reading. The focus value associated with the lowest density reading is the best focus value.

If the density does not decrease and then increase it will be necessary to change the range of focus values being imaged. Change the range of the focus sweep in the direction of the focus value that produced the lowest density when reading the screened area of the focus sweep images.

NOTE THAT THE VALUES PRESENTED HERE ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. ACTUAL VALUES WILL HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY RUNNING FOCUS SWEEPS ON AN INDIVIDUAL IMAGESETTER BASIS FOR EACH INSTALLATION.

Once the correct focus value is determined it must be entered in the appropriate configuration window. For imagesetters that do not have Autofocus capability, the number should be entered in the Configure Device window found under the Page Setup dialog box. For instance, on a Herkules device the focus setting is entered in the center Focus dialog box in the Exposure Control section of the Device Manager window as shown in Figure 18.

FIGURE 18



Herkules Exposure Control

Filter (0-5)	1
Focus (0-700)	195
Bias (Fine light)	100

NOTE: Values not used unless "exposure" is non-zero

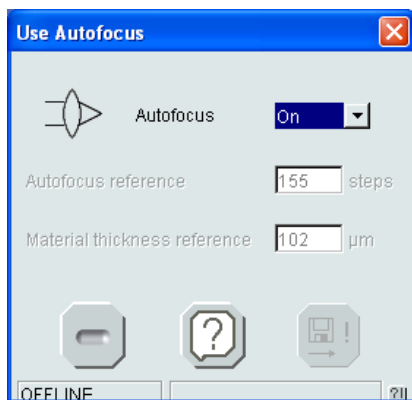
Exposure Control settings from the Configure Device Window.

For imagesetters that do support Autofocus, the value determined by running focus sweeps should be entered in the Autofocus dialog of the device management software. For example, with the Primesetter the information should be

entered in the ConPrime application supplied with the imagesetter from Heidelberg.

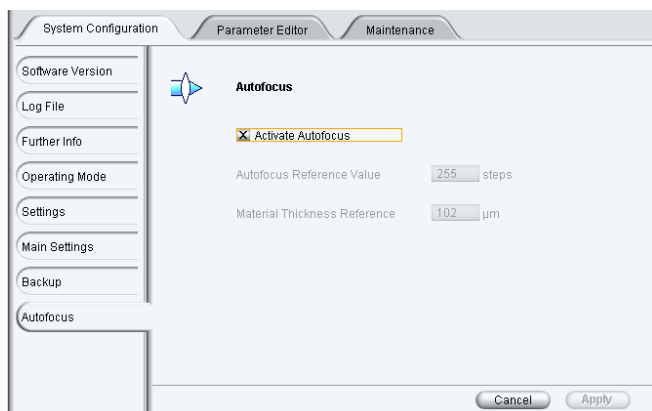
The dialog window in ConPrime will look like one of the examples in Figures 19 and 20.

FIGURE 19



Autofocus dialog window with values entered and Autofocus turned on in older ConPrime application.

FIGURE 20



Autofocus dialog window with values entered and Autofocus turned on in newer ConPrime application.

NOTE: BE SURE TO ENTER THE PROPER MATERIAL THICKNESS VALUE FOR THE MEDIA USED WHILE DETERMINING THE FOCUS. IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO SET THE AUTOFOCUS REFERENCE AND MATERIAL THICKNESS FOR ONE MEDIA TYPE. XITRON RECOMMENDS THE MOST COMMONLY USED MEDIA BE SELECTED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF ANOTHER MEDIA TYPE IS USED THE AUTOFOCUS FEATURE WILL COMPENSATE FOR THE DIFFERENT MEDIA THICKNESS.

PUNCH CONTROL AND CENTERING

Also located within the Configure Device Dialog is the ability to select and center the image to the various punch configurations available on the Primesetter. Once a punch is selected, the center point for that punch can be determined and the correct position set in the Fast scan and Slow scan punch positions. The parameter values for the punch

coordinate settings are accessible using the ConPrime Parameter editor. See the Speedway plug-in manual for a more detailed discussion of Punch centering setup.

PARAMETER EDITOR

The Parameter Editor is useful when configuring punch centering, as it contains the values for punch positioning on the imagesetter. The Parameter Editor is accessible from the older ConPrime main configuration menu by clicking the button immediately to the right of the label, Parameter Editor. In the newer ConPrime interface it is available by choosing the Parameter Editor tab while in Administration mode. In the older ConPrime application, the dialog shown in Figure 21 will appear. Similar information displays in the newer interface.

FIGURE 21



Parameter editor - older ConPrime interface.

All parameters in ConPrime are identifiable by number values called PIDs. By clicking on either the PID or Name heading in the Parameter Editor, the list can be re-sorted to make locating parameters easier. The Parameter Editor is where you'll find the punch and other parameters referred to in the Speedway Plug-in manual. The Speedway manual will supply both a name and a PID number for the requested device parameters. Please refer to the Speedway Plug-in manual for more information on punch centering and the parameter information necessary for setup.

MEDIA POSITION WITHIN SUPPLY CASSETTE

Media should always be **centered on the supply spindle**. This is essential for proper positioning of the image. In addition, the supply spindle is manufactured with fixed stops designed to restrict film widths to only those supported. Using a non-supported width will result in an incorrect start position of the image or a cropped image.

After physically placing the supply cassette into the Primesetter the film must be loaded onto the drum. After the film loading procedure is completed the recorder is ready to accept image data from the RIP or Raster Blaster.

To load media using the older ConPrime interface:

1. Access the "Material Action Menu."

2. Click the supply cassette icon with the right arrow to start the load material operation.

BEFORE LOADING FILM, IT IS WISE TO CHECK SEVERAL OF THE FILM PARAMETERS. THE FILM PARAMETER MENU IS ACCESSED USING THE ICON IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER OF THE MAIN MENU (FIGURE 3), MATERIAL ACTION MENU OR SWITCH OFF MENU. THE DIALOG IN FIGURE 4 WILL BE DISPLAYED. REFER TO PREVIOUS SECTIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

To load media using the newer ConPrime interface:

1. On the left side of the main screen, click the arrow pointing to the right to load media.

DISCHARGING MEDIA

When not using an online-processor, the take-up cassette on the Primesetter uses a pair of rollers and an opaque sheet to wind the exposed media into the cassette. The media is cut and stored in the cassette after each exposure (if Film Saving/Collect mode is OFF). The recorder performs this cut prior to each exposure, flushing exposed media from the drum. There is no need to select “cut after job” on the Raster Blaster or Navigator software – in fact, doing so will cause errors.

The Primesetter behaves differently when coupled with an online processor, advancing and holding the film until the start of the next exposure. This is done in case exposures are smaller than the minimum sheet size the OLP can handle. At the beginning of the next exposure, the Primesetter will decide

if it should cut and eject or simply gang the previous exposure with the next (in the case of small images). Again, it is important NOT to select “cut after job” as an option within the RIP or Raster Blaster software.

The final exposure in a series can be ejected using either the ConPrime application or the “Discharge to OLP” option on either the Navigator Rip menu bar or the SpeedwayCut application. If Film Saving (Collect) mode is on, use the Xitron cut commands. In this case, failure to use the cut/discharge features in the Xitron interface may cause unanticipated results.

From the Navigator RIP, use the “Cut and Collect” selection from the device pull-down menu. This is the preferred way to discharge media from the recorder (as opposed to using the manual cut from ConPrime) because the Film Save Mode (Collect) information automatically updates when this method is used.

Similarly, the Navigator RIP has a pull down menu device option for “Discharge to Online Processor.” This option differs from the cut in that the media is ONLY advanced. It is up to the Primesetter to determine if the media will be cut. Use this option when using “Film Save Mode.”

FILM SAVING MODE

Within the Xitron plug-in, the Configure Device Dialog contains a Film Save Mode option. This is equivalent to the Heidelberg Collect Mode. With each job, the plug-in will attempt to “pack” the image on the drum to save film. When using the Film Save Mode, it is important to do all cuts and feeds through the Xitron interface.

IMPORTANT! NEVER HAVE MORE THAN ONE FILM SAVING, GANGING OR COLLECT MODE CHOSEN AT THE SAME TIME. EACH WILL BEHAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY WHEN USED INDIVIDUALLY. IF ANY TWO OR MORE ARE ON AT THE SAME TIME CONFLICTS AND ERRORS WILL OCCUR.

INTERFACE

Use the Speedway interface cable, part number 020-0446-030, to connect the Primesetter to the Xitron interface card. At the recorder, use the connector labeled Speedway Taxi in the connector bay shown earlier in Figure 2.