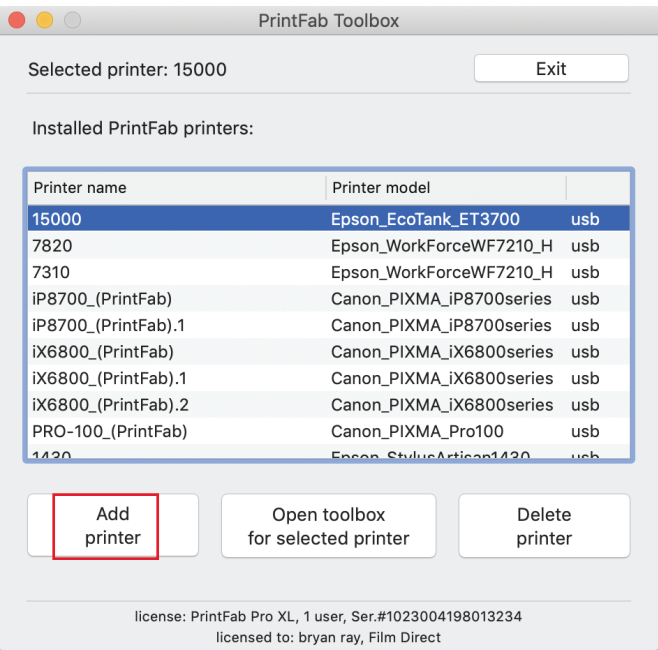# ET-8550 Setup

For the ET-8550 install the Graphics One Screenmate ink only. Do not mix any other ink in the tanks. Failure to do so will damage the head and void the warranty.

Follow the Epson instructions that come with the printer on how to load the ink, film and calibrate the head if necessary.

- The ink install should take roughly 15 minuets. When the ink is done charging follow the prompts for any additional calibration.

-Connect the printer to the computer via a USB cable. Do not use WIFI. Follow the prompts on your computer to install the printer. You may need to go to Epson.com and download the latest driver if the computer fails to install the printer on it's own.

-With the printer installed on the system run a test print to make sure the printer and computer are communicating. Once confirmed that the printer is functioning properly download and install the PrintFab RIP software.

With Printfab installed, open PrintFab and click the +Add Printer button

Add the ET-8550 series printer.

To setup and adjust the PrintFab print settings use the following steps.

8. Open your favorite art program or the program you will use to print the files. Open the file you wish to print and open the print dialog box. Here is where you will choose the printer, the media see and setup the PrintFab settings.

  A. Make sure the printer selected is your printer with the (Printfab) designation at the end of the name.

  B. Choose the media size. A3+ is 13x19. If you're using a roll printer you will need to setup custom paper sizes see Instructions.

  C. Click on "Setup" to access the PrintFab Print Settings. Please note, depending on your art program this may look a little different.
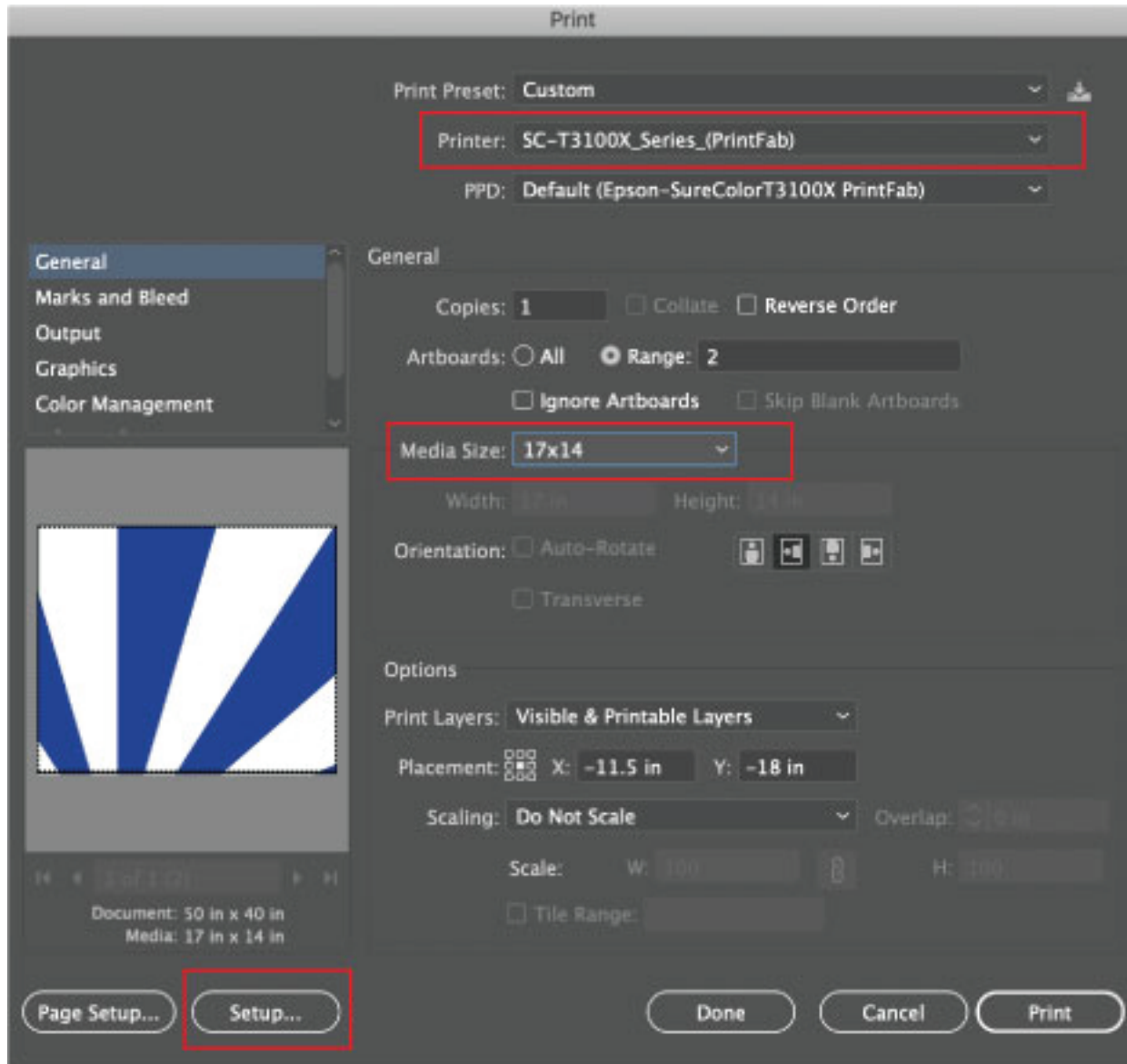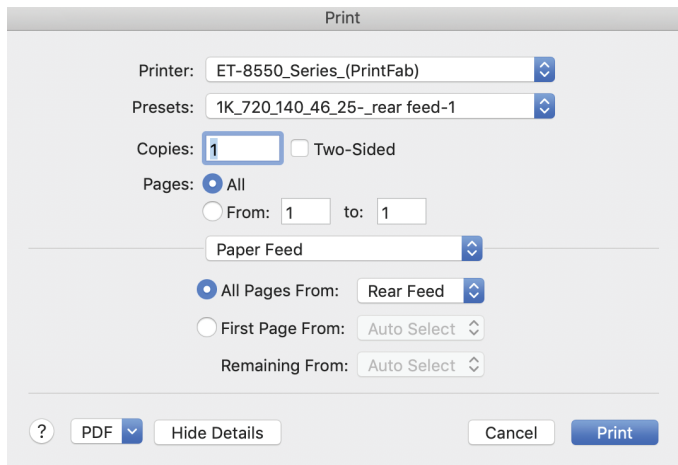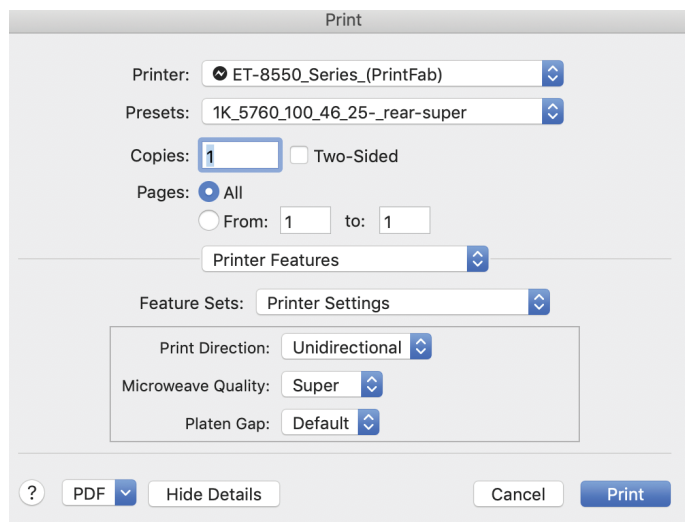
Click on the button that says Layout and scroll down to Paper Feed
use the following settings
Choose All Pages From: Rear Feed
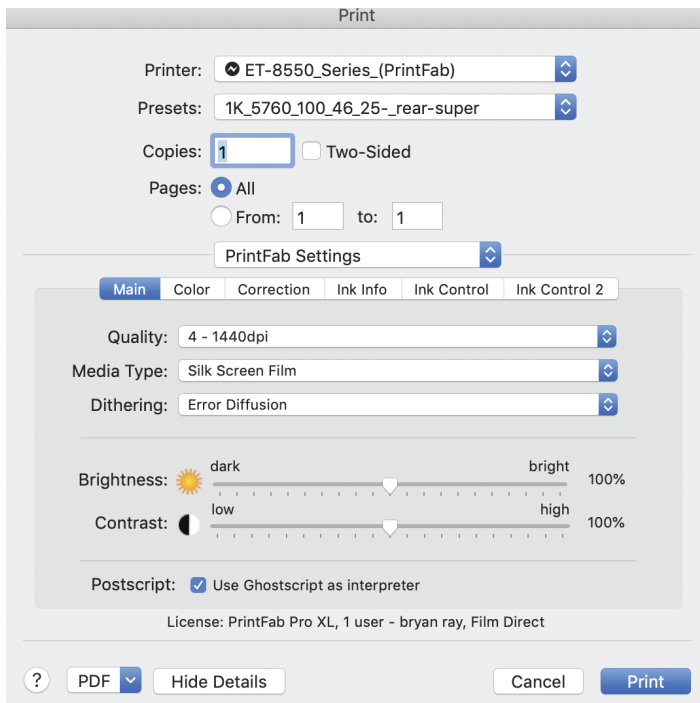
From the same drop down menu as above scroll down to PrintFab Settings
use the following settings
Page size: A3+/ US B+ (13x19)
Tray: Rear
Page: Silk Screen Film
Quality: 1440 (or 720 for high speed)
Brightness and contrast 100%

Under Feature Sets : Printer Settings Choose
Print Direction: Unidirectional
Microweave Quality: Super
Platen Gap Default
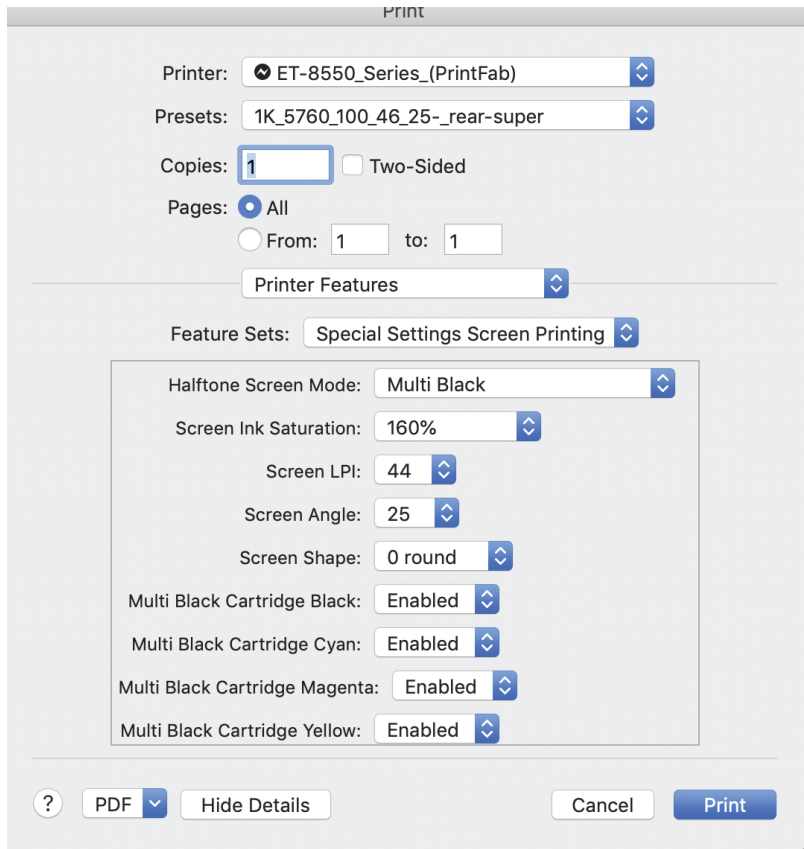
Scroll to Special Settings Screen Printing under Feature Sets. Choose the following settings
Halftone Screen Mode: Multi Black
Screen Ink Saturations: 160%
Screen LPI 44 (for 230+ mesh screens)
Screen Angle: 25
Screen Shape: Round or Ellipse
Leave all the cartridges enabled.

Halftone Screen Mode:
You will either need to choose Single Black or Multi Black depending on how many black cartridges your printer has installed. Do not leave it set to Off.
-This is where you can change how many cartridges of black you will use under the "Halftone Screen Mode", Multi Black uses all the cartridges. Single black just uses the primary black. If you want to use a LPI, angle or dot shape not on the PrintFab drop down menu
then choose Single or Multi-black (Pre-halftoned) . When (Pre-halftoned) is selected the printer will use the LPI, angle and dot shape from your art program. One of these settings must be chosen or the printer will not print halftones. If the Muti Black feature is turned on you can enable or disable individual cartridges.

Screen Ink Saturation -
The "Screen ink saturation" option is how you adjust the ink density up and down. 200% is the default. Start there and change to a
higher percentage if the print looks light or banded. Lower the percentage if the ink on the film has a white halo or takes a long time to dry.

LPI Angle and Shape
The LPI Angle and Shape are user defined. We recommend dividing your screen mesh by 5 and use that number as your LPI. For most
halftone work we suggest a Screen Angel of 25 and dot shape of round or ellipse.

Saving the Print Settings:
Save these settings as a Preset.
a. Click on Presets
b. Scroll to Save current settings as presets
c. Label it
d. Do this twice, label the second preset with the same name as the first and add _b. You will need two presets. It will default to one or the other when you print, however you will always need to choose the opposite of what is shown for it to print correctly. If you don't click on a preset it will default to the "Plain Paper" setting and the print quality will suffer. If it prints really fast and the print quality is light that is how you can tell that it is not using the correct preset or printer settings. Please see our video for more info on this.

When finished close out of PrintFab and you may need to restart your art program for these options to become available.

Printing through the RIP
When setting up the design in your art program you will want to use a swatch that is 100% black or a Pantone Spot color from your spot color pallet for solid prints. We highly recommended becoming familiar with how spot colors work in your particular art program. By adjusting the slider on your color swatch to less than 100% the print will automatically halftone on your film.
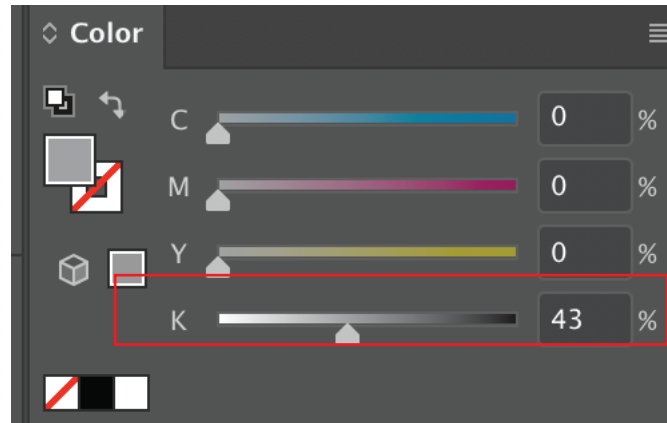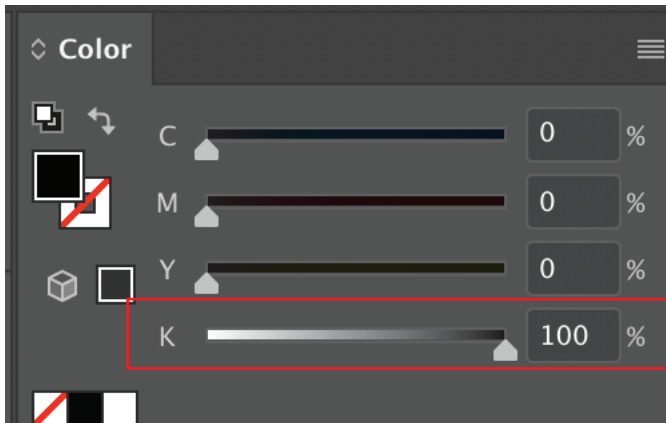
Opening the Pantone spot colors in Adobe Illustrator from your swatch pallet
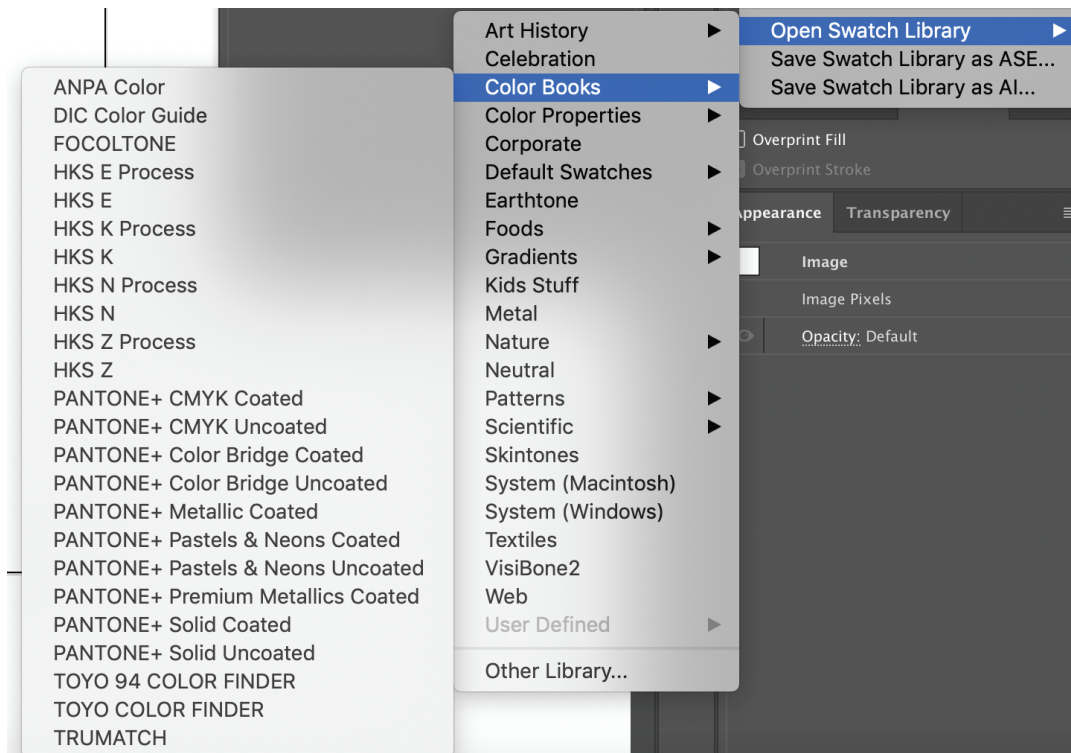
With the artwork complete and ready to print open your print dialog box. It should look something like this.
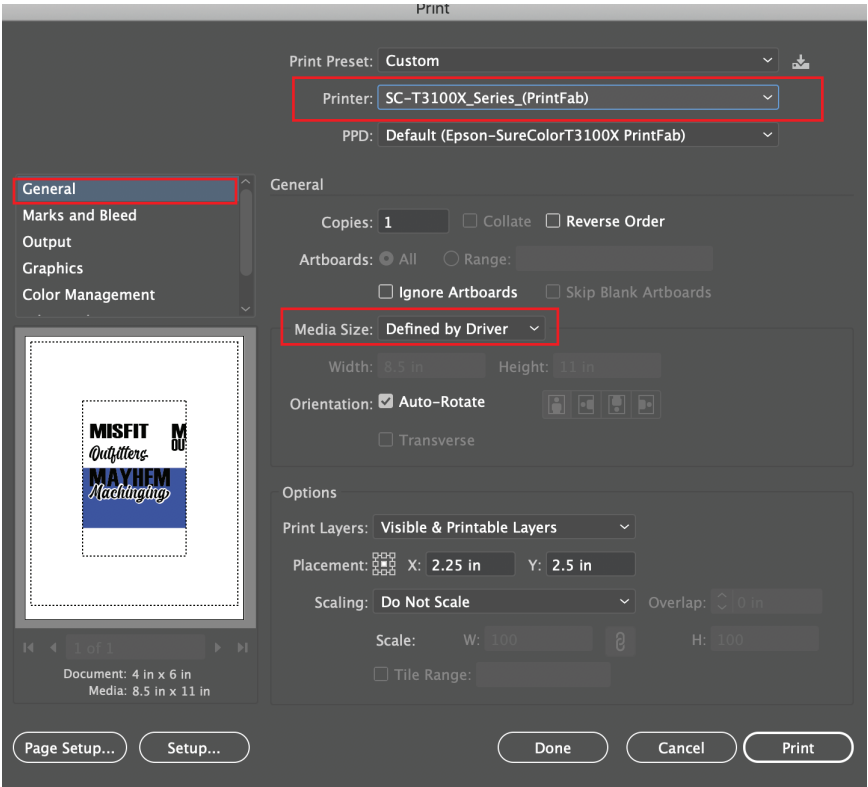

General Tab
For Printer choose the ET-8550 (PrintFab)
For Media Size choose the preset paper size that matches your document size. A3+ is 13x19.

Next go to the Output Tab
For mode choose: Separations, UP Right Reading, Positive (unless you need a negative print).
Choose which colors you want to print. The printer icon next to the color designates which colors will print. PrintFab will automatically override the Frequency and angle settings shown here unless you change the "Halftone Screen Mode" in PrintFab under the options tab to "Multi-Black Prehalftoned". With this enabled you can use the frequency and angle settings from your art program.
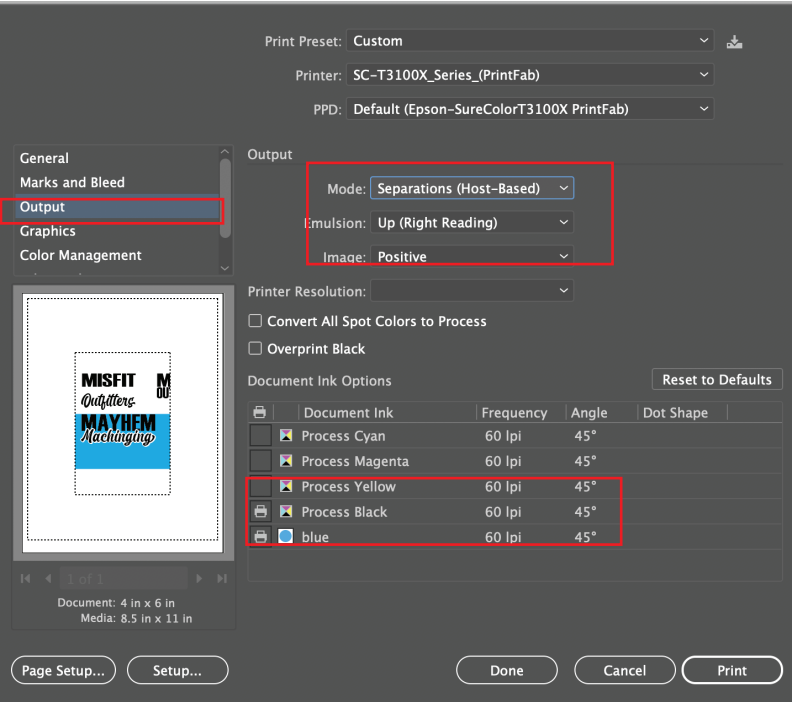
Next click on the Setup button. Choose one of the presets you previously setup. Failure to choose a preset will cause the printer to print really fast and light

Click print to exit this screen then click print on the print dialog screen to send the job to the printer.