

# HP Designjet Printers: Purchasing Adobe® Postscript Models

## September 2007



### Adobe PostScript

PostScript is a page description language developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated. It is a way of describing what a page should look like. Its main application is its ability to handle complex text and graphics. Most HP Designjet platforms offer standard and Adobe PostScript models. And in all cases, the HP Designjet printers with embedded Adobe PostScript often have advantages that go far beyond their ability to print PostScript files.

### General Guidelines

In general, traditional line drawing uses are least likely to need PostScript. But even someone who prints primarily line drawings may want or need to choose a model with PostScript. Users should always opt for the Adobe PostScript model if any of the following is true:

1. Your primary applications (or those of someone who shares your device) are those from the Adobe Suite of software, such as Illustrator, PhotoShop, or InDesign. In general, any of these applications, especially if they use a mixture of vector and raster images, will yield the best results when using an Adobe PostScript driver.
2. Your company or organization has standardized on PostScript printers. Some IT managers require that all equipment be PostScript compatible for simplicity and consistency of support.
3. Your particular application generates only PostScript files. This is not common, but check with your application vendor if you are not sure.
4. You utilize EPS, or embedded PostScript images in your files. Some clip art, for instance, is only available in EPS format, especially on Macintosh computers. These images will only print correctly on a printer with PostScript capabilities.
5. You print primarily PDF. Any HP Designjet printer can be used to print a PDF file – but for units without embedded PostScript capability, the file must be opened, viewed, and printed via the HP-GL/2 driver. Nearly all HP Designjet printers that have embedded PostScript offer the ability to queue and print PDF files *without ever opening the file*. For example, you could select 10 PDF files, send them to the printer, and have them print without ever viewing them or accessing the driver. This can be a huge time saver in an office where PDF files transmission is the standard. It also ensures that the results will be similar across computer and printer platforms.
6. You may need any of these capabilities in the future. Most HP Designjet printers cannot be upgraded to PostScript capabilities after purchase. So the decision must be made at the time of purchase.



## Printer Specific Guidelines

Adobe PostScript models from different printer families have slightly different advantages. In each case, certain capabilities of the PostScript model are unique to that model, even though they may have little or nothing to do with the PostScript language capability itself.

- **HP Designjet Z3100ps GP**

The HP Designjet Z3100ps GP printers offer these additional capabilities:

- **HP-GL/2 language capability:** For printing traditional line drawings and legacy plt or HP-GL/2 files. (Note: HP-GL/2 capability is also available as an option to the base Z3100 model, but is standard on the PostScript model.)
- **Queuing capabilities:** The ability to queue files in the printer. (Note: The HP-GL/2 upgrade for the Z3100 model will also support queuing capability, although not of PostScript files.)
- **Advanced Profiling Solution:** This includes the ability to make both CMYK and RGB custom profiles (standard models can only generate RGB profiles) using the printer's internal spectrophotometer and allows profiles to be edited. Also includes a colorimeter to enable screen to print color management
- **Direct submission of TIFF and JPEG files:** The ps GP model allows you to send TIFF and JPEG files directly to the printer without opening an application. Rather than importing TIFF or JPEG images into an application and then printing via the driver, you can simply select the files and print them. You still have many options you would have in a standard driver – scaling, print mode selection, etc – but without opening an application.

- **HP Designjet T1100ps**

The HP Designjet T1100ps printers offer these additional capabilities:

- **Direct submission of TIFF and JPEG files:** The ps model allows you to send TIFF and JPEG files directly to the printer without opening an application. Rather than importing TIFF or JPEG images into an application and then printing via the driver, you can simply select the files and print them – you still have many options you would have in a standard driver – scaling, print mode selection, etc – but without opening an application.

- **HP Designjet 4000ps and 4500ps**

The HP Designjet 4000ps and 4500ps printers offer these additional capabilities:

- **Macintosh Support:** The standard HP Designjet 4000 and 4500 models do not offer a raster driver for Apple Macintosh platforms. While there are a few CAD programs for the Macintosh which output HP-GL/2, for most Macintosh printing you will need either the 4X00ps model or a third-party RIP.

- **HP Designjet Z6100ps**

The HP Designjet Z6100ps printers offer these additional capabilities:

- **Macintosh Support:** The standard HP Designjet Z6100 models do not offer a raster driver for Apple Macintosh platforms. While there are a few CAD programs for the Macintosh which output HP-GL/2, these are few and for most Macintosh printing, you will need either the Z6100ps model or a third-party RIP.
- **CMYK Profiling:** You may generate custom CMYK ICC profiles utilizing the printer's internal spectrophotometer and the supplied software. The standard Z6100 units cannot generate custom profiles without the addition of either the optional Advanced Profiling Solution or a third-party RIP which supports profile creation.

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