
Grafična tehnologija - Merjenje in izračun rastrske tonske vrednosti spot barve

Graphic technology - Measurement and calculation of spot colour tone value

Technologie graphique - Mesurage et calcul de la valeur de tons des couleurs d'accompagnement

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Graphic technology — Measurement and calculation of spot colour tone value

*Technologie graphique — Mesurage et calcul de la valeur de tons des
couleurs d'accompagnement*

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 130, *Graphic technology*.

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Introduction

This document defines a new metric Spot Colour Tone Value (SCTV) for the determination of the tone value of a spot colour ink. Spot colours in this document are defined as non-process colours (process colours being the CMYK 4-colour primary inks). This method produces approximately uniform visual spacing of the tones between the unprinted substrate and the 100% coverage, known as the solid ink. This metric is calculated from either the measured spectral reflectance factors or from colorimetric values computed from the same spectral data.

Historically, spot colours have been managed by measuring the solid ink value only, with no clear guidelines or methodology for measuring intermediate halftones. For artwork that only incorporates the spot ink at full coverage, this can be a reasonable practice; however, for artwork that includes gradations of the spot colour, which can print alone or in combination with the other inks, a formal strategy for managing the spot colour tone is required. This solution has been to print linear scales and use those values as a reference tone for alignment. This practice renders different results from each print supplier.

In the past, spot colour tones have been measured using the standard process colour tones methodology based on ISO status density measurement using a set of spectral products optimised for cyan, magenta and yellow inks. This method does not work well with intermediate tones of spot colours and in many cases produced a tone scale far from being perceptually uniform. Hence, there is a need for a new metric that will quantify the intermediate tones of spot colours in a more perceptually uniform way.

This document is the result of work done by many people in developing and testing a range of candidate metrics. In particular, significant contributions were made by William B. Birkett, Charles Spontelli and Hanno Hoffstadt.

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Graphic technology — Measurement and calculation of spot colour tone value

1 Scope

This document defines a metric for assessing intermediate tones of a spot ink. This method for the calculation of Spot Colour Tone Value (SCTV) produces approximately uniform visual spacing of tones between substrate and solid. It can be calculated from spectral reflectance or colorimetric measurements of the solid ink, substrate and one or more patches of intermediate tones to be measured.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 13655, *Graphic technology — Spectral measurement and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1 colour exchange format

CxF/X

standard defining a format for the communication of spot ink characterisation data (CxF/X-4)

3.2 spot colour ink

ink which is not part of the set of process inks

Note 1 to entry: Spot colour inks are often used when printing brand colours.

[SOURCE: ISO 12647-7, 3.9]

3.3 Spot Colour Tone Value

SCTV

value which describes the apparent halftone area for a non-process ink

Note 1 to entry: The series of all possible tone values between the unprinted substrate and the fully covered, solid tone will produce an approximately uniform visual spacing of the colours of the printed tones. The range of this metric is 0 % to 100 %, where 0 represents substrate and 100 represents solid spot colour.

4 Requirements

4.1 Calculation of spot colour tone value

This subclause defines a formula for Spot Colour Tone Value (SCTV) that depends on standard colorimetric variables. Two sub-clauses then outline the steps for calculating SCTV from spectral reflectance data and from CIELAB values.

For back-lit materials, spectral transmittance should be used in place of spectral reflectance.

NOTE The calculation of SCTV can be generalized to the measurement of regular transmittance or diffuse transmittance factor for use in the determination of tone values of printed back-lit signs. The details of making such measurements are beyond the scope of this document.

The SCTV of an intermediate tone of a spot ink is defined as a substrate-relative metric composed of three “value” components and normalized between substrate (0 %) and spot ink solid (100 %), as shown in [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$\text{SCTV} = 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{(V_{xt} - V_{xp})^2 + (V_{yt} - V_{yp})^2 + (V_{zt} - V_{zp})^2}{(V_{xs} - V_{xp})^2 + (V_{ys} - V_{yp})^2 + (V_{zs} - V_{zp})^2}} \quad (1)$$

where

V_{xs}, V_{ys}, V_{zs} are V_x, V_y, V_z values calculated for the spot ink solid;

V_{xp}, V_{yp}, V_{zp} are V_x, V_y, V_z values calculated for the substrate;

V_{xt}, V_{yt}, V_{zt} are V_x, V_y, V_z values calculated for the spot ink tone.

The value components are defined to have functional form similar to that of CIE L^* , as shown in [Formulae \(2\)–\(6\)](#):

$$V_x = f\left(\frac{X}{X_n}\right) \times 116 - 16 \quad (2)$$

$$V_y = f\left(\frac{Y}{Y_n}\right) \times 116 - 16 \quad (3)$$

$$V_z = f\left(\frac{Z}{Z_n}\right) \times 116 - 16 \quad (4)$$

where

X, Y, Z are tristimulus values calculated as specified in ISO 13655;

X_n, Y_n, Z_n are tristimulus values of the selected illuminant and observer, which will normally be D50 for graphic arts applications as specified in ISO 13655.

and where

$$f(u) = (u)^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad \text{if } u > \left(\frac{6}{29}\right)^3 \quad (5)$$

$$f(u) = \left(\frac{941}{108}\right) \cdot (u) + \left(\frac{4}{29}\right) \quad \text{if } u \leq \left(\frac{6}{29}\right)^3 \quad (6)$$