



## Color-Key III Proofing Material Overview

*All Color-Key III materials are light sensitive films and must be protected from extraneous light. Single sheets should be removed from the protective boxes and handled only under yellow light.*

Color-Key III negative overlay proofing films are negative-acting films designed to simulate the process ink hue and density specifications for offset publication.

Production of a Color-Key III proof involves three steps for each color: **expose, process and mount.**

When complete, a Color-Key III proof is composed of exposed and processed color sheets (overlays) mounted on a paper base.

### General information:

Color-Key III materials are shipped in boxes which indicate their contents. Each box will be marked with the size and color of the contents. Be sure that the color you select matches the negative and/or masks you will be exposing.

Remove only a single sheet at a time for exposure. Do not remove "one of each" and lay them down in preparation for exposure.

The coated side is determined by holding the sheet of material with the long dimension

horizontal. When a notch is evident on the lower right side, or the lower right corner has been cut at an angle, the emulsion will be on top, facing you.

Punch registration holes into the Color-Key III sheet using the same punch used on your masking sheets.

Punch the Color-Key material on the short side with the emulsion facing up.

Place a pin registration bar on the vacuum frame rubber blanket and on top of the yellow or orange masking sheets.

### Step 1: Exposure

(1) Place the first Color-Key III color sheet, coated side down, over the pins on the vacuum frame mat. (If you punched the material correctly, this will happen automatically when you place it on the pin registration bar.

(2) Next, place the color separation film, emulsion (dull) side down, on the registration pins. This will place the coated side of the Color-Key III color sheet in contact with the film negative emulsion.

(3) Expose the film using the time or integrator values provided by the professor.

### Step 2: Process

*If you are processing on a light table, turn off the light before placing the Color-Key III material on the surface.*

(1) Pour about a 3 1/2 puddle

of solution onto the emulsion side of the exposed Color-Key III material.

(2) Using a soft, lint-free pad, immediately swab the developer solution over the entire surface, using minimum pressure.

(3) Let the dampened film sit for approximately 10-15 seconds.

(4) Using only the pressure generated by the wet pad, use back and forth horizontal and vertical strokes over the entire surface until the colored coating on all non-image areas has been removed.

Do not use circular motion for this developing step. It can cause weak portions of your image to be removed.

(4) Place your developed Color-Key III material into a tray of water and gently wash to remove any remaining chemical residue.

(5) Do not run through a film dryer. Matte dry between absorbent sheeting materials.

### Step 3: Mounting

For your four-color process proof, mount as follows:

(1) Punch a piece of the mount material which will be provided.

(2) Mount your Color-Key III elements on the pins, beginning with yellow, follows (in sequence) by magenta, cyan and black.

(3) If all elements are in

proper register and the colors are correct, trim one inch of the image material from the right side of each of the four Color-Keys. Trim only one color at a time. Do not cut the mounting material.

(4) Begin to remount your Color-Keys in sequence, as before. After each one is placed on the registration pins, place a piece of 1-inch masking tape along the trimmed edge, affixing the individual color sheet to the mount material.

Repeat this process for each color, in sequence, placing each additional layer of tape directly over the previous one. (You should only see a single strip of tape when you have mounted all of the Color-Keys.)

(5) Using a ball-point or other fine-line pen and your line gauge, measure the three non-taped sides and place a single mark in the black Color-Key layer indicating the place where all elements will be trimmed.

(6) Using the guillotine cutter, trim the sides as demonstrated by the professor or lab assistant.