

ALLEN DATAGRAPH

Technical Support Bulletin: Using Adobe Illustrator with Allen Printer Driver for Objects modified with Effects Menu

Last Updated August 26, 2004

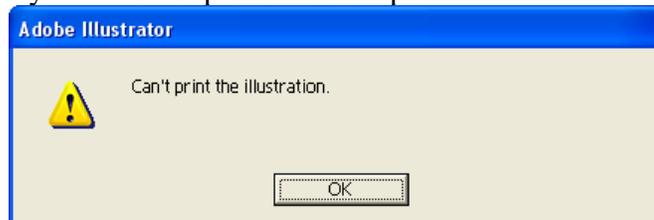
In general you should use Allen Print to send data to the printer driver. See [Tile Adobe Web Site Copy / CD Copy](#) document. Allen Print is not sent the correct shapes of objects that were modified with the Adobe Effects menu. In this case you have to use the standard Print from Adobe as described below. You can use the Filter Menu to modify objects as Adobe Illustrator works correctly with objects that are modified with the filter Menu. The other solution is to export the file to *.eps and then reopen the file opening the eps file.

Adobe Illustrator has a 15-bit graphics driver and the Allen Datagraph Cutter driver is a 32-bit driver. This difference in technology requires some care in getting the programs to work together.

The Adobe Illustrator 15-bit graphics driver is limited to 16384 units of measure so at 1016 DPI the page size is limited to 16 inches square. The table below shows the maximum DPI setting for the Image sizes. You should select the paper size shown in the Max Image Size column.

Min Image Size	Max Image Size	DPI
0" (0 cm) x 0" (0 cm)	16" (40 cm) x 16" (40 cm)	1016
16" (27 cm) x 16" (27 cm)	32" (81 cm) x 32" (81 cm)	508
32" (81 cm) x 32" (81 cm)	64" (162 cm) x 64" (162 cm)	254
64" (162 cm) x 64" (162 cm)	129" (327 cm) x 129" (327 cm)	127

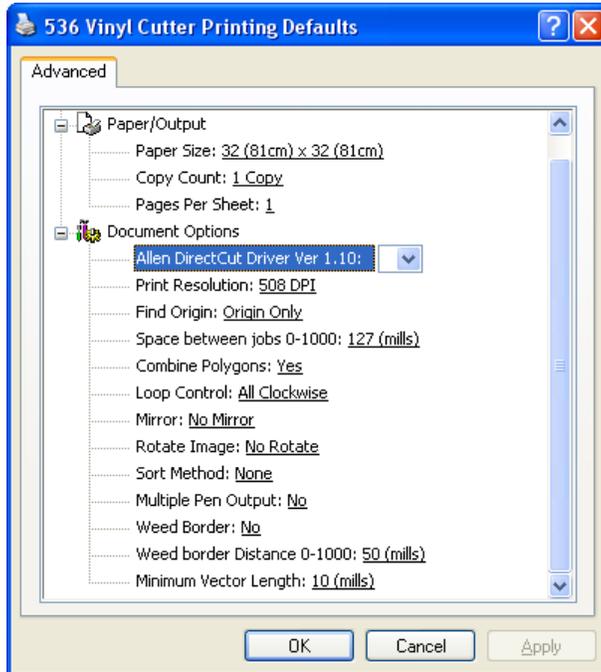
If you do not limit the media size / DPI setting as shown in the above table Adobe Illustrator will display the error or provide no output.



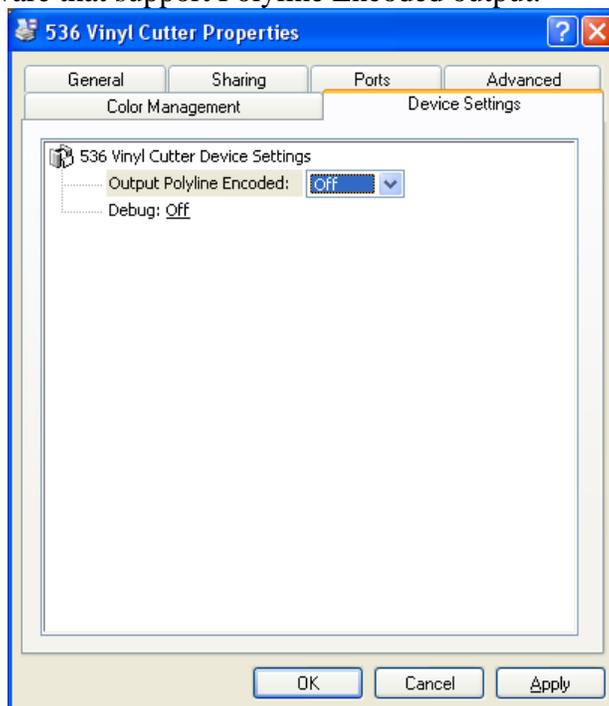
At lower DPI the end points of the cut lines are placed into quantums. At 1016 DPI you have full resolution of the cutter, at 508 you only have only even numbered end points, at 254 all end points are divisible by 4, etc. This causes some inaccuracies in the end point placement and can cause distortions in the plotted image. If you have larger images you must use Allen Print.

Adobe Illustrator Tutorial

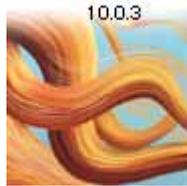
Using Start, [Settings (win 2000)], Control Panel
Double click on (Printers and Faxes (XP)) or (Printers (win 2000))
Right click on Allen Cutter Driver and select properties.
Select Advanced, Printing Defaults. Set paper size to 32 x 32. Print quality to 508 dpi
(see table above for other sizes), Find Origin to Origin Only (for smartmark), Combine
polygons = yes. Then click on OK.



Select Device Settings and turn off Output Polyline Encoded. This option makes the file sent to cutter larger but easier to read by humans. See the help file for the cutter driver for versions of firmware that support Polyline Encoded output.

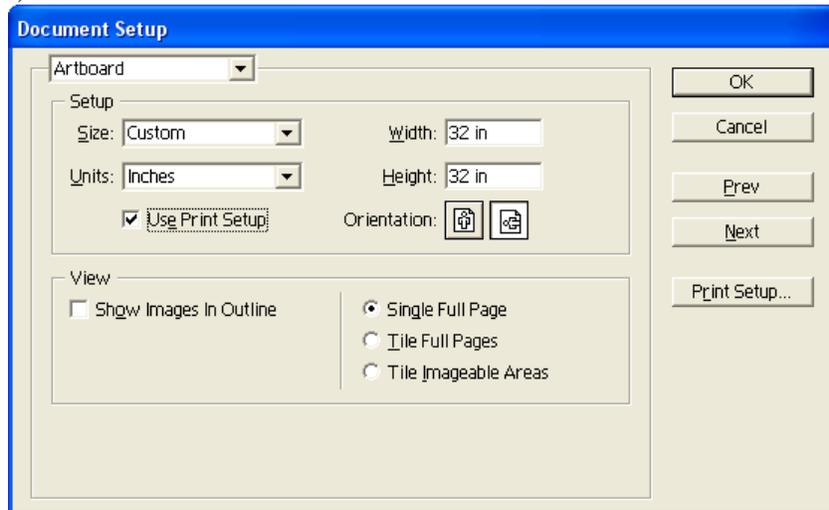


Open Adobe Illustrator

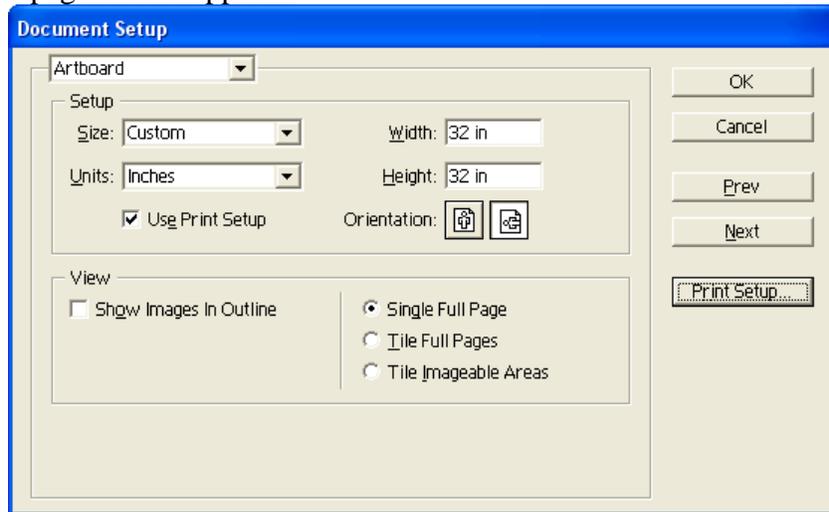


Verify that a 10.0.3 or greater appears on Illustrator in the top right corner of the picture in splash screen. If not upgrade to 10.0.3 using help adobe online. Adobe Illustrator CS also works correctly.

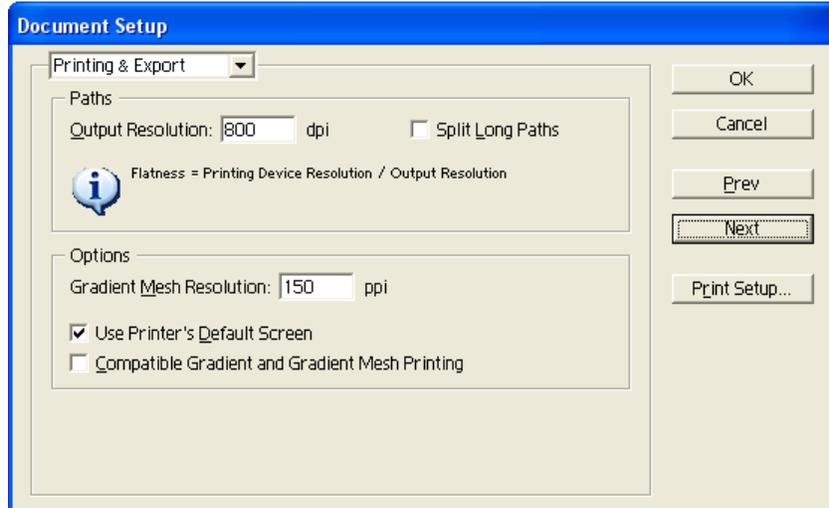
Click on File, New



In file Document Setup,
On the Artboard page
Check the use print setup box
Select printer setup on artboard and select the Allen Printer Driver.
The Artboard page should appear as follows:



The Printing and Export page is obtained by clicking next. The default settings are shown below.



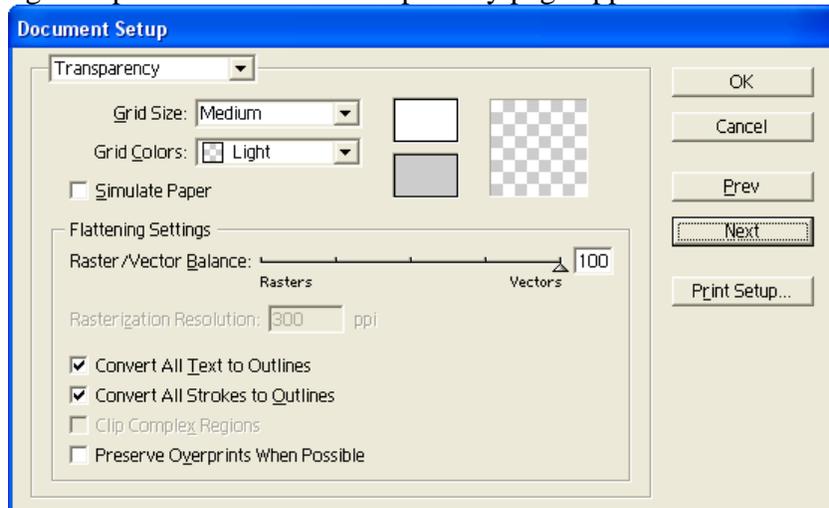
Click on Next.

On the transparency page move the slider to 100% vectors

Check the “convert all text to outlines” checkbox.

Check the “convert all strokes to outlines” checkbox

After changing the options above the Transparency page appears as follows:



Select rectangle tool from tool menu

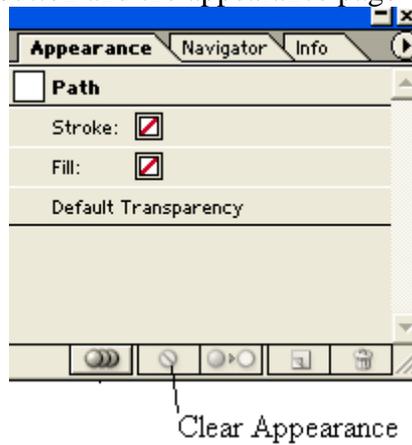


Rectangle tool

Draw a rectangle and place it on the media.

Ctrl – A to select all

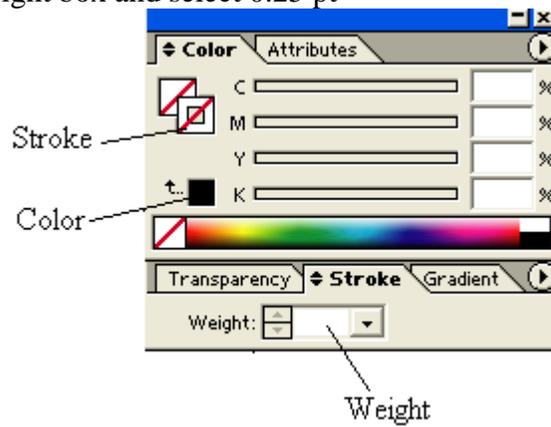
Click on Clear Appearance button and the appearance page will now appear as follows:



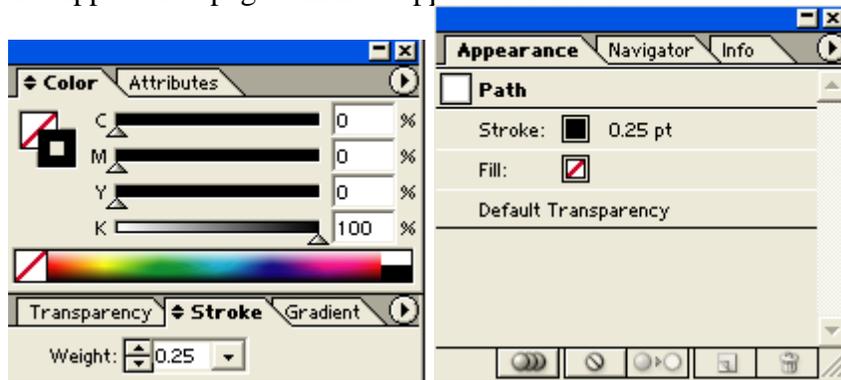
Click on stroke button

Click on black color button

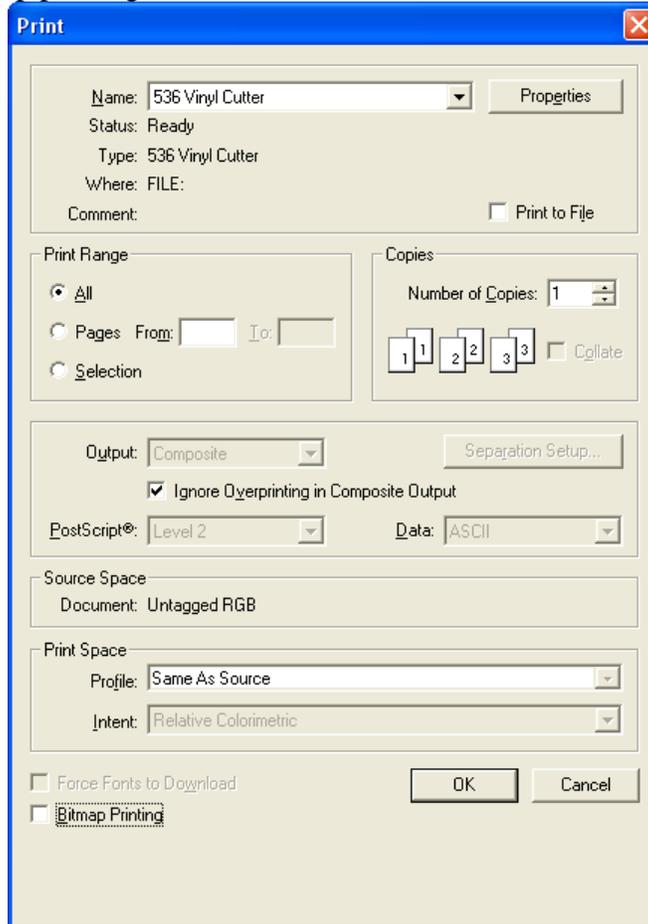
Click on Arrow on weight box and select 0.25 pt



The Color and Appearance page will now appear as follows:



Click on file, print
Uncheck the “bitmap printing” checkbox.



Click on OK

If you check the print to file option prior to OK and specify c:\aitest.wri for the output file. If you double click on the output file with explorer, the output file will appear something like the following.

```
BJ1;fo;
```

```
PUPA2688,6628PRPD-1,-66,-5,-65, ... 5,1,-66,PA2688,6628;  
PUPA5360,6626PRPD-1,-66,-5,-65, ... -65,1,-66,PA5360,6626;
```

```
...  
PRPU127,0;  
PG0;
```

If you do not turn off polyline encoded output the output file will appear something like:

```
BJ1;fo;  
;  
PE>Æ<=¿¿¿?~À?~À¿¿@İ@nÀ¿¿@nÀ=¿¿;  
PE>Æ<=?~À¿;  
PRPU127,0;  
PG0;
```

You can display the output file in either format using the Display HPGL program that can be downloaded from the [Technical Support Page](#).