

Checking for TAC and 4/c type in InDesign

Two great uses for InDesign's Separations Preview Panel include the ability to easily check for heavy ink coverage (TAC), and to check for black type that has been unintentionally set in a 4/c black, rather than 100% black only. We encourage customers to take the time before making their final PDFs to open their layout file, configure settings in this panel to check for each of these problems, and flip through their layout file page-by-page.

**The Separations Preview window can be accessed via:
Window > Output > Separations Preview**

To check ink coverage, set the *View* menu to *Ink Limit*, and set the threshold amount. For most paper stocks, this amount should be 305%. For some high-recycled-content papers the amount should be set to 265%. Check with your Lane Press CSR if you're unsure which to use.

Your screen will now show a grayscale preview, and any areas over the threshold will show up in a bright red color. Small areas of heavy ink (smaller than a Nickel) can generally be ignored; larger areas should be fixed. See page 2 of this document for info on fixing images; page 3 for fixing placed PDF ads.

To check for 4/c black type, set the *View* menu to *Separations*, and uncheck the black color plate. With the Black turned off, any black or gray type that appears will have elements of CMY colors, and you'll want to address this for any small (edit) type on your file.

