Illustrator & DirectCut

Technical Support Bulletin

Cutting with Two Forces in One Job

Abstract: It is sometimes useful to be able to cut with two different forces or two different speeds within the same job. This is easily accomplished by creating artwork that has different colors for each speed/force combination. Last Updated April 15, 2005

There are 8 colors supported by the Allen DirectCut Printer Driver. These get converted to one of the 8 pens based on the table below as described in DirectCut help file.
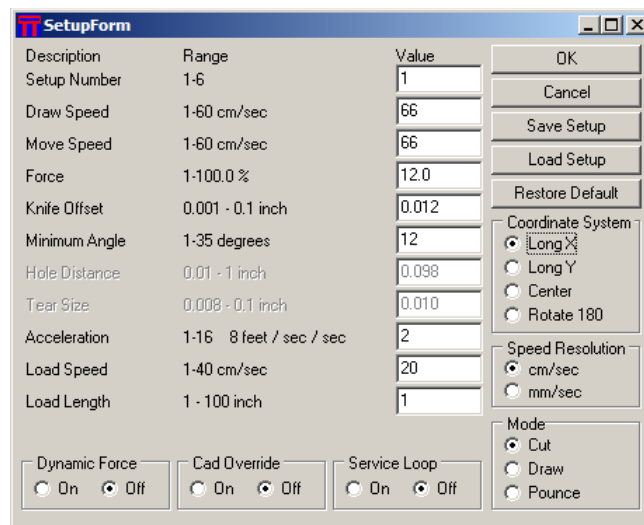
Pen 1	Pen 2	Pen 3	Pen 4
C_black.ico	C_red.ico	C_green.ico	C_yellow.ico
Black	Red	Green	Yellow
0,0,0	255,0,0	0,255,0	255,255,0

Pen 5	Pen 6	Pen 7	Pen 8
C_blue.ico	C_megent.ico	C_cyan.ico	C_violet.ico
Blue	Magenta	Cyan	Violet
0,0,255	255,0,255	0,255,255	115,0,204

Color matching is employed so that all colors will match to one of the above colors.

To use the different pen colors you have to enable several features in the printer driver and the cutter.
Multiple pen output must be set to Yes
Combine Polygon set to No
Illustrator color profile must be RGB not CMYK.
Send Force/Speed to tool must be set to Yes
Selected pen colors must be set so the force or speed you desire is set on the property page of the printer driver.

In the cutter remote panel you must turn off cad override: Go to setup -> settings. Turn cad override off, and save the setup.

The file Web Site Copy / CD Copy is an illustrator file that shows one label and a dashed line to be used for creating a perforation using a higher force. The perforation is drawn in red and the die line is in black. You could then set the black pen force to 12% to cut the die line and the red pen force to 40% to create the perforation.

SetupForm			
Description	Range	Value	OK
Setup Number	1-6	1	Cancel
Draw Speed	1-60 cm/sec	66	Save Setup
Move Speed	1-60 cm/sec	66	Load Setup
Force	1-100.0 %	12.0	Restore Default
Knife Offset	0.001 - 0.1 inch	0.012	Coordinate System
Minimum Angle	1-35 degrees	12	○ Long X ○ Long Y
Hole Distance	0.01 - 1 inch	0.098	○ Center
Tear Size	0.008 - 0.1 inch	0.010	○ Rotate 180
Acceleration	1-16 8 feet / sec / sec	2	Speed Resolution
Load Speed	1-40 cm/sec	20	○ cm/sec ○ mm/sec
Load Length	1 - 100 inch	1	Mode
Dynamic Force: ○ On ○ Off	Cad Override: ○ On ○ Off	Service Loop: ○ On ○ Off	○ Cut ○ Draw ○ Pounce