

OMEGA Tips for the GERBER MAXX 2™



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Chapter 1: Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the GERBER MAXX 2™ thermal printer and OMEGA design software. This wide-format printer combines the reliability and superior printing ability of the revolutionary GERBER EDGE® with the utility of printing on 36" wide material.

In this manual

The following chapters provide valuable information on printing with OMEGA and the GERBER MAXX 2.

MAXX 2 Quick Start Guide describes MAXX 2 performance specifications, printing, and plotting recommendations.

Designing Jobs for the MAXX 2 provides instructions for preparing jobs to print on the GERBER MAXX 2. Includes tips on file conversion and setting halftones for high quality results.

OMEGA and the GERBER MAXX 2 introduces OMEGA software and highlights special features for use with the MAXX 2.

Using GQ Manager describes how to use OMEGA's GQ Manager with the MAXX 2.

Conventions

The following conventions are used in this addendum:



Tip: A tip contains valuable information that could make the task faster or easier.



Note: A note contains important information that could affect the successful completion of a task.



CAUTION: A caution statement contains information which, if not observed, could result in equipment damage.



WARNING: A warning statement contains information which, if not observed, could result in personal injury.

Customer support

If you have questions regarding using, maintaining, or troubleshooting the MAXX 2, please contact your Gerber distributor, GSP® Field Service for hardware questions, or Technical Systems Support for software questions.



phone: 800-828-5406 for hardware, 860-644-6971 for software
fax: 860-648-8376



e-mail: gpservice@gspinc.com (hardware) or gsptech@gspinc.com (software)



www.gspinc.com

Additional sources of information are:

- ◆ Gerber FastFacts™ provides answers to technical and service questions. The telephone number is 860-648-8040. FastFacts are also available on the web site under “Support.”
- ◆ If you are a Support First™ member, use your toll-free assistance number (for more information about Support First, call 860-644-6971).

Chapter 2:

MAXX 2 Quick Start Guide

MAXX 2 performance recommendations

- ◆ Use 36" MAXX READY only. No punched material.
- ◆ Do not exceed 10' in length when creating jobs. Panel long jobs if necessary.
- ◆ Print panels as separate jobs.
- ◆ Flip panels when using vertical panels to minimize seams.
- ◆ Do not exceed 6 colors for long jobs.

Preparing the job for the MAXX 2

- ◆ Use only one vinyl in the job.
- ◆ Fill all images and shapes that are to be printed.
- ◆ Use MAXX Optimized Halftone when possible. Other acceptable halftones are Classical Dot 18-26.5 LPI or GerberTone.
- ◆ Import graphics using the new GSP AI, CMX or EPS filters or import as a TIF with color profiles embedded.
- ◆ Turn Cuts On or Cuts Off as required. Objects must be filled to take Cuts Off.
- ◆ Combine On or Combine Off as required.
- ◆ Rearrange order of objects using Move to Back and Move to Front.

Preparing the job for the plotter

- ◆ Use only 36" MAXX READY material.
- ◆ For better print to print and print to cut registration, create jobs shorter than 10' using the GSPPlot panel functions.
- ◆ Output each panel as a separate job. GSPPlot will add registration marks to each panel.
- ◆ If a job has vertical panels, flip each panel to minimize seams.
- ◆ In the Print Options dialog box of GSPPlot click Targets to open the Acquire Targets dialog box. Set the target Top Limit to 30" so that it is easier to reach the plotter control panel when aligning targets.

Printing the job on the MAXX 2

- ◆ Turn on the MAXX 2 and wait until the MAXX 2 control panel displays the **Ready for Print Job** message before pressing any key.
- ◆ Load a roll of 36" MAXX READY material. Clean the vinyl by wiping with a cloth moistened with distilled water and allowing it to dry. Wipe ends of roll with a tack cloth to remove any dust and debris.
- ◆ Send the job from GSPPlot to the MAXX 2.
- ◆ View the jobs in the MAXX 2 queue. Move the job to the front of the queue if desired.
- ◆ Determine which foils are required for the job and load the foils into the cassettes (if required). Get Job Details by pressing the function key next to a job in the queue and choose View Job Details. Press the function key next to the first foil to see a list of all foils in the job and the amount of foil used.
- ◆ Load the necessary cassettes into the MAXX 2 cassette bays.
- ◆ Press RUN SINGLE to have the MAXX 2 align the vinyl before printing each job. Press QUICK START to align the vinyl before the first job in to be printed and then begin the next job in the queue without further alignment.

Cutting the job on a plotter

Use a Gerber FasTrack™ 1300 or Gerber ODYSSEY™ plotter to cut the printed MAXX 2 graphics.



To plot the job on a FasTrack plotter

- 1 Install the Illuminated Target Locator before sending the job to the plotter.
- 2 Close the FasTrack cover and send the job. The Acquire Targets dialog box displays after the job is sent to the MAXX 2.
- 3 Align Target 1 and click Capture in the Acquire Targets dialog box. Repeat until all the targets are captured.
- 4 If the target locator does not return to Target 1, repeat the procedure until it is aligned.
- 5 Install the knife and cut the job.



To plot the job on an ODYSSEY plotter

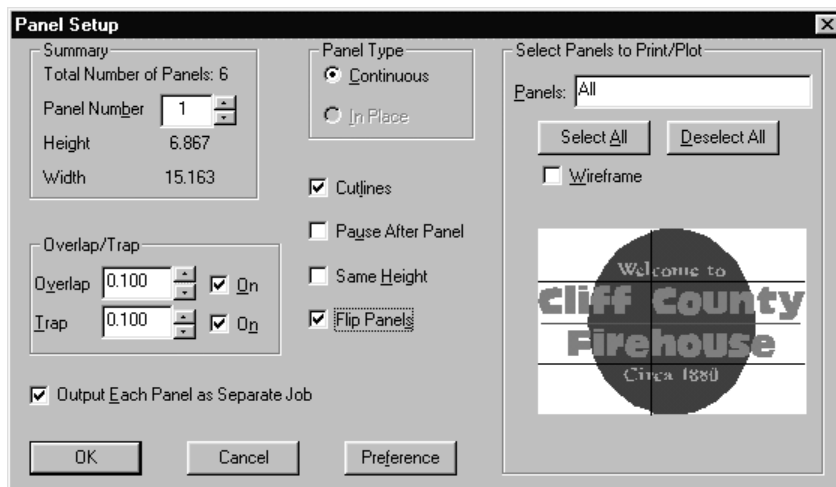
- 1 In the Target Acquisition Options dialog box of GSPPlot set the shuffle to 1 and turn on Skew Control.
- 2 Install the Illuminated Target Locator before sending the job to the plotter.
- 3 Align Target 1 and click Capture on the plotter keypad. Repeat until all the targets are captured.
- 4 If the target locator does not return to Target 1, repeat the procedure until it is aligned.
- 5 Install the knife and cut the job.

Chapter 3: Designing Jobs for the MAXX 2

Follow these instructions on creating jobs that maximize the capabilities of the MAXX 2.

Create shorter jobs using the GSPPlot panel functions

Overall registration success rates are best when jobs are less than 10 feet long and use no more than six colors. The vertical panel function in the GSPPlot program can be used to easily create jobs of a specific length. Click Layout > Vertical Cutline to add panel lines to your job. Then, using the Panel Setup dialog box of GSPPlot, set up each panel of the job as an individual job with its own targets. Click Layout > Panels... to open the Panel Setup dialog box and turn on Output each panel as a separate job.



OMEGA version 1.56 or later automatically places registration marks around each panel and prints each panel of a job as a separate job.



Tip: When printing multi-panel jobs, turn on Flip Panels in the Panel Setup dialog box to reduce the appearance of seams.

File conversion tips

Occasionally it is difficult to get complex files from other design programs into OMEGA with all the special effects and colors intact.

Exporting files for use with OMEGA

When using OMEGA 1.56 or later, vector files should be imported as Adobe Illustrator 7.0 or CMX 5.0/6.0 format. If the vector file is not in that format, open it in another design program

and save it in one of these formats. If the vector file can not be saved in one of these formats, export it in an image file format such as BMP, TIF, JPG, or GIF. If a job is exported from a design program as a raster bitmap, it frequently “locks in” the colors and special effects through the use of that program’s native rendering capabilities. This can provide more consistent results that can be placed into OMEGA and printed as a process color bitmap.

To export a file as a bitmap from CorelDRAW® or other design programs

- 1 Select File > Export.
- 2 Select file type as TIF Bitmap (uncompressed) and click OK. A compressed format should work also and will keep file size smaller.
- 3 A Bitmap export dialog box appears.
- 4 Choose RGB (24 bit) and turn on the check box for color profile and to choose to embed the color profile.
- 5 Click OK or Save to export the design as a TIF file that represents the job.
- 6 The size of file you export should be between 5 – 15 MB per square foot of MAXX 2 output. Experiment with file sizes. Start at the small end of the scale and work up to determine what is best for your needs. Too small of a file size will output as a pixilated-looking bitmap. Too large of a file size will waste time and system resources. This range will provide good quality results with reasonable storage and rendering times. Remember: as the viewing distance increases, the need for resolution decreases.

Exporting files for use with OMEGA 1.56

OMEGA 1.56 and higher offers advanced import filters for Adobe Illustrator (AI) version 7.0 or earlier, CorelDRAW Exchange Metafile (CMX) version 5.0/6.0, and EPS Encapsulated Postscript files. These import filters provide extensive color control when bringing files into OMEGA. Gerber recommends saving your design files in one of these formats for best results. Use the following import filters when bringing your designs into OMEGA:

- ◆ AI – (GSP) Adobe Illustrator AI (*located at the end of the filter list*)
- ◆ CMX – (GSP) CorelDRAW Exchange Metafile 5.0/6.0 (*located at the end of the filter list*)
- ◆ EPS – (GSP) Encapsulated Postscript filter

In addition, once you import a CMX 5.0/6.0 file into OMEGA you have the ability to map specific CMX file colors to exact CMYK values in OMEGA. Remapping CMX files allows you to adjust your colors for maximum color matching.

See OMEGA online Help for more information on importing Adobe Illustrator, EPS, or CMX files, and remapping CMX colors. Open Composer and press F1 to open Help and follow the links in “Importing and Exporting Files”.

Understanding halftones and colors in the job

Halftone types and certain spot and process colors can effect how a job prints. Depending on the job, the following situations may occur.

- ◆ Jobs exhibit conspicuous seams every four inches.
- ◆ Some process color vector jobs show a crosshatch or moiré pattern.
- ◆ Some jobs (especially spot color ones) have a drastic shift in registration for some of the swipes.
- ◆ You need more spot colors.

The following topics address these issues.



Tip: When designing jobs for MAXX printing, avoid butting colors to reduce print registration problems. Use traps, bleeds, chokes, and spreads as described in the OMEGA HELP system.

Correcting conspicuous seams that appear every four inches

OMEGA software let you choose different halftone types and sizes. In general, the GERBER MAXX 2 shows fewer seams when jobs are printed with GerberTone™ or another larger halftone type. If jobs still display seams when using GerberTone, try using Classical Dot halftone type. Most seaming – even on difficult colors – disappears when using Classical Dot halftone between 18 and 42.4 lines per inch.

To minimize conspicuous seams follow these recommended steps:

- ◆ First, clean the printhead as described in the *MAXX 2 Owner's Guide*.
- ◆ Second, when possible, use the optimized MAXX GerberTone halftone for the job. When sending the job to the MAXX 2, allow GSPPlot to automatically substitute existing halftones with optimized halftones.
- ◆ If the GerberTone MAXX optimized halftones are unacceptable, use a halftone type with larger dots. Try Classical Dot halftone with a line per inch setting of 18 to 26.5 lines per inch. These larger halftone dots are often much more pleasing than people anticipate. The human eye assimilates the larger dots from a viewing distance of 6 to 10 feet. This tends to be more acceptable than having seam lines that are visible from as far away as 25 feet, which can occur when using smaller halftone dots.

OMEGA provides several methods for choosing halftones for a job. The original assignment of halftones is done in the Assign Colors and Image Fill dialog boxes of Composer. If you know that the halftones in the job are not optimal, you can substitute the existing halftones after the job is sent to GSPPlot. Alternately, you can send a job to GSPPlot and allow it to evaluate the existing halftones and replace them with optimized halftones automatically.



Tip: If you have a large job and are unsure of the appearance of the printed halftone you can print a small section of the print to see the results. In GSPPlot add several vertical and horizontal panel lines to surround a small area of the job. Select only the panel you wish to print in the Panels Setup dialog box and send it to the MAXX 2. After printing the sample you can analyze the results and determine if the halftone is acceptable.

Automatically optimizing halftones for printing with the MAXX 2

When printing a job to the GERBER MAXX 2, GSPPlot automatically evaluates the halftones in the job and determines if they are optimal. If the halftone dot is smaller than 35 LPI, the Non-Optimized Halftones Detected dialog box displays. The dialog box provides several choices:

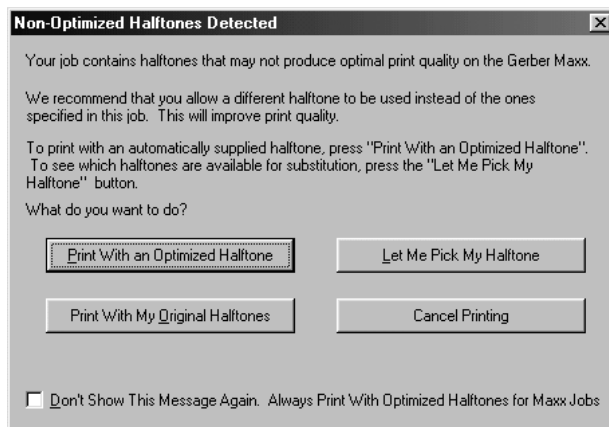
Print With an Optimized Halftone directs GSPPlot to automatically substitute the existing halftones with optimized GerberTone at 26 LPI for vector objects and special MAXX optimized GerberTone at 25 LPI for images larger than 19 inches. Images that are smaller than 19 inches are printed with optimized GerberTone with a variable LPI dependent on the size of the job and the colors. Select this button if you are unsure of which halftone to use.

Print With My Original Halftones directs GSPPlot to send the job to the MAXX 2 without modification to the original halftone settings. Choose this option to print with halftones that are smaller than 35 LPI.

Let Me Pick My Halftone automatically opens the Substitute Halftone dialog box where you can choose a different halftone and LPI setting. See “Manually substituting halftones in GSPPlot” on page 9 for more information.

Cancel Printing stops printing. To print the job, you must send it to the GERBER MAXX 2 again.

Don't Show This Message Again. Always Print With Optimized Halftones for MAXX Jobs directs GSPPlot to automatically substitute existing halftones with optimized halftones. If this option is turned on, the Non-Optimized Halftones Detected dialog box will not display when the substitution occurs. Vector shapes will print using GerberTone at 26 LPI and images larger than 19 inches will print using special MAXX GerberTone at 25 LPI.



Follow the instructions in the dialog box to make the best choice for your job. Depending on the type of job, testing various halftone types and LPI may be the best way for you to reach optimal printing quality.

Printing with non-optimized halftones when Auto-Substitution is turned on

If the Non-Optimized Halftones Detected dialog box does not appear (you turned on Don't Show This Message Again in the Non-Optimized Halftones Detected dialog box) and you wish to print a specific job with a non-optimized halftone you must turn off this message. Follow this procedure to display the Non-Optimized Halftones Detected dialog box once more.

➤ To print with a non-optimized halftone

- 1 In GSPPlot, click Setup > Print Options... or press F11 to open the Print Options dialog box.
- 2 Click Halftones... to open the Substitute Halftones dialog box.
- 3 Choose the MAXX tab.
- 4 Turn off the two check boxes: Substitute Halftones for Gerber MAXX and Auto-Substitution.
- 5 Click OK to return to the Print Options dialog box.
- 6 Click OK to close the Print Options dialog box and return to GSPPlot.
- 7 Send the job to the MAXX 2 again, when the Non-optimized Halftones Detected dialog box appears, choose Print With My Original Halftones.

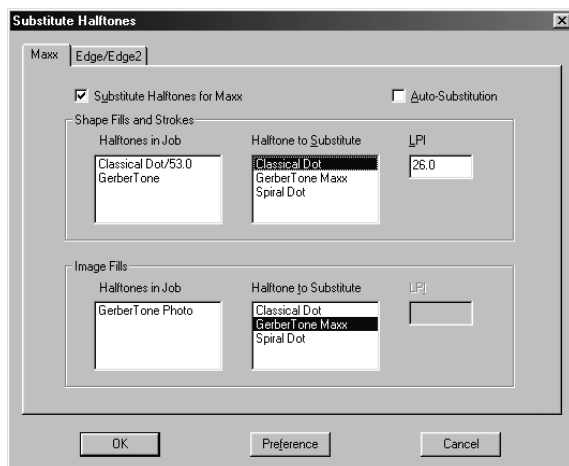
Manually substituting halftones in GSPPlot

The original assignment of the halftone is done in the Assign Colors and Image Fill dialog boxes in Composer. Once the job is opened in GSPPlot you can substitute both the halftone type and the LPI. Click the Halftone... button in the Print Order dialog box to display the Substitute Halftones dialog box. This dialog box has two tabs, one for MAXX printing and the other EDGE or EDGE 2 printing.

MAXX Tab

When the Substitute Halftones for MAXX check box is turned on you have the ability to choose your own halftone substitution. In the following illustration, Classical Dot was substituted for Classical Dot/53.0. If both the Substitute Halftones for MAXX and Auto-Substitution box are turned on, the GerberTone MAXX halftone will automatically be substituted. If you want to print with your original halftone, then turn off these two check boxes.

When using Classical Dot or Spiral Dot as the substituted halftone type for GERBER MAXX jobs, you can enter an LPI value between 4 and 35. When using GerberTone MAXX, you cannot substitute the LPI as it is set automatically to 26.5 LPI.



Assigning the halftones in OMEGA Composer to print on the MAXX 2

The following procedures provide specific information about changing the halftone types in OMEGA Composer.

When designing or importing a job into Composer that will be printed on the MAXX 2, you can assign the halftones in the Assign Colors or Image Fill dialog box. Follow the instructions below to change the halftone settings in Composer.



Tip: In OMEGA 1.56 or higher, you can click the Edit Halftone button on the Fill or Stroke toolbars to open the Edit Halftones dialog box.

➔ To assign halftones for spot or process color vector or outline shapes

- 1 Click the Color Selection tool and select the vector or outline shapes to which you will assign a halftone.
- 2 Click the Fill tool (or press 1 on the keyboard as a shortcut) to open the Assign Colors dialog box.
- 3 Click Menu>> Halftones to open the Edit Halftones dialog box
- 4 Choose a halftone in Available Types. (GerberTone or Classical Dot is recommended.)
- 5 If you have chosen Classical Dot, enter a halftone value (18, 19, 21.2, 26.5, 35, or 42.4 LPI) in the New LPI box.
- 6 Use a lower LPI value (larger halftone dot) if the job has large areas of linear or radial fills. This will help minimize visible seams and avoid halftone banding due to too few levels of gray scale available when using smaller dots.
- 7 Click OK to change the halftone, then OK to exit the Assign Colors dialog box.

➔ To assign halftones for images or bitmaps

- 1 Click the Color Selection tool and select the images or bitmaps to which you will assign a halftone.
- 2 Click the Image Fill tool (or press Shift+1) to open the Image Fill dialog box.
- 3 Choose Spot or Process in Color Type.
- 4 In the Halftone box, choose a Classical Dot from the Halftone Type list.
- 5 Enter a halftone value between value (18, 19, 21.2, 26.5, 35, or 42.4 LPI).
- 6 Use a lower LPI value (larger halftone dot) if the job has large areas of linear or radial fills. This will help the seams and avoid halftone banding due to too few levels of gray scale available when using smaller dots.
- 7 Click OK to close the Image Fill dialog box and apply the halftone to the image.

Reducing crosshatch or moiré patterns in process color vector jobs

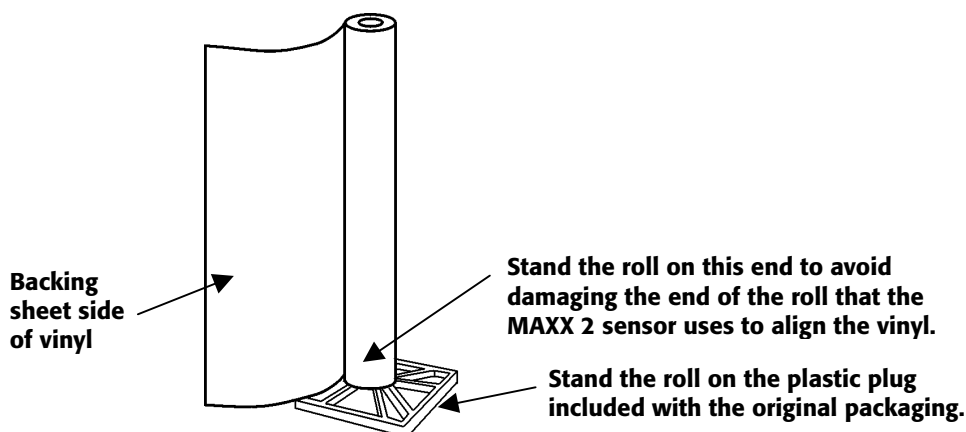
Moiré patterns seem to happen more frequently with process color simulations of solid PANTONE® colors, or in vector shapes with process color fills that are comprised of similar amounts of all four process colors. If you encounter this problem, try one of these solutions.

- ◆ Change the halftone type from GerberTone to Classical Dot. Enter a Classical Dot LPI value in the lower range (18 to 35 LPI) to help avoid conspicuous seaming.
- ◆ Replace the fill with a similar color that reduces or eliminates use of process black.

Correcting drastic shifts in individual swipes, especially spot colors

Some jobs have a drastic shift in some of the individual swipes, especially with spot colors. Take special care not to crush or dent the edges of material to be used with the GERBER MAXX 2. The MAXX 2 detects and straightens the material based upon the edge of the material. Firmware adjustments have improved swipe-to-swipe registration, but problems can still occur when the edge of the material is drastically bent.

Store rolls of material standing on the end of the roll that will be opposite the edge sensors at the left side of the MAXX 2. Standing the roll on the end that will be used to align the material can cause print quality problems. To protect the material from the floor, stand the roll on the plastic plug included with the original package.



When not in use, vinyl should be stored in the original plastic bag to protect it from dust and dirt. Save the original box for long term storage of vinyl rolls.

Always clean the ends of the roll with a tack cloth before loading. Dirty roll edges or fuzz on the substrate edge can cause printing and alignment problems.

Getting more spot colors

What can I do to get more colors? One way is to print percentage tints of spot colors to get more variations from a single color. Be sure to follow the halftone guidelines discussed in “Understanding halftones and colors in a job” on page 7.

You can also use GerberColor Spectratone™ to print more spot colors with the GERBER MAXX 2. GerberColor Spectratone creates additional spot colors by laying one spot color on top of another to create a new color. This can be used with the GERBER MAXX 2 to create colors that

are not currently available as a single spot color. For example, printing Intense Blue on top of Yellow can simulate Forest Green. Printing Intense Blue on top of Process Black can simulate Navy blue. While the ideal solution is to have the exact spot color, GerberColor Spectratone extends the set of available spot colors when printing on the MAXX 2.



Tip: When using GerberColor Spectratone, turn on Shrink Base to ensure that the colors register properly and eliminate any halo effect that can occur. After outputting a job with Spectratone colors to GSPPlot, click Setup > Print Options... to open the Print Options dialog box. Turn on Shrink Base in the Spectratone group box and enter a value to reduce the size of the base color.

Chapter 4: OMEGA and the MAXX 2



CAUTION: You must have MAXX 2 firmware Rev L or higher to be compatible with OMEGA 1.56. Incompatible versions of software and firmware can cause serious damage to your equipment and loss of productivity. Contact Gerber or your Gerber distributor before loading any new software.

This chapter provides information on changes and enhancements made to OMEGA since the OMEGA 1.5 manual was printed. OMEGA 1.56 includes dozens of features designed to reduce excess keystrokes and steps, further stabilize an already stable product, includes Image RIP and 32-bit ART Path, and provides improvements to Color Management and File Conversion.

For an overview of new OMEGA features see the document “What's New in OMEGA 1.56” located in the OMEGA folder on the OMEGA CD. For complete information on What's New in 1.56, see the online Help of Composer. To access Help, start Composer and press F1. Follow the “What's New in OMEGA 1.56” links for more information.



Note: OMEGA 1.56 is compatible with Windows® XP, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows 98, Windows NT 4.0, and Windows 95. OMEGA 1.56 is the last OMEGA release to be tested and supported for use with Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0.

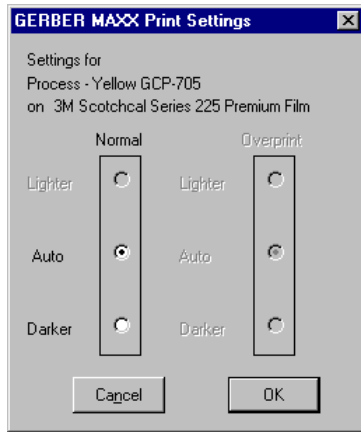
Understanding the MAXX 2 Print Settings

When printing, the MAXX 2 automatically adjusts to the amount of heat needed to apply a specific foil. The GERBER MAXX Print Settings dialog box in GSPPlot allows you to select Lighter, Auto or Darker for each foil in a MAXX 2 print job. The MAXX 2 will auto-adjust the print setting depending on the foil and give you the ability to change the print setting. For example, if a foil is cracking, then the heat setting may be too high. Once in the Print Settings dialog box your choices will be Lighter or Auto. If the heat setting is too low and seams appear, then in the Print Settings dialog box your choices will be Darker or Auto.



To change the Print Settings

- 1 In GSPPlot click Setup > Print Options to open the Print Options dialog box.
- 2 Click Settings... to open the GERBER MAXX Print Settings dialog box.



- 3 Click a new heat setting for the foil and substrate combination.
- 4 Click OK to save the setting and return to the Print Options dialog box.
- 5 Click OK to return to GSPPlot.

Edit Halftone buttons

Edit Halftone buttons have been added to both the Fill and Stroke toolbars in Composer. The Edit Halftone button automatically opens the Edit Halftone dialog box where you can choose a different halftone type or lines per inch (LPI) setting (if available).

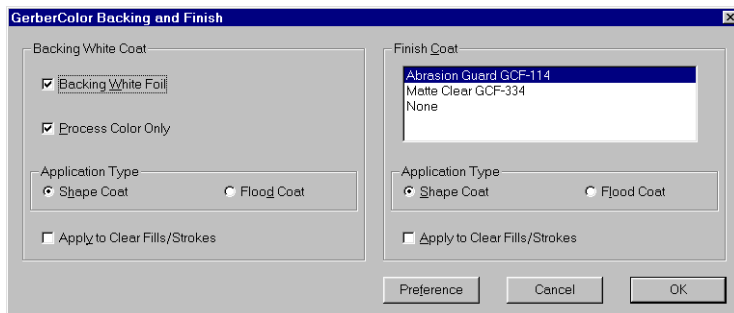


Finish Coat and Backing White

Finish Coat and Backing White can now be applied to Clear Fills and Clear Strokes in GSPPlot. Backing White is easier to use and can be applied to spot and process color images and vectors. Both Finish Coat and Backing White can be applied as a Shape or Flood Coat.

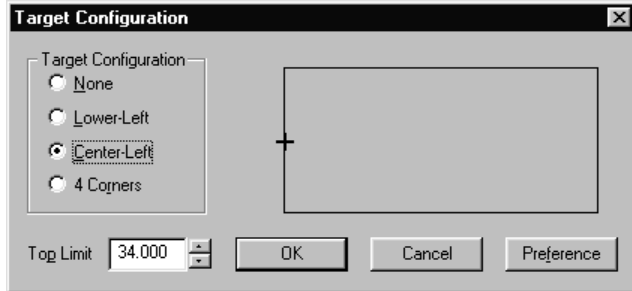


Note: The use of Backing White with the MAXX 2 is dependent on the availability of MAXX qualified white foil.



Strategically placing and aligning multiple targets

For precision cutting, choose from four different target configurations. In the Print Options dialog box of GSPPlot, click the Targets... button to open the Target Configuration dialog box.



Placing targets #2 and #4

An edit control box, Top Limit has been added to the Target Configuration dialog box. The value you set here will be used as the Y-distance restriction from targets #1 and #3. For example, if the height of your job is 34 inches, you might want to set the Top Limit at 30 inches for targets #2 and #4 (the minimum allowed is half the height of the job.) That means targets #2 and #4 will print four inches closer to targets #1 and #3. This will make it easier to reach the control panel of the plotter you are using.



Note: When calculating the value for Top Limit, set the new value close enough to make it easier to reach the panel but keeping the targets far apart so that the target alignment is still accurate.

Aligning multiple targets

Once your job has been printed on a Gerber vinyl printer there are several plotters that can be used for cutting. The procedure for aligning the targets varies depending on the plotter you are using to cut your print. It also varies on the number of targets that you choose in the job. For FasTrack plotters the Illuminated Target Locator can be used to make it easier to align the targets. For ODYSSEY™ plotters use either the Illuminated Target Locator or the eyepiece for aligning the targets.

Gerber FasTrack plotter

The controls for aligning and acquiring multiple targets for the FasTrack plotter are in a dialog box that appears after a job is sent to the plotter. It is a good idea to install the Illuminated Target Locator before sending a job to the plotter. Close the cover to the plotter before sending a job. Once the job has been sent, the Acquire Targets dialog box appears on the computer attached to the plotter.



➔ To capture targets using the FasTrack

- 1 Use the slew keys on the plotter control panel to position the Illuminated Target Locator over target #1. Verify the cover is closed before proceeding.
- 2 Click Capture in the Acquire Targets on FasTrack dialog box when you have aligned Target #1. The plotter repositions the target locator close to the next target #.
- 3 Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until all the targets used in the job have been captured, then click OK.
- 4 A message will appear on the plotter control panel to Install Knife Tool in the plotter.
- 5 Install the knife tool.
- 6 Click OK to cut the job.

Gerber ODYSSEY plotter

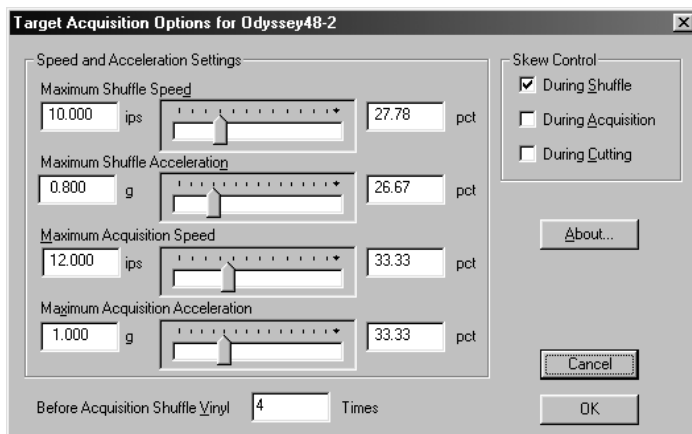
When using a Gerber ODYSSEY plotter for cutting your printed job, there are a few controls that need to be set before the job is cut. For the cutting accuracy of your material on the friction plotter, it is good idea to shuffle the material back and forth through the plotter to ensure the material is tracking well before cutting.



Tip: Always use clean vinyl. Before loading vinyl in the ODYSSEY plotter, wipe the vinyl with a clean lint-free cloth or tack cloth to remove dust or dirt that may interfere with the alignment and cutting of the vinyl in the plotter. Material that is bent or dirty (especially along the edges) may cause quality problems.

Setting Target Acquisition Options

In Gerber Queue Manager, right click the installed ODYSSEY plotter device name. A drop down menu appears. Click Print/Cut to open the Target Acquisition Options dialog box. Set the number of shuffles in the Before Acquisition Shuffle Vinyl control box. The recommended number of shuffles is 1 and the maximum number is 10. Turn on Skew Control during Shuffle, Acquisition, and Cutting. If you are not having success returning to Target 1 during Acquisition, try different Shuffle and Skew settings.



You can also set limits on the following settings: Shuffle Speed, Shuffle Acceleration, Acquisition Speed and Acquisition Acceleration in this dialog box. Use the examples in the

dialog box below as guidelines, but experimentation may give you results that are better for your system. After adjusting your settings, use the control pad on the ODYSSEY plotter to align the targets.



Tip: The Target Acquisition Options dialog box is also available from the Properties for ODYSSEY dialog box. Click the Cut/Print button to open the Target Acquisition Options dialog box.

To capture targets using the ODYSSEY plotter

- 1** Use the slew keys on the plotter control panel to position the eyepiece or Illuminated Target Locator over target #1.
- 2** Press Capture when you have captured Target #1. The plotter repositions the target locator close to the next target #.
- 3** Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until all the targets used in the job have been captured.
- 4** After the last target is captured, a message appears to Install Knife Tool in the plotter.
- 5** Install the knife tool in the plotter, and close the cover if it is open.
- 6** Press Enter to cut the job.

Chapter 5: Using GQ Manager

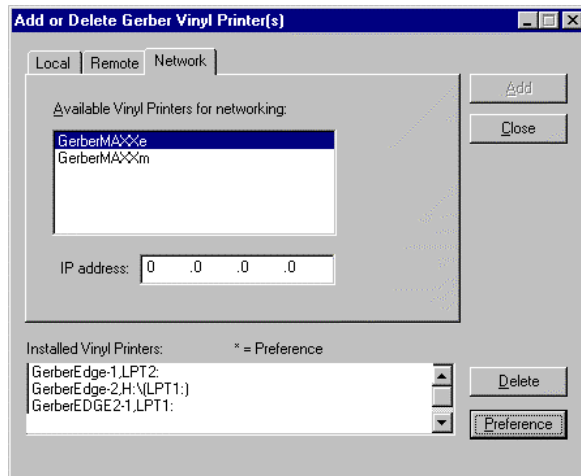
OMEGA's GQ Manager is a powerful program that manages your jobs, installs printers and plotters, and provides controls to update your MAXX 2 firmware.

Adding or deleting a MAXX 2 printer

You can add or delete a GERBER MAXX 2 from the GQ Manager workspace.

➤ To add a network vinyl printer

- 1 In the GQMgr workspace, select Install > Network Printer. The Add or Delete Gerber Vinyl Printer(s) dialog box opens.
- 2 Click the Network tab.
- 3 Select an available vinyl network printer.



- 4 Verify or change the IP address. Check with your network administrator for the IP address to be used.
- 5 Click Add. The Add - Name Device box opens.
- 6 Use the name provided or change the name and click OK. The new printer will appear in the Installed Vinyl Printers field.



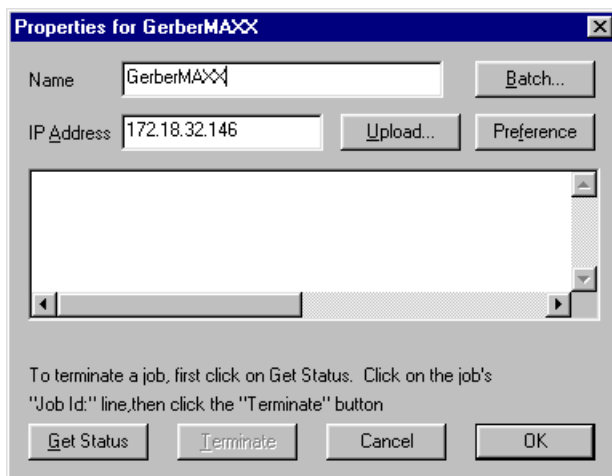
Note: A GERBERMAXXe signifies an English calibration and runs on 300.0 DPI. A GERBERMAXXm uses metric and operates on 304.8 DPI. To verify the printer that you should be using, on your MAXX 2 menu, press MENU on the control panel. Click Setup > About Printer > DPI.

➤ To delete a network vinyl printer

- 1 In the GQMgr workspace, select Install > Network Printer. The Add or Delete Gerber Vinyl Printer(s) dialog box opens.
- 2 Click the Remote tab.
- 3 Select the vinyl network printer to be deleted.
- 4 Click Delete.
- 5 Click Close.
- 6 The next time that you access the Add or Delete Gerber Vinyl Printer(s) dialog box, the selected printer will be removed from the Installed Vinyl Printers field.

Viewing Properties of a GERBER MAXX 2

In GQ Manager, right click the GERBER MAXX 2 in the list of installed output devices and select Properties to display the Properties for GERBER MAXX dialog box. The Properties dialog box contains the MAXX 2's unique name and IP Address, which you can edit or save as a Preference.



The Properties dialog box offers several features that make managing your GERBER MAXX 2 easier.

- ◆ Select a job in the MAXX 2 queue and view the status of a job with the Get Status button.
- ◆ Select a job in the MAXX 2 queue and terminate its printing with the Terminate button.
- ◆ Click Batch to update your MAXX 2 firmware.
- ◆ Click Upload during diagnostic testing.

Getting the status of a MAXX 2 job

The Properties of GERBER MAXX dialog box has a Get Status button, which allows you to view the status of a job in the MAXX 2 queue.

To view the status of a job in the MAXX 2 queue

- 1 Right click the MAXX 2 in the installed output device list of GQ Mgr.
- 2 Select Properties to open the Properties of GERBER MAXX dialog box.
- 3 Click Get Status.
- 4 Click the Job ID line of a job from the list of jobs in the queue.

Terminating a job from the MAXX 2 Queue

The Properties of GERBER MAXX dialog box has a Terminate button which allows you to select a specific job from the MAXX 2 queue and terminate its printing.

To terminate a job in the MAXX 2 queue

- 1 Right click the MAXX 2 in the installed output device list of GQ Mgr.
- 2 Select Properties to open the Properties of GERBER MAXX dialog box.
- 3 Click Get Status.
- 4 Click the Job ID line of a job from the list of jobs in the queue.
- 5 Click Terminate

Updating the MAXX 2 firmware

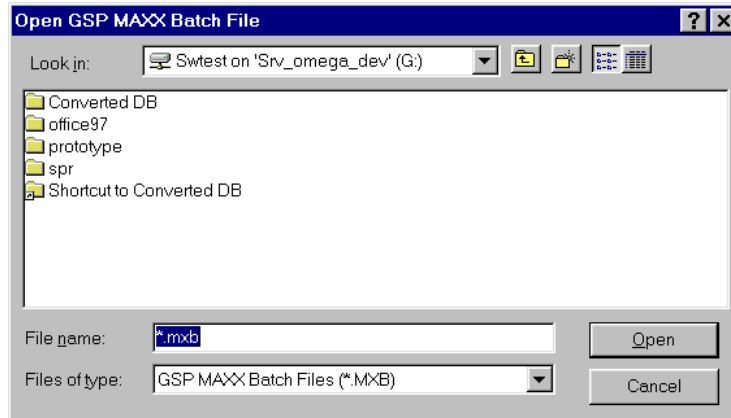
Occasionally GSP will update the firmware in your GERBER MAXX 2 to the newest revision level.



Note: Before installing the GERBER MAXX 2 firmware, it is important to clean out the c:\Windows\temp directory so there is space to enable you to back up files before installing the new firmware.

To update the MAXX 2 firmware

- 1 Click Start > Programs > OMEGA > GQMgr to open the GQ Mgr dialog box.
- 2 Right click on the MAXX 2 icon to access Properties.
- 3 Click Properties to open the Properties for Gerber MAXX dialog box.
- 4 Click Batch to open the GSP MAXX Batch File dialog box.



- 5 Browse the Look in drop down list to find your CD drive, then open it.
- 6 Click Firmware > MAXX > Backup XX.mxb. The current system files backup to the temp directory.
- 7 Click Build XX.mxb. The firmware installs. As the firmware is installing, messages will automatically scroll through the Properties for Gerber MAXX dialog box. When finished the following message is displayed:

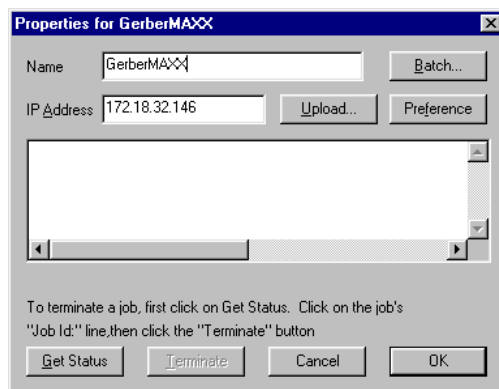
**MAXX FILES TRANSFERRED
CYCLE POWER ON MAXX TO
COMPLETE FIRMWARE UPDATE**



Note: After installing the new firmware and before sending a job to the MAXX 2, turn the MAXX 2 off for at least 10 seconds before restarting the machine.

Using GQ Manager Upload as a diagnostic tool

In the GQMgr work space, right-click the GerberMAXX I.P. address and choose Properties from the drop-down list.



The Properties for GerberMAXX dialog box provides an Upload button, which is a diagnostic tool. If you call tech support for help with a MAXX 2 problem, the technician may ask you to use this Upload button to copy certain key files to a local computer. Once uploaded, you can open the files in Notepad and tell the technician what you see, or e-mail the files to Gerber for diagnostics.

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