

# Spot Colour & Overprint

Art & Design

Printing with a named ink instead of four, and the two traps that ruin it.

A spot colour is a pre-mixed ink printed from its own plate and specified by a matching system. It gives exact repeatable colour and can reach outside the CMYK gamut.

## PLATES

one per spot ink

## ALWAYS CHECK

overprint preview

- One plate per spot colour, and each plate costs.
- Metallic and fluorescent inks are spot only.
- A stray spot swatch in a CMYK job adds a fifth plate.
- Overprint: ink prints on top instead of knocking out.
- Black type is normally set to overprint.
- White set to overprint disappears entirely.

## LOOK FOR IT

Two-colour printing, black plus one spot ink, is often cheaper than full process colour.

Turn on overprint preview before exporting. An accidental overprint is invisible on screen and obvious on the press sheet.