DOT · APART

# DOT APART NEST

Extended User Manual

**VERSION 2.2.10 · WINDOWS**

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Recommended sequence: choose a production preset and page size, import artwork, verify every item, calculate, inspect every sheet at useful zoom, hold unwanted sheets if necessary, then export. Export never silently recalculates the visible layout.

# 1 Safety, scope and system requirements

Dot Apart Nest places artwork according to cut geometry instead of the PDF artboard. It prepares production PDFs, but the operator remains responsible for approval.

## System requirements

| Item | Requirement |
|---|---|
| **Operating system** | Windows 10 or Windows 11, 64-bit |
| **Processor** | Modern 4-core CPU minimum; strong single-core performance is important for complex contour searches |
| **Memory** | 8 GB minimum; 16 GB or more recommended for large bitmap and multi-page work |
| **Storage** | At least 2 GB for installation plus free temporary and export space |
| **Display** | 1280 x 720 minimum; 1920 x 1080 or larger recommended |
| **Runtime** | Microsoft Edge WebView2 Runtime, normally included in current Windows installations |

## Mandatory production checks

- Confirm source page, finished size, scale, quantity, bleed, rotation and selected artwork method.
- Inspect every sheet for overlap, clipping, missing artwork, incorrect holes, labels and marks.
- Open PRINT output in the intended RIP and verify dimensions, separations, spot colours, ICC profiles, transparency and overprint.
- Open CUT output in the intended cutter software and verify contour count, tool spot names, marks, scale and orientation.
- Perform a low-risk test print and test cut before committing production material.

> The EULA limits liability only to the extent permitted by mandatory law. It does not remove the operator's obligation to validate source files and production output.

# 2 Install, EULA, activation and updates

## Installation

| Step | Action | Result |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Run DotApartNest_Setup_2.2.10.exe | The per-user installer opens. Verify the file came from the Dot Apart distribution channel. |
| 2 | Read and accept the EULA | The installer presents the English Dot Apart Nest licence agreement. |
| 3 | Choose shortcuts | A Start menu shortcut is created; the desktop shortcut is optional. |
| 4 | Launch Dot Apart Nest | The native application window opens without a browser tab or startup splash. |

## Activation

- Open Client Settings, enter a key carrying the Dot Apart Nest product entitlement and select Activate License.
- The licence key is protected using Windows user-level encryption. The same workstation may run other Dot Apart products, but each product entitlement is validated separately.
- The normal offline grace is seven days after a successful validation. Deactivation releases the workstation seat.

## Updates

- Choose Stable or Beta in Client Settings. Licensed clients check automatically at startup and show a dedicated notification when a newer release is available.
- Downloads are checked against the size and SHA-256 published by Dot Apart Admin. The updater backs up replaced files and confirms that the new client starts before deleting the backup.
- Version 2.2.1 distributes the proprietary engine without readable application source. An upgraded installation removes the legacy readable engine only after the protected engine has started successfully.

# 3 Workspace, Client Settings and units

| Area | Purpose |
|---|---|
| **Production preset** | Select the saved manufacturing setup. Edit opens the structured preset window. |
| **Page size** | Select a saved board or roll width. Edit manages size presets independently from production settings. |
| **Output package** | Enter the job name, save the exact-layout job or open a previously saved .pfnest job. |
| **Opened artwork** | Detailed table or compact matrix view with thumbnail, method, quantity, dimensions, scale, bleed and item actions. |
| **Nest preview** | Displays proportional sheets, artwork, cut geometry, labels and registration marks. A draggable divider changes workspace allocation. |
| **Client Settings** | Language, measurement system, licensing, update channel, EULA, publisher details and support link. |

## Languages and measurements

- The Dot Apart interface is English-only. Existing German or Hungarian selections migrate to English without changing units or other saved settings.
- Metric mode displays millimetres and accepts mm, cm and m. Imperial mode displays inches and accepts in and ft.
- A field may include an explicit supported unit, for example 3 mm, 0.3 cm, 1.2 m, 0.125 in or 4 ft. Values without a unit use the active measurement system.
- Production geometry is stored internally in physical units; changing the display system does not rescale artwork.

## Selection behaviour

Click selects one item. Ctrl-click toggles individual items. Shift-click extends a range. Editing method, quantity, dimensions, scale, bleed, rotation policy or hold applies the entered absolute value to the entire selection. The list does not use selection checkboxes.

# 4 Production presets - complete reference

A production preset stores all manufacturing choices except the current page size. One preset can be marked as the default and will be selected at startup.

| Section | Stored settings |
|---|---|
| **Production type** | Cutter workflow, Hand Cut or Cut / Mill; optional horizontal-flip double-sided mode where supported. |
| **Cutter registration** | Registration brand/subtype, mark size, maximum interval and mark-to-sheet-edge placement. |
| **Margins** | Margin from registration field to objects and independent X/Y spacing between elements. |
| **Trim box** | Enable, offset from cut path, spot name, stroke colour, rounded-corner option and corner radius. |
| **Marking** | Orientation marker, marker corner, sheet-name label corner and per-artwork print-data label options. |
| **Production folders** | Independent PRINT, CUT and optional Dot Apart Quote hot-folders. |
| **Cut Path spot names** | Comma-separated names accepted as cutting or creasing production paths, such as CutContour and Crease. |
| **Hand Cut settings** | Outer or corner crop marks, mark length, offset, stroke thickness, colour and AutoBleed value. |
| **Cut / Mill settings** | Preserve the artboard group or separate top-level contour groups for efficient vector-only nesting. |

> The editor hides controls that cannot be used by the selected production type. Hand Cut has no cutter-registration controls. Cut / Mill has no print, registration or print-label controls.

## Cut Path names

The production preset is the single source of named cut and crease colours. Add every required production spot name before importing artwork. Changing the preset can change recognition and makes the current calculation stale.

# 5 Page-size presets and roll nesting

| Mode | Width | Length and output |
|---|---|---|
| **Fixed board** | Maximum board width | Maximum board length. Overflow creates additional numbered sheets. |
| **Roll** | Fixed roll width | Unlimited working length. Output is cropped to used artwork/registration bounds plus the configured page-edge margin. |
| **Double-sided board** | Full configured board width | Both FRONT and BACK are exported at the complete configured board size to preserve duplex registration. |

## Managing presets

- Select Edit beside Page size, enter a descriptive name and physical dimensions, and save.
- Mark one preset as default to select it automatically at startup.
- Page dimensions accept the same explicit metric or imperial units as other length fields.
- Deleting a preset requires confirmation and does not delete production presets or saved jobs.

## Output extent

For ordinary single-sided sheets, the PDF follows the actual registration-mark bounding box plus the configured edge margin. Without registration marks, it follows the used production content plus the edge margin. It is not forced to the unused maximum board length. Double-sided output is the deliberate exception and retains the complete board size.

> The legacy 5080 mm PDF page-box limit is handled with PDF 1.6 UserUnit scaling. The practical limit may instead come from the target RIP or cutter software, so test oversized output in the real workflow.

# 6 Importing artwork and selecting a method

| Import choice | Use it for | Output |
|---|---|---|
| **Print + CutPath - Use named CutContours** | Printed PDF artwork containing named spot-colour cut and optional crease paths. | PRINT and CUT |
| **Print + AutoBleed - Rectangular artwork** | Rectangular PDF pages and all JPEG/JPG or TIFF/TIF images. Mirrored bleed is generated from the artwork edges. | PRINT and CUT |
| **Print + Handcut - No regmarks or CutContours, manual cutting** | Printed work that will be cut with a knife and ruler using preset crop marks. | PRINT only |
| **Cut / Mill - No print, nesting CutContours only** | Vinyl cutter, plotter, CNC or milling geometry where no printed artwork or camera marks are required. | CUT only |

## Add artwork

- Select Add artwork or drag multiple files onto the artwork panel. One import dialog applies preset, method, copies, bleed and rotation policy to the complete batch.
- Multi-page PDFs and TIFFs create one item per page or frame. A processing indicator remains visible while large artwork and preview proxies are prepared.
- Raster input is always AutoBleed. Its embedded DPI determines physical size; the row may still be resized.
- CutPath import shows a visible warning indicator if none of the preset's named paths is found.
- In double-sided mode, odd pages are FRONT and the following even pages are BACK. An unmatched final page is invalid.

# 7 Item controls, selection and rotation

| Control | Behaviour |
|---|---|
| **Thumbnail and name** | Small source preview, original filename and PDF page/frame number. |
| **Method** | Changes the artwork processing method where the source type permits it. |
| **Quantity** | Requested copies. Multi-select sets the same quantity on every selected row. |
| **Width / Height** | Finished cut-path or rectangular trim dimensions. Aspect ratio follows the scale relationship. |
| **Scale** | Percentage relative to the imported finished dimensions. |
| **Bleed** | CutPath clipping expansion or mirrored rectangular AutoBleed amount. |
| **90-degree policy** | Default. Allows 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees. |
| **No rotation** | Holds a manually selected 0/90/180/270 orientation. The manual rotate action cycles the fixed angle. |
| **Free rotation** | Tests orientations on the five-degree production grid. Use only when the material saving justifies the extra calculation. |
| **Hold** | Keeps the item in the job but excludes it from calculation and production output. |
| **Delete** | Removes the selected item or selection after confirmation. |

## Detailed and compact views

Detailed view is best for data entry. Compact matrix view fits more files at once and keeps the three rotation policies, Hold and Delete in the right-side action rail. Hover highlighting covers the complete row or card in both views.

> The quarter-turn policy is the normal fast choice. Free rotation has many more candidates and can be substantially slower. Use no rotation when print direction, grain or a fixed visual orientation must be preserved.

# 8 Print + CutPath workflow

- Prepare cutting and creasing paths as named Separation spot colours. Their names must appear in the selected production preset before import.
- Every valid neighbouring outer contour on one PDF page is retained. Inner paths remain attached to their containing outer contour and do not become independent nesting objects.
- Several outer contours on one PDF page form one fixed artwork group in Print + CutPath. Their positions relative to each other do not change.
- The outermost closed contour defines the print clipping envelope. Inner named paths remain available in CUT output but do not punch unintended holes into the printed image.
- Open named production strokes such as Crease remain in the cut preview and CUT PDF, preserve their spot colour and stay attached to the appropriate outer contour.
- Named paths inside nested PDF Form XObjects are recognized with their complete transformations.

## Missing or incorrect contours

| Symptom | Check |
|---|---|
| **Warning icon** | No configured named path was found. Check spelling, spot-colour type and the selected page. |
| **Only an inner object is found** | Confirm the outer path is a closed spot-colour path and not process black or an unnamed clipping mask. |
| **Printed object missing** | Check whether print artwork is inside a transformed Form XObject or has unusual transparency. Re-export the PDF if necessary. |
| **Unexpected black text becomes a cut path** | Verify that process black is not listed as a Cut Path spot name. Use only dedicated spot names. |

The Cut preview is the production-path check. Every spot name added to the preset, including Crease, must appear when present in the source.

# 9 Print + AutoBleed workflow

- Use AutoBleed for rectangular artwork. JPEG/JPG and TIFF/TIF imports select it automatically; rectangular PDF pages may select it manually.
- The finished size is the rectangular trim size. The source image is clipped to that rectangle for nesting and output.
- Positive bleed mirrors the artwork edges and corners outward. Enter values with the active unit or an explicit supported unit such as 3 mm.
- Large bitmaps use bounded-resolution proxies for item thumbnails and nest preview. Production PRINT export still reads the untouched full-resolution source.
- Repeated artwork is composed once as a reusable PDF form and stamped into placements to control memory, CPU work and output size.
- If the requested bleed exceeds the saved mark-to-object distance, mark clearance is increased from the complete bleed envelope so artwork cannot overlap registration marks.

## Large-file guidance

| Stage | Expected behaviour |
|---|---|
| **Import** | A processing indicator is shown while physical size, page/frame data and the preview proxy are prepared. |
| **Preview** | Screen-resolution content may look softer than the source but should have correct cropping and orientation. |
| **Export** | Full-resolution source data is used. The button shows progress; large repeated jobs may take materially longer than preview. |
| **Failure** | Check free disk space and the per-user Dot Apart Nest Logs folder. Try a freshly exported PDF if the bitmap container is damaged. |

Do not judge production colour or sharpness from the nest preview. Judge the exported PRINT PDF in the intended RIP at production dimensions.

# 10 Print + Handcut workflow

## Purpose

Hand Cut prepares printed sheets for manual cutting with a knife and ruler. It does not create a CUT PDF and does not use cutter registration marks.

## Preset choices

| Setting | Effect |
|---|---|
| **Outer crop marks** | Marks extend around the finished rectangle. The configured mirrored bleed is available outside trim. |
| **Corner crop marks** | Compact corner marks indicate trim corners without a continuous outer system. |
| **Mark length** | Length of each crop-mark stroke. |
| **Mark offset** | Gap between trim/bleed area and the crop mark. |
| **Line thickness** | Printed crop-mark stroke width. |
| **Colour** | Configured process colour used for printed marks. |
| **X/Y spacing** | Distance between the relevant trim/mark envelopes of neighbouring items. |

## Zero-spacing work

When bleed is zero and independent X/Y spacing is zero, inner Hand Cut artwork can pack at exact trim-edge contact. No hidden solver clearance is added. Use a positive spacing whenever a physical guillotine or knife gap is required.

> Hand Cut is PRINT-only by design. If a cutter file is required, use Print + AutoBleed or Print + CutPath instead.

# 11 Cut / Mill workflow

## Purpose

Cut / Mill is a vector-only workflow for vinyl cutters, plotters, CNC routers and milling systems. It creates no PRINT PDF and no registration marks.

## Grouping modes

| Mode | Behaviour |
|---|---|
| **Preserve artboard arrangement** | All named production paths from one page remain one absolute group. Their original relative positions are preserved. |
| **Nest independent elements** | Independent top-level outer contours are split into separate nesting groups for better yield. |

## Containment rules

- A closed path inside another closed path remains attached to the smallest containing outer path. The eye of a letter P therefore stays with the letter body.
- Open named production strokes remain attached to the appropriate containing or nearest outer contour so no crease or tool path is silently discarded.
- Spot colours and source path order are retained. Tool/layer ordering is intentionally left for the downstream manufacturing software.
- Material-edge margin and independent X/Y element spacing remain available. Print-only marking, labels and registration settings are hidden.

## Output

Each active sheet produces a CUT PDF containing only the named production paths and any enabled trim-box path. The normal print and Dot Apart Quote workflow can still record job/item data, but no print artwork is generated.

> Always confirm path direction, open/closed state, tool assignment and machining order in the cutter or CNC software before production.

# 12 Calculating, multi-sheet output and sheet holding

- Select Calculate Nest. The button changes to Stop Calculating and displays activity until the calculation completes or is cancelled.
- The standard strategy prefers useful width filling but also accepts a narrower arrangement when it produces a shorter valid nest.
- Exact contour collisions, bleed envelopes, label geometry, X/Y spacing, margins and page boundaries are validated before a layout is accepted.
- Simple repeated shapes may be evaluated as compound two- or four-copy tiles. They are used only when the verified whole-job result is better than the ordinary baseline.
- If all requested copies do not fit, additional sheets are created automatically. Sheet numbers stay stable from preview through export.

## Holding sheets

- Select Hold sheet to exclude one completed sheet from PRINT, CUT and Quote output without deleting it from the saved job.
- If one source item appears on both held and active sheets, the file list splits it into linked held and active rows with exact corresponding quantities. Releasing the sheet merges them again.
- In double-sided work, Hold applies to the complete FRONT/BACK physical pair, never to only one side.
- Held sheet numbers are not reused. If nest 3 is held, nest 4 remains nest 4 in filenames and Quote data.

> Export and Save job use the last completed visible layout. They do not calculate a replacement nest. After any item, page or preset change, calculate again before production.

# 13 Preview modes and navigation

| Control | Use |
|---|---|
| **Print** | Show printed artwork and printed marks without cut geometry. |
| **Cut** | Show named cut/crease geometry, registration marks and label-related cutting geometry. |
| **Print + Cut** | Overlay printed artwork and cut geometry for registration and clipping checks. |
| **Mouse wheel** | Scroll vertically through sheets. |
| **Ctrl + wheel** | Zoom around the preview pointer. |
| **Hold Space + drag** | Exclusive pan mode, even if an input field previously held focus. |
| **+ / - / Fit** | Direct zoom controls. Fit returns the preview inside the clipped panel bounds. |
| **Hover artwork** | Highlight and reveal the corresponding complete row or compact card. |
| **Click artwork** | Select the corresponding file-list item. Ctrl and Shift extend selection. |
| **Drag divider** | Resize the artwork-list and preview areas; double-click restores the default split. |

## Sheet presentation

Sheets remain proportional to one another instead of being independently scaled to a common height. Headers and Hold controls use a fixed interface size and wrap onto multiple lines when a sheet is narrow. The preview is clamped so it cannot be panned completely outside its panel.

## What preview is and is not

- Cut geometry must match the intended contours, holes, creases and trim boxes.
- Print proxies must show correct source, orientation and clipping. Proxy resolution is not a production-quality colour or sharpness proof.
- Labels and their associated cut rectangles are previewed when enabled.
- Registration marks, intermediate marks, sheet label and orientation marker use the same geometry as export.

# 14 Double-sided nesting

## Supported input

Double-sided mode supports paired AutoBleed and CutPath artwork. Import an even-page PDF: page 1 is FRONT, page 2 is BACK, page 3 is the next FRONT, and page 4 its BACK.

## Placement model

- The FRONT layout is calculated from the left-side origin. BACK placements are mirrored horizontally from the right-side origin to match a board flipped horizontally.
- Each FRONT/BACK pair uses the same sheet number and exact copy membership. Overflow creates additional physical sheet pairs until every requested copy is placed.
- Within a pair, FRONT and BACK previews are stacked vertically. Separate physical pairs flow horizontally beside one another when panel width allows.
- The complete configured board size is exported on both sides. Duplex output is not cropped to the occupied nest.
- Sheet holding applies to the pair. FRONT or BACK cannot be held independently.

## CutPath pair validation

- The application compares named production geometry without requiring the paths to occupy the same absolute artboard position.
- The BACK paths must match the complete relative layout and spot names expected from a horizontal mirror, within the production tolerance.
- Page sizes may differ only by harmless sub-millimetre PDF box rounding. Genuine size or geometry mismatches stop import with a readable message.
- The orientation marker and sheet-name label stay in their selected physical corners on both sides; they are not mirrored into one another.

> Run a small duplex test using the actual board-flip direction before production. A correct PDF pair cannot compensate for loading the physical sheet from the wrong edge.

# 15 Registration systems and orientation marking

| Brand | Selectable profiles | PDF handoff |
|---|---|---|
| **None** | No marks | Artwork starts from the material-edge margin. |
| **Summa** | F Series round; OPOS X, XY and XY2 | Use the corresponding Summa workflow/profile. |
| **Graphtec** | ARMS Type 1 and Type 2 | Import PDF through Graphtec Studio 2 and send with the Graphtec driver. |
| **Zünd** | ICC/OCC round marks | Import vector PDF into Zünd Cut Center and select/teach the matching mark template. |
| **Kongsberg** | iPC circular or cross marks | Import into i-cut Production Console and assign the cut spot/layer and Regmark Layer. |
| **Mimaki** | Type 1 outward and Type 2 inward | Use FineCut/RasterLink or another compatible PDF-to-MGL workflow. |

## Mark geometry

- The material-edge value locates the outer registration field. Mark-to-object margin begins outside the complete bleed envelope.
- Profiles supporting intermediate marks repeat them on all four sides at no more than the saved interval. An intermediate mark stays at least 100 mm from neighbouring corner marks.
- The registration box follows the occupied nest instead of extending to unused maximum board length, except in fixed-size double-sided output.
- The Dot Apart orientation marker is 5 mm high and proportionally wide. It is placed at the selected bottom-left or bottom-right corner, 20 mm from the corresponding mark and vertically centred with it.
- PRINT output contains the complete multi-tone orientation marker. CUT output contains its solid bounding rectangle only.

# 16 Trim boxes and printed data labels

## Trim box

- Enable Trim box in the production preset for a rectangular production path offset from each artwork cut path.
- Set the offset, spot name and visible stroke colour. Trim-box spacing participates in collision and X/Y element spacing.
- Rounded corners use the saved physical radius and are exported as smooth native Bezier curves.

## Per-artwork print data

| Style | Printed result | CUT result |
|---|---|---|
| **None** | No item label. | No label geometry. |
| **Below artwork** | Selected filename, finished size and/or copies are left-aligned below the corresponding artwork, outside its cut path. | Original artwork cut path only. |
| **Attached footer** | Left-aligned text sits below and remains part of the artwork label area. | Cut path expands around artwork and footer with the configured margin. |
| **Separate sticker** | A detached left-aligned label is printed below the artwork. | A separate rectangular cut path surrounds the label with the configured margin. |

## Other marking

The sheet-name label is PRINT-only and appears in the selected corner, separate from the orientation marker corner. Font size for per-artwork data is adjustable. Label width is calculated from the rendered text so the cut rectangle cannot be shorter than the text.

> Label space participates in nesting and output bounds. Enabling labels may produce a larger sheet or an additional sheet; recalculate after changing label settings.

# 17 Saving jobs, hot-folders and Quote handoff

## Save and reopen exact layouts

| Saved in .pfnest | Meaning |
|---|---|
| **Source artwork** | PDF/image sources used by the job are embedded, removing dependence on the original network path. |
| **Item setup** | Page/frame, method, quantity, finished size, scale, bleed, rotation, manual angle and hold state. |
| **Production setup** | Job name, selected presets and all values used for the completed calculation. |
| **Exact layout** | Every sheet, placement, position, angle, side, held state and stable job/item identity. |

- Save job requires a current completed calculation. Choose Save job and select a .pfnest destination.
- Open job replaces the current workspace and restores the saved layout without recalculating it.
- Save the current workspace first if it must be retained. Embedded source files can make .pfnest packages large.

## Production hot-folders

| Preset folder | Receives |
|---|---|
| **PRINT** | One active single-page PRINT PDF per preview sheet, except Cut / Mill. |
| **CUT** | One active single-page CUT PDF per preview sheet, except Hand Cut. |
| **Dot Apart Quote** | One job-level _QUOTE.pfquote.json. If blank, it follows the applicable production folder. |

The Quote handoff contains stable nest and source identities, original filename/page, finished scaled dimensions in millimetres, actual active quantity and sheet metadata. Dot Apart Quote can append several Nest handoffs and reject a duplicate unchanged nest.

# 18 Export files, names and dimensions

## Manual export

Select Export PRINT + CUT. The button becomes a progress indicator. Choose one destination filename and folder; Dot Apart Nest derives every required per-sheet PRINT, CUT and Quote filename automatically.

| Workflow | Generated files |
|---|---|
| **Print + CutPath / AutoBleed** | <job>_nestN_<width>x<height><unit>.pdf, <job>_nestN_CUT.pdf and one <job>_QUOTE.pfquote.json |
| **Hand Cut** | <job>_nestN_<width>x<height><unit>.pdf and Quote handoff; no CUT PDF |
| **Cut / Mill** | <job>_nestN_CUT.pdf and Quote handoff; no PRINT PDF |
| **Double-sided** | Side-labelled FRONT and BACK PRINT/CUT files for each physical pair; complete board dimensions retained |

## Naming and publication rules

- N is the original preview nest number. Held sheets are omitted without renumbering later sheets.
- PRINT names include final output size in the active metric or imperial display system. CUT names intentionally omit size.
- Each PDF contains exactly one production sheet. Multi-sheet jobs produce separate files, not a multi-page production PDF.
- Files are staged with non-production names, verified, atomically published and forced visible. Watched hot-folders do not receive partial PDFs.
- A second export cannot start while another export is active. Existing destinations require confirmation before replacement.

> The export progress control may be visible only briefly for small jobs, but remains long enough to acknowledge the action. Large jobs report current sheet and artwork progress.

# 19 PDF colour, spot, transparency and path integrity

- PRINT artwork is copied as native PDF content. Dot Apart Nest does not intentionally convert the colour mode or rasterize vector artwork.
- Compatible embedded ICC resources and document OutputIntent, DeviceGray/RGB/CMYK values, printable Separation spots and DeviceN/NChannel colour definitions are retained.
- Transparency groups, soft masks, image masks, alpha channels, blend mode, opacity and overprint graphics state are retained with their source objects.
- Configured cutting strokes are removed from PRINT. If one object combines a printable fill with a cut-colour stroke, the printable fill remains.
- Native cubic Bezier cut paths are transformed directly for scale, rotation and placement in CUT output. Polygon sampling is internal to collision detection and does not segment circles in production output.
- CutPath print clipping uses native curves. Positive bleed expands the vector alpha mask by one requested bleed width without converting the production curve to short straight segments.
- The integrity preflight traces live colour paint, ICC/OutputIntent, overprint, transparency and alpha resources. Export stops rather than silently substituting process colour when required integrity cannot be proven.
- Conflicting document OutputIntents or ambiguous cut colours inside a multi-colour DeviceN definition are rejected.

The nest preview is a bounded visual proxy. The exported PRINT PDF in the intended RIP is the authoritative place to verify profiles, separations, spots, overprint and transparency before production.

# 20 Troubleshooting and production checklist

| Symptom | Action |
|---|---|
| **No Cut Path found** | Confirm the path is a dedicated spot colour whose exact name is saved in the selected production preset. Check page and method. |
| **Wrong outer contour** | Check for open paths, differently named paths, masks or process-black artwork. Re-export a clean production PDF. |
| **Slow calculation** | Use the default quarter-turn policy. Lock fixed-direction work. Reserve free five-degree rotation for jobs where it materially improves yield. |
| **Slow or blank bitmap preview** | Wait for import processing. Check free temporary storage. Production export uses the source, but preview still needs a valid proxy. |
| **Export unavailable** | Calculate the job. After any item, preset, page-size, label, hold or rotation change, calculate again. |
| **Duplex import rejected** | Use an even number of matching pages. Confirm equal physical size and horizontally mirrored named path layout. |
| **Hand Cut creates no CUT file** | This is intentional. Use AutoBleed or CutPath if cutter output is required. |
| **Update says current** | Check licence, internet, channel and the Admin release target: application nest, platform windows, architecture x64. |
| **Application error** | Follow the human-readable dialog. Technical details are in the current user's Dot Apart Nest Logs folder. |

## Final production checklist

- Correct production preset, page size or roll mode selected.
- All expected files/pages imported with correct method, finished size, quantity, bleed and rotation.
- Every sheet inspected in the required Print/Cut overlay; held items and sheet pairs confirmed.
- PRINT PDF checked in the actual RIP for size, page, clipping, colour profiles, spots, transparency, labels and marks.
- CUT PDF checked in the actual cutter/CNC software for contour count, native curves, spot/tool names, marks, scale and orientation.
- A representative test print/cut completed on the intended material and machine.
- Editable .pfnest saved when the exact approved layout must be reopened; Quote handoff delivered when required.

Support and manuals: https://dotapart.com/support
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